



'Vested interests' behind protests against farm laws: Murugan

page 8



Journalists from Philippines, Russia win Nobel Prize for Peace

page 11

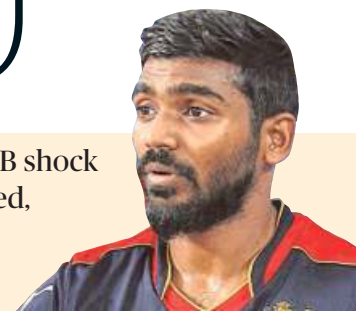


RBI suspends GSAP, keeps interest rates unchanged

page 12

Bharat helps RCB shock DC; MI eliminated, KKR qualifies

page 13



IN BRIEF



Twitter war strains ties between Cong., Kishor

NEW DELHI
The Congress and election strategist Prashant Kishor's public sparring over the party's prospects of political revival triggered a war of words between Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and the TMC.

NEWS PAGE 9

Commuting to school a risky path for kids

NEW DELHI
Over 500 million children below 18 years face a high degree of risk while commuting to and from school due to poor road planning, limited enforcement and poor traffic behaviour across 14 Indian cities, according to a study.

STATES PAGE 4

Unvaccinated gov. staff can't work from Oct. 16

NEW DELHI
Delhi government employees who have not received even a single dose of vaccine will not be allowed to work from October 16, stated an order.

CITY PAGE 2

After 68 years, Tatas win back Air India with ₹18,000 cr. bid

It will take 'considerable effort' to rebuild the debt-laden airline, says Ratan Tata

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

After 68 years, Air India is all set to return to the Tata fold. Tata Sons subsidiary Talace Pvt. Ltd. emerged as the winning bidder for the debt-laden national carrier after quoting an enterprise value of ₹18,000 crore. The government will take a hit of ₹28,844 crore.

The Tatas will own a 100% stake in Air India, as also 100% in its international low-cost arm Air India Express and 50% in the ground handling joint venture, Air India SATS. Apart from 141 aircraft and access to a network of 173 destinations, including 55 international ones, Tatas will also have the ownership of iconic brands such as Air India, Indian Airlines and the Maharajah.

Handover by Dec.

The Group of Ministers led by Home Minister Amit Shah approved the winning bidder in its meeting on October 4. The government aims to complete the transaction by December 2021, when it will transfer its shares and

Tata in the sky

Tata Sons will be the new owner of debt-laden national carrier Air India. The sale marks the return of Air India to the Tata group, a pioneer in aviation

1932: JRD Tata pilots Tata Airlines' inaugural flight from Karachi to Bombay

1946: Tata Airlines becomes a public company; renamed Air India Limited

1948: Govt. of India acquires a 49% stake in the carrier

1953: Government nationalises Air India

2007: Air India merges with Indian Airlines, that operates only domestic routes

2012: Govt. approves ₹30,000 crore bailout for Air India, which has over ₹67,000 crore in debt

May, 2018: Govt. attempts to sell 76% stake in Air India; attracts no bidders

Jan, 2020: Govt. launches a second attempt, this time offers 100% stake in Air India

Oct, 2020: Govt. confirms Tata Sons' subsidiary Talace Pvt. Ltd. as the winning bidder



hand over the airline to the new buyer.

"Talace quoted an enterprise value of ₹18,000 crore. Of this, ₹15,300 crore is the debt component of Air India to be taken on by the winner, and the remaining ₹2,700 crore will be cash paid to the government," DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said at a press briefing.

"Tata will have the opportunity of regaining the image and reputation it enjoyed in earlier years. Mr. JRD Tata would have been overjoyed if he was in our midst today," Ratan Tata, Tata Group's Chairman Emeritus, said.

He added that it would

take "considerable effort" to rebuild Air India, though at the same time "it will provide a very strong market opportunity to the Tata Group's presence in the aviation industry". Tata Sons owns 84% share in Air Asia, which has a market share of 5.2%, and 51% stake in Vistara, which has a market share of 8.3%. Together with Air India's market share of 13.2%, Tatas could be in control of 26.7% market share, and be the second biggest player after IndiGo.

The second bidder, a consortium led by Ajay Singh, had quoted an enterprise value of ₹15,100 crore. The re-

serve price fixed by the government before opening the bids on September 28 was ₹12,906 crore.

The government will absorb the balance debt of ₹46,262 crore, which will be transferred to a special purpose vehicle (SPV) set up by it - Air India Assets Holding Ltd. When adjusted against non-core assets such as land and buildings worth ₹14,718 crore that will also be parked in the SPV and the cash amount of ₹2,700 crore from Tatas, the net liability on the government comes to ₹28,844 crore.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Panic-stricken Pandits go on leave in Valley

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Scores of Kashmiri Pandits abstained from work with many going on a 10-day leave in the Valley on Friday, in the wake of the targeted killings of two community members and seven other civilians in the past week. Widespread protests were held in J&K against the killings.

The J&K administration and the regional political parties appealed to Pandits not to consider any idea of migration. Relief Commissioner A.K. Pandita assured them of "providing full security".

The District Commissioners have asked the Pandits living in designated enclaves of the Valley to restrict their movements for the now, and avoid travelling to volatile pockets.

"I am frightened... We are shifting some of our family members to Jammu for the time being," a Kashmiri Pandit teacher said.

Several schools, especially those located in volatile pockets, have offered Pandit employees 10 days of leave, an official said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

India, China patrols face off in Tawang

Chinese soldiers detained, let off later

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Some Chinese soldiers of a large patrol were detained for a few hours by the Indian Army after a minor face-off near Yangtse in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh last week, according to official sources.

"Some Chinese soldiers were detained for a few hours and let off after the issue was resolved at the ground level as per established protocols between the two countries," an official source said.

Face-offs occurred because of the differing areas of perception due to the demarcated boundary, and as both sides undertook patrolling activities up to their line of perception, another source said.

"The face-off occurred as patrols of both sides came face to face, which lasted for a few hours, and was resolved by local commanders," a source noted.

"There has been no damage to our defences," one of them observed. The Army has not responded to questions on the incident.

The latest face-off oc-



The stand-off comes ahead of Corps Commander-level talks on LAC in Ladakh. ■ AFP

curred as the two sides are set to hold the 13th round of Corps Commander talks for disengagement and de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. The two sides have so far undertaken disengagement from the Pangong Tso and Gogra areas.

Defence sources said that whenever patrols of both sides physically met, the situation was managed according to established protocols and mechanisms agreed upon by both sides. "Physical engagement can last for a few hours prior to disengaging as per mutual understanding," one of the sources cited above said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Dazzling display



Lighting up the sky: Jaguar fighter jets put up a spectacular show during a parade to mark the 89th Indian Air Force Day at Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad on Friday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY (REPORT ON PAGE 10)

'Centre didn't ask for oxygen deaths data'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The war of words between the Opposition and the government continues on whether there were COVID-19 deaths due to oxygen shortage in the second wave of the pandemic.

Pursuing his privilege motion against Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar, Rajya Sabha member and Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal, in a letter to Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu, pointed out that the Centre never "categorically asked the States for reporting deaths due to oxygen shortage".

DETAILS PAGE 10

SC dissatisfied with U.P.'s status report on probe into violence

Resolve only in words, not in action, says CJI Ramana

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said the Uttar Pradesh Government's resolve to seriously investigate the Lakhimpur Kheri violence and deaths, including allegations of murder against a Union Minister's son, seemed just all talk and no action.

"Your seriousness is only in words and not in your actions," Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana addressed the government.

Justice Hima Kohli told the State, "There is an old adage which rings true in this situation - the proof of the pudding is in the eat-

ing..." The State is represented by senior advocate Harish Salve and State Additional Advocate-General Garima Parshad.

Justice Surya Kant told the State, "It is a case of brutal murder of eight persons, law must take its course against all the accused." The court stated that it was dissatisfied with the government's status report on the investigation.

CJI Ramana pointed out how even a special investigation team formed by the State was made of "local" police officers, inspectors, Superintendents and a DIG.

The court asked if the State has yet made a request

to the CBI to take over the case. Mr. Salve replied in the negative.

After a pause, the court itself went on to express doubts about transferring the case to the CBI. "The CBI is not a solution for reason of the persons involved..." Chief Justice Ramana told Mr. Salve. The "persons involved" may have been a reference to the case's link to a Central Minister. Mr. Salve began his submissions, saying a "young man", ostensibly Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra, was being "targeted".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Suicide bomb attack kills 46 in Afghan mosque

REUTERS
KABUL

A suicide bomber attacked a mosque in Afghanistan's northeastern Kunduz province on Friday, killing 46 people and wounding more than 140, the state-run Bakhtar news agency said.

Video footage showed bodies surrounded by debris inside the mosque that is used by people from the minority Shia community.

The Islamic State-Khorasan group claimed responsibility for the attack. They have repeatedly targeted Shias in a bid to stir up sectarian violence in Sunni-majority Afghanistan.

In a statement released on its Telegram channels, the jihadist group said that an IS suicide bomber "detonated an explosive vest amid a crowd" of Shiite worshippers who had gathered inside the mosque.

IS said the "perpetrator of the attack was an Uyghur Muslim".

The blast follows several attacks, including one at a mosque in Kabul, in recent weeks, also claimed by the Islamic State.

BLOODIEST ASSAULT PAGE 11

SC flags consequences of growing digital divide

Court asks Centre, Delhi govt. to hold consultation

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The digital divide caused by online classes will defeat the fundamental right of every child to education, the Supreme Court warned on Friday. The court rued how the right to education now hinged on who could afford "gadgets" for online classes and who could not.

Little children whose parents are too poor to afford laptops, tablets or an "optimum" Internet package at home for online classes during the pandemic have dropped out of school and even run the danger of being drawn into child labour or worse, child trafficking, the court said.

"During the course of the pandemic, as schools increasingly turned to online education to avoid exposing the young children to the pandemic, the digital divide produced stark consequences... Children belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)/Disadvantaged Groups (DG) had to suffer the consequence of not having to fully pursue



Skewed: Only a few students have been able to access online classes. ■ FILE PHOTO

their education or worse still drop out because of the lack of access to Internet and computers," a three-judge Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud, Vikram Nath and B.V. Nagarathna noted in an order.

"Give access to facilities" The court said even though schools are now reopening gradually due to the receding curve of the pandemic, the "need to provide adequate computer-based equipment together with access to online facilities for children is of utmost importance".

The court was hearing a petition filed by private school managements challenging a Delhi High Court order of September 2020, directing them to provide their 25% quota EWS/DG students online facilities free of cost. The High Court had said the schools could get reimbursement from the government.

"Cannot evade duty" The Delhi government had earlier appealed to the Supreme Court against the High Court order, saying it had no resources to reimburse the schools for the online gadgets. Though the Supreme Court had stayed the High Court order in February 2021, the Bench led by Justice Chandrachud said both the Centre and States such as Delhi could not bow out of their responsibilities towards children.

The Bench asked the Delhi government to come out with a plan to effectuate the 'salutary object' upheld in the High Court decision. The court said the Centre should join in the consultation.

Ram Rahim, four others convicted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

A special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court in Panchkula on Friday convicted the Sira-based Dera Sacha Sauda's chief, Gurmeet Ram Rahim, and four others in a case of murder of former Dera functionary Ranjit Singh in 2002. CBI court judge Sushil Garg pronounced the conviction.

CBI counsel H.P.S. Verma told press persons that the court made the conviction under Sections 302 (murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code. The other accused in the case are Krishan Lal, Jasbir Singh, Avtar Singh and Sabdil. One more accused passed away a year ago. The quantum of punishment would be announced on October 12.

Ranjit was shot dead at the behest of Gurmeet reportedly for his suspected role in the circulation of an anonymous letter, which narrated how women were being sexually exploited by the sect head at the Dera headquarters.

The Dera chief was sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment in 2017 on two counts of rape.

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- 12th Oct SOCIOLOGY • at 09:00 AM By Aditya Mongra
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Timings
DELHI

SATURDAY, OCT. 09
RISE 06:19 SET 17:58
RISE 09:13 SET 20:11

SUNDAY, OCT. 10
RISE 06:19 SET 17:57
RISE 10:23 SET 21:01

MONDAY, OCT. 11
RISE 06:20 SET 17:56
RISE 11:32 SET 21:56

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	36	23
Safdarjang	36	23
Palam	36	25

Delhi Palam Today
36°C A dry weather will be dry. A hazy morning turns warm day with uneasy afternoon. Night will be pleasant and hazy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C A dry weather to prevail. The morning will be hazy. Day will be very warm with uneasy afternoon. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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IN BRIEF

Cab driver stabbed to death; 1 arrested

NEW DELHI
A 30-year-old cab driver was stabbed to death on Thursday evening allegedly by two of his acquaintances following a quarrel over taking a lift in Bharat Nagar, the police said, adding that one accused has been held. DCP (North-West) said the deceased has been identified as Vipin Kumar.

Woman alleges gang rape; case registered

NEW DELHI
A woman alleged that she had been gang-raped by two men in a flat in east Delhi's New Ashok Nagar area on October 6, the police said, adding that a case has been registered.

Protests, counter protests rock DU campus

ABVP calls a halt to admission process; SFI, AISA, NSUI come out in support of Kerala board students

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Several students' organisations staged protests on the Delhi University campus, which is yet to fully open after the COVID-19 lockdown, against the admission policy being followed by the university. While some groups were in support of the policy, others alleged "unreasonable admissions".

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the RSS, demanded that the university's admission process be stopped immediately and the authorities act upon the "unreasonable hike in cut-offs to do inflated scores". The group sought that the university devise a mechanism of "moderation and normalisation" of marks for all State boards of the country.

The protests started after several candidates with perfect score from Kerala board



Up in arms: ABVP activists protesting against the admission policy at Delhi University on Friday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

sought admission to the university, filling seats at many colleges that released a cut-off score of 100%.

Countering the arguments of ABVP, the Students' Federation of India (SFI) said according to details shared by the university, only 5% of the total admissions after the first cut-offs constituted students from the Kerala board. "The

good performance of Kerala student is due to their hard work as well as the constant effort by the State government to provide access to education even during the pandemic," said Utkarsh, vice-president, SFI-Delhi.

The protesters condemned the statement by a professor at Kirori Mal College, Rakesh Pandey – a member of RSS-affiliated NDTF – who, they alleged, has been instigating regionalism against students from Kerala by terming good scores "marks jihad".

New V-C takes charge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Professor Yogesh Singh took charge as the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University on Friday and said that he would take all stakeholders of the university into account while charting the way forward for the university. Mr. Singh said it would be premature to comment on

the admission policy of the university that some groups are protesting against as he had just stepped in and was yet to meet the students and the faculty. "If some reforms are needed in the policy, I will take suggestions from deans and principals of various colleges and students to arrive at it. We are open to all suggestions and will bring about changes if needed."

they had met the principal of Kirori Mal College and handed over a memorandum demanding strict action against the professor. NSUI's national secretary Nitish Gaur said the students from Kerala board had worked hard to get 100% marks and were being dragged into a conspiracy being propagated by right-wing professors.

The All India Students' Association and the National Students' Union of India also protested outside the Kirori Mal College. While AISA demanded the suspension of Mr. Pandey, the NSUI said

No office for unvaccinated govt. workers from Oct. 16

They'll be treated 'on leave' till first dose

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi government employees, including teachers and front-line workers, who have not received even a single dose of COVID-19 vaccine will not be allowed to work from October 16, stated an order issued on Friday. Such employees will be treated as "on leave" till they take the vaccine.

"The aforesaid government employees/frontline workers/healthcare workers/teachers and other staff working in schools/colleges, who do not get vaccinated [at least first dose] by 15.10.2021 shall not be allowed to attend their respective offices/healthcare institutions/educational institutions with effect from 16.10.2021 till they have obtained the first dose vaccination," an order issued by Chief Secretary Vijay Dev

said. The order also said the Centre "may consider issuing similar directions" to its employees working in Delhi.

The heads of departments have been directed to verify through the Aarogya Setu app or government certificate that employees are vaccinated, it stated.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority during a meeting on September 29, had decided to ensure 100% vaccination of all government workers, the order said.

When contacted, a district official said they have received the order and informed the employees about it.

"Last month, we surveyed our offices and about 25 employees had not taken even one dose. Then we asked them to take the vaccine and only three or four are left...," the official said.

Uphaar fire tragedy: court convicts Ansal brothers

'Both of them had tampered with evidence'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday convicted Ansal brothers – Sushil and Gopal Ansal – in a case related to evidence tampering in the Uphaar fire tragedy case.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pankaj Sharma passed the order, holding both the brothers, two of their employees, and a former court staff, Dinesh Chand Sharma, guilty under IPC Sections 201 (tampering of evidence), 120B and 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant).

Further, the court asked for the financial records of

the convicts in order to pronounce the quantum of the sentence. The order on the sentence is likely to be announced on Monday.

In the chargesheet filed before the court, the police had said Sushil Ansal had misled the authorities by claiming that he had not been convicted in any criminal case in order to get his passport renewed.

Senior Advocate Vikas Pahwa, who represented the Association of Victims of Uphaar Tragedy, had argued on Thursday that the Ansal brothers had conspired and destroyed evidence collected by the CBI in the case.

Live music takes a hit amid pandemic

As lockdowns impact live shows, financial constraints push artistes to try other options

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

With a looming threat of a possible third wave, social distancing norms and limited seating capacity, musicians and venue owners in the city are a worried bunch. Although live music is up and running, COVID-19 restrictions come as a roadblock for many.

For 28-year-old Zeeshan Nabi, member of a city-based band "Ramooz", subsequent lockdowns have resulted in multiple live shows being cancelled. "In mid-2019, the band had moved to Kashmir to record its first studio album. However, they were stuck in the Valley due to restrictions imposed



Singer Ahmad Hagroo now runs a cloud kitchen to make ends meet. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

posed post the abrogation of provisions of Article 370. We returned to Delhi in November that year but managed to play only a couple shows, with limited capacity, after the first and second lockdowns were lifted. This has affected the creative process

of the band, especially due to the financial constraints that the lockdowns have brought along," said Mr. Nabi.

The band is now nearing completion of its first studio album. However, it faces a dilemma due to the restrictions imposed on live performance gatherings.

Sharing the same conundrum is 26-year-old Ahmad Hagroo, a city-based singer-songwriter, who has been struggling to secure live gigs. This has further resulted in financial constraints for Mr. Hagroo who now runs a cloud kitchen from his residence to make ends meet.

"I have been performing since 2018 in and around

Delhi. I was earning well until the pandemic hit and everything has changed since then. I had to turn to other sources of income and have recently started a cloud kitchen. The idea is to also invite people to dine-in with me on weekends and enjoy a performance alongside," said Mr. Hagroo.

Prior to the pandemic, independent music scenario in the city and other parts of the country witnessed a regular flow of events with live performances on a weekly basis. However, since the pandemic, the situation for artistes and venue owners remains dire. Venue owners in the city have also voiced their concerns.

'Fourfold rise in inspections in industrial areas'

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

To control pollution in the city, the Delhi government is aiming to increase inspections in all 28 industrial areas by four times compared to last winter, an official said.

Following the directions of the erstwhile EPCA (Environment Pollution Prevention and Control Authority), the government has been working to control polluting activities in industrial areas since August last. "We have formed 30 teams of engineers for inspections in industrial areas. The drive will go on for four months," an official said.

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

(DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT)

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PUBLIC NOTICE - E-WASTE MANAGEMENT

E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 came into force w.e.f 1st October 2016. These Rules mandates various responsibilities on manufacturers, producers, collection centres, dealers, refurbishers, consumers, bulk consumers, dismantlers, and recyclers. Major responsibilities of each of these stakeholders are listed as under. For more details, these stakeholders may visit <https://www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in/uploads/pdf/E-Waste-guidelines-2016pdf-8c88009919a1a1148a66ff83a2257061.pdf> and <https://www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in/uploads/pdf/EWMRulespdf-fdbaf6f4b3b8088efb1c981b6ba97705f.pdf>, for compliance.

MANUFACTURERS

- Apply for authorisation in **Form 1** (a) to Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).
- Maintain record of e-waste generated, handled and disposed in **Form-2** and make such records available for scrutiny by DPCC.
- File annual returns in **Form-3**, to DPCC on or before 30th June following the financial year to which that return relates.

PRODUCERS

- Every producer of electrical and electronic equipment listed in Schedule I, shall apply application for Extended Producer Responsibility Authorisation to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in **Form 1**.
- Maintain records in **Form-2** of the e-waste handled and make such records available for scrutiny by the CPCB and DPCC.
- File annual returns in **Form-3**, to CPCB on or before 30th June following the financial year to which that return relates.
- Create awareness through media, publications, advertisements, posters, or by any other means of communication and product user documentation accompanying the equipment.

COLLECTION CENTRES

- Ensure that the facilities are in accordance with the standards or guidelines issued by CPCB time to time and store the e-waste collected by them in a secured manner till it is sent to authorised dismantler or recycler as the case may be.

- Maintain records in **Form-2** of the e-waste handled as per the guidelines of the CPCB and make such records available for scrutiny by the CPCB and DPCC.

DEALERS

- Shall collect the e-waste by providing the consumer a box, bin or a demarcated area to deposit e-waste, or through take back system and send the e-waste so collected to collection centre or dismantler or recycler as designated by producer.
- Shall ensure that no damage is



caused to the environment during storage and transportation of e-waste to authorised dismantlers or recyclers.

REFURBISHERS

- Apply for authorization by submitting an online application in **Form-1** (a) to DPCC.
- Shall ensure compliance with the guidelines issued by CPCB available as shown above.
- Maintain records of e-waste handled in **Form-2** and make such records available for scrutiny by the DPCC.
- File annual returns in **Form-3**, to DPCC on or before 30th June following the financial year to which that return relates.

DISMANTLER AND RECYCLERS

- Obtain authorization by submitting

- online application in **Form-4** to DPCC.
- Maintain record of e-waste collected, dismantled, recycled and sent to authorised recyclers in **Form-2** and make such records available for scrutiny by the CPCB and DPCC.
- File annual returns in **Form-3** to DPCC on or before 30th June following the financial year to which that return relates.

CONSUMERS/BULK CONSUMERS

- Shall ensure that e-waste generated by them is channelised through collection centre or dealer of authorised producer or

- dismantler or recycler or through the designated take back service provider of the producer to authorised dismantler or recycler.
- Maintain records of e-waste generated by them in **Form-2** and make such records available for scrutiny by DPCC.
- File annual returns in **Form-3**, to DPCC on or before 30th June following the financial year to which that return relates.

