



**Veteran film actor Nedumudi Venu passes away at 73**  
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**Ashish Mishra sent to police custody for three days**  
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**Nasheed returns to Male following recovery from blast injuries**  
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**Narine's all-round show helps KKR beat RCB in Eliminator**  
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**IN BRIEF**



**Delhi gov. starts spraying bio-decomposer in farms**  
 NEW DELHI  
 The Delhi government on Monday started spraying bio-decomposer solution in farmlands to decompose the stubble left after harvest.  
**CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

**Uttarakhand Minister, son join Congress**  
 NEW DELHI  
 Uttarakhand Transport Minister Yashpal Arya and his MLA son, Sanjeev Arya, joined the Congress on Monday. The Assembly election in the State is scheduled early next year.  
**NEWS** ▶ PAGE 8

**Economics Nobel for research on wages, jobs**  
 STOCKHOLM  
 The Nobel prize for economics was awarded to economist David Card for research that showed an increase in minimum wage does not lead to less hiring. Two others shared the award for developing ways to study these types of societal issues.  
**WORD** ▶ PAGE 11

**COMPLETE GEOGRAPHY MODULE** STARTS 21<sup>st</sup> Oct.  
**GEOGRAPHY MAINS QEP** STARTS 15<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
 by AMIT GARG, Ex-Faculty VAJIRAM & RAVI  
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## 5 Army men, 2 militants killed in four gunfights in J&K in a day

Ultras may have infiltrated recently from Pakistan

**PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR**  
 Five Army personnel, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), and two militants were killed in four encounters that raged between security forces and militants in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir within 12 hours on Monday.

A massive combing operation was launched in the Pir Panjal Valley's Surankote-Shahadra belt on Sunday night but the search party came under heavy fire on Monday morning from the militants, who may have infiltrated recently through the Line of Control in Poonch district.

"Based on intelligence inputs, the Army on Monday launched a cordon and search operation in villages close to Dera Ki Gali in Surankote area of Poonch. In the ensuing firefight, one JCO and four jawans suffered critical injuries. They were evacuated to the nearest medical facility but died of their injuries," Jammu-based Army spokesman Lt. Col. Deveder Anand said.

The deceased soldiers were identified as naib subedar Jaswinder Singh, naik Mandeep Singh, sepoy Gaj-



**Mission mode:** Jawans returning from the encounter site at Khagund in Anantnag district in south Kashmir on Monday. • NISSAR AHMAD

jan Singh, all from Punjab; sepoy Saraj Singh from Uttar Pradesh; and sepoy Vaisakh H. from Kerala.

"After the initial encounter, the terrorists fled to nearby Bhangai village, and the encounter is still in progress," the Army said.

Three to four heavily armed militants were suspected to be hiding in the tough terrain that has dense forest cover. The Army has not confirmed any casualty to the militants so far.

**TRF militant killed**  
 In the Kashmir Valley, security forces killed two ultras, including a militant of the Resistance Front (TRF) that was behind a civilian killing last week, in two separate operations.

TRF militant Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar was killed in Gund Jahangeer village of Hajin area of north Kashmir's Bandipora. "The slain militant was involved in the recent killing of a civilian at Shahgund," Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

Muhammad Shafi Lone alias Sonu, a driver by profession, was among the five civilians killed in the Valley last week.

However, Dar's family alleged that he was picked up when he was harvesting the rice crop in the field and "killed in a staged encounter". "Dar is innocent. He was at home when the civilian was killed earlier last week and was working in the field when he was picked up by the security forces," the

family members stated. The Bandipora police, however, refuted the family's claims.

**Shoot-out in Anantnag**  
 In another operation in south Kashmir's Anantnag, an unidentified militant was killed in the Khagund area.

"On specific information, when the police went to pick up an over ground worker, the militant opened fire, and a gunfight followed," the police said.

The fourth encounter broke out in south Kashmir's Shopian, where a group of militants is believed to be hiding in a residential colony. "The encounter started at Tulran in Imamsahab area of Shopian. Police and security forces are on the job," a police spokesman said.

## India, China commander talks end in impasse

Each side blames the other for the deadlock

**DINAKAR PERI ANANTH KRISHNAN NEW DELHI**

The 13th round of senior military commander talks between India and China on Sunday ended in a stalemate, with each side blaming the other for it.

In a statement, the Indian Army maintained that its side made "constructive suggestions" to resolve the "remaining areas", while the Chinese military alleged that India made "unreasonable and unrealistic demands".