Any violation of the provisions of the Rules and notified guidelines will attract penal action as per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Please visit website of Delhi Pollution Control Committee (<http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>) for more details.

Member Secretary

FIR registered after fake DMRC website comes to fore

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An FIR has been registered with the Delhi Police Cyber Cell by the Delhi Metro after a

fake website imitating the DMRC's official web page was created, which provided employment opportunities to applicants and extorted money

from them. DMRC said the fake website – <https://dmrcareer.in> – is offering fake employment opportunities to respondents.

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DELHI (DRT-3)
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Case No. OA/487/2020
Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993. Extn No. 2856

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(2) SH CHAUDHARY RIZWAN KHAN S/O MOHD ISLAM KHAN, AT C-81, GALI NO. 1116, NEAR BILAL MASJID, CHAUHAN BANGAR, GARHI MENDU, DELHI-110053
(3) SH AJAY KUMAR SH MISHRI LAL SHARMA, 116 MARIPUR OVER BRIDGE, MUZAFFARPUR, BARHANPUR, BIHAR-843001
(4) SH MUKESH KUMAR S/O SH CHAINA RAM, AT 4758, DEPUTY GANJ, SADAR BAZAR, DELHI

SUMMONS
WHEREAS, OA/487/2020 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 27.07.2021. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs.49,79,801.80/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 Act, you the defendants are directed as under:-
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than property and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties.
(iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 31.08.2021 at 10:30A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing for that purpose:- (i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Clico Webex" application/software; (ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing cases to be taken be taken by Registrar-Recovery Officer/and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head, (iii) In any emergency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23748469, NOTICE BE PUBLISHED IN THE HINDU (ENGLISH) AND DAINIK JAGRAN (HINDI) IN COVERING UP AND BIHAR.

Given under hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date:- 28/07/2021 Through Officer Authorised to issue Summons.

झारखण्ड सरकार
डॉ० रामदयाल मुण्डा जनजातीय कल्याण शोध संस्थान,
अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग राँची - 834008
दूरभा-0651-2551824, E-mail- tri.directorate@gmail.com/dir-triran@gov.in
पत्रांक-551/ राँची, दिनांक : 08.10.2021

इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति
डॉ० राम दयाल मुंडा जनजातीय कल्याण शोध संस्थान राँची झारखण्ड के द्वारा शोधार्थियों को इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति के माध्यम से आमंत्रित किया जा रहा है।
शोध विषय :- ब्रिटिश शासन के खिलाफ संघर्ष में भाग लेने वाले झारखण्ड के अर्चिचत रहे नायकों का शोध-संस्मरण।

यदः शोधार्थी योग्यता: इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति के माध्यम से इतिहास/मानवशास्त्र के एम०ए०, नेट/एम० फिल/पी० एच० डी० के आवेदनों के आधार पर शोधार्थियों का चयन किया जाएगा। जिनको अंग्रेजी एवं जनजातीय भाषा (मुण्डारी भाषा परिवार या द्रविड़ भाषा परिवार) का ज्ञान हो। शोध कार्य की समय अवधि 2 माह है।

कार्य विवरणः झारखण्ड में 1767 ई० से जंगल महाल से आरंभ हुआ उलगुलान की टाना भगतों के कांग्रेस राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन के साथ जुड़ाव के साथ देश की आजादी तक की निरंतरता बनी रही। इसमें से चंद महापुरुषों से ही सम्बद्ध विस्तृत ज्ञान उपलब्ध है। बड़ी संख्या ऐसे शहीदों / स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों की है जिनके नाम मात्र की सूचना उपलब्ध है। शोध में इनकी विस्तृत विवरणी ग्राम-क्षेत्र परिभ्रमण एवं अभिलेखागार के माध्यम से प्राप्त करनी है। इस कार्य का क्षेत्र अनुसंधान का विश्लेषण करने वाली 4 टीम होगी प्रत्येक टीम में 2 सदस्यों को शामिल किया जाएगा। इसप्रकार कुल आठ (8) शोधार्थियों का चयन किया जाएगा।
मानदंडः प्रति व्यक्ति 25,000 रुपये मासिक एवं शोध से संबद्ध यात्रा, भोजन, आवासन एवं अन्य भत्ता देय है। इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि- 26 अक्टूबर 2021 की संख्या 4:00 बजे तक। शोधार्थियों का चयन साक्षात्कार के माध्यम से किया जाएगा। साक्षात्कार की तिथि आवेदकों को संस्थान द्वारा सूचित की जायेगी। आवेदन हेतु अन्य जानकारी संस्थान के लिए वेबसाइट देखें [website www.tridharkhand.in](http://www.tridharkhand.in) या संस्थान में कार्य समय व दिन में संस्थान से प्राप्त करें। अथवा e-mail [Id- tri.directorate@gmail.com](mailto:tri.directorate@gmail.com) करें।

डॉ० रामदयाल मुंडा जनजातीय कल्याण शोध संस्थान राँची, अपने पास इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति का पूरा अधिकार सुरक्षित रखता है। किसी भी स्तर पर बिना कोई कारण बताए। किसी भी आवेदन को स्वीकार या अस्वीकार करने का पूरा अधिकार अपने पास सुरक्षित रखता है।

PR 254623 Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department(21-22)D

₹०/- निदेशक

When ration ran dry for Delhi schoolchildren

State government failed to pick up any mid-day meal grains for three months and North MCD for nine months last year

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI
Before the pandemic struck, 9-year-old Anamika was used to eating *kadhi-chawal*, *aloo-puri* or *sambar-chawal* for lunch every day as part of the government's mid-day meal scheme at her Municipal Corporation of Delhi school in R.K. Puram. Since schools closed last March, however, regular meals have been hard to come by at her home in the nearby slum area of Motilal Nehru Camp.



Mid-day ordeal: People in large numbers waiting for free ration at a govt. school in Vishwas Nagar, Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

Anamika's mother Prema trekked to the school several times, asking about the dry ration which had been promised in lieu of the mid-day meals, but received nothing for her daughter, who studies in Class V, or her son Arav, who studies in Class II, until July 2021, 15 months after schools were shut.

Their story is not unique. The Delhi government did not lift any foodgrains allocat-

ed for the scheme for an entire quarter during the pandemic, affecting 16 lakh students in more than 3,000 schools, according to data provided by Central and State governments. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi-North, which runs 721 primary schools with over three lakh students, did not lift foodgrains for nine months last year, according to the minutes of a meeting held on June 29, 2021, between State

and Central education department officials to consider the annual plan and budget for the mid-day meal scheme.

According to the minutes, School Education Secretary Anita Karwal expressed "shock" and "deep concern for the children who were deprived of the benefit for three quarters of 2020-21" and warned the Delhi government that "this is a clear violation of the directions of the Supreme Court of India and

amounts to contempt". She observed "a sheer lack of management and coordination issue among all the implementing agencies".

Cash transfer

Delhi government representatives informed the Centre that "after closure of schools due to pandemic, cost of foodgrains and cooking cost was transferred in the bank account of the beneficiaries [as a food security allowance] and later, dry ration kits were distributed. In North MCD though, tender of the suppliers had expired but still the dry ration kit was prepared with the help of Kendriya Bhandar and distributed in some schools, however, foodgrain could not be lifted," according to the minutes.

Data provided by the Delhi Directorate of Education in response to an RTI request filed by activist Anjali Bhardwaj in January 2021 shows

that no foodgrains allocated for the mid-day meal scheme were lifted during April to June 2020. Another RTI shows that instead, a food security allowance of ₹5.22 per day for primary students and ₹7.83 for upper primary was transferred to children. From July to September 2020, Delhi picked up the full 10,454 tonnes of grains, but that dropped again to a deficit 2,913 tonnes for the next two quarters, the RTI showed.

Education Ministry officials say that despite extensions to allow the Delhi government to pick up the grains it failed to lift last year, it has not yet done so. "One of the problems in Delhi is that they do not have a system of school-wise preparation of mid-day meals as in many States. Instead, it is all outsourced to contractors who directly pick up the allocated grains from the Food Corporation of India godowns, add

needed pulses and vegetables, prepare the food at centralised kitchens and distribute to the schools," explained a senior Ministry official. "During the pandemic, this system collapsed. But it is highly irresponsible that they have not managed to create an alternate system even after one year."

"There are also structural problems within the Delhi school system. The AAP government runs schools mostly for upper primary students [Class VI-VIII], while most primary schools are run by the MCDs which are run by the BJP. But irrespective of the political differences among themselves, they have been utterly callous towards the children, and deprived them of their rights at a difficult time," said the official.

The Delhi government spokesperson did not offer a comment despite multiple calls and messages.

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Rush for PUCs as Transport Dept. starts anti-pollution drive

12 lakh text messages sent to vehicle owners

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

Vehicle owners in the city have started to queue up to get Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates. This comes after the Transport Department gradually stepped up enforcement against vehicles without PUCs and those causing visible pollution, in the run-up to winter.

Not having a valid PUC attracts a fine of ₹10,000, six months imprisonment or both.

According to the Transport Department, an average number of 10,000 PUCs were issued on a daily basis between August 10 and September 1 this year. This number jumped to a daily average of 15,000

per day between September 2 and 18 following news reports related to pollution.

"We have 56 dedicated enforcement teams which have been deployed to check PUCs of visibly polluting and overloaded vehicles. The department also started sending text messages to vehicle owners without valid PUCs to get them renewed," said Ashish Kundra, Secretary and Commissioner, Transport. "As many as 12 lakh messages for renewal were sent to vehicle owners yesterday. In addition to continuing to send reminders, we will be intensifying our drive against invalid PUCs and polluting vehicles over the coming days," Mr. Kundra added.

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IN BRIEF



Telangana Assembly pitches for caste census

HYDERABAD
The Telangana Assembly on Friday adopted a resolution urging the Central Government to conduct caste-wise census of all the Backward Classes while holding the general census 2021. The resolution was moved by Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu and adopted by voice vote subsequently. In order to take up various welfare measures for the poorer sections, it was necessary to maintain accurate statistics, the Chief Minister said.

Teenager accidentally shot at by father dies

MANGALURU
The 16-year-old boy, who was hit by a bullet when his father Rajesh Prabhu opened fire at two of his employees on October 5, died at a hospital on Friday. His father was arrested on Thursday. Mr. Prabhu and his son had gone to his firm, Vaishnavi Xpress Cargo Private Limited, on learning that the two workers had had a heated exchange of words with Mr. Prabhu's wife over payment of ₹4,000. Mr. Prabhu then opened fire from his licenced pistol at them.

Youth arrested for selling child pornography videos

HYDERABAD
A youth from Telangana's Karimnagar district was arrested on Thursday for allegedly circulating child pornography videos on social media to make money. The accused, Vangala Madhukar Reddy, 23, works in a tech firm. The Women Safety Wing received credible information while cyber patrolling that Mr. Reddy was circulating such videos and a special probe team was formed. The police said Mr. Reddy downloaded the videos and sold them via Telegram App.

SC revives assets case against A.P. Minister

Preliminary probe not always mandatory in corruption cases against public servants, says Bench

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday revived a disproportionate assets case against Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Adimulapu Suresh and his wife while holding that the CBI need not always conduct a preliminary inquiry before registering an FIR against public servants in corruption cases.

A three-judge Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud set aside a decision of the Telangana High Court in February 2020 to quash the corruption/disproportionate assets case against Mr. Suresh and his wife, T.H. Vijayalakshmi, an Income Tax Commissioner.

The High Court had reasoned that the CBI had straightaway filed the FIR without bothering to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the couple's "known sources of income" like income tax returns, election affidavits or information submitted to the Government under the Central Civil Services Rules. The High Court had found the corruption charges "prima facie unsustainable" after going through these sources of income on its own.

Differing with the High Court, Justice Chandrachud, in a 64-page judgment, held that a preliminary inquiry is not mandatory before registering an FIR against a public



Adimulapu Suresh

servant for corruption if the CBI felt that the information it has received discloses a cognisable offence.

"We hold that since the institution of a preliminary inquiry in cases of corruption is not made mandatory before the registration of an FIR under the Code of Crimi-

nal procedure, the Prevention of Corruption Act or even the CBI Manual, for this court to issue a direction to that effect will be tantamount to stepping into the legislative domain. Hence, we hold that in case the information received by the CBI, through a complaint or a 'source information', discloses the commission of a cognisable offence, it can directly register a Regular Case instead of conducting a preliminary enquiry, where the officer is satisfied that the information discloses the commission of a cognisable offence," the top court held.

The court did not, however, take away the value of conducting a preliminary en-

quiry in an appropriate case. "The need for a preliminary enquiry will depend on the facts and circumstances of each case. Even when it is conducted, the scope of a preliminary enquiry is not to ascertain the veracity of the information, but only whether it reveals the commission of a cognisable offence," Justice Chandrachud noted.

An accused cannot demand preliminary enquiry as a "matter of right", the court explained. "A preliminary enquiry is valuable in corruption cases not to vest a right in the accused but to ensure that there is no abuse of the process of law in order to target public servants," the court said.

Girl's parents among 8 held for man's murder

Son killed for interfaith affair: mother

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

The Belagavi police have arrested 10 persons on charges of murdering Arbaz Mulla, a 25-year-old from Khanapur here in Karnataka, allegedly over his interfaith relationship with a girl. Investigation has revealed that the parents of the girl had paid money to kill the man, said the police.

Apart from Eerappa Kumbhar, 54, and Susheela Eerappa Kumbhar, 42, the girl's parents, the arrested include Pundalik, alias Maharaj Nagappa Mutagekar.

The youth's body with stab wounds was found on a railway track on September 28. His mother, Najeema Sheikh, complained to the railway police, saying that her son was killed for his relationship with a girl from

her neighbourhood in Khanapur. She suspected the involvement of three persons, including the girl's father, the police said.

Right-wing outfit links

The parents agreed to pay ₹5 lakh to get "the boy out of the way". They paid ₹50,000 as an advance amount to Mutagekar, said the police.

Mutagekar is a taluk president of Sri Ram Sena-Hindustan, a right-wing outfit active in Belagavi district. Except the parents and another accused Qutbuddin Allabakh Bepari, all the other accused are followers or members of the organisation. However, a senior police officer said there was no evidence, as of now, to link the offence to the affiliation of the members.

HC quashes detention of Swapna under COFEPOSA

No relief for co-accused as court upholds his detention

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Friday quashed the preventive detention of Swapna Suresh, accused in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (COFEPOSA) Act, 1974.

The Bench comprising Justices A.K. Jayasankaran Nambiar and Mohammed Nias C.P. passed the verdict on a petition filed by Kumari Prabha, mother of Swapna, seeking to produce the detainee now in the Women's Prison and Correctional Home, Attakulangara, Thiruvananthapuram, challenging the preventive detention order.

Despite the High Court verdict, Ms. Suresh will continue



Swapna Suresh

to be in jail as she is yet to get bail in a case filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) against her.

The NIA, the ED and the Customs conducted separate investigations into the seizure of gold worth ₹15 crore from the diplomatic baggage of the UAE Consulate at Thiruvananthapuram airport on July 5, 2020.

The Customs had invoked

provisions of the COFEPOSA against her later.

The court, however, dismissed the petition filed by the mother of P.S. Sarith, another accused, against the preventive detention order.

Upholding the detention order passed against Sarith, the court observed that the detention was not ordered on the mere ground that he was likely to be released on bail but also on the ground that the detaining authority was satisfied the detainee was likely to indulge in the same activity if he was released on bail.

Counsel for Ms. Suresh contended that the order of the NIA Special Court rejecting the bail plea of Ms. Suresh was not placed by the Customs before the detaining authority.

Ahead of bypolls, Rajasthan Cong. puts up united face

Gehlot, Pilot address rallies together

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Putting up a united face ahead of by-elections to two Assembly seats, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot travelled together in a helicopter and addressed rallies at Vallabhnagar and Dhariawad after the Congress candidates filed their nomination papers on Friday.

AICC general secretary Ajay Maken and Pradesh Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra flew with the two leaders, who have been at loggerheads for more than a year over a power sharing arrangement in the State. Mr. Maken later posted a picture of the Congress leaders sitting inside the helicopter on his twitter account, tagging both Mr. Gehlot and Mr. Pilot.

The two leaders, leading rival camps in the State Congress, travelled together barely a week after Mr. Gehlot sent across a sharp mes-

sage to his opponents by affirming that he was going to stay in politics for the next 15 to 20 years. On Thursday, Mr. Pilot said at a function in Jaipur, that he would be active for 50 years.

Tonk MLA Mr. Pilot drove the car from the helipad at Vallabhnagar to the venue of the election rally, with the Chief Minister accompanying him on the front seat. While Mr. Gehlot has put at rest all speculations about a change of guard in Rajasthan after the turmoil in Punjab, the focus on ensuring Congress' victory in the bypolls has indicated that the internal strife in the party might have reduced.

Party candidates Preeti Shaktawat in Udaipur's Vallabhnagar and Nagraj Meena in Pratappgarh's Dhariawad filed their nominations before the rallies started.

Speakers at the rallies sought to convey a message that the party was not only united, but also capable of taking on the BJP.

Dalit Sikhs to challenge eviction move in Shillong

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Dalit or Mazhabi Sikhs of the Harijan Colony adjoining Iewduh, the commercial hub of Meghalaya capital Shillong, would be challenging the government's bid to take possession of their land after evicting them.

After a Cabinet meeting on Thursday, Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said the government was set to take possession of the Harijan Colony land within a week by following "due procedures". The employees of the Shillong Municipal

Board residing at the Harijan Colony would be relocated to the staff quarters on the premises of the board's temporary office in another area of the city, he stated.

The 2-acre Harijan Colony, also known as Punjabi Lane or Sweepers' Lane, has about 350 families living in two-storey hovels flanking a 300-metre lane. Only a few families have members as employees of the municipal board.

The Harijan Colony was at the centre of a conflict following a quarrel between some locality women and a bus driver on May 31, 2018.

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Walk-in-Interview will be conducted on **21.10.2021 (12:30 PM onwards)** for purely project based temporary position of **GIS Assistant (01 No.)** under in house project of the Institute. All candidates are requested to maintain Social Distancing and to wear masks during Interview.

For details (age, emoluments, qualification, etc.), please see Institute website (www.gbpihed.gov.in) Office Superintendent

प्राचार्य का कार्यालय, शेख भिखारी मेडिकल कॉलेज, हजारीबाग
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, SHEIKH BHIKHARI MEDICAL COLLEGE, HAZARIBAG
PH. No. 06546-296629 / website : www.hazaribagmedicalcollege.org/
E-mail id : hzaribagmedicalcollege@gmail.com

E- TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE
Due to some unavoidable reason the e-tender no. 03/2021-22 & Advt. PR. No. 254328 for purchasing of central library books is hereby cancelled.
Letter no. 866 dated 08/10/2021

Principal
Sheikh Bikhari Medical College,
Hazaribag.
PR 254687 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare(21-22)#D

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Information & Public Relations (C) Department
Thiruvananthapuram
No.C1/129/2021/1&PRD Dated: 08.10.2021

ATTENTION TO DESIGNERS / FABRICATORS
In connection with the India International Trade Fair- 2021 (IITF - 2021) to be held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, designs are invited from the agencies / individuals those who are interested in designing the Kerala Pavilion (Facade) and its central area based on the theme "Self Reliant India". The maximum area of Kerala Pavilion at the fair is 300 sq.m. The Agencies / Individuals are required to submit 3D model miniatures of their designs before the officials of the Information & Public Relations Department, in the PR Chamber of the Secretariat on **October 16 at 11 am**. Details about the theme / topic and a detailed estimate should be submitted along with the designs. The fabrication work should be done by those who have submitted the selected design. The cost in this regard will be borne by the Information & Public Relations department on the basis of the assessment of cost committee.

For more details, Phone: **0471 2518013, 2518447, 9496003239**
Sd/- S. Harikishore, IAS,
1708/F4/2021/IPR Director

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Name:** Rajni **D/O** Rohit **R/O** Jhuggi No. J-245, Shri Ram Camp, South Campus, New Delhi has been missing since March 2018 from her house. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 58/18 U/s 365 IPC dated 22.03.2018 has been lodged at Police Station South Campus, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Rajni
Age: 20 Years, **Height:** 4'9", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** Suit & Salwar and Blue Colour Slipper in feet.
Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, South Campus, New Delhi at E-mail cidc@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: **SHO 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. South Campus, New Delhi**
Fax No. 011-24368639 South West Distt., Delhi
DP/866/SW/2021 Ph. No. 011-26177178/79, 9899277779

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male **Name:** unknown, **S/o:** unknown, **R/o:** unknown. **Age:** 30-32 years, **Complexion:** Sallow, **Height:** 5'6", **ID:** 'Om' is written in right hand. **Wearing:** Red Colour shirt and Gray Colour Lower and Chappal in feet, who was found at KM Pole No. 14/1 & 14/3 Mangolpuri Railway Station Delhi. In this regard a case **DD No. 18A dated 05.10.2021 has been registered at P.S. Sarai Rohila Railway Station, Delhi**

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P. S: Sarai Rohila Railway Station, Delhi
DP/316/RLY/2021 (UIDB) Tel. No. 011-28714802

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified female **Age:** About 60/62 years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Sallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, was found injured at Platform no. 2&3, Anand Vihar Railway Station on 07.10.2021, she was admitted in Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, Delhi. During the treatment she died. In this regard a **DD No. 5-A dated 07.10.2021 u/s 174 Cr.P.C.** has been lodged at P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification for 72 hours in the mortuary of Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO - P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi
DP/318/RLY/21 Tel. No.: 011-22145601/02, 9810647278

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a Female dead body **Name:** Unknown, **W/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 60 years, **Height:** 5', **Gender:** Female, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Normal, **Face:** Long, **Mind** Abnormal. **Wearing:** Saree, found dead at F-2/118, Gali No.4, Sunder Nagri, Near Jama Masjid, Delhi on

03.10.2021. In this regard, **DD No. 30-A dated 03.10.2021** has been lodged at PS Nand Nagri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this female may kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S., Nand Nagri, Delhi
Ph. : 011-22585985, 22583307 8750870733
DP/1105/NE/2021

Consumer Connect Initiative

Recalling Contributions of Dr Raut on his Birthday

I wish good health, long life to Dr Nitin Raut on his 69th birthday anniversary. He has lived a fruitful and meaningful life in the service of the marginalized people. He is a ray of hope for the oppressed people. He is committed to the cause of Babasaheb Ambedkar mission.