**Infrastructure build-up**  
 The acrimony comes amid continuing build-up of troops and infrastructure by China on its side along the Line of Actual Control and as both sides are preparing to be deployed in the high altitude areas of eastern Ladakh for the second straight winter this year.

The Monday morning Army statement read, "During the meeting, the Indian side, therefore, made constructive suggestions for resolving the remaining areas but the Chinese side was not



The talks come amid build-up of troops by China along the LAC. • FILE PHOTO

agreeable and also could not provide any forward-looking proposals. The meeting thus did not result in resolution of the remaining areas."

The talks were held at Moldo on the Chinese side, with the focus on working out the third phase of disengagement from Patrolling Point 15 in Hot Springs as part of the overall disengagement and de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"The Indian side pointed out that the situation along the LAC had been caused by unilateral attempts of Chinese side to alter the status quo and in violation of the bilateral agreements," the Indian Army observed.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Industry seeks clarity on space policy

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Industrialists told Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday that for the space industry to grow, the government should help small and medium sector enterprises (SME) access more capital as well as move faster on finalising its space policy.

The industry leaders were speaking at the inauguration of the Indian Space Association, an organisation meant to represent the interests of the space sector with government and private sector bodies across the board, including the Indian Space Research Organisation, Walchandnagar Industries, TATA Nelco, Pixxel, Mapmy India and Bharti Airtel.

In his address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his government was "the most decisive one in history" and that in sectors where the government "wasn't needed" the private sector ought to be stepping in. He cited the example of the recent decision of the government giving up its stake in Air India to a Tata group company.

The government's approach to space reforms, Mr. Modi said, is based on four pillars. First is the freedom of innovation to the private sector.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