Now he is Energy Minister in the cabinet of the Mahavikas Aghadi Government in Maharashtra. He always remained humble and his unassuming character has struck me. His simple way of living has impressed me a lot. He is easily accessible to each and every one.

As a political person he has several achievements to his credit. Since the last forty years, he is active in politics and governance. Apart from a popular leader, he has multiple achievements to his credit. In his long political career and as an activist, he has largely contributed to the social and political life in Maharashtra as well as in the country.

Dr Raut has helped the Congress Party in preparing number of reports on important issues. As an MPCC member, he submitted reports on Khairanji killings, Wani (Yeotmal) Cotton Issue, Power Crisis in Maharashtra, PM Package and farmers suicides in Vidarbha.

Dr Raut has always remained as an active member in the State Legislative Assembly. On several occasions he raised important issues which included removing backlog of 'Vidarbha Region' as a strong supporter of separate Vidarbha Statehood. He initiated Private Member bill on 'Reservation in Promotions Act' and "Buddhist Marriage and Succession Act - 2007. He insisted to fill up the backlog of SC/STs in the services of the government and semi government organizations. He demanded constitution of State SC/ST Commission in the State like National Commission for SC/ST. He demanded the state government to increase number of reserved seats for SC Community in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of the population. He played a very important role in probing Khairanji killing incident that occurred in September 2006 in Bhandara District.

Initiatives undertaken as Minister for Energy
After taking over the charge as Minister for Energy in January 2020, he found that the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company is incurring huge losses and is in dire financial strait. The arrears of Agriculture consumer (Ag) sector increased from Rs.13,362 Cr to Rs.45000 Cr during the rule of BJP

Government between 2014 to 2019. During the same period arrears of public water works, street lights and government offices were also a matter of great concern. Further due to the statewide lockdown during Covid pandemic, the revenue gap increased to more than Rs 17000 Cr. This is a great setback to the MSEDCL and the state as well. The financial situation has been further aggravated by the Nisarg and Taktuae Cyclones that hit coastal parts of Kokan and Western Maharashtra.

During the BJP rule, releasing new service connections to agriculture consumers were completely stopped. The huge outstanding payments to generators and transmission companies by MSEDCL is a matter of grave concern.

Hence it is imperative to take stock of the situation on urgent basis by taking appropriate remedial measures.

To provide immediate relief to farmers by releasing service connections at the earliest, a comprehensive Agriculture 2020 Policy is framed and recover the long outstanding arrears. He worked hard to frame the policy and viewed all the minor details of the policy. The farmers have been given waiver of Rs.10,420 Cr.

The MSEDCL succeeded in providing uninterrupted power supply to agriculture pumps by augmenting its distribution networks. New transformers were added and failed ones were repaired in time

The MSEDCL provided uninterrupted power supply during COVID19 pandemic. Under the guidance of Dr Raut, a comprehensive Renewable Energy Policy 2020 has been framed to ensure day time power supply for 8 hours to agriculture consumers. The State would provide One Lakh solar agriculture pump per year for the next 5 years.

He monitored power production in the Maha-Genco plants to keep the generation costs within affordable limits. Therefore, most of generating units have been found place in the Merit Order Despatch.

Dr Raut is trying to bring the state economy on the right track by taking suitable measures like, reduction in distribution losses, operation and maintenance expenses, recovery of arrears and using austerity measures.

Sukhadeo Thorat
Former chairman of
University Grants Commission



Grim turn

While pursuing terrorists, the administration should also engage with civil society in J&K

The killings of seven civilians in Srinagar in six days mark a grim turn in the situation in the Kashmir Valley. This vicious, mindless violence against commoners, owned up by a group that calls itself the Resistance Front – believed to be a shadow organisation of the Pakistan-based LeT – is yet another reminder of the pathological hatred transnational radical Islamism inspires. The victims include local Muslims who were branded traitors, but the targeting of the Hindu Pandit and Sikh minority communities is unmistakable. Srinagar's prominent Kashmiri Pandit chemist, Makhan Lal Bindroo, whose decision to stay on through the violent 1990s was seen as a positive omen by the displaced community, was gunned down. The killers used epithets such as 'RSS stooge', 'police informer' and 'traitor' for the victims. Majid Ahmad Gojri and Mohammad Shafi Dar were killed on October 2. On October 7, a Sikh principal and a Kashmir Pandit who had returned to the Valley after taking up a job under the Prime Minister's special job package for migrant Pandits, were gunned down. Islamist terrorists have sought an ethnic cleansing of the Valley for long. The Pandits had to leave in large numbers in 1990 following violence. After 1994, attacks on minorities became episodic, but not without periodical outrages such as the Wandhama massacre, when 23 Pandits were shot dead in January 1998 and the Chittisinghpura massacre, in which 35 Sikhs were killed in Anantnag in March 2000.

The wave of violence is taking place against the backdrop of an uptick in tourist inflow to the Valley and the Centre's push to promote a raft of development schemes. The administration is also encouraging the Pandits to return. A nine-week-long outreach of the Centre in J&K where Union Ministers are visiting remote districts, including those closer to the LoC, is under way. Union Home Minister Amit Shah could make a visit later this month. Strict directives were issued to unfurl the national flag in all government buildings, including schools, on August 15. There is also a higher level of intolerance by the administration, which does not spare even the political activities of mainstream parties. There is an aggressive drive too to punish government staff suspected to be separatist sympathisers. Civilians are soft targets for the terrorists in this milieu. According to police figures, J&K saw 28 civilian killings, surpassing the 22 casualties of security personnel so far this year. Of the 28 killings, four were local Hindus, one Sikh, two non-local Hindu labourers and 21 local Muslims; 23 were political workers, with most from the BJP. No society can tolerate such violence. But while pursuing terrorists, the administration should also engage with political parties and civil society organisations.

Simple, but brilliant

Great discoveries can come from simple ideas which are often overlooked

This year's Nobel Prize for Chemistry is for an efficient, "precise, cheap, fast and environmentally friendly" way to develop new molecules using a simple yet novel concept of catalysis – asymmetric organocatalysis. It was awarded to German scientist Benjamin List of the Max Planck Institute and Scotland-born scientist David W.C. MacMillan of Princeton University who independently developed the new way of catalysis in 2000. They came up with "a truly elegant tool for making molecules – simpler than one could ever imagine". Since then, the process they evolved has led to a "gold rush" in the catalysis field. The multitudes of new organocatalysts developed have helped drive a variety of chemical reactions, in turn accelerating pharmaceutical drug research. The asymmetric organocatalysts have allowed researchers to efficiently produce new molecules with complete certainty of the 3-D orientation or handedness. Molecules naturally present and those synthesised can exist in two forms – right-handed and left-handed, and their properties very often vary depending on their handedness. In the 1950-60s, thalidomide was widely used to treat nausea in pregnant women, but caused severe birth defects. It became clear that the right-handed molecule was highly toxic. But asymmetric organocatalysts allowed the production of molecules of the desired mirror image form. While using other catalysts that require isolation and purification of each intermediate product – leading to loss of substance at every stage – asymmetric organocatalysts allow several steps in molecule production to continue without interruption, minimising waste.

In 2001, the three scientists who first developed asymmetric catalysts won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. But such catalysts often use heavy metals, making them expensive and environmentally harmful. There were other challenges too – a high sensitivity to oxygen and water. This meant that industrial use made the process expensive. Many enzyme catalysts too are asymmetric and are not sensitive to oxygen and water. But they are very often much larger than the actual target molecule and can take a longer time to do their job. Instead of using enzymes which normally contain hundreds of amino acids, this year's laureates developed a carbon-based catalyst made from a single, circular amino acid. Since these catalysts are asymmetric, only molecules of a single handedness are produced. If Benjamin List used a single amino acid proline to perform a certain bond-forming chemical reaction, W.C. MacMillan demonstrated that many modified amino acids could asymmetrically produce another bond-forming reaction. The circular-shaped amino acid the laureates used ensured that only one mirror image of the molecule could be produced. This year's Prize underlines the often-ignored message – great discoveries can come even from simple ideas which are often overlooked.

Reflections on the 'quasi-federal' democracy

Despite a basic structure, Indian federalism needs institutional amendment to be democratically federal



ASWINI K. RAY

Events coinciding with the jubilee of India's Independence draw attention to the federal structure of India's Constitution, which is a democratic imperative of multi-cultural India, where the constituent units of the sovereign state are based on language, against competing identities such as caste, tribe or religion. This built-in structural potential for conflict within and among the units, and that between them and the sovereign state, need imaginative federal craftsmanship and sensitive political management. The ability of the Indian Constitution to keep its wide-ranging diversity within one sovereign state, with a formal democratic framework is noteworthy. Possibly, with universal adult suffrage and free institutions of justice and governance it is nearly impossible to polarise its wide-ranging diversity within any single divisive identity, even Hindutva; so that, despite its operational flaws, the democratic structure and national integrity are dialectically interlinked. But its operational fault lines are increasingly denting liberal institutions, undermining the federal democratic structure as recent events have underscored.

Some fault lines

First, the tempestuous Parliament session, where the Rajya Sabha Chairperson broke down (in August 2021), unable to conduct proceedings despite the use of marshals; yet, the House passed a record number of Bills amidst a record number of adjournments. Second, cross-border police firing by one constituent State against another, inflicting fatalities, which also resulted in retaliatory action in the form of an embargo on goods trade and travel links with

its land-locked neighbour.

Such unfamiliar events of federal democracy are recurrent in India, except their present manifest intensity. Legislative disruption was described by a Union Law Minister (while in Opposition) as a 'legitimate democratic right, and duty'. In the 1960s, the Troika around Lohia claimed its right to enter Parliament on the Janata's shoulders to exit on the Marshals; posters with labels such as 'CIA Agent' were displayed during debates; 'suitcases' were transferred publicly to save the government; occasionally, "Honorable Members" emerged from debates with injuries. This time, in the "federal chamber", "Honorable Members" and Marshals are in physical contact – both claiming 'casualties' – official papers vandalised and chairpersons immobilised. Even inter-State conflict has assumed a new dimension.

Key changes

Such empirical realities have led scholars to conceptualise India's "Post-colonial democracy", and federalism, differently from their liberal role-models. Rajni Kohari's "one party dominance" model of the "Congress system" has now been replaced by the Bharatiya Janata Party; Myrdall's "soft state" is reincarnated in the Pegasus era with fake videos and new instruments of mass distraction and coercion. Galbraith's "functioning anarchy", now has greater criminalisation in India's democracy, which includes over 30% legislators with criminal records, and courtrooms turning into gang war zones; it is now more anarchic, but still functioning, bypassing any "Dangerous Decade" or a "1984".

Federal theorist K.C. Wheare analyses India's "centralized state with some federal features" as "quasi-federal". He underscores the structural faultlines of Indian federalism not simply as operational. So, while many democratic distortions are amenable to mitigation by institutional professionalism, Indian federalism, to be democratically federal, needs institutional amendment despite



being a "basic structure". Wheare's argument merits consideration.

Many deficits

Democratic federalism presupposes institutions to ensure equality between and among the units and the Centre so that they coordinate with each other, and are subordinate to the sovereign constitution – their disputes adjudicated by an independent judiciary with impeccable professional and moral credibility. But India's federal structure is constitutionally hamstrung by deficits on all these counts, and operationally impaired by the institutional dents in the overall democratic process. Like popular voting behaviour, institutional preferences are based either on ethnic or kinship network, or like anti-incumbency, as the perceived lesser evil, on individual role-models: T.N. Seshan for the Election Commission of India, J.F. Ribeiro for the police or Justices Chandrachud or Nariman for the judiciary.

India's federal structure, underpinned on the colonial '1935 Act' which initiated 'provincial autonomy', attempted democratising it by: renaming "Provinces" to autonomous "States"; transferring all "Reserved Powers" to popular governance; constitutionally dividing powers between the two tiers; inserting federalism in the Preamble, and Parts 3 and 4 containing citizens' "Fundamental Rights" and "Directive Principles"; but nothing about States' rights, not even their territorial boundaries. This has enabled the Centre to unilaterally alter State boundaries and create new States. The Indian Constitution itself has been

amended 105 times in 70 years compared with 27 times in over 250 years in the United States.

With 'nation-building' as priority, the constitutional division of power and resources remains heavily skewed in favour of the Centre; along with "Residual", "Concurrent" and "Implied" powers, it compromises on the elementary federal principle of equality among them, operationally reinforced by extra-constitutional accretion. While the judiciary is empowered to adjudicate on their conflicts, with higher judicial appointments (an estimated 41% lying vacant), promotion and transfers becoming a central prerogative, their operations are becoming increasingly controversial.

Structural conflicts

The story is not different for the "all India services", including the State cadres. What is operationally most distorted is the role of Governors: appointed by the Centre, it is political patronage, transforming this constitutional authority of a federal "link" to one of a central "agent" in the States. Thus, the critical instruments of national governance have been either assigned or appropriated by the Centre, with the States left with politically controversial subjects such as law and order and land reforms. Thus, most of India's federal conflicts are structural, reinforced by operational abuses.

Yet, there is no federal chamber to politically resolve conflicts. The Rajya Sabha indirectly represents the States whose legislators elect it, but continue even after the electors are outvoted or dismissed; with no residential qualification, this House is a major source of political and financial patronage for all political parties, at the cost of the people of the State they "represent".

Possibly, this explains its continuity. Constituting roughly half the Lok Sabha, proportionately, it reinforces the representative deficit of Parliament, which, through the Westminster system of 'winner-take-all', continues to elect majority parties and governments

with a minority of electoral votes. The second chamber is not empowered to neutralise the demographic weight of the populous States with larger representation in the popular chamber; it cannot veto its legislations, unlike the U.S. Senate. It can only delay, which explains the disruptions. Joint sessions to resolve their differences are as predictable and comical as the "voice votes" in the Houses. India's bicameral legislature, without ensuring a Federal Chamber, lives up to the usual criticism: "when the second chamber agrees with the first, it is superfluous, when it disagrees, it is pernicious".

Historically, party compositions decide when they agree or disagree. Whenever any party with a massive majority in any state finds itself marginalised in the central legislature, it disrupts proceedings, just as popular issues not reflected in legislative proceedings provoke undemocratic expressions and reciprocal repression. Such examples abound in India's "quasi-federal" democracy till now.

Lessons to learn

Empirical and scholarly evidence suggest Wheare's prefix about federalism arguably applies to other constitutional goals (largely operationally), while the federal flaws are structural, reinforcing conflicts and violence, endemic in the distorted democratic process. It is a threat to national security by incubating regional cultural challenges to national sovereignty, and reciprocal repression. We might learn from the mistakes of neighbouring Sri Lanka and Pakistan rather than be condemned to relive them. India's national security deserves a functional democratic federal alternative to its dysfunctional "quasi-federal" structure, which is neither federal nor democratic but a constitutional "basic structure".

Aswini K. Ray is a former Professor of Comparative Politics and International Relations, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Infusing public health into Indian medical education

A middle ground is to upgrade community medicine to 'community medicine and public health' in the curriculum



SOHAM D. BHADURI

The country has witnessed the menace of two COVID-19 waves and stares at a third. While COVID-19 has been presented as an overarching public health calamity, the influence of medical doctors in the health policy response to COVID-19 has been particularly profound. This is symptomatic of our long-standing tendency to confound medicine with public health which permeates even the highest policy-making echelons.

If anything, both the scope and consequence of medicine in the overall health of the population is significantly limited. COVID-19 entails that this fact leaves the libraries and academia, and manifests as tangible policy measures that help consolidate public health in the country.

Distinct specialty, stagnation

In the 1950s, a global consensus and a concomitant national consensus on the importance of socially-oriented physicians in popu-

lation health resulted in the establishment of community medicine as a distinct medical specialty, both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Vast swathes of the community medicine curriculum are devoted to tackling major public health challenges through a plethora of vertical disease control programmes which have always driven the national public health discourse. The larger medical curriculum has remained more or less stagnant since post-Independence.

Similarly, hardly any attempt has been made to reform the community medicine curriculum, from one that primarily provides technical inputs to technocratic health programmes – to one which can also take on the larger questions related to health policy and health systems, and inculcate critical thinking along lines that are divergent from clinical medicine.

Multidisciplinary science

Some experts have advocated the establishment of public health departments in medical schools, inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic. Community medicine, while frequently equated with public health, fails to embrace multiple facets of the multidisciplinary assemblage of competencies that is



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

public health. Juxtapose the community medicine curriculum with that of any of the few bastions of socially-oriented public health courses, and the distinction becomes readily apparent. But proponents of community medicine have not been in denial of this essential distinction – eventually, community medicine is a medical specialty while public health is a multidisciplinary science. Since public health is a multidisciplinary science, why do we emphasise instilling public health competencies in medicine, and not so much for other allied fields such as engineering or anthropology?

The pragmatic answer is that medical doctors, *de facto*, are likely to continue to be the most influential players in public health policy at least in the foreseeable future. This makes it imperative that medical doctors imbibe multi-

disciplinary public health thinking right since their formative days. Recent medical curricular reforms in India have laid a stress on inculcating clinical empathy, early clinical exposure, and at least ritualistically, on greater community exposure.

The Cuban example

However, none of these confers the competencies necessary to critically assess the larger public health and health systems landscape of the country. For a medical curriculum to be steeped in clinical medicine and not inculcate a broader public health orientation is least desirable where health policy is largely shaped by doctors. At the postgraduate level, re-emphasising multidisciplinary public health principles would be equally important to ensure that we create not just community medicine technocrats but also well-rounded advocates of health system reform. While health-care reform is a complex process with numerous interacting elements, the role of formative medical education in it is quite often underrated. Countries such as Cuba demonstrate how a medical curriculum attuned to public health can strongly influence the whole philosophy of health-care provision in a country.

Despite the considerable overlap between them, the non-substitutability of community medicine and public health cannot be ignored, at least in the current Indian context. Community medicine will always defend its exclusivity as being a fundamentally medical specialty meant only for doctors, and public health courses will rightfully need to be open to students from diverse backgrounds.

Looking ahead

A middle ground can be struck by upgrading community medicine to 'community medicine and public health' both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. This will involve revamping the community medicine curriculum through incorporation of or emphasising those areas of public health which are presently left out or under-emphasised, such as social health, health policy and health systems. At the same time, representation of experts other than doctors and from fields allied to public health will be essential in the refurbished 'community medicine and public health' departments.

Dr. Soham D. Bhaduri is a physician, health policy expert, and chief editor of 'The Indian Practitioner'

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.

Terror again

It is unfortunate that terrorism is showing its ugly head again in the Valley, with civilians as targets (Page 1, October 8). After making Jammu and Kashmir a Union Territory, the Centre seems to have slowed down in its initiative to instil confidence among the people and local leaders, and develop inclusiveness in government programmes and policies in the Valley. The all-party meet with the Prime Minister seemed promising, but there do not seem to be steps after this.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

■ The targeted killings of Kashmir's religious

minorities revive the horrific memories of the orchestrated expulsion of the Pandits from the Valley in the 1990s. Pakistan's hidden hand in the murders is palpably visible. What is shocking is the inability and unwillingness of India's political class to condemn the targeting of minorities.

V.N. MURUNDARAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

Microfinance, inclusion

I write this as the CEO of the Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN). While it is good to have different perspectives, the article, "RBI microfinance proposals that are anti-poor" (Editorial page, October 6, 2021) is not entirely factually correct. One thing which stands out

is the writer's fear that private financiers will profiteer and interest rates will go northward; there is even an erroneous example as an illustration. MFIs charge interest rate on a declining principal basis and the example given is erroneous as interest amount cannot be the same for 24 months; it will decline each month. NBFC-MFIs (only on whom interest rate prescription applies) make up for a mere 32% of market share. And the interest rates of major institutions are in the range of 19% to 21%, with a cost of funds of -12%. Anybody familiar with finance knows that interest rate is a function of cost of funds, transaction cost and risk cost is well understood.

And NBFC-MFIs in India have the lowest transaction cost when compared globally, while delivering doorstep services. On the writer's fear of rate deregulation and rates going up, besides the point of only 32% of market having cap, the example of banks in India comes to mind. Have the rates gone beyond the roof or actually fallen, post-deregulation in 1991, including private banks? The facts are there to see. Such things can happen under oligopolistic conditions but not in India where the microfinance market is fiercely competitive with nearly 200 lenders (banks, NBFCs and NBFC-MFIs) and which will be complemented by the RBI and SRO

oversight. Global research shows that caps only create market inefficiencies and often defeat the policy objective of universal inclusion. To illustrate, in a margin-capped environment, institutions will shy away from far-flung areas as operational costs go up – which need the services the most. On the writer's point of "private" and "profit", MFIs have suffered losses for three years in the

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

A clarification: With reference to the report titled "People paid for treatment despite PM-JAY" (some editions, October 6, 2021), a mail from the Public Health Foundation of India said: "... the report incorrectly states that the study was technically supported and guided by the Public Health Foundation of India. ... The technical team of the foundation has neither contributed in the manner reported nor has it been associated with the study."

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

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last five years due to extraneous reasons such as COVID-19. It is now well accepted by Indian policy that any institution (public or private) needs to be sustainable and not subsidy driven. Both public and private institutions have a role in meeting the challenge of exclusion, but sustainably.

ALOK MISRA,
New Delhi

An eye for an eye in southern Tamil Nadu

The rivalry between the gangs of Pasupathi Pandian and the Pannaiyars has spanned decades and claimed several lives in gruesome attacks, the latest being Nirmala Devi's in September. **L. Srikrishna, S. Vijay Kumar & P. Sudakar** report on the internecine feud that poses a perennial law-and-order problem in the State



(Clockwise from top): Devendrakula Vellalar Kootamaippu founder Pasupathi Pandian's funeral rally in Dindigul on January 11, 2012; Policemen inspect the spot where Nirmala Devi was murdered in Nandavanampatti village, Dindigul, on September 22, 2021; Pasupathi Pandian mourns the death of his wife Jascinta, outside the General Hospital, in 2006. • KARTHIKEYAN G.

At around 8 a.m. on September 22, about a dozen daily wage earners, mostly women, sat under a neem tree in Nandavanampatti village in Dindigul district of southern Tamil Nadu. They had eaten their morning portion of *pazhaya saatham* (gruel made of leftover rice soaked in water overnight) with shallots and were getting ready to de-silt a tank under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). A 69-year-old woman, Nirmala Devi, was directing the labourers to quickly get to work without wasting time.

A short while later, when Nirmala Devi — heavy, with a wide forehead, a nose pin and glasses — sat alone in the shade, four men armed with long knives rode towards her on two motorcycles. They dismounted the vehicles, strode menacingly towards her, grabbed her by her hair and assaulted her with the sharp-edged weapons. As the helpless farm workers watched the crime in horror from afar, one of the masked men beheaded Nirmala Devi, who had by then collapsed in a pool of blood. The murderers picked up her head and drove away.

Aghast at this savagery, the workers fled to safety. For well over 30 minutes, Nirmala Devi's torso lay there, the smell of death lingering in the sticky air. The village fell into a shocked silence. It wore a deserted look until senior police officers and an ambulance arrived at the scene of the crime.

Armed police personnel were quickly deployed in the village. The police immediately launched a search operation. Special teams assisted by sniffer dogs spread out in different directions in search of the assailants and the victim's head. About an hour later, Nirmala Devi's head was found at the doorstep of Chidambaram Pasupathi's house. Chidambaram Pasupathi alias Pasupathi Pandian, the founder-leader of a Scheduled Caste outfit, Devendrakula Vellalar Kootamaippu, had also been brutally murdered, on January 10, 2012.

It did not take long for the police to join the dots and link her killing to a bloody revenge game that has been playing out in southern Tamil Nadu for decades. Nirmala Devi was named as accused number five in the murder of Pasupathi Pandian — a gangster of medium build with a head full of hair and a striking orange beard. Between 2013 and 2019, four of the 18 persons named as the accused in the case were killed by Pasupathi Pandian's supporters in different parts of southern Tamil Nadu. Nirmala Devi was the fifth.

A dynamic, dependable woman
What is curious is that Nirmala Devi belonged to a Scheduled Caste, as did those who orchestrated her beheading. The widow of Perumal, a farm worker,



Nirmala Devi had been living alone in Nandavanampatti for over a decade. Her elder son, aged about 45, is in the defence service and her younger son, about 40 years old, lives in another village.

Like any other Scheduled Caste inhabitant of Nandavanampatti, Nirmala Devi also depended on farm work for sustenance. The villagers described her as an active, dynamic woman. A former Panchayat ward councillor, she would travel everywhere on a two-wheeler. She would visit the Dindigul Collectorate to help people in her village apply for and receive pension and get other assistance from the government, said villagers.

Days after her killing, the tension was still palpable in Nandavanampatti, where Dalits and members of other communities live. The villagers seemed suspicious of strangers and refused to share their personal details, including their names.

"She would help us in times of need. It is horrible that her killers beheaded her and took away her head [as a trophy]," said one of Nirmala Devi's neighbours, a woman, who was unable to

come to terms with her death. One villager said Nirmala Devi's death had left a void in the village. She could be depended on during any emergency, he said.

Villagers said Nirmala Devi would mobilise workers from hamlets to do MGNREGS work. She would then get a commission from these workers from their earnings. She was called a *mesthri* — a supervisor or a person who coordinates with workers for a job. She would also lend money to villagers as soft loans. The interest she earned from this helped her live comfortably, they said.

Just a few hours before she was murdered, Nirmala Devi had listed the names of people who wanted to work under the rural employment scheme, a police officer said. These interested villagers had provided their thumb impressions or signatures on a piece of paper, to serve as proof of their working for wages. They will now be cited as prosecution witnesses in her murder trial, the officer said.

Tit-for-tat killings

The accused in Pasupathi Pandian's murder are supporters of Subash Pannaiyar, a Nadar, an intermediate caste in Tamil Nadu. The rivalry between Pasupathi Pandian and Subash Pannaiyar dates back to the early 1990s, to Thoothukudi district, located about 210 kilometres south of Nandavanampatti village in Dindigul.

Pannaiyars are traditionally landlords. Over two decades ago, Subash Pannaiyar's grandfather, Sivasubramanian Nadar alias Sivasubramanian Pannaiyar, was an influential landlord in Moolakkarai in Thoothukudi. He owned hundreds of cultivable acres of land in the coastal district and enjoyed the following of the Nadar community.

It was a property dispute involving Sivasubramanian Pannaiyar and a bank manager named Rajagopal that led to the first clash between the Pannaiyars and Pasupathi Pandian. Pasupathi Pan-

dian, who was already facing criminal charges then, intervened on behalf of Rajagopal. The matter reached a flashpoint when the senior Pannaiyar's son, Asupathi Pannaiyar, was killed in January 1993. Following his father Asupathi's death, Subash Pannaiyar took over as landlord. He and his first cousin, N. Venkatesa Pannaiyar, the founder of the caste outfit Akhila India Nadar Pathukappu Peravai, sought to take revenge on Pasupathi Pandian, but they were unsuccessful. Soon after surviving the attack by the Pannaiyars, Pasupathi Pandian and his supporters murdered Subash's grandfather Sivasubramanian Pannaiyar in 1990. They later killed two witnesses to this murder.

In 2003, Venkatesa Pannaiyar was shot dead by the police in an 'encounter' in Chennai, triggering a massive political row. His death led to anger among many Nadars. This prompted then Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam president M. Karunanidhi to field Venkatesa Pannaiyar's wife Radhika Selvi in the 2004 Lok Sabha election. Selvi went on to become Union Minister of State for Home in May 2007 in the Manmohan Singh government.

According to the police, Pasupathi Pandian fled Thoothukudi district in 2006 after the Pannaiyar gang killed his wife Jascinta Pandian, an advocate. She was accompanying Pasupathi Pandian, who was on his way to Thoothukudi along with his accomplices to appear before a court in connection with a case against him, when a bomb was hurled at the car. The gangster promptly took refuge in Dindigul after his wife's killing. There he met Nirmala Devi, who also belonged to a Scheduled Caste.

Nirmala Devi and a few others helped Pasupathi Pandian identify a housing plot in M.N. Nagar, Nandavanampatti, where he built a house. Pasupathi Pandian's patronage saw Nirmala Devi's fortunes improve. Thanks to this acquaintance, Nirmala Devi managed to build a modest house for herself. Others who

helped the Devendrakula Vellalar Kootamaippu founder also prospered.

In Dindigul, Pasupathi Pandian was always surrounded by his supporters. "Whenever he travelled, he was surrounded by his men who were always armed," said a retired police officer, who had served in the district till 2015. However, on the night of January 10, 2012, Pasupathi Pandian's men left him to go elsewhere on work. The gang leader met a gory end when armed men arrived at his house and slit his throat.

Soon after the police began their investigation into the murder of Pasupathi Pandian, Subash Pannaiyar and 17 others were named as the accused in the First Information Report. Nirmala Devi allegedly took money from the Pannaiyar gang to pass on information to them on Pasupathi Pandian's movements, which led to his death. Though caste bonds are strong in rural Tamil Nadu, in some cases such as this, currency helps forge a deeper bond.

Pasupathi Pandian's supporters have been thirsting for revenge since his death, said the police. They have been carefully planning and meticulously eliminating their targets, as Nirmala Devi's killing suggests. Subash Pannaiyar miraculously escaped an attempt on his life in March 2016 when country bombs were hurled at him by a gang of at least 50 members during a visit to his farm. At that time, Arumugasamy, a supporter of Subash Pannaiyar, was beheaded, and his head was placed under a roadside banner carrying Pasupathi Pandian's photo, on the Thoothukudi-Tirunelveli highway.

The police have arrested three persons in connection with Nirmala Devi's murder. Five others have surrendered before a judicial magistrate court in Tiruchi, 100 km from Dindigul.

The cycle of revenge murders

Leading psychiatrist C. Ramasubramanian explained that a lack of closure and the inability to accept the sudden and

planned death of a loved one leads to a thirst for revenge. When a person represses their anger, it is often impossible for them to deal with that emotion, he said. "Having seen or heard about the manner in which their loved ones died really affects the person," he said. Even if the accused get arrested, it doesn't provide closure for the affected families if the murder was gruesome, he said. "And the act of revenge passes on sometime even to the next generation and beyond."

The police in southern Tamil Nadu have been updating their records to note down the multiple lives that have been claimed on either side of this gang rivalry. The conflict assumed a caste angle over the years between sections of the Nadars and the Devendrakula Vellalars. On many occasions, it ballooned into a law-and-order problem with supporters of these gangs taking to the streets and damaging public property. But unlike the other caste conflicts in southern Tamil Nadu, which are fanned by political parties representing one community or the other, this conflict between the Nadars and the Devendrakula Vellalars has largely played out due to the intense rivalry between the two gangs.

The police have been rattled by Nirmala Devi's murder and the string of unrelated killings that came on its heels. Director-General of Police C. Sylendra Babu has asked all district police and commissionerates to form special teams to deal with rowdy elements and gangsters. He asked them to follow murder cases as old as 10 years and prepare fresh dossiers on gangsters likely to be involved in retaliation. The details of such gangsters, with their photographs, will be uploaded in a special app, he said. The police force launched 'Operation Disarm' to conduct storming operations at caste-sensitive locations across the State. They did not lose sight of the fact that the gruesome crimes took place just as the State was preparing for its two-phase rural local body polls in nine districts, including two in the south. The second phase of polling is scheduled on Saturday. They arrested 3,325 suspects wanted in various murder cases and seized hundreds of lethal weapons including firearms. The officers have also been asked to closely follow murder cases pending in courts and work towards the conviction of perpetrators.

The police are unsure whether Nirmala Devi is the last victim of this gang rivalry between the Pannaiyar and Pandian clans. A retired Deputy Superintendent of Police, who had served in southern districts, said that her murder may not be the last in this bloody saga. In some instances, the revenge murder is executed decades later, he said. "Revenge murders," he said, "rarely cease."



FROM PAGE ONE

Tatas win back Air India with ₹18,000 crore bid

"The taxpayers have put in ₹1,10,277 crore in Air India since 2009-10, which includes ₹54,584-crore cash support and ₹55,692 crore as guarantee support for loans," Mr. Pandey said.

"There are no underlying assets as such. This is all loss being funded through the debt guaranteed by the government. AI has a loss of ₹20 crore a day," Mr. Pandey said on the government's decision to sell the airline for ₹18,000 crore.

"The government has addressed all the concerns of employees. The winning bidder will retain all employees for a period of one year. In the second year, if anyone has to be removed, they will be offered the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. They will be pro-

vided gratuity and provident fund as per the applicable law of the land. The post-retirement medical benefits of those who have retired and those who will be retiring will also be taken care of by the government," Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Rajiv Bansal said.

Air India and Air India Express have a total of 13,484 permanent employees.

"It is a great day for Indian aviation. The sale of Air India is one of the biggest reforms in the aviation sector. It is a win-win for all, though there is a long road ahead for rebuilding Air India which will require very long term and patient capital. Its turnaround will take time," said Kapil Kaul of CAPA India.

India, China patrols face off in Tawang

Asked about the detention of Chinese soldiers by the Indian Army, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian replied, "I am not aware of the relevant information."

Peace and tranquillity in these areas of differing perceptions had been possible due to adherence to the existing agreements and protocols between the two countries, the source added. However, the effectiveness of these protocols has now come into question after the stand-off in eastern Ladakh last year following ingress by Chinese troops into Indian territory at multiple locations, which is still under way.

Last week, during a visit to the forward areas of eastern Ladakh, Army chief Gen. Manoj Naravane expressed the confidence

that through talks, the two sides would be able to reach a consensus on how disengagement could take place and all the friction points got resolved. At the same time, he said that China had deployed troops in considerable numbers all across eastern Ladakh and northern fronts right up to the Eastern Command.

"Definitely, there has been an increase in their deployment in the forward areas, which remains a matter of concern for us," he noted, adding that India was well poised to meet "any eventuality."

The Chinese have been undertaking such transgressions along the LAC. In August, over 100 Chinese troops transgressed 4-5 km into Indian territory at Barahoti in Uttarakhand and returned after few hours.

Panic-stricken Pandits go on leave in Valley

Sanjay Tickoo, who heads the Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti (KPSS), a body representing the voices of those who did not migrate from the Valley in the 1990s, said, "Neither those who stayed back since the 1990s or those who returned to the Valley are feeling secure."

Hundreds of Sikhs, including the relatives of the deceased principal Supinder Kaur, carried the mortal remains on a stretcher and marched on the city's streets for swift action against the perpetrators of the crime. They also held a sit-in in front of the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

Jammu and Kashmir's regional parties made a collective appeal to the Pandits not to consider migration. The BJP and several Jammu-based parties also organised street protests against the killings in Jammu and demanded protection for the minorities.

National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah, who visited the victim's family, said, "We can't let

the perpetrators of these terror attacks succeed in their evil designs. The overwhelmingly majority of us don't want you to go. It is our prime responsibility, especially of the majority community, of the Valley to safeguard the lives of minorities."

Gupkar alliance meets Meanwhile, NC president Farooq Abdullah chaired a meeting of the Gupkar alliance, an amalgam of regional parties, which was attended by Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti too.

Gupkar alliance spokesman M.Y. Tarigami said the onus to create a conducive security environment lay with the Centre. "We as responsible political parties will play our role to reduce the levels of suspicion and fear," he said.

Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq also condemned the killings. He reiterated that the Hurriyat was for "a just resolution through peaceful means of the Kashmir conflict".

SC dissatisfied with U.P.'s status report

Mr. Ashish is accused of shooting dead a farmer while trying to escape agitated farmers after vehicles in the Minister's convoy rammed into them. Mr. Salve said a notice had been issued to Mr. Ashish, asking him to appear before the police by 11 a.m. "tomorrow". "If the person does not come, the rigour of law will take its course," he said.

The CJJ asked sharply, "Is it the same way you treat other accused too? Like sending notices, etc."

He told Mr. Salve, "It is an extremely serious issue, you are not proceeding in the way you should be... Imagine, what is the message we are sending out? In normal circumstances, a case of Section 302 IPC will be registered. The police will go out and arrest that person."

The senior lawyer urged the court to give some more time to the State to repair the shortfalls in the investigation. The Bench posted the case for October 20.

Palk Bay scheme will be given a fillip: Murugan

Union Minister says the unit cost of deep-sea fishing vessels will be raised, making it more attractive to fisherfolk

T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

The Union Government is considering increasing the unit cost of deep-sea fishing vessels under the Palk Bay scheme to make it more attractive to fisherfolk, L. Murugan, Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Information and Broadcasting, said here on Friday.

In an interaction with senior journalists of The Hindu Group on Friday, the Union Minister, who was accompanied by K. Annamalai, president of the Tamil Nadu unit of the BJP, conceded that the original unit cost of ₹80 lakh was "inadequate" [to meet the requirements of the fisherfolk]. This was why the Union Ministry asked Cochin Shipyard Ltd., a company fully owned by the Union Government, to work out the revised cost.

"They [the Cochin Shipyard] have given their opinion. Now, the unit cost may touch ₹1.3 crore. Once the technical nod comes, we will



Charting a course: Union Minister of State for Fisheries L. Murugan, right, and BJP State president K. Annamalai at The Hindu office on Friday. ■ RAGU R.

Marine Fisheries Bill will protect our fishermen if there is any [illegal] activity by a foreign fishing vessel

L. MURUGAN
Union Minister

go ahead," the Union Minister explained.

He was responding to a question whether the Centre would bring the Palk Bay scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), wherein the

unit cost of deep-sea fishing vessels had been fixed at ₹1.2 crore.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July 2017, the Palk Bay scheme, being financed by the Union and the State Governments with beneficiary participation, envisaged the provision of 2,000 vessels in three years to the fishermen of the State and motivate them to abandon bottom trawling. The current year's Policy Note of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department of

'Farm protests by vested interests'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Union Minister of State L. Murugan on Friday said "vested interests" in parts of a few northern States were behind the protests against the farm laws of the Centre.

Replying to a question on the protests, Mr. Murugan, in an interaction with senior journalists of The Hindu

Group, said the protests were "only in parts of western Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana". "Do you see any agitation in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan? The answer is 'no.' In such a vast country, most people have accepted [the laws]," he said.

the Tamil Nadu government said that 42 deep-sea fishing vessels had been launched with 43 more in various stages of construction.

Marine Fisheries Bill

As for the proposed Marine Fisheries Bill, Mr. Murugan termed the opposition to it "politically motivated", and said the legislation would not "in any way affect our fishermen in any place". It had been mooted in the absence of any law to regulate fishing activity taking place

beyond 12 nautical miles from the shore. Up to 12 nm, the State laws were in place.

"The new legislation will protect our fishermen if there is any [illegal] activity by a foreign fishing vessel," Mr. Murugan said.

As for the proposed penalty, he said the fishermen had to register themselves as part of the legislation, as otherwise there would be a fine of ₹1,000. "In fact, State laws in Tamil Nadu and Kerala have higher amounts of fine," the Union Minister said.

Regarding promotion of seaweed farming, he said Tamil Nadu would get a special economic park as a pilot project. The foundation stone for the park project was likely to be laid during the third week of November. Fisherwomen would be among the beneficiaries of this programme. The Kisan Credit Card would also be extended to the fisherfolk. Under the PMMSY, five fishing harbours would be modernised as per international standards and the idea was to encourage exports of fish products.

Answering a question on the issues concerning administration of temples by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department in Tamil Nadu, the Union Minister urged the State government to implement the directions given by a Bench of the Madras High Court in this regard. He also wanted the government to ensure that income generated from temples be used for proper maintenance of the temples concerned.

Aryan Khan sent to Arthur Road prison

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

After a court refused him bail in a drug seizure case, Aryan Khan, Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son, was sent to the Arthur Road prison here on Friday.

Along with him, five other men arrested in the case too were sent to the same jail. Two women, including model Mumtaz Bhatia, were sent to Byculla women's prison, a police official said.

They are likely to spend the weekend in the quarantine cells of the two prisons as the Sessions Court, where they will need to file appeal for bail, would not be working on October 9, the second Saturday of the month, police sources said. The Narcotics Control Bureau has arrested 18 persons so far after raiding a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast and allegedly recovering narcotic drugs.

Incidentally, the court's order rejecting bail to Aryan Khan came on his mother Gauri Khan's 51st birthday.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh, appearing for the NCB, opposed the bail pleas, arguing that the Magistrate had no jurisdiction to hear the applications.



Outpouring of grief: People carrying the body of the slain school principal Supinder Kour in Srinagar on Friday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Fresh militant recruits had role in targeted killings: police

Public, especially minority communities, told not to panic

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The J&K police suspect that more than three fresh militant recruits may have carried out the recent targeted killings of seven civilians, including the Principal and a teacher of a government school, in the past one week, in the capital and in Bandipora.

Sources said the police were also investigating reports that the militants segregated teachers on the basis of their religion at the Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Iddgah San-

gam, before killing the Principal and the teacher from minority communities.

Initial police investigation suggested the militants, just two or three of them, walked into the premises of the school, headed for the room of the Principal, and confiscated the mobile phones of the staff members before segregating them.

"In all such cases, terrorists have been using pistols. These acts are committed by newly recruited militants or those who are about to join the militant ranks," Inspector General of Police Vijay

Kumar said.

Mr. Kumar said the police were working hard to identify "part-time, hybrid militants".

"We have received several leads and are working on it. We appeal to the general public, especially minority communities, not to panic," he added.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up outside business establishments owned by minority community members and areas in which non-local labourers stay in the Valley "as a precautionary measure".

'Govt. has failed to protect J&K people'

Rahul condemns incidents of violence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Condemning the incidents of violence in Jammu and Kashmir, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said terrorism had not stopped because of the removal of Article 370 or demonetisation.

In a tweet, soon after two government teachers (a Sikh and a Pandit) were shot dead by militants in the Eidgah area of Srinagar, Mr. Gandhi charged the Union Government with failing to provide security to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Incidents of violence are increasing in Kashmir. Terrorism has neither stopped due to demonetisation nor after the removal of Article 370. The Central Government has completely failed to provide security," Mr. Gandhi said in a tweet.

"We strongly condemn the attacks on our Kashmiri brothers and sisters," he added.

The killing of the teachers took the number of civilians shot dead in the last five days in the Kashmir Valley



Rahul Gandhi

to seven, including four from the minorities.

On Tuesday, the Kashmir Valley witnessed three targeted civilian killings in 90 minutes, which included a prominent Kashmiri Pandit businessman Mahan Lal Bindroo, who owned a well-known pharmacy in Srinagar, and a gollapara and bhelpuri seller from Bihar.

"The Modi government garners votes by promising to protect the Kashmiri Pandits, but has failed to provide them security. When will the pseudo-nationalist BJP government be able to control Pakistan-backed extremism?" asked Congress chief spokesperson Ran-deep Surjewala.

CWC likely to meet next week

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) is likely to meet next week to discuss an organisational restructuring and give shape to changes in the party structure.

Sources told *The Hindu* that the meeting was likely to place within the auspicious period of Navaratri that ends on October 15.

WB police put on alert amid terror threat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

The West Bengal government has put the police on alert in view of the Durga Puja festivities in the State, citing terror threats.

Issuing a set of guidelines, Chief Secretary H.K. Dwivedi asked officials to ensure that communal harmony is maintained in the State. All puja panels were asked to engage an adequate number of volunteers in the pandals.

31 selected for lateral entry posts

Six of them will join Finance Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday recommended 31 candidates from private sector and public sector undertakings for appointment at senior and mid-level positions in various Union Ministries under the "lateral entry" programme on a "contract basis". The most number of such appointments - six - are to the Ministry of Finance.

Reservation or caste-based quotas do not apply to these recruitments. As per norms, the posts of Joint Secretary, Director, and Deputy Secretary are filled by officers belonging to the All India Service 'Group A' services, which includes the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the Indian Police Service (IPS) and the Indian Revenue Service (IRS). A Joint Secretary is the third highest ranking officer in the government.

A press statement issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoP&T) said that it had requested the Union Public

Service Commission (UPSC) "to select suitable persons to join the Government at the level of Joint Secretary/Director/Deputy Secretary in various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India on contract/deputation basis." The request was made on December 12, 2020 and February 12, 2021.

The UPSC launched online recruitment applications in February and March.

"In response, a total of 295 applications for Joint Secretary, 1,247 applications for Director, and 489 applications for Deputy Secretary posts were received," the DoPT said.