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<b>निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 17 /2021-22</b>					
1. विभाग का नाम : जमशेदपुर अधिसूचित क्षेत्र समिति, जमशेदपुर ।					
2. विज्ञापन दाता का नाम : विशेष पदाधिकारी, जमशेदपुर अधिसूचित क्षेत्र समिति, जमशेदपुर ।					
3. परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री की तिथि : 28.10.2021 से 29.10.2021 तक। (अंतिम तिथि को 12:00 बजे पूर्वानुक्रम तक ही आवेदन प्राप्त किया जायेगा।)					
4. परिमाण विपत्र की बिक्री का स्थान : जमशेदपुर अधिसूचित क्षेत्र समिति कार्यालय					
5. निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय : 02.11.2021 को दोपहर 12:30 बजे तक					
6. निविदा प्राप्ति एवं खोलने का स्थान : जमशेदपुर अधिसूचित क्षेत्र समिति कार्यालय					
7. निविदा खोलने की तिथि, एवं समय : 02.11.2021 को 1:30 बजे अपराह्न					
8. निविदा के कार्य का विवरण :					
क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रु० में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	बिरसानगर, जोन नं. 1 'बी', रोड नं. 9, शिव पथ में सड़क का निर्माण।	630591.00	12620.00	5000.00	2 माह
2	बिरसानगर जोन नं. 3/ सी में इश्वर चन्द्र गोराई के घर के पीछे पूर्वी दिशा में सड़क का निर्माण।	404275.00	8090.00	1000.00	2 माह
3	बिरसानगर जोन नं. 7, हरि मंदिर के आसपास पक्कीकरण का कार्य।	705127.00	14110.00	5000.00	2 माह
4	मोहरदा साइन्स सिटी के समीप नडू झा के प्लैट के समीप सड़क का निर्माण।	681120.00	13630.00	5000.00	2 माह
5	मनोफीट में सीपी सिंह के घर से गणेश पुजा मैदान की ओर जाने वाली सड़क का निर्माण।	317350.00	6350.00	1000.00	2 माह
6	लक्ष्मीनगर के झण्डू बगान स्थित शिव मंदिर के पीछे पेवर्स ब्लॉक का अधिष्ठापन।	513600.00	10280.00	5000.00	2 माह
7	लक्ष्मीनगर, रामाधीन बगान में खेल मैदान से लेकर सुमन सिंह के राशन दुकान तक एवं मनोफीट, धोबी लाइन में म.सं. 21 के बगल से शंकर भगवान के मंदिर तक सड़क का निर्माण।	867820.00	17360.00	5000.00	3 माह
8	बर्मासाईन्स, ईस्ट प्लॉट बस्ती में पाण्डेय जी के घर से विकास भवन तक सड़क का निर्माण।	934710.00	18700.00	5000.00	3 माह
9	बर्मासाईन्स, कंचन नगर में पवन पान दुकान से हरि सिंह के घर तक तथा हरि सिंह के घर से पवन यादव के घर तक पेवर्स ब्लॉक सड़क का निर्माण।	361130.00	7230.00	1000.00	2 माह
10	गोलमुरी, दुईलाइंगरी, लाइन नं. 1, में सड़क का निर्माण।	517440.00	10350.00	5000.00	2 माह
11	बारीडीह, सुखिया रोड, 10 नं० बस्ती पनो डाकघर के घर से ओंकार सिंह के घर तक सड़क का निर्माण।	870250.00	17410.00	5000.00	2 माह
12	बागुनहाट रोड नं०-2 में किशन दास के घर से मोला के घर तक रोड नं०-3 में अजित नामता के घर से रामरासा मंदिर तक अनिल नामता से क्रॉस रोड नं०-15 में इन्द्राणी के घर तक, दिवु सरकार के घर गोलगया साइड के घर तक सड़क का निर्माण।	613505.00	12280.00	5000.00	2 माह
13	बारीडीह के सरना स्कूल से हो समाज होते हुए फुटबॉल मैदान के पास रोड नं०-5 तक सड़क का मरम्मतिकरण।	622960.00	12460.00	5000.00	2 माह
14	साकथी, स्टेट माइल रोड में मोला महाराज स्वीटस के पीछे पार्किंग स्थल के अन्दर एवं बाहर में पेवर्स ब्लॉक अधिष्ठापन कार्य।	649900.00	13000.00	5000.00	3 माह
15	बिष्टपुर, साउथ पार्क, राधा गोविन्द पुजा कमिटी बजरंग अखाड़ा मंदिर परिसर में पेवर्स ब्लॉक अधिष्ठापन।	955450.00	19110.00	5000.00	3 माह
16	कदमा अनिल सुरपथ क्रॉस सारनाथ पथ से लेकर न्यू रिभर कॉलोनी के अंत तक पेवर्स ब्लॉक का अधिष्ठापन।	951700.00	19040.00	5000.00	3 माह
17	गोविन्दनगर, उजियान, कदमा, कुण्या पथ में सड़क निर्माण।	888000.00	17760.00	5000.00	4 माह
18	बारह गोलाई, सोनारी में नर्स क्वार्टर के सामने वाले गोलाई के अन्दर समतलीकरण तथा पेवर्स ब्लॉक अधिष्ठापन एवं शिवलाल बस्ती, सोनारी में बड़ा बजरंग बली मन्दिर के सामने खाली क्षेत्र में पेवर्स ब्लॉक का अधिष्ठापन।	386410.00	7730.00	1000.00	2 माह
19	बारह गोलाई, सोनारी में मेन रोड के किनारे देवांगन ज्वेलर्स से लेकर सत्यमाराण के घर तक पेवर्स ब्लॉक पथ निर्माण।	666160.00	13330.00	5000.00	2 माह
20	डॉ० पात्रो बस्ती, सोनारी में दयानन्द स्कूल के पास हिन्द युवक संघ के पीछे समतलीकरण करना तथा पेवर्स ब्लॉक का अधिष्ठापन।	709250.00	14190.00	5000.00	2 माह
21	डॉ० पात्रो बस्ती, सोनारी में बिजु पान दुकान के बगल गली में शुरू से लेकर अंत तक एवं मकान संख्या C/190 के पीछे से लेकर मकान संख्या C/188 तक पेवर्स ब्लॉक पथ का निर्माण।	782840.00	15660.00	5000.00	2 माह
22	खुटाडीह सूरज अखाड़ा, सोनारी में मकान संख्या 368 के पीछे मकान संख्या 1669 के सामने से लेकर अखाड़ा के पूरे क्षेत्र का समतलीकरण करना एवं पेवर्स ब्लॉक का अधिष्ठापन।	992850.00	19860.00	5000.00	2 माह
23	सोनारी जंगली बस्ती में तुवन देवी के घर से लेकर मेन रोड तक पेवर्स ब्लॉक पथ निर्माण।	669000.00	13380.00	5000.00	2 माह
24	कुम्हार पाड़ा सोनारी में शीतल दूधान के घर के पास से शंकर के घर तक एवं ठीक सामने वाले तक तथा मोती टेंट के घर के पास से पम्पू डे के घर तक एवं पम्पू डे के घर से ज्ञानदेव के घर तक सड़क का निर्माण।	566460.00	11330.00	5000.00	2 माह
25	सक्ताहा मोहल्ला, सोनारी में कबीर मन्दिर के पीछे काली मन्दिर के सामने पेवर्स ब्लॉक का अधिष्ठापन।	999700.00	20000.00	5000.00	3 माह
26	मनबोध बस्ती, सोनारी में बीच गोलाई के पूरे क्षेत्र का समतलीकरण एवं पेवर्स ब्लॉक का अधिष्ठापन।	997710.00	19960.00	5000.00	3 माह
27	भागवत मोहल्ला, सोनारी के बीच गोलाई का समतलीकरण और पेवर्स ब्लॉक का अधिष्ठापन।	869900.00	17400.00	5000.00	3 माह
28	धुवराम मोहल्ला, सोनारी में उपकर संघ दुर्गा मन्दिर के सामने पी.सी.सी. डलाई कर पेवर्स ब्लॉक का अधिष्ठापन।	725390.00	14510.00	5000.00	3 माह
29	बिरसानगर, जोन नं. 5 स्थित नाला का मरम्तनी कार्य।	768748.00	15380.00	5000.00	3 माह
30	बिरसानगर जोन नं. 1, गुड़िया मैदान के पास सरकारी प्राइमरी विद्यालय से सिन्धु निवास तक न्यूनमिर्त नाली को ढकने का कार्य।	996655.00	19940.00	5000.00	3 माह
31	बिरसानगर, जोन नं. 5 स्थित काली मंदिर के सामने चहारदीवारी का निर्माण।	672715.00	19460.00	5000.00	3 माह
32	मनोफीट बाजार, बहुआ के घर के पास के दुकान से मोटा दा के दुकान तक नाला मरम्मतीकरण कार्य।	648880.00	12980.00	5000.00	4 माह
33	बर्मासाईन्स, भक्तिनगर मे मंदिर के पीछे से धुना सिंह के घर तक नाली का निर्माण।	963900.00	19280.00	5000.00	4 माह
34	लक्ष्मीनगर, मनोफीट मंडल बस्ती में नाली निर्माण।	425120.00	8510.00	1000.00	4 माह
35	टेल्को, मनोफीट उड़िया बस्ती राज कुमार के घर के पास नाली एवं पुलिया का निर्माण।	833180.00	16670.00	5000.00	4 माह
36	गोलमुरी देबुन बगान क्षेत्र में नालियों की सफाई एवं मरम्ततीकरण कार्य एवं मेन रोड के एक नाली का ढक्कन लगाने एवं गोलमुरी, विजयनगर बस्ती, ब्लॉक सी, रोड नं. 8, बैंक साइड आकाशदीप प्लाजा के नाले का ढक्कन निर्माण।	342140.00	6850.00	1000.00	2 माह
37	सिंहभूम जिला भोजपुरी साहित्य परिषद गोलमुरी के भवन का चहारदीवारी निर्माण।	823150.00	16470.00	5000.00	4 माह
38	गोलमुरी, पंजाबी/सिंधी रिपयुजी कॉलोनी में सिवरज लाइन का निर्माण।	644600.00	12900.00	5000.00	4 माह
39	बारीडीह बस्ती, दिनकर पथ, साहू जी के घर से लेकर श्री अनिल गिरि के घर तक नाली निर्माण।	687030.00	13750.00	5000.00	3 माह
40	बागुनहाट आश्रम रोड में अशोखा सिंह के घर से मुन्ना सिंह के घर तक नाली का निर्माण।	412905.00	8260.00	1000.00	2 माह
41	मनोफीट चौक से मनोफीट छठ घाट में 16 मी० हाई मास्ट लाइट का स्थानान्तरण।	216240.00	4330.00	1000.00	2 माह
42	ग्रीन पार्क वाई नं० 01 मरीन ड्राईव रोड स्थित शौचालय के पास राव जी के घर से बबलू बाउरी के घर तक नाली निर्माण।	614300.00	12290.00	5000.00	3 माह
43	सोनारी दीपार्जली अपार्टमेंट के सामने एक अदद 16 मी० हाई मास्ट लाईट अधिष्ठापन।	531236.00	10630.00	5000.00	3 माह
44	कदमा, ब्लॉक नं०-2, मरिजद के पीछे, इमारत बाड़ा के सामने एक अदद 12 मी० हाई मास्ट लाईट अधिष्ठापन।	431025.00	8630.00	1000.00	3 माह
45	कदमा, माटिया बस्ती शिवथ वलखिया मंदिर स्कूल के सामने मैदान में एक अदद 16 मी० हाई मास्ट लाईट अधिष्ठापन।	531236.00	10630.00	5000.00	3 माह
46	धतकीडीह कॉलेज में एक अदद 16 मी० हाई मास्ट लाईट अधिष्ठापन।	531236.00	10630.00	5000.00	3 माह
47	बेल्डीह बस्ती को-ऑपरेटिव कॉलेज के पीछे एक अदद 16 मी० हाई मास्ट लाईट अधिष्ठापन।	531236.00	10630.00	5000.00	3 माह
48	चुनाशाह बाबा मजार एवं कदमा सब स्टेशन स्थित हाई मास्ट लाईट का जीर्णोद्धार।	747564.00	14960.00	5000.00	2 माह
49	विकास नगर शिव गंगा अपार्टमेंट, तुगल राय के घर से आदर्श नगर 9th फेज के गेट तक नाली निर्माण।	924940.00	18500.00	5000.00	6 माह
50	विकास नगर राजेन्द्र राम के घर से शिव गंगा अपार्टमेंट के गेट तक नाली निर्माण।	818400.00	16370.00	5000.00	6 माह
51	कदमा, ब्लॉक नं०-3 में एक अदद 16 मी० हाई मास्ट लाईट अधिष्ठापन।	531236.00	10630.00	5000.00	3 माह
52	जमशेदपुर को-ऑपरेटिव कॉलेज परिसर, बिष्टपुर में 35 अदद एल0ड0डी0 लाईट का अधिष्ठापन।	685278.00	13710.00	5000.00	2 माह