Based on the online application forms, the UPSC shortlisted 231 candidates for the interviews. The interviews were conducted from September 27 to October 8, and 31 candidates were recommended.

The last such appointments were made in 2019, when nine candidates were selected.

Two resigned later.

Modi, Kishida commit to strengthening relations

They also review progress under Quad

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to new Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Friday evening, in their first conversation since the latter took charge this week, committing to strengthen bilateral relations and opposing the use of military and economic force in the Indo-Pacific region through the Quad with the U.S. and Australia.

"The leaders discussed the increasing alignment of perspectives, and robust cooperation, between India and Japan in the Indo-Pacific region. They reviewed the progress of cooperation under the Quad framework in this regard," said a Ministry of External Affairs statement, which gave details of the talks that lasted about 25 minutes. It stated that Mr. Modi invited Mr. Kishida to visit India for a summit.

A statement issued by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted, "Both leaders shared their strong opposition to any unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force and to economic coercion, while confirming that the two countries would deepen cooperation on economic security such as through resilience of supply chains".



Fumio Kishida

The statements are significant as tensions have been rising in the South China Sea over a record number of Chinese jets being flown into Taiwan's Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the past week, after recent military exercises involving the U.S., Japan, the U.K. and other allies in the region. On Tuesday, Mr. Kishida, who was earlier known for a moderate foreign policy line and now taken a tough posture on countering China, spoke to President Joe Biden and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Kishida discussed plans for celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations next year, and promote cooperation on "green technology, digital, healthcare, enhancing connectivity".

Union Govt. is misusing agencies: Sena

STAFF REPORTER
PUNE

The BJP had left no stone unturned to defame the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena said, a day after the Income Tax (I-T) Department conducted marathon raids on several firms and offices owned by relatives and persons close to Deputy Chief Minister and senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar.

In an editorial in its mouthpiece *Saamana*, the Sena said the Union Government had flagrantly misused agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the I-T Department and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in a bid to defame the MVA leadership. On Thursday, I-T authorities raided several businesses and offices, including sugar factories in Pune, Satara, Ahmednagar, Nandurbar and Kolhapur among other places in Maharashtra. The I-T Department later claimed to have detected ₹1,050 crore in alleged illicit transactions.

SKM calls for farmers' protest on Oct. 12

If demands are not met, 'rail roko' on Oct. 18 and Lucknow rally on Oct. 24, say protest leaders

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

Protesting farm unions have issued a call for farmers to gather again in strength at Tikononia in Uttar Pradesh on October 12, the "antim ardaas" day when the last rites would be conducted for the farmers who died at Lakhimpur Kheri last Sunday. From there, the ashes of the victims would be taken to all the districts of Uttar Pradesh, to the gurdwaras of Punjab, and to all the States, to spread the message that "the BJP government was terrorising farmers", according to leaders of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), which held its general body meeting at the Singhu border on Friday. "There was immense anger not just that such an incident has happened, but that the government is protecting the accused for so long," said Jagmohan Singh, general secretary of the Dakaunda fac-



tion of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), assessing the mood of those who attended the meeting. If the prime accused, Ashish Mishra, was not arrested and his father, Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra, not removed from the Union Council of Ministers by October 11, the SKM vowed to intensify its protest with a nationwide "rail roko" between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on October 18, followed by a mahapanchayat in Lucknow

on October 24 along the lines of the mass gathering in Muzaffarnagar last month. On Dasara, farm unions planned to burn effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. In a statement, the SKM rejected the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and the judicial inquiry set up by the Uttar Pradesh Government, noting that the Supreme Court had also said it was not satisfied. It also agreed with

the court that an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) would not be a solution either, and "demanded an impartial investigation that will report directly to the Supreme Court", welcoming the court's order asking the police to keep all evidence intact.

'Shaheed Kisan Diwas'

Declaring October 12 "Shaheed Kisan Diwas", the platform of unions protesting against the three farm reform laws appealed to farmers across Uttar Pradesh and the country to make their way to Tikononia on that day. "There would have been at least 20,000 people gathered in Tikononia last Sunday. At that time, the anger could have sparked off a riot between Hindus and Punjabi Sikhs, who [the latter] are major landowners in the area, so [BKU leader] Rakesh Tikait played a key role in

preventing that and dispersing the crowd," said All India Kisan Sabha general secretary Hannan Mollah, who was part of the SKM's core committee, alleging a conspiracy to provoke communal violence by Mr. Mishra and other BJP leaders. "Now, a big crowd will build up again, but the leaders will ensure that the anger is channelled into peaceful protest," he added, estimating that 15,000-20,000 people would gather. Senior Punjab farm leader Balbir Singh Rajewal said he was on his way to Lakhimpur Kheri on Friday, and other leaders planned to arrive over the weekend.

Mr. Mollah and other leaders confirmed the plans for a "kalash yatra" to disperse the ashes of the victims across the country over 10 days. "We want the message to go out as far as possible that the BJP is now actively killing farmers," he added.

Ashish skips police questioning, Union Minister says he is unwell

'He will report to the police on the next date given by them'

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra, did not turn up for questioning in Lakhimpur Kheri despite the summons issued to him by the police in connection with the Tikononia incident, in which he is accused of murder.

Mr. Ajay told presspersons in Lucknow that Mr. Ashish, alias Monu, did not go to the police as he was unwell. Responding to questions on whether his son was absconding, Mr. Ajay said Mr. Ashish had not gone anywhere, but was in their Shahpur Kothi residence.

The Union Minister said his son would report to the police on the next date given by them. Mr. Ajay also said Mr. Ashish had informed the



A policeman pasting a notice outside Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's residence. ■PTI

police that he was willing to provide them with evidence and his statement.

New notice

Police in Lakhimpur Kheri pasted a new notice outside the Mishras' residence summoning Mr. Ashish to appear at the Crime Branch office in Police Lines at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Legal action would

be taken if he did not turn up, said the notice.

The Uttar Pradesh police had on Thursday arrested two persons and issued summons to Mr. Ashish for questioning in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, in which eight persons, including four farmers, were killed. Amid demands for Mr. Ashish's arrest in the murder case, the police issued him summons to appear at the Reserve Police Lines in Lakhimpur Kheri at 10 a.m. on Friday.

Mr. Ajay maintained that his son was not at the site of the incident or in any of the cars that mowed down the farmers. Mr. Ashish was in their ancestral village, Banveerpur, attending the annual wrestling event organised by their family, said the Union Minister.

IN BRIEF



Cong. reiterates demand to dismiss Union Minister

NEW DELHI
The Congress on Friday said a commission of two sitting judges should be set up to ensure that the farmers killed in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence get justice within 30 days. The party reiterated its demand for the dismissal of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra, and the arrest of his son Ashish Mishra. Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, "It has become clear that the Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath governments are standing with criminals."

'Will take part in Maharashtra bandh'

MUMBAI
Three days after the three ruling parties in Maharashtra — the Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party and the Shiv Sena — called for a State bandh on October 11 against the killings of farmers at Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh, the Samyukt Shetkari Kamgar Morcha (SSKM) on Friday endorsed the call for a "Maharashtra bandh". The SSKM held a press conference in Mumbai to announce its support for the move.

Twitter war strains ties between Congress, Kishor

Spat triggers war of words between Baghel and Trinamool

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The Congress and election strategist Prashant Kishor's public sparring over the grand old party's (GOP) prospects of political revival triggered a war of words between Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and the Trinamool Congress.

In a tweet, the Trinamool directly attacked former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi for his defeat in Amethi, without naming him.

"Rich words coming from a first-time CM. Punching above your weight doesn't bring honour to you, Mr. @bhupeshbaghel. What a shoddy attempt to please the high command! By the way, is @INCIndia going to try to erase the historical defeat at Amethi through yet another Twitter Trend?" the Trinamool said on Twitter.

This was in response to Mr. Baghel's tweet that said, "People looking for a 'national' alternative based on poaching INC [Indian National Congress] functionaries who can't win even their own seats is in for a big disappointment. Unfortunately, to become a national al-



Prashant Kishor

ternative deep-rooted and concerted efforts are needed and there are no quick-fix solutions."

The Twitter war was first triggered by Mr. Kishor, who said those who were hoping for quick revival of the GOP on the basis of the Lakhimpur Kheri incident would be disappointed.

Hitting back, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, "It's a grave sin if anyone vents Lakhimpur Kheri in terms of political gain or loss. I wouldn't like comment [on] a consultant's remarks."

Mr. Baghel's tweet and Mr. Surjewala's comments were a direct response to Mr. Kishor's tweet earlier in the day.

"People looking for a quick, spontaneous revival

of GOP led opposition based on #LakhimpurKheri incident are setting themselves up for a big disappointment. Unfortunately there are no quick fix solutions to the deep-rooted problems and structural weakness of GOP," Mr. Kishor had tweeted on Friday.

His tweet is significant as it comes in the midst of speculation that the election strategist could be joining the Congress as part of the "GOP's revival plan". Mr. Kishor is now the principal political adviser to Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress.

Though he didn't name any leader in his tweet, the obvious reference is to the buzz that Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's arrest in Sitapur, bordering Lakhimpur Kheri district, created in the media.

But beyond the immediate context, Mr. Kishor's tweet indicates a falling out with the Congress. Sources told *The Hindu* that the Congress was divided over his parallel induction as a general secretary and as a member of the Congress Working Committee.

Subramanian to return to academics

Will return to serving as a researcher after fulfilling three-year commitment: CEA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian has decided to return to academia at the completion of his three-year tenure in early December.

"Being provided the opportunity to contribute during a period of tremendous uncertainty and epochal change has been the lucky icing on the cake. So, while being conscious of the enormous privilege bestowed on me, I will happily return back to serving the country as a researcher after fulfilling my three-year commitment," he said in a statement on Friday.



Krishnamurthy Subramanian

An Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, and Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta, alumnus, Mr. Subramanian was a Professor at the Indian School of Business before his appointment as the CEA in

December 2018. The CEA's post had been vacant at the time for a few months after his predecessor Arvind Subramanian left citing "personal reasons".

'Keen listener'

The CEA thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for being a "keen listener" with an intuitive understanding of economic policy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for allowing the Economic Surveys he presented to be free-spirited, and officials across Ministries for being receptive to his ideas by supporting as well as challenging them. "In close to three de-

acades of my professional life, I am yet to encounter a more inspiring leader than the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. His intuitive understanding of economic policy combines with an unmistakable determination to use the same to elevate the lives of common citizens," the CEA said.

"The momentous change in India's economic thinking post the pandemic - inter alia embracing ethical wealth creation by empowering the private sector and economic recovery driven by government capital expenditure - bears testimony to his leadership," he added.

'Low attendance in parliamentary panel meets'

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI
Reacting to *The Hindu's* report on the delay in the formation of Parliamentary Standing Committees (PSC), the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry, in a clarification, has attacked the Opposition for its low attendance in the meetings, specifically pointing at the Trinamool Congress.

The Ministry, in a statement here, said the "15-day

delay was due to the discussions that were going on whether to nominate MPs who have not attended even one meeting of the committees in the previous term and also whether they should be renominated to the same committees".

Specifically, pointing out the Trinamool's dismal record in participation in the PSCs, the Ministry said the party's leader in the Rajya Sabha, Derek O'Brien, had

attended only two of the 27 meetings of the Committee of Transport, Tourism and Culture, of which he is a member. Mr. O'Brien headed this committee in the last Lok Sabha and in 2019, based on the Trinamool's reduced strength, the party was given only one committee to chair - Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. The Ministry said: "This is a very dismal performance of a leader of his [Mr.

O'Brien's] stature. Further, AITC's (Trinamool) Deputy Leader and Chief Whip in Rajya Sabha and 2 other members of AITC attended no sittings of DRSCs [Department-related Standing Committee] during 2020-21. Furthermore, average attendance of AITC Members in committee meetings is approximately 23%. This shows their seriousness towards Parliament and its instruments."

Rajnath, Lalu pay tribute to Paswan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On the first death anniversary of former Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) patriarch Lalu Prasad and former Congress president Rahul Gandhi paid their tributes at 12 Janpath here on Friday.

Mr. Singh's visit assumes significance in the context of the recent split in the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) into

factions supported by Ram Vilas's son, Chirag Paswan, and his brother, Pashupati Nath Paras. Since the split, the lingering question was whether Mr. Paswan was part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) or not. The Janata Dal (United), the NDA's ally in Bihar, had been insistent on not allowing Mr. Paswan in any of the NDA deliberations as he had fought the Bihar Assembly election alone and against the JD(U). Mr. Yadav's visit

was equally important as the RJD patriarch had on several occasions called Mr. Paswan to join the RJD-led 'Mahagathbandhan' against the BJP-JD(U) alliance.

Mr. Paras, meanwhile, had organised another function to mark the first death anniversary of his brother in Patna. The function was attended by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD leader Tej Pratap Yadav. Also present was senior BJP leader Shah Nawaz Hussain.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Mandya
No. 10/2021-2022 Dated: 29.09.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING WORKS IN MANDYA DISTRICT

Tender in Two cover system is invited from qualified Eligible contractors for the following works through e-procurement portal as per Standard bid document **KW- 4**. Pre-bid Meeting will be held on **04.11.2021 at 11.00 am** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Mandya. Documents may be downloaded from **08.10.2021** Last date for Queries **08.11.2021 upto 4.00 pm**, Last date for submission of tender **08.11.2021 upto 4.30 pm**. Date of opening Technical bid **09.11.2021 at 5.00 pm** onwards, Financial bid will be opened on **11.11.2021 at 11.00 am** or next office working days. Tender Processing Fees as per E-Procurement & Duration including Monsoon 9 months No. of work: **CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COURT COMPLEX (FIRST FLOOR) AT K.R.PETE TALUK, MANDYA DISTRICT I.No.132864**. Amount put to tender Rs.476.00 Lakhs E.M.D as per E-Procurement Portal. For more information contact the above office during Office Hours.
Sd/-Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Mandya
DIPR/AD-MDY/MCA/384/2021-22

APPOINTMENT

KALAM INSTITUTE OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY (KIHT)

IMPORTANT UPDATE

KIHT will be conducting Online/Walk-in interviews for various positions of consultants in KIHT and it's associate organizations. Corresponding job descriptions are available on website www.kiht.in

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M)
40 MGD WTP NANGLOI: NEW DELHI-110041
Email id: ee@wtpnangloi@gmail.com
Mobile No. 9650291163

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

RE-INVOKE PRESS NIT. NO. 08 (2021-22)/EE (E&M)WTP-NANGLOI

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost	E/Money	Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	SITC of submersible pump sets along with allied E&M equipment at WTP Dwaraka.	Rs. 60.06.227/-	Rs. 1,21,000/-	Rs. 1000/-	2021_DJB_209452_1 Date-08-10-2021	22.10.2021 at 2:30 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 474(2021-22)

(K.G. Mishra)
EE(E&M)WTP-Nangloi

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

AUCTION PROGRAMME

NOTICE NO: 12 / 2021

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc Scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.

Sl. No.	e-Auction Conducted by	Date of Auction for the Month of November 2021	Materials for Auction
1.	CMM/GSD/PER	01-11-21 11-11-21 22-11-21	-
2.	Dy.CMM/CSSD/GOC	02-11-21 12-11-21 23-11-21	-
3.	Dy.CMM/SSD/PTJ	03-11-21 - 24-11-21	-
4.	Sr.DMM/MAS	03-11-21 15-11-21 24-11-21	-
5.	Sr.DMM/SA	05-11-21 16-11-21 25-11-21	-
6.	Sr.DMM/TVC	08-11-21 17-11-21 26-11-21 30-11-21	-
7.	Sr.DMM/PGT	09-11-21 18-11-21 29-11-21	-
8.	Sr.DMM/TPJ	10-11-21 19-11-21 30-11-21	-
9.	Sr.DMM/TPJ (for MDU divn)	10-11-21 19-11-21 30-11-21	-

The details of item to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue in www.ireps.gov.in website

ADDENDUM TO AUCTION PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER'21 NOTICE NO.11/2021

Sl. No.	e-Auction conducted by	Date of Auction for the Month of October 2021	Materials for Auction
1.	Dy.CMM/CSSD/GOC	29-10-21	The details of item to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue in www.ireps.gov.in website
2.	CMM/GSD/PER	29-10-21	
3.	Sr.DMM/MAS	29-10-21	

All other Auctions scheduled for October '21 remains unaltered
For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site <http://www.ireps.gov.in> -> E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions
Principal Chief Materials Manager

Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED (SIPCOT)
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI-600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967

Tender Notice NIT No. 35/CW/T.No.35/2021-22 dt. 4.10.2021

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

NOTICE INVITING TENDER / INVITATION FOR BIDS

State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd (SIPCOT) invites bids under "TWO COVER SYSTEM" from eligible bidders having experience in similar nature of works, which are valid for a minimum period of 180 days from the date of submission of bids for the work of "DESIGN, BUILD 20 MLD CAPACITY TERTIARY TREATMENT REVERSE OSMOSIS (TTRO) PLANT IN TWO PHASES (10 MLD EACH) FOR TREATING KELAVARAPALLI DAM WATER AT HOSUR, TAMIL NADU AND OPERATE & MAINTAIN FOR 20 YEARS"

Official dates are under:

Date of Publication	09.10.2021
Bid document Download/Sale start date	11.10.2021
Last sale date	11.11.2021 up to 5:00 pm
Pre-Bid meeting	26.10.2021 at 11:30 am
Bid submission date	12.11.2021 upto 3:30 pm
Bid opening date	12.11.2021 at 4:00 pm

The bid documents, EMD details etc. may be downloaded from the following website www.tenders.tn.gov.in/ www.sipcot.tn.gov.in/pages/view/tenders.

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
SIPCOT, Chennai-8

DIPR/2896/Tender/2021

Supreme Court to conduct physical hearings twice a week

SOP released after feedback from lawyers, experts

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a decisive step towards the pre-pandemic routine, the Supreme Court has made physical hearings the norm twice a week.

"In view of the encouraging response from the Bar and with a view to further facilitate hearing through physical mode, all the matters listed on Wednesday and Thursday, as non-miscellaneous days, would be heard only in the physical presence of the counsel/parties in courtrooms," a court circular said.

The court released its modified standard operating procedure (SOP) after taking suggestions from the Bar and experts' advice to make access to the courtrooms less cumbersome.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana recently informed senior advocates



that the court was working on striking a balance between lawyers' access to courts and their safety and good health at the workplace. He had said the court was apprehensive about how crowded courtrooms would potentially expose lawyers and staff to infection.

15-minute break

In the modified rules, the court stated that there would be a 15-minute break at the discretion of the Bench during physical hearings. The courtrooms have to be vacated during this interval in order to sanitise them.

Lawyers would be called

in for one case after the other. They could wait at the Bar lounges in the building for their cases to be called. This step had been added to avoid crowds in the corridors.

Working capacity

The court, however, added a rider to the physical hearings on non-miscellaneous days, saying a Bench could take a call to revert to virtual mode if it found that the number of lawyers in a particular case exceeded the working capacity of the courtroom as per the COVID-19 norms.

The circular said cases listed on Tuesday, as a non-miscellaneous day, would also be heard in physical mode. However, on prior application by the advocate-on-record (AOR) for the party, appearance through video/tele-conferencing mode would also be facilitated.

Cases on Mondays and Fridays, which are miscellaneous days, would continue to be heard virtually for the present.

Hybrid sessions can't be forever: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday *prima facie* did not approve of hybrid court hearings, which is a combination of physical and virtual mode of court proceedings, as a permanent feature.

A Bench led by Justices L. Nageswara Rao and B.R. Gavai said hybrid options would have lawyers argue from exotic spots around the world while judges sit in courtrooms. "We want courts to be opened up to the public... For the past two months we have made physical hearings optional and we have not seen one advocate in court on most of the days," Justice Rao said. The court was hearing a plea filed by the National Federation of Societies For Fast Justice.

Centre didn't specifically ask for oxygen deaths data: Cong.

K.C. Venugopal writes to Rajya Sabha Chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The war of words between the Opposition and the government continues on whether there were COVID-19 deaths due to oxygen shortage in the second wave of pandemic. Pursuing his privilege motion against Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar, Rajya Sabha member and Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal, in a letter to Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu, pointed out that the Centre never "categorically asked the States for reporting COVID-19 deaths due to oxygen shortage".

Mr. Venugopal had moved a notice of breach of privilege against Ms. Pawar in July during the monsoon session on her written reply to a parliamentary question that there were "no deaths due to oxygen shortage reported by the States during the second wave of COVID-19".

In her response to Mr. Venugopal's notice, Ms. Pawar, on September 10, in a letter



Many hospitals ran out of oxygen supplies during the second wave of COVID-19.

to Mr. Naidu stated that she was "factually correct" and no "false statement had been laid on the table of the House".

Mr. Venugopal said Ms. Pawar's response was "misleading" since the "Centre never categorically asked the States for reporting COVID-19 deaths due to oxygen shortage". He also pointed out a comment by Rajasthan Health Minister Raghu Sharma that appeared in the media saying the same thing.

The Minister, though, has said that MPs had relied on

media reports as evidence and had not placed on record details of deaths reported by any State due to shortage of oxygen.

"The Minister has claimed and refuted a serious breach of privilege on the pretext 'that the Members of Parliament have relied on media reports as evidence'. However, the Minister has not refused the reports quoted," Mr. Venugopal noted.

The Minister, in her response, has said that the States were asked to send in reports according to globally accepted WHO and ICMR guidelines. But in her reply, she does not clearly answer the question on whether these guidelines also included questions on oxygen shortage.

Hitting out at the government, Mr. Venugopal observed that instead of taking *suo motu* cognisance of the incidents, the Minister was "deliberating misleading" and was "convolutedly trying to find an alibi".

Giloy is safe to use, says Ayush Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Giloy or *guduchi* (*Tinospora cordifolia*), a herb used in Ayurveda, is safe to use but similar-looking plants in circulation such as *Tinospora crispa* can be harmful, according to the Ministry of Ayush.

Giloy is a climbing shrub and an essential herb in Ayurvedic medicine. All its parts are thought to have health benefits. People have long used it to treat a wide range of ailments such as fever, infections, diarrhoea and diabetes.

In a statement, the Ministry said it had recently notified safety concerns on use of giloy that were published in social media and in some scientific journals.

The Ministry noted in an advisory that there were a good number of studies published in peer-reviewed indexed journals to substantiate the safety and efficacy of giloy. It explained that giloy's hepatoprotective properties were well-established. It was known for its immense therapeutic applications.

Prompt action proved IAF's combat readiness: IAF chief

Three units that were deployed on the front during the stand-off with China get citations on 89th Air Force Day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The prompt actions in response to developments in eastern Ladakh were a testament to the Indian Air Force's combat readiness, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal (ACM) V.R. Chaudhari, said on Friday.

Three units that were deployed on the front during the stand-off with China last year and had also participated in the Balakot air strike on February 26, 2019, were presented unit citations on the occasion of 89th Air Force Day. The units include a fighter squadron, a helicopter unit and a surface-to-air missile (SAM) squadron.

"When I look at the security scenario we face today, I am acutely conscious that I have assumed command at a crucial time. We must demonstrate to the nation that external forces will not be allowed to violate our territory," ACM Chaudhari said addressing the ranks at the Air Force Day parade. "Our efforts in completing all COVID-related tasks were also a major achievement in support of the national efforts," he added.

Coinciding with the celebrations of the 75th year of Independence, 75 aircraft and helicopters took part in the Air Force Day parade and fly-past with several formations showcasing some of the key air operations of the 1971 Liberation War of



Flying high: (Clockwise from left) Rafale fighter planes, C-17 Globemaster followed by Hawk aircraft, Sarang Advance Light Helicopters and the Surya Kiran aerobatics team at the 89th Air Force Day parade at Hindon Air Base on Friday. • R.V. MOORTHY



Force, the citation said. The squadron was formed on December 18, 1959.

The second unit citation went to the 116 Helicopter Unit, formed on August 1, 1967. It is now equipped with the indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter Mark IV (ALH Mk IV) Rudra. After Balakot, the unit was deployed at the forward bases of the South Western Air Command Area of Responsibility (AOR) to counter threats of slow-moving aerial platforms, the citation said.

Day and night operations

In May 2020, after the Galwan skirmish, the unit was deployed for offensive operations at a high-altitude airfield in the Ladakh area. "The unit quickly established the first-ever high-altitude attack helicopter detachment in the region and executed day-and-night operations, including air to ground weapons delivery at high altitudes," the citation read.

The third unit citation was given to 2255 Squadron Detachment Air Force, a frontline OSA-AK-M, SAM-guided weapon squadron in the Kashmir AOR. "The squadron was mobilised for air defence activation in Ladakh in response to the Galwan stand-off in the last week of June 2020. Since then, the squadron has undertaken various innovations to sustain serviceability and reliability of its equipment," it said.

Bangladesh.

The No. 47 Squadron, equipped with upgraded MiG-29 fighters, was deployed for a defence role after the Balakot air strike. It

flew extensively and maintained a constant vigil to ensure that there were no misadventures by adversaries, the IAF said.

The citation said, "In May

2020, the squadron was deployed for air defence as well as air-to-ground operations in the northern sector and carried out extensive operations at high altitude."

The squadron also undertook the first overseas deployment by a MiG-29 UPG aircraft when it participated in Exercise Eastern Bridge V with the Royal Oman Air

Air quality panel expects reduced stubble burning

It will be aided by dip in paddy crop

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A reduction in the area under paddy cultivation in Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, as well as a shift away from paddy varieties that take long to mature, could see a reduction in stubble burning this year, the Centre-constituted Commission for Air Quality Management said in a statement on Friday.

The total paddy area in Haryana, Punjab and the eight NCR (National Capital Region) districts of Uttar Pradesh has reduced by 7.72% during the current year as compared to last year. Similarly, total paddy straw generation from the non-basmati variety of rice is likely to be reduced by 12.42% during the current year as compared to the previous year. It's the non-basmati variety of rice, whose stalk remains, that is usually burnt off by farmers ahead of sowing wheat.

The Commission said: "Both Central and State Governments of Haryana, Punjab and U.P. have been taking measures to diversify crops as well as to reduce the use of PUSA-44 variety of paddy. Burning of paddy straw from the non-basmati variety of crops is the prime concern. Crop diversification and moving away from PUSA-44 variety with short duration High Yielding Va-



A farmer engaged in stubble burning in Karnal district of Haryana. • FILE PHOTO

rieties are part of the framework and action plan for control of stubble burning."

Data from Haryana, Punjab and U.P. suggests total paddy straw generation is likely to come down by 1.31 million tonnes (from 20.05 million tonnes in 2020 to 18.74 million tonnes in 2021) in Punjab; by 0.8 million tonnes (from 7.6 million tonnes in 2020 to 6.8 million tonnes in 2021) in Haryana; and by 0.09 million tonnes (from 0.75 million tonnes in 2020 to 0.67 million tonnes in 2021) in the eight NCR districts of U.P. this year.

The total quantity of straw generated by the respective States was 28.4 million tonnes in 2020, which is now expected to come down to 26.21 million tonnes in 2021. The decrease in non-basmati variety is expected to be even higher.

THE CROSSWORD + 13373

(set by Vidwan)

Display keystrokes of genius.

Type your answers in our online grids:

@ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjpTn>

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30

12 Daily routine of cold prostitutes without work (6)

13 Playing well and not opening? Local guy has so much to offer (11)

18 Most certain way to restrict abusive user (6)

20 Origin of pessimism for example is discounted (8)

22 Some American choreography show host (6)

23 Summary: 6 balls and 6 extras (wides) at start (8)

24 Trump's gone! Excellent! (8)

25 Easy to deal with the Italian on the inside (6)

DOWN

1 Very cold season, no work, no breaks for winemaker (7)

2 Medieval city, next to Iran, revolutionised farming (8)

3 Part of Ukraine, essentially annexed after an unlawful act (6)

4 Piece of meat turned, cooked over copper (8)

5 Al-Hakim boasted, holding hands on hips (6)

6 She is engaged in face waxing procedure essentially (7)

8 Holier-than-thou musician's 'no' to remixes (13)

14 Spooner's fight, scrape results in spasm (8)

15 Interview West Indian cricketing legend with a voice, one nowhere to be seen (4,4)

16 Spectacular kind of physics (7)

17 Moor's heart is filled with tension and torment – that's a tragedy (7)

19 Heart of Goethian codes – empty morals (6)

21 Shuffling of feet! That's how you start a golf game! (3,3)

ACROSS

7 It could be little stiff in German stores (6)

8 Spoken originally, it ranks about 3rd oldest language in the world (8)

9 Street fellow, tender at heart, becomes a fall guy (5,3)

10 Hesitatingly claim ownership for fur (6)

11 He is sex worker? Not sure (8)

SUDOKU

						7		
6	2		5					3
	1			8	7	5		
1		4	9		6			
8			4		3			1
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13372

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH Always there for bhaktas

Parvathi, Ambika, Tripurasundari, Kamakshi, Visalakshi, Durga, Adi Parasakthi – many are the names Lord Siva's Consort is known by, said M.A. Manickavelu, in a discourse. Lalitha Sahasranama gives us thousand names of the Goddess. Each devotee may have a favourite name by which he addresses Her and prays to Her. No matter by what name Her devotees call out to Her, She is always there for them. She even helps when we have not explicitly asked Her for assistance, for She knows our needs.

There is a story about an old woman who went to have darshan of the Goddess in Kanyakumari. It was dark, and she did not know the way. Ambika came in the form of a little girl bearing a lamp, and guided the old woman. Kamban who wrote Kamba Ramayanam and Ottakoothar who wrote Thakka Yaga parani, would write at night. Ambika would hold a lamp, in whose light they would write.

The Nayanmar Sundarar married Sangili Nachiar in Thiruvottriyur with Lord Siva as witness. Sundarar promised Sangili that he would never be separated from her. But he wanted to have darshan of the deity of Thiruvavur – Tyagarajaswami. So he broke his promise to her, and as a result he lost his eyesight. But his bhakti towards Lord Siva and his attachment to the Lord were legendary. Neither the Lord nor His consort would let him down. He had been punished for not keeping his word to Sangili Nachiar, but he was not totally forsaken by the Lord or the Goddess. From Thiruvottriyur to Thiruvempakkam, near Kanchipuram, the Goddess of Thiruvempakkam, known as Minnal Oli Ambikai, guided Sundarar. He regained vision in his left eye in the Ekambarreswara temple in Kanchi, and then proceeded to Thiruvavur, where he got back his vision in the other eye too.

IS claims suicide attack in Kunduz

At least 46 killed and dozens injured in a blast masterminded by IS at a Shia mosque in Afghanistan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KUNDUZ

A suicide bomb attack on worshippers at a Shia mosque in the Afghan city of Kunduz killed at least 46 people on Friday, in the bloodiest assault since the Taliban government was formed. Scores more victims from the minority community were wounded.

The Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) group claimed responsibility for the attack. They have repeatedly targeted Shias in a bid to stir up sectarian violence in Sunni-majority Afghanistan.

In a statement released on its Telegram channels, the jihadist group said that an IS suicide bomber "detonated an explosive vest amid a crowd" of Shiite worshippers who had gathered inside the mosque.

In a second statement, IS said the "perpetrator of the attack was an Uyghur Muslim", a minority that the "Taliban had vowed to expel" from Afghanistan.

A medical source at the Kunduz Provincial Hospital



Mangled remains: A man filming inside the mosque in Kunduz, Afghanistan, after the explosion on Friday. ■ REUTERS

said that 35 dead and more than 55 wounded had been taken there, while Doctors Without Borders (MSF) hospital said 20 were dead and scores more wounded.

Matullah Rohani, director of culture and information in Kunduz for Afghanistan's new Taliban government, confirmed that the deadly incident was a suicide attack and that 46 people had died and 143 were wounded.

Taliban spokesman Zabi-

hullah Mujahid had earlier said "an explosion took place in a mosque of our Shia compatriots" in Kunduz.

Blast timing
Residents of Kunduz, the capital of a province of the same name, said the blast hit a Shia mosque during Friday prayers, the most important of the week for Muslims.

An international aid worker at the MSF hospital in the city said there were fears the

death toll could rise even further.

"Hundreds of people are gathered at the main gate of the hospital and crying for their relatives but armed Taliban guys are trying to prevent gatherings in case another explosion is planned," he said.

"Many of our neighbours have been killed and wounded. A 16-year-old neighbour was killed. They couldn't find half of his body. Another

neighbour who was 24 was killed as well," a resident said.

Another video showed men herding people, including women and children, away from the scene. Frightened crowds thronged the streets.

Important location
Kunduz's location makes it a key transit point for economic and trade exchanges with Tajikistan. It was the scene of fierce battles as the Taliban fought their way back into power this year.

Often targeted by Sunni extremists who view them as heretics, Shia Muslims have suffered some of Afghanistan's most violent assaults.

Shias make up roughly 20% of the Afghan population. Many of them are Hazara, an ethnic group that has been heavily persecuted in Afghanistan for decades.

The United Nations in Afghanistan said it was "deeply concerned by reports of very high casualties", calling it a "part of a disturbing pattern of violence".

Journalists from Philippines, Russia win Peace Nobel

Committee hails the winners' fight for press freedom

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MANTILA

Journalists Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia won the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for their fight for freedom of expression in countries where reporters have faced persistent attacks, harassment and even murder.

"Free, independent and fact-based journalism serves to protect against abuse of power, lies and war propaganda," said Berit Reiss-Andersen, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, explaining why the prize went to two journalists.

"Without freedom of expression and freedom of the press, it will be difficult to successfully promote fraternity between nations, disarmament and a better world order to succeed in our time," she said.

The Nobel committee noted that Ms. Ressa in 2012 co-founded *Rappler*, a news website that has focused critical attention on President Rodrigo Duterte's "controversial, murderous anti-drug campaign" in the Philippines.

She and *Rappler* "have also documented how social media is being used to spread fake news, harass opponents and manipulate public discourse".

Mr. Muratov was one of the founders in 1993 of the independent Russian newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*, which the Nobel committee called "the most independent newspaper in Russia today, with a fundamentally critical attitude towards power".

"The newspaper's fact-based journalism and professional integrity have



Fresh laurels: Dmitry Muratov, left, and Maria Ressa, who won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday. ■ AP

made it an important source of information on censurable aspects of Russian society rarely mentioned by other media," it added.

Ms. Ressa, the first Filipino to win the peace prize and the first woman to be honoured this year with an award by the Nobel committee, was convicted last year of libel and sentenced to jail in a decision seen as a major blow to press global freedom.

She said she hopes the award will bolster investigative journalism "that will hold power to account."

Relentless campaign
"This relentless campaign of harassment and intimidation against me and my fellow journalists in the Philippines is a stark example of a global trend that journalists and freedom of the press facing increasingly adverse conditions," she told *The Associated Press*.

She also pointed to social media giants like Facebook as a serious threat to democracy, saying "they actually prioritised the spread of lies laced with anger and hate over facts."

"I didn't think that what

we are going through would get that attention. But the fact that it did also shows you how important the battles we face are, right?" she said. "This is going to be what our elections are going to be like next year. It is a battle for facts. When you're in a battle for facts, journalism is activism."

Government scrutiny
Mr. Muratov said he would use his win to help independent journalists who have faced growing pressure from the authorities, including those whose organisations were declared "foreign agents" – a designation that threatens to bring more government scrutiny.

"We will use it to shore up Russian journalism that has faced repressions," he said in comments carried by a Russian messaging app channel. "We will try to help the people who have been designated as agents, have faced persecution and have been forced out of the country."

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 17 media workers were killed in the Philippines in the last decade and 23 in Russia.

'U.S. special forces quietly training Taiwanese troops'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. special operations forces have been quietly training Taiwanese troops for months, a move which China warned on Friday could cause "serious harm" to relations between Washington and Beijing.

A contingent of around 20 special operations and conventional forces has been conducting the training for less than a year, the Penta-

gon official, who declined to be identified, said on Thursday, adding that some of the trainers rotate in and out.

'High sensitivity'
Beijing opposes self-ruled Taiwan – which it views as its own territory to be seized one day, by force if necessary – having any official diplomatic exchanges and has aggressively tried to dissuade politicians from visiting in recent years.

China reacted angrily to the report on Friday, with the foreign ministry warning that the U.S. should recognise the "high sensitivity" of the Taiwan situation and "serious harm" of its actions.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry declined to comment, but Pentagon spokesman John Spillane said that generally speaking, U.S. support for Taiwan's military is gauged on its defense needs.

U.S., Pak. officials hold talks on Afghanistan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

United States and Pakistani officials are meeting on Friday amid a worsening relationship between the two countries as each nation searches for a way forward in Afghanistan under Taliban rule.

Pakistan has been pressing for greater engagement with the all-male, all-Taliban Cabinet in Kabul even as it shies away from any unilateral formal recognition. The

South Asian country has urged Washington to release billions of dollars to the Taliban so that Afghanistan's new rulers can pay salaries and avoid an economic meltdown.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman is meeting with the country's Army chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa. Ms. Sherman also met Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and is to meet Prime Minister Imran Khan.

ELSEWHERE



U.S. nuclear submarine damaged in collision

A U.S. nuclear submarine was damaged after hitting an unidentified object while operating underwater in Asia, the U.S. Navy said on Thursday. It said there were no life-threatening injuries, but *USNI News*, a site specialising in navy news reported that about a dozen sailors were hurt "with moderate to minor injuries". AFP

China orders mines to ramp up coal production

Chinese authorities have ordered dozens of coal mines to expand production amid a nationwide energy crunch, state media reported on Friday. Dozens of mines were instructed to increase their capacity by more than 98 million tonnes in a notice not released to the public, the state media reported. AFP

Rohingya refugees to be sent to island

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COX'S BAZAR

Bangladesh wants to send more than 80,000 Rohingya refugees to a remote island in the Bay of Bengal after sealing an agreement for the United Nations to provide help, officials said on Friday.

Some 19,000 of the Muslim refugees have already relocated to Bhashan Char island, officials said. Bangladesh refugee commissioner Shah Rezwana Hayat said that more would go once the monsoon storms end in November.

On top of the inhospitable weather, the island is 60 kilometres from the mainland and some Rohingya groups say people were forced to go there.

Some EU rules go against Constitution: Poland top court

'Brussels body acting beyond scope of competences'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WARSAW

Poland's top court on Thursday said that some EU treaty articles were "incompatible" with the Polish Constitution in a landmark ruling that could threaten the country's EU funding and even put in question its membership of the bloc.

The ruling is the latest twist in a long stand-off between Poland and the EU over controversial judicial reforms introduced by Poland's governing right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) party.

In her ruling, Constitutional Court president Julia Przyłębska listed several EU treaty articles that she said were incompatible and also said that the EU institutions "act beyond the scope of their competences" in the treaties.

"Shame!", "Traitors!" and



People protesting against the new ruling in front of the Tribunal building.

"Welcome to Belarus!" shouted a group of around 30 protesters outside the court after hearing the ruling, some of whom waved European Union flags.

"They're taking us out of the European Union!" said Anna Labus, a pensioner who was in tears.

But government spokesman Piotr Muller welcomed the ruling, saying that it con-

firmed "the primacy of constitutional law over other sources of law". He added, however, that the ruling "does not affect any areas where the EU has competences delegated in the treaties" such as competition rules, trade and consumer protection.

The dispute with Brussels has focused in particular on a new system for disciplining judges which the EU says is a serious threat to the independence of the judiciary in Poland.

But there are other bones of contention, including the appointment of judges and the transfer of judges between different courts or divisions of the same court. Poland has said that the reforms are needed to root out corruption and has ignored an interim order from the EU court to suspend the judge disciplining system.

Google to ban climate denial ads

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Google will ban digital ads promoting false climate change claims from appearing next to other content, hoping to limit revenue for climate change deniers and stop the spread of misinformation on its platforms.

The company said on Thursday in a blog post that the new policy will also apply to YouTube, which last week announced a sweeping crackdown of vaccine misinformation.

The restrictions "will prohibit ads for content that contradicts well-established scientific consensus around climate change," the blog post said.

Kishida vows to lead with 'trust'

I'm determined to defend our land, territorial seas and air space, says Japan's PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO

In his first policy speech, new Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida promised on Friday to strengthen the country's response to the coronavirus pandemic in case of another resurgence and revive its battered economy while bolstering defences against threats from China and North Korea.

Mr. Kishida also spoke on Friday by telephone with Chinese President Xi Jinping and raised concerns about China's escalating activities in disputed maritime territories and human rights problems in Hong Kong and the



Fumio Kishida

Xinjiang region, he said.

Tasked with the crucial mission of rallying public support for the governing party ahead of national elections expected October 31, Mr. Kishida promised to pur-

sue politics of "trust and empathy". He was elected by Parliament and sworn in Monday as Japan's 100th Prime Minister, succeeding Yoshihide Suga, who left after only a year in office. Mr. Suga's perceived high-handed approach in dealing with the coronavirus and insistence on holding the Tokyo Olympics despite rising cases angered the public and hurt the governing Liberal Democrats.

"I will devote my body and soul to overcome the national crisis together with the people to pioneer a new era so we can pass a bountiful Japan to the next genera-

tion," Mr. Kishida said. He promised to be more attentive to public concerns and needs, and prepare virus measures based on "a worst-case scenario".

That includes taking advantage of a drop in infections to improve crisis management before the weather turns cold, approving drugs for treatment of COVID-19 by the end of December and the digitalisation of vaccine certificates, Mr. Kishida said.

"I'm determined to defend our land, territorial seas and air space, and the people's lives and assets, no matter what," Mr. Kishida added.

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY
(A Central University estb. by an Act of Parliament of India in 2007)

RFP No. SU/REG/ENGG/F3/10/01 Dated: 08-10-2021

Sikkim University invites e-tender bids from eligible firms/contractors for **Construction of Sikkim University Campus Phase-I Package-II at Yangang, South Sikkim through EPC mode** (Estimated cost: Rs. 303.25 crs).

For further details please visit www.cus.ac.in

The last date of submission of e-tender is 07.11.2021

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY
(A Central University estb. by an Act of Parliament of India in 2007)

RFP No. SU/REG/ENGG/F3/10/02 Dated: 08-10-2021

Sikkim University invites e-tender bids from eligible State or Central PSUs for appointment as **Authority's Engineer for Construction of Sikkim University Campus Phase-I Package-II at Yangang, South Sikkim through EPC mode** (Estimated cost: Rs. 9.00 crs).

For further details please visit www.cus.ac.in

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
Bangalore - 560012.

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The last date for receipt of applications is **29.10.2021**.

Date: **08.10.2021** Sd/-, REGISTRAR

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NOTICE INVITING TEDNER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
212213	Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk	23.10.2021
003280	(Imported) with 4200 GAR	

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

DIPR/2883/Tender/2021 TNPPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper
"சேதான கட்டுத்து கட்டுதலும் அமைந்ததும், சாதனை புரிந்து சாதித்தும் பண்புடையம்."

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ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Domestic Competitive Bidding)

NIT No. MEC/11/16/Q7GL/MD/01 Dated 29.09.2021
(PROJECT – Selection of Mine Developer and Operator for Development and Operation of Utkal D & E Coal Mine (4 MTPA) of NALCO Limited, Angul Dist, Odisha)

MECON Limited Ranchi on behalf of National Aluminium Company Ltd., Bhubaneswar, invites tenders under three Part Open Tender system from reputed experienced and financially sound parties for the **Mine Developer and Operator for Development and Operation of Utkal D & E Coal Mine (4 MTPA) of NALCO Limited, Angul District, Odisha**. For query email at sunilkrverma@meconlimited.co.in. Due date & time for submission of tender: 05.11.2021 at 15.00 Hrs. (IST). Date & time of opening of tender: 05.11.2021 at 16.00 Hrs. (IST). Please visit www.tenderwizard.com/MECON for downloading tender documents and submission of online offers. NIT is also uploaded in www.eprocure.gov.in, www.nalcoindia.co.in and www.meconlimited.co.in. Any updates / amendments / extension of the NIT shall be hosted in above website.

Sr. General Manager, Contract Engineering Section,
MECON Limited, Ranchi-834002, Jharkhand, India

MARKET WATCH

	08-10-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,059	0.64
US Dollar	74.99	-0.26
Gold	45,959	-0.11
Brent oil	83.26	1.38

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	739.90	3.75
Asian Paints	3306.90	16.05
Axis Auto	781.95	-4.85
Bajaj Auto	3815.55	-13.00
Bajaj Finserv	17549.45	79.20
Bajaj Finance	7732.20	-15.70
Bharti Airtel	695.50	3.00
BPL	449.45	0.25
Britannia Ind	3883.30	-17.30
Cipla	917.10	1.05
Coal India	188.45	-2.25
Divis Lab	5071.30	-26.55
Dr Reddys Lab	4849.20	-41.90
Eicher Motors	2817.95	-3.00
HCL Tech	1322.15	15.85
HDFC	2720.65	-6.35
HDFC Bank	1602.65	-7.85
HDFC Life	722.10	-3.25
Hero MotoCorp	2842.10	0.45
Hindalco	473.65	-3.85
Hind Unilever	2640.05	-29.35
ICICI Bank	703.40	1.20
IndusInd Bank	1174.40	7.70
Infosys	1723.85	32.85
IndianOil Corp	131.80	-0.45
ITC	231.70	-1.25
JSW Steel	665.85	-0.70
Kotak Bank	1936.35	-16.10
L&T	1726.90	14.45
M&M	877.80	-0.45
Maruti Suzuki	7430.00	-62.50
Nestle India Ltd.	18986.45	-59.20
NTPC	141.10	-1.70
ONGC	160.95	0.55
PowerGrid Corp	187.70	-0.60
Reliance Ind	2671.25	98.85
SBI Life	1196.45	-18.60
State Bank	458.00	0.10
Shree Cement	2775.15	-302.20
Sun Pharma	821.40	-1.85
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	818.75	-5.80
Tata Motors	382.95	6.45
Tata Steel	1301.15	11.95
TCS	3935.65	42.75
Tech Mahindra	1439.95	22.75
Titan	2358.20	-17.15
UltraTech Cement	7335.75	-18.85
UPL	738.00	10.50
Wipro	661.15	18.20

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. October 8, 2021

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.79	75.11
Euro	86.42	86.79
British Pound	101.92	102.36
Japanese Yen (100)	66.91	67.20
Chinese Yuan	11.60	11.65
Swiss Franc	80.47	80.86
Singapore Dollar	55.15	55.39
Canadian Dollar	59.62	59.88
Malaysian Ringgit	17.89	17.98

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



NCLT tells Zee to reply to Invesco plea by Oct. 22

MUMBAI The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) gave Zee Entertainment Enterprises time till October 22 to file its reply to a plea by its minority shareholder Invesco, after appellate body NCLAT ordered it to give the media major reasonable opportunity to do the same. PTI

Dr. Agarwals plans to double hospital count

CHENNAI Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital Ltd. plans to more than double its pan-India and global footprint to 250 hospitals over the next three years, said chairman Dr. Amar Agarwal. He added that the hospital chain aimed to invest ₹1,000 crore to help fund these plans. "Currently, we have 100 centres in India, with the acquisition of Mumbai-based Aditya Jyot Eye hospital in an all-cash deal," he said.

RBI suspends GSAP, holds interest rates

Governor Das cites strengthening growth impulses, ample liquidity for decision to halt bond buying

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said it was halting its bond buying under the G-Sec Acquisition Programme (GSAP) for now, with Governor Shaktikanta Das stressing that the measure had succeeded in ensuring adequate liquidity and stabilising financial markets.

"Coupled with other liquidity measures, it facilitated congenial and orderly financing conditions and a conducive environment for the recovery," Mr. Das said after announcing the Monetary Policy Committee's decision to keep interest rates unchanged and retain an 'accommodative' policy stance. "The total liquidity injected into the system during the first six months of the current financial year through open market operations (OMOs), including G-SAP,



Reaching for reset: The RBI is signalling a gradual move towards 'normalising' policy, says Crisil Research. ■ AFP

was ₹2.37 lakh crore, as against an injection of ₹3.1 lakh crore over the full financial year 2020-21," he noted. "Given the existing liquidity overhang, the absence of a need for additional borrowing for GST compensation and the expected expansion of liquidity in the system as Government spending in-

creases in line with budget estimates, the need for undertaking further G-SAP operations at this juncture does not arise," Mr. Das added. The RBI, however, remained ready to undertake G-SAP as and when warranted by liquidity conditions, and would also continue to flexibly conduct other liquid-

ity management operations including Operation Twist (OT) and regular open market operations (OMOs).

Stating that the growth impulses seemed to be strengthening, supported by ebbing of infections, the robust pace of vaccination, expected record kharif foodgrains production, the government's focus on capital expenditure and buoyant external demand, Mr. Das said the inflation trajectory was also turning out to be more favourable than anticipated.

Low inflation outlook The RBI retained its growth forecast for this fiscal at 9.5% and cut its projection for average inflation for the full year to 5.3%, from 5.7% earlier, even as it flagged core inflation that 'remains sticky'. Elevated global crude oil and other commodity prices combined with an acute

shortage of key industrial components and high logistics costs, were adding to input cost pressures, it added.

"Headline inflation continues to be significantly influenced by very high inflation in select items such as edible oils, petrol and diesel, LPG and medicines," the RBI Governor said.

'Rate hike by FY22-end'

"Like many other central banks, the RBI is signalling a gradual move towards 'normalising' its monetary policy as the economy emerges from the shadow of the second wave," Crisil Research said in a report.

"We expect this normalisation to continue in the coming months and a hike in the repo rate by 25 basis points by fiscal 2022-end, assuming strengthening economic recovery and elevated inflation risks," it added.

'Google, Amazon deposit acceptance under review'

Studying regulatory issues: RBI's Rao

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI RBI Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao on Friday said the central bank is examining whether deposit acceptance by Google and Amazon is within the prescribed laws and regulations, at a time when concerns about big tech firms' play in the financial space are at a heightened level.

Both Google Pay and Amazon have announced partnerships with lenders to accept deposits in the country through their mobile phone apps.

"We are examining the issue regarding the regulatory implications, having regard to the applicable laws and



the regulations that are prescribed for the thing. So, we are examining it," Mr. Rao told reporters.

In its last financial stability report in June this year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had warned against allowing big-technology companies into the financial services sector.

Reserve Bank raises IMPS limit to ₹5 lakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI In a bid to promote digital transactions, the Reserve Bank proposed to increase the per transaction limit through Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh.

IMPS is an important payment system providing 24x7 instant domestic funds transfer facility and is accessible through various channels such as Internet and mobile banking.

The increase in limit will lead to further a rise in digital payments and provide an additional facility to customers for making digital payments beyond ₹2 lakh, said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Goyal pushes for a reset of India-ASEAN FTA

'Must prevent misuse by third parties'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has called for a renegotiation of the India-ASEAN free trade agreement (FTA), to prevent its misuse by 'third parties' and remove trade restrictions as well as non-tariff barriers that he said had hurt Indian exports disproportionately since the pact was operationalised in 2010.

"It is unfortunate that in the recent past, we had to deal with several restrictive barriers on our exports in the ASEAN region, particularly in the agriculture and auto sectors," Mr. Goyal said at a session with ASEAN trade and finance ministers



Piyush Goyal

hosted by CII on Friday.

The focus needed to be on new rules to eliminate misuse 'by third parties outside ASEAN', the minister said, hinting at China. Both sides also needed to bring down non-tariff barriers to boost confidence, he added.

'Aim to have 30% of 2030 car sales as EVs'

Widespread adoption of EVs can cut oil imports by ₹3.5 lakh cr., says Gadkari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI The government aims to have EV sales accounting for 30% of private cars, 70% for commercial vehicles and 80% for two- and three-wheelers by 2030 as there is an immediate need to decarbonise the transport sector, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Friday.

Mr. Gadkari further said if electric vehicles expand to 40% in the two-wheeler and car segments and close to 100% for buses by 2030, India would be able to cut crude oil consumption by 156 million tonnes, worth ₹3.5 lakh crore.

"There is an immediate need to decarbonise the transport sector and make it sustainable from the economy, ecology, and environ-

'Have asked Tesla to make electric cars in India'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said he had asked U.S.-based Tesla several times to manufacture its iconic electric vehicles in India, while assuring that all support will be provided by the government to the company. Addressing the 'India

Conclave 2021', Mr. Gadkari further said electric cars manufactured by Tata Motors were no less good than those made by Tesla. "I have told Tesla... 'don't sell electric cars in India which your company has manufactured in China. You should manufacture electric cars in India,'" he said.

mental point of view, he said, addressing an event organised by FICCI virtually. "The government intends to have EV sales penetration of 30% for private cars, 70% for commercial vehicles,

40% for buses and 80% for two- and three-wheelers by 2030," he added. The Road Transport and Highways Minister pointed out that in the EV mission, NITI Aayog has inspired 25 States to come

up with EV policies, out of which 15 have already announced State EV policy.

Mr. Gadkari said it was his dream to make India's automobile sector number one in the world in the next five years. The Minister also asserted that there was no shortage of lithium ion, which is used in making batteries for EVs, in India.

He said a potential pilot project is being planned to install an electric highway between Delhi-Mumbai expressways which will facilitate the movement of heavy-duty trucks and passenger buses on electricity.

To fulfil everyday transport needs of a large population, he said his Ministry is focusing on the development of efficient and affordable public transport systems.

States suffer power cuts as coal stocks shrink

50% units left with below 3-day stocks

REUTERS

CHENNAI North Indian states have suffered electricity cuts and face further outages because of a lack of coal, an analysis of government data and interviews with residents found, contradicting government assurances there is enough power.

The shortages in India - the world's largest coal consumer after China - follow widespread outages in China, which has shut factories and schools to manage the crisis.

Over half of India's 135 coal-fired power plants, which in total supply about 70% of India's electricity, have fuel stocks of less than three days, data from the

TCS Q2 net rises 29% to ₹96.2 bn on COVID-led digitisation demand

Profit tops estimates on BFSI boost

REUTERS

BENGALURU Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. reported second-quarter profit that beat estimates on Friday, boosted by growth in its key banking and financial services segment and strong demand for digital services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The country's largest information technology exporter is the first among peers to report earnings for the quarter, with investors looking at the bellwether to gauge the outlook for the sector that has had a stellar run in the past one year.

The Mumbai-based company's consolidated net profit rose 29% to ₹96.24 billion in the three months ended September 30, from ₹74.75 billion a year earlier. Analysts on average had expected a profit of ₹96.01 billion, according to Refinitiv data.

Consolidated revenue from operations jumped 16.8% to ₹468.67 billion, with the banking and finance industries-focused unit posting a 14.3% rise.

TCS and rivals Infosys, Wipro and HCL Technologies have won large contracts over the last one year from businesses investing in services including cloud-computing, digital payment infrastructure, crypto-platforms and cybersecurity.

Big ticket deal wins

TCS said it added five more customers in the \$100-million-plus range in the quarter compared with a year earlier, bringing the total to 54. The company also reapointed Rajesh Gopinathan as its chief executive officer and managing director for five years.

Mr. Gopinathan said the strong and sustained de-



mand environment was a 'once-in-a-decade opportunity' to position the company as the preferred growth and transformation partner for its customers.

"We are using the growth tailwind to invest in strengthening relevant capabilities and building out a comprehensive portfolio of offerings that caters to a broader set of stakeholders in the enterprise across business cycles, strengthening our brand, and making our business more resilient.

"We believe this is the most sustainable pathway to create longer-term value for all our stakeholders," the CEO added.

The company also announced an interim dividend of ₹7 per share.

"Strong growth and disciplined execution helped us overcome headwinds from currency and supply-side inflation and deliver expanded margins," said Chief Financial Officer Samir Sekaria.

"Our industry-leading profitability and strong cash conversion give us the wherewithal to make the... investments needed to build out the business of the future," he added.

The IT services company added a net of 19,690 people, taking its total headcount to 5,28,748 people. (With PTI inputs)

NCLT admits plea against two SREI firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI The NCLT on Friday admitted the insolvency pleas moved by banking sector regulator RBI against two SREI group firms and appointed an administrator, according to sources.

A two-member Kolkata Bench admitted two separate petitions filed by the RBI for initiation of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process against two non-banking financial firms - SREI Infrastructure Finance and SREI Equipment Finance Ltd.

The NCLT also appointed Rajneesh Sharma as the administrator to run the firms, sources said. The two entities owe more than ₹30,000 crore to lenders.



federal grid operator showed. The Power Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

On Wednesday, a section of the media quoted Power Minister R. K. Singh as saying, "There is nowhere that we have not been able to supply the quantity of power demanded."

SPORT

Vijayveer-Rhythm combine strikes gold

India also picks up a silver and bronze to stay on top of the table

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU

LIMA

Vijayveer Sidhu and Rhythm Sangwan helped India to yet another gold as they won the rapid fire mixed team event in the junior World Championships here.

Thailand, the only other country in the event, won silver after losing 9-1 in the gold medal match, while the second Indian team took bronze.

Thailand topped the second stage of qualification with 376, six points ahead of India.

Anish Bhanwala and Tejaswani, who made the No.1 team for India, took bronze after finishing fourth in the second stage of qualification.



Bang on target: Rhythm and Vijayveer who tasted success in the rapid fire mixed team event. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The women's rifle 3-position team of Nischal, Prasadhi Mahant and Ayushi Podder lost the gold by three points to USA after having been consistently on top in the first and second stages of qualification.

The men's 50-metre rifle

3-position team of Sanskar Havelia, Sartaj Singh Tiwana and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar missed qualifying for the medal match by one point.

India stayed on top of the medals table with 10 gold, eight silver and four bronze.

USA followed with six gold, eight silver and six bronze.

The results:

Men: 50m rifle 3-position: 1. Hungary 46 (864) 1291, 2. France 44 (860) 1298, 3. USA 46 (860) 1306; 5. India (Sanskar Havelia, Sartaj Singh Tiwana, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar) 859 (1291).

Women: 50m rifle 3-position: 1. USA 47 (878) 1315, 2. India (Nischal, Prasadhi Mahant, Ayushi Podder) 43 (876) 1287, 3. Germany 46 (873) 1309.

Mixed team 25m rapid fire pistol: 1. India-2 (Vijayveer Sidhu, Rhythm Sangwan) 9 (370) 564, 2. Thailand 1 (376) 554, 3. India-1 (Tejaswani, Anish Bhanwala) 10 (358) 571.

Mixed team trap: 1. Spain 41 (139), 2. Italy 35 (145), 3. Germany 40 (131); 11. India-2 (Kirti Gupta, Bakhtyaruddin Malek) 127; 12. India-1 114 (Aadya Tripathi, Vivaan Kapoor) 114.

Jaison is FCBU's saviour

SPORTS REPORTER

BENGALURU

Jaison Jordan Vaz scored an injury-time equaliser as FC Bengaluru United (FCBU) drew 3-3 against Madan Maharaj RC in the I-League Qualifiers on Friday.

Madan Maharaj, which let a 2-0 lead slip, thought it had won the game when Jiten Murmu put his side 3-2 ahead with barely minutes left. But substitute Jaison volleyed home with his left foot with seconds remaining on the clock to secure FCBU's second draw in as many matches.

The result: FCBU 3 (Sanju Pradhan 69, D. Arun Kumar 81, Jaison Jordan Vaz 90+4) drew with Madan Maharaj RC 3 (Shubham Bhowmick 13, 52, Jiten Murmu 90+3).

Alwin takes pole in Novice category

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER

CHENNAI

Alwin Sundar (AS Motorsports) grabbed pole in the Novice (Stock 165cc) category at the third round of the MRF MMSCI National motorcycle racing championships here on Friday.

The 19-year-old, who heads the championship in the novice category, overcame a shaky start in the qualifying session when he went off the track on the out-lap, but gathered himself to post the fastest lap of two minutes, 08.098secs.

TVS Racing's Deepak Ravikumar (01:52.567) and Jagan Kumar (01:52.627) were among the quickest riders in the free practice session in the premier Prostock 301-400cc category.



Powering through: Alwin overcame a shaky start in the qualifying session to post the fastest lap. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results (Qualifying: best laps): National Championship: Novice (Stock 165cc): 1. Alwin Sundar (AS Motorsports, Chennai) (02m, 08.098s); 2. Kayan Zubin Patel (Sparks Racing, Mumbai) (02:08.545); 3. Allwin Xavier (Sparks Racing, Thrissur) (02:08.772).

One-Make Championship organised by MMSCI: TVS Open (RR 310): 1. Navaneeth Kumar (Puducherry) (01:56.178); 2. Aditya Rao (Bengaluru)

(01:56.461); 3. Amarnath Menon (Calicut) (01:56.526).

Girls (Apache RTR 200): 1. Rakshita Dave (Chennai) (02:14.505); 2. Adlin Seles (Chennai) (02:14.561); 3. Renuka Gajendran (Bengaluru) (02:15.094).

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup - Novice (CBR 150): 1. Prakash Kamat (Bokaroy) (02:09.673); 2. Ikshan Shanbhag (Satara) (02:09.920); 3. Vivek Gaurav (Patna) (02:11.478).

MI fails to make it despite Ishan and Suryakumar's blitzkrieg

Hit their fastest fifties in the IPL as Rohit's men rattle up 235 and emerge victorious by 42 runs against SRH; KKR becomes the fourth team to qualify

IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

Ishan Kishan (84, 32b, 11x4, 4x6) and Suryakumar Yadav (82, 40b, 13x4, 3x6) smashed their fastest fifties – in 16 and 24 balls, respectively – in the Indian Premier League to set up Mumbai Indians' 42-run win against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their last league game.

However, the win wasn't enough to keep its title campaign alive as Mumbai Indians failed to make it to the playoffs. Kolkata Knight Riders qualified as the fourth team on net run rate.

MI knew that it was virtually a mission impossible to progress as it had to bat first and win by at least 170 runs. While Rohit Sharma won the toss to achieve the first objective, Ishan and Suryakumar's whirlwind knocks ensured Mumbai piled up 235 for nine, the highest total of IPL 2021.

Near-impossible task

However, despite the torrid season SRH has had, restricting it to below 64 was a near-impossible task for MI. Once Jason Roy and Abhishek Sharma got off to a quick start, the writing was on the wall for MI.

The Sunrisers' start was nowhere close to the opening flurry by Ishan, with Rohit awestruck at the other end. The PowerPlay saw 14 fours and two sixes, with Rohit contributing only three of them.

While Ishan, who ensured that his fifty versus Rajasthan Royals three nights ago



Top shows: Kishan and Suryakumar tore apart the Sunrisers attack before Neesham put the skids on the chase. •SPORTSPICS/IPL



wasn't a fluke, dominated the first half of the innings with audacious strokeplay, Suryakumar took over the mantle in the latter half.

Despite the loss, Sunrisers also entered the record books. Manish Pandey (69 n.o., 41b, 7x4, 2x6) became the first cricketer to have captained an IPL team after having played 100-plus games.

He also showed acumen as a leader by placing Jason Roy bang behind the umpire for

Five and five

■ This is the fifth time five-time champion MI has failed to progress beyond the league stage (2008, '09, '16, '18, '21)

Kieron Pollard and saw the batsman hitting straight to him.

Mohammad Nabi then became the first fielder in the IPL to take five catches.

Top of the charts

ORANGE CAP

K.L. RAHUL (PBKS)
Matches: 13 | Runs: 626
HS: 98 n.o. | SR: 138.80

PURPLE CAP

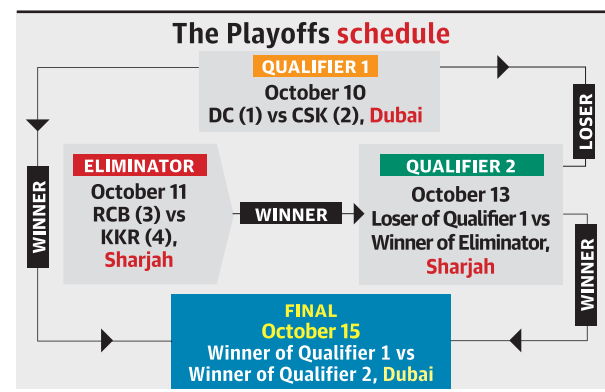
HARSHAL PATEL (RCB)
Matches: 14 | Wickets: 30
BB: 5/27 | Econ: 8.40

AFTER THE LEAGUE STAGE

FINAL POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Delhi Capitals (Q)	14	10	4	20	0.481
Chennai Super Kings (Q)	14	9	5	18	0.455
Royal Challengers (Q)	14	9	5	18	-0.140
Kolkata Knight Riders (Q)	14	7	7	14	0.587
Mumbai Indians	14	7	7	14	0.116
Punjab Kings	14	6	8	12	-0.001
Rajasthan Royals	14	5	9	10	-0.993
Sunrisers Hyderabad	14	3	11	6	-0.545

Q: Qualified



SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS
Rohit Sharma c Nabi b Rashid 18 (13b, 3x4), Ishan Kishan c Saha b Umran 84 (32b, 11x4, 4x6), Hardik Pandya c Roy b Holder 10 (8b, 1x6), Kieron Pollard c Roy b Abhishek 13 (12b, 1x4), Suryakumar Yadav c Nabi b Holder 82 (40b, 13x4, 3x6), James Neesham c Nabi b Abhishek 0 (1b), Krunal Pandya c Nabi b Rashid 9 (7b, 1x4), Nathan Coulter-Nile c Nabi b Holder 3 (3b), Piyush Chawla c Samad b Holder 0 (2b), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 5 (2b, 1x4), Trent Boult (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-9): 11; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 235.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-80 (Rohit, 5.3 overs), 2-113 (Hardik, 8.3), 3-124 (Ishan, 9.1), 4-151 (Pollard, 12.5), 5-151 (Neesham, 12.6), 6-184 (Krunal, 15.3), 7-206 (Coulter-Nile, 17.2), 8-230 (Chawla, 19.1), 9-230 (Suryakumar, 19.4).

SUNRISERS BOWLING
Nabi 3-0-33-0, Kaul 4-0-56-0, Holder 4-0-52-4, Umran 4-0-48-1, Rashid 4-0-40-2, Abhishek 1-0-4-2.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
Jason Roy c Krunal b Boult 34 (21b, 6x4), Abhishek Sharma c Coulter-Nile b Neesham 33 (16b, 4x4, 1x6), Manish Pandey (not

out) 69 (41b, 7x4, 2x6), Mohammad Nabi c Pollard b Chawla 3 (4b), Abdul Samad c Pollard b Neesham 2 (3b), Priyam Garg c Hardik b Bumrah 29 (21b, 2x4, 1x6), Jason Holder c Boult b Coulter-Nile 1 (2b), Rashid Khan c & b Bumrah 9 (5b, 2x4), Wriddhiman Saha c & b Coulter-Nile 2 (5b), Siddarth Kaul (not out) 1 (3b); Extras (lb-2, w-7, nb-1): 10; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 193.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-64 (Roy, 5.2), 2-79 (Abhishek, 6.6), 3-97 (Nabi, 8.3), 4-100 (Samad, 9.1), 5-156 (Garg, 15.1), 6-166 (Holder, 16.1), 7-177 (Rashid, 17.2), 8-182 (Saha, 18.4).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Boult 4-0-30-1, Bumrah 4-0-39-2, Chawla 4-0-38-1, Coulter-Nile 4-0-40-2, Neesham 3-0-28-2, Krunal 1-0-16-0.
Toss: MI; MoM: Ishan.
MI won by 42 runs.

Innings scan

MI	SRH
33	Dots 32
30	Fours 21
8	Sixes 4
83/1	PP 70/1
11.75	RR 9.65

Bharat smashes a last-ball six as Royal Challengers leave Capitals stunned

With six needed off the final delivery, Avesh bowls a wide before the RCB batter settles the issue; DC loses its way in the last five overs of its innings

SPORTS BUREAU

Srikanth Bharat sealed a last-ball thriller with a six as Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Delhi Capitals by seven wickets in an IPL encounter in Dubai on Friday.

With 19 needed from 12, Anrich Nortje bowled a sensational 19th over, going for just four. RCB needed 15 off Avesh Khan's final over and Bharat took RCB over the line with an unbeaten 52-ball 78. He was ably supported by Glenn Maxwell, who got his fourth fifty in five innings.

The RCB chase got off to the worst possible start when Nortje removed Devdutt Padikkal and Virat Kohli early. With RCB 11 for two after three overs, AB de Villiers was promoted to No. 4. But the South African couldn't make the most of the move, falling for a run-a-ball 26 to

Axar Patel and leaving RCB 104 to get from the last 10.

With the asking rate climbing past 11, Maxwell was dropped twice, by Shreyas Iyer and R. Ashwin, off Axar. Meanwhile, No. 3 Bharat reached his 50 off 37 as RCB brought the equation down to 46 in 24 balls. Maxwell and Bharat scored 15 and 12 off Rabada and Khan in the 17th and 18th overs. It was a timely assault.

Earlier, Kohli won the toss and inserted Delhi. Maxwell got the new ball, probably to get the better of left-hander Shikhar Dhawan. But the move did not reap the desired results as Dhawan took 15 off his eight balls. Maxwell's three overs in the PowerPlay went for 29.

The DC openers did not let the tempo drop after the PowerPlay, going after Yuzvendra Chahal and collecting 20

off his first two overs. RCB's wait for a breakthrough ended in the 11th over when Harshal Patel had Shikhar Dhawan caught. Harshal is now two wickets short of the highest tally for an edition – 32 by Dwayne Bravo (2013).

At the other end, Shaw fell two short of his fifty, caught off Chahal. Rishabh Pant followed suit, caught behind off Dan Christian.

Shimron Hetmyer and Shreyas took 16 off the 15th over – bowled by Christian – with two fours and a maximum to give the innings a necessary impetus.

However, RCB kept up the pressure as Mohammed Siraj removed Shreyas for an 18-ball 18. Hetmyer's 22-ball 29 took his team to a fighting score but it wasn't enough in the end on a night when DC was left to rue squandered chances and sloppy fielding.



Incredible finish: Bharat is gung-ho after sealing it with a stunning shot. •SPORTSPICS/IPL

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS
Prithvi Shaw c Garton b Chahal 48 (31b, 4x4, 2x6), Shikhar Dhawan c Christian b Harshal 43 (35b, 3x4, 2x6), Rishabh Pant c Bharat b Christian 10 (8b, 1x4), Shreyas Iyer c Christian b Siraj 18 (18b, 1x4), Shimron Hetmyer c Kohli b Siraj 29 (22b, 2x4, 2x6), Ripal Patel (not out) 7 (7b, 1x4); Extras (lb-3, w-5, nb-1): 9; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 164.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-88 (Dhawan, 10.1 overs), 2-101 (Shaw, 11.2), 3-108 (Pant, 12.4), 4-143 (Shreyas, 17.4), 5-164 (Hetmyer, 19.6).

RCB BOWLING
Maxwell 3-0-29-0, Siraj 4-0-25-2, Garton 3-0-20-0, Chahal 4-0-34-1, Harshal 4-0-34-1, Christian 2-0-19-1.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Virat Kohli c Rabada b Nortje 4 (8b), Devdutt Padikkal c Ashwin b Nortje 0 (1b), K.S. Bharat (not out) 78 (52b, 3x4, 4x6), AB de

Villiers c Shreyas b Axar 26 (26b, 2x4, 1x6), Glenn Maxwell (not out) 51 (33b, 8x4); Extras (lb-2, w-5): 7; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 166.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-3 (Padikkal, 0.5), 2-6 (Kohli, 2.1), 3-55 (de Villiers, 9.3).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Nortje 4-0-24-2, Avesh 4-0-31-0, Axar 4-0-39-1, Rabada 4-0-37-0, Ashwin 1-0-11-0, Ripal 3-0-22-0.

Toss: RCB; MoM: Bharat.
RCB won by seven wickets off the final delivery.

Innings scan

DC	RCB
38	Dots 38
12	Fours 13
6	Sixes 5
55/0	PP 29/2
8.20	RR 8.30

India looks to fire on all cylinders

INDIA IN AUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CARRARA

Bolstered by Jemimah Rodrigues' return to form, India will look to come out all guns blazing in the second women's T20 International against Australia on Saturday after rain played spoilsport in the opening game here.

Criticised for regular failures and after losing her place in the 50-over side, Jemimah made a sensational comeback with an unbeaten 49 off 36 balls in the first T20I.

Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma have been in good form, having played pivotal roles in the drawn Test and given India a rollicking start in the first T20.

Harmanpreet Kaur also joined the team in the first game after missing the ODI leg and the Day/Night Test owing to a thumb injury. Her presence makes India a formidable batting unit.

Thursday's game was washed out and Harmanpreet & Co. will look to win the next two T20s to end the tour on a high. It's also a fine



Up for the challenge: Rodrigues' return to form and Yastika's growing talent augurs well for India. •TWITTER/BCCIWOMEN

opportunity for the young duo of Yastika Bhatia and Richa Ghosh to shine in the middle order.

Veteran seamer Shikha Pandey will bear the onus of getting early wickets.

Australia, on the other hand, boasts of a number of quality all-rounders. Captain Meg Lanning has plenty of options and will hope the young stars will deliver.

The hosts also have plenty of experience in Ellyse Perry, Alyssa Healy, Ashleigh Gardner and Beth Mooney.

The teams (from):
India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-

Capt.), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Yastika Bhatia, Shikha Pandey, Meghna Singh, Pooja Vastrakar, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Poonam Yadav, Richa Ghosh (wk), Harleen Deol, Arundhati Reddy, Radha Yadav and Renuka Singh.

Australia: Meg Lanning (Capt.), Darcie Brown, Maitlan Brown, Stella Campbell, Nicola Carey, Hannah Darlington, Ashleigh Gardner, Alyssa Healy, Tahla McGrath, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Georgia Redmayne, Molly Strano, Annabel Sutherland, Tayla Vlaeminck and Georgia Wareham.

Match starts at 1.40 p.m. IST.

England gets conditional approval for Ashes

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

England confirmed it will go to Australia for the Ashes series in December after its officials gave a conditional approval for the tour on Friday.

England cast doubt on the seven-week tour while negotiating for easier health and travel restrictions in the pandemic, especially for visiting family members.

However, on Friday, the England and Wales Cricket Board said "excellent

progress" had been made in talks with Cricket Australia. "To facilitate further progress and allow a squad to be selected, the ECB board has met and given its approval for the tour to go ahead," it said in a statement.

"This decision is subject to several critical conditions being met before we travel. We look forward to the ongoing assistance from Cricket Australia in resolving these matters in the coming days."

Sarfraz in WC squad

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KARACHI

Former skipper Sarfraz Ahmed made a surprise return in three changes to Pakistan's World Cup squad, selectors said on Friday.

The 34-year-old Sarfraz was not in the 15-man squad announced last month, but all 16 teams competing in the event had October 10 as the

deadline to make any changes.

"After reviewing player performances and in consultation with the team management, we have decided to include Haider Ali, Fakhar Zaman and Sarfraz in the squad for the T20 World Cup 2021," Pakistan's chief selector Mohammad Wasim was quoted as saying in a release.

M.P. and Haryana triumph

ARCHERY

Y.B. SARANGI
JAMSHEDPUR

A young Madhya Pradesh side piped an accomplished Jharkhand outfit 5-4 via shoot-off to claim its maiden recurve women's team title at the 40th NTPC National archery championships here on Friday.

Madhya Pradesh, consisting of Amey Rai, Vitasha Thakur and Soniya Thakur, shot closer to the centre in a 28-28 shoot-off score line after tying 4-4 with the host, comprising India team regulars Komalika Bari and Ankit Bhakat and Dipti Kumari, in the final.

Tense victories via shoot-offs over Punjab (5-4, 26-24) in the quarterfinals and Rajasthan (5-4, 26-25) in the semifinals prepared the Madhya Pradesh archers – who are products of the Madhya Pradesh Archery Academy in Jabalpur – to hold their nerve in the most crucial moment of the final.

"It is a proud moment for us. All these girls are between 16 and 20 years of age and have proved themselves at junior level events. This is



We did it! The Madhya Pradesh team celebrates its maiden recurve title. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

their first big win at the elite level," said M.P. coach Richpal Singh Salaria.

Haryana, consisting of Akash Malik, Sachin Gupta and Basant Kumar, defeated a talented Maharashtra side, including World youth championships team gold winner Parth Salunkhe, Yashdeep Bhoge and Om Vithalkar, 5-1 in the final to take the recurve men's team crown.

In the individual ranking round, Jayanta Talukdar, returning to a competition after recovering from COVID-19, scored 680 points to

bag the top spot among men. B. Dhiraj (678) and Salunkhe (673) took the second and third spots respectively. Atanu Das (660) was 13th.

Deepika Kumari gathered 665 points to emerge as the top-ranked woman. She was followed by Komalika (655) and Simranjeet Kaur (649).

Recurve Team results: Men: Final: Haryana bt Maharashtra 5-1; **Third Place:** Jharkhand bt Rajasthan 6-0.

Women: Final: Madhya Pradesh bt Jharkhand 5-4 (28*-28); **Third Place:** Rajasthan bt Maharashtra 5-3.

Madappa pips Joshi at the post

Holds his nerve to carve out a memorable one-stroke victory

GOLF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

When it mattered, Viraj Madappa held his nerve and holed the birdie-putt to carve out a memorable one-stroke victory over fellow overnight leader and practice-partner Khalin Joshi in the ₹70-lakh Tata Steel PGTI MP Cup golf tournament at the Delhi Golf Club course here on Friday.

The thrilling win was worth ₹11,31,550 for Madappa who moved to the third place on the Order of Merit, behind leader Karandeep Kochhar and S. Chikkarangappa.

Joshi, who started the day with an 'eagle' and led for the better part of the final round, received ₹7,81,550.

Rashid Khan, playing a group ahead of the final group, shared the lead with Khalin at 14-under after the latter's bogey on the 14th hole.

Soon thereafter, Rashid dropped his first stroke of



Triumphant: Viraj Madappa receiving the winner's cheque in the Tata Steel PGTI MP Cup golf tournament. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the day on the 15th followed by a double-bogey on the final hole and eventually took the third place that fetched him ₹4,38,550.

For the second successive round, Madappa stole Joshi's thunder. After Joshi broke away with an 'eagle' on the 515-yard par-5 opening hole and found pars on the rest of the holes on the front nine, he was wary of Rashid's birdie blitz. All this while, Madappa had two bogeys and two birdies on the first nine. The drama unfolded on the

back nine, leader Joshi (15) and Madappa (13) birdied the 10th hole. Then came Joshi's first bogey, on the 13th and Madappa's par closed the gap between them.

The turning point proved to be the par-5 14th hole where the lead changed hands as Madappa's birdie coincided with Joshi's second successive bogey.

In fact, both hit the bushes but Madappa was lucky to get a free-drop since his stance was on the cart-path.

On the last two holes, Madappa and Joshi found a bogey and a birdie that meant the title was decided without a playoff.

Final scores: 274: Viraj Madappa (71, 67, 66, 70); **275:** Khalin Joshi (69, 66, 69, 71); **277:** Rashid Khan (67, 73, 68, 69); **279:** Yuvraj Singh Sandhu (69, 75, 66, 69); **280:** M. Dharma (71, 68, 70, 71), Angad Cheema (71, 68, 67, 74); **281:** Kartik Sharma (70, 68, 69, 74); **282:** Manu Gandas (67, 70, 73, 73); **283:** S. Chikkarangappa (67, 70, 73, 73) and N. Thangaraja (70, 67, 71, 75).

Sania and Shuai lose a tough first round

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
INDIAN WELLS

Sania Mirza and Shuai Zhang of China went down fighting 4-6, 6-3, [15-13] to the third seeds from Japan, Shuko Aoyama and Ena Shibahara in the doubles first round of the \$8,150,470 WTA tennis tournament here.

The pair collected 10 WTA points and \$16,870.

The results: \$8,150,470 WTA, Indian Wells, USA: First round: Shuko Aoyama & Ena Shibahara (Jpn) bt Shuai Zhang (Chn) & Sania Mirza 4-6, 6-3, [15-13].

\$25,000 ITF men, Setubal, Portugal: Quarterfinals: Pedro Araujo & Fabio Coelho (Por) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 5-7, 6-0, [10-8].

\$15,000 ITF, Monastir, Tunisia: Men: Semifinals: Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) & Niki Poonacha bt Kazuki Nishiwaki & Kosuke Ogura (Jpn) 7-6(4), 4-6, [10-7].

Women: Doubles: Semifinals: Ma YeXin & Ni Ma Zhuoma (Chn) bt Sharmada Balu & Sravya Shivani 7-6(4), 4-6, [10-4]; **Quarterfinals:** Sharmada &

Sravya bt Yasmine Mansouri (Fra) & Federica Rossi (Ita) 6-2, 4-6, [10-8].

\$15,000 ITF, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: Men: Quarterfinals: Petr Hajek (Cze) bt SD Prajwal Dev 7-5, 6-2.

Women: Doubles: Semifinals: Rebeka Stolmar (Hun) & Ashmitha Vaswaramurthi bt Li Zongyu & Wang Jiaqi (Chn) 6-4, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF men, Doha, Qatar: Second round: Dominik Boehler (GER) bt Bharath Kumaran 6-1, 6-0. **Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Patrik Niklas-Salminen (Fin) & Saketh Myneni bt Mousa Shanan Zayed (Qat) & Shaabaz Khan 6-2, 6-4; Hanwen Li (Chn) & Beibit Zhukayev (Kaz) bt Liro Vasa (Fin) & Dev Javia 6-2, 6-3.

\$25,000 ITF women, Loule, Portugal: Quarterfinals: Marina Bassols Ribera & Olga Parres Azcoitia (Esp) bt Akvile Parazinskaite (Ltu) & Sathwika Sama 6-3, 6-0; Francisca Jorge & Matilde Jorge (Por) bt Ganna Poznikhirenko (Ukr) & Prarthana Thombare 4-6, 6-0, [10-7].

\$25,000 ITF women, Redding, USA: Second round: V. Pranjala bt Maria Kozyreva (Rus) 6-1, 6-3.

France rallies to make Nations League final

World champion France recovered from two goals down to beat Belgium 3-2 in a thrilling Nations League semifinal on Thursday with a last minute strike from Theo Hernandez securing a place in Sunday's showpiece match against Spain.

The result: Belgium 2 (Carrasco 37, Lukaku 40) lost to France 3 (Benzema 62, Mbappe 69-pen, T. Hernandez 90).

Sarthak wins boys' title; double joy for Janani

Sarthak Sharma and Janani Ramesh won the boys and girls titles in the AITA National series under-18 tennis tournament at the Jyoggaon Academy on Friday.

The results (finals): Boys: Sarthak Sharma bt Vineeth Mutyala 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; **Doubles:** Ansh Kundu & Tushar Mittal bt Adith Amarnath & Vineeth Mutyala 7-5, 6-1. **Girls:** Janani Ramesh bt

Hannah Nagpal 6-3, 6-4; **Doubles:** Janani Ramesh & Shrichandrakala Tantu bt Kristi Boro & Hannah Nagpal 6-2, 6-3.

Hamilton sizzles after grid penalty

Reigning Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton was fastest in both of Friday's practice sessions for the Turkish GP but has to take a 10-place grid penalty for using too many engine parts. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc ended the day second ahead of Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas.

TV PICKS

Badminton: Thomas & Uber Cup: Star Sports 3, 12.30 p.m. **Australia Women vs India Women:** 2nd T20I, Sony Ten 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 2.10 p.m. **FI:** Turkish GP: (Qualifying), SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m. **European WC Qualifiers:** Sony Six (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m., 9.30 p.m.; Sony Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Sunday).

DELHI ROUND-UP

Ankit hits unbeaten ton
Ankit Partap Singh's unbeaten 114 and Ishant's four-wicket haul helped Hemant Ratan Academy bt Cricket Institute of India by five wickets in the 2nd D. Force tournament.

The scores: Cricket Institute of India 189 in 35.2 overs (Anurag Sanjay 38, Ishant 4/36) lost to H. R. Academy 190/5 in 28.5 overs (Ankit Partap Singh 114 n.o.).

Soni, Awana hit half-centuries
Half-centuries from Karan Soni and Krisharth Awana laid the foundation of New Balaji Academy's 94-run victory over West Delhi Academy in the 1st Birma Devi memorial (u-13)

day-night tournament. **The scores:** New Balaji Academy 229/4 in 30 overs (Karan Soni 79, Krisharth Awana 51) bt West Delhi Academy 135 in 28 overs (Dhanya Nakra 50, Krishantr 3/20).

Gulshan Yadav to the fore
Gulshan Yadav (49) guided Arianth Mount Club to an easy five-wicket victory over V.S. Academy in the Ratan Lal Saini (u-16) tournament. **The scores:** V.S. Academy 108 in 30 overs (Ankit Pandey 38) lost to Arianth Mount Club 109/5 in 22.5 overs (Gulshan Yadav 49, Dikshant 31).

Digvesh strikes
Digvesh (4/27) helped Delhi Colts Club beat Youth Club Delhi by 120 runs in the 1st A. S. memorial tournament.

The scores: Delhi Colts Club 263 in 38 overs (Abhay Chauhan 55, Raj Gupta 45, Hitesh Mehra 3/48) bt Youth Club Delhi 143 in 30.2 overs (Hitesh Mehra 64, Aditya Dubey 4/21, Digvesh 4/27).

Daksh excels
Daksh scored 65 and took two wickets to guide Sportify Cricket to a 72-run victory over Mahesh Academy in the Push Academy (u-13) league.

In another match, Ankush Singh (4/35 and 43) was the star of Bhagwati Academy's two-wicket win over Rajnish Gautam Academy. **The scores:** Sportify Cricket 219 in 38.2 overs (Daksh 65, Aditya Goenka 45, Dhruv Sharma 3/17) bt Mahesh

Academy 147 in 35.4 overs. Rajnish Gautam Academy 166/7 in 40 overs (Sarthak Mahlawat 33, Ankush Singh 4/35) lost to Bhagwati Academy 168/8 in 37.3 overs (Ankush Singh 43, Aryan Suri 36).

Sahil, Abhishek show the way
Sahil Sharma (55 n.o.) and Abhishek (42) showed the way as Uday Bhan Club beat St. Angel Academy by seven wickets in the Swastik Cup tournament.

The scores: St. Angel Academy 170/9 in 40 overs (Vinay Kumar 51, Manan Bhardwaj 3/14) lost to Uday Bhan Club 172/3 in 17 overs (Sahil Sharma 55 n.o., Abhishek Kaushik 42).

Daksh Prasad to meet Rushil Khosla in final

Sonal Patil to take on Suhitha Maruri in the girls' summit clash

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Top seed Daksh Prasad set up a title clash with second seed Rushil Khosla in the under-16 boys' event of the National sub-junior tennis championship at the DLTA Complex here on Friday.

It was as much a test of endurance for the players as a test of skill, as the successful players had to play both the quarterfinals and semifinals the same day.

In the under-16 girls' event, Sonal Patil beat Mad-

hurima Sawant 7-5, 6-0 in the semifinals after outplaying Riya Sachdeva for the loss of three games in the quarterfinals.

In the final, Sonal will challenge second seed Suhitha Maruri who has dropped only 14 games in all in four rounds.

The results: Under-16: Boys: Semifinals: Daksh Prasad bt Navya Verma 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Rushil Khosla bt Suresh Keerthivassan 6-1, 6-2; **Quarterfinals:** Daksh bt Jaishnav Shinde 6-3, 7-6(9); Navya bt Tejas Ahuja 6-2, 3-6, 6-2; Suresh bt Rethin 7-5, 6-4; Rushil bt Tarun 6-3, 6-2.

Girls: Semifinals: Sonal Patil bt

Madhurima Sawant 7-5, 6-0; Suhitha Maruri bt Ruma Gaikawari 6-4, 6-1; **Quarterfinals:** Sonal bt Riya 6-3, 6-0; Madhurima bt Apurva 6-3, 6-2; Ruma bt Saumya Ronde 6-4, 6-1; Suhitha bt Tamanna Takoria 6-1, 6-0.

Under-14: Boys: Semifinals: Rayan Sajid bt Sehaj Singh Pawar 6-1, 6-1; **Quarterfinals:** Rayan bt Siddhant Sharma 6-2, 6-3; Sehaj bt Sampriti Sharma 6-1, 6-2; Tejas bt Dhruv Sachdeva 7-6(8), 7-6(2); Venkat bt Kriish Tyagi 6-3, 6-2.

Girls: Semifinals: Mahika Khanam bt Ikaraju Kanumuri 6-2, 7-5; Harithashree Venkatesh bt Sree Tanvi Dasari 6-3, 6-4; **Quarterfinals:** Ikaraju bt Riya Sachdeva 2-6, 6-1, 7-5; Mahika bt Maaya



Daksh...busy day on the COURT. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rajesh 6-4, 6-3; Harithashree bt Saijayani Banerjee 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Sree Tanvi bt Nemha Kis-potta 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

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