- परिमाण विपत्र क्रय हेतु निम्नलिखित शर्तों को पूरा करना होगा।
- (क) नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार, रांची या जमशेदपुर अधिसूचित क्षेत्र समिति, जमशेदपुर के अधीनस्थ समुचित श्रेणी या एक श्रेणी ऊपर के सम्येदकों को निर्बंधित होना अनिवार्य होगा। भवन कार्य को छोड़कर अन्य विद्युतिकरण कार्य हेतु उर्जा विभाग का निबंधन अनिवार्य होगा।
- (ख) परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (जो वापस नहीं किया जाएगा) एवं अग्रघन की राशि (दो प्रतिशत) बैंक ड्राफ्ट/बैंकर्स चेक जो विशेष पदाधिकारी, जमशेदपुर अधिसूचित क्षेत्र समिति, जमशेदपुर के पदनाम से राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक में भुगतान होगा, के रूप में स्वीकार्य होगा तथा निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय तक मूल रूप में जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- निविदा सूचना में अंकित परिमाण एवं प्राक्कलित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है। तदनुसार परिमाण विपत्र में अंकित राशि के आधार पर अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
- निविदा दाता को निविदा के साथ वैध अवधि का निबंधन प्रमाण पत्र, अद्यतन आचारण प्रमाण पत्र, पैना कार्ड, अद्यतन आयकर रिटर्न, जी0एस0टी0 निबंधन, अद्यतन जी0एस0टी0 रिटर्न की स्वअभिप्रेक्षावित प्रति संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- विना कारण बताये एक या सभी निविदाओं का रद्द करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को होगा।
- निविदादाता द्वारा अपने निविदा के साथ संलग्न अभिलेखों के सही (Genuine/Correct) होने का मूल शपथ पत्र देना होगा।
- विशेष विवरणी एवं अन्य शर्तों0ओ0क्यु0 या कार्य दिवसों को कार्य अवधि में अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय में देखा जा सकती है।

विशेष पदाधिकारी,  
जमशेदपुर अधिसूचित क्षेत्र समिति,जमशेदपुर  
PR 254870 Urban Development(21-22)HD

# 'Desh Ke Mentor' to guide govt. school children on career choices

They will be mentored by people who are successful in their respective fields

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Monday launched a mentorship programme for children studying in Classes IX to XII in its schools. Under the 'Desh Ke Mentor' programme, students will be mentored by volunteers from across the country for 10-15 minutes daily on issues ranging from career choices to teenage-related concerns.



The programme will be of two to six months, with the first two months being a compulsory module. FILE PHOTO

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, while launching the initiative, said that through this programme children will get an elder brother, friend or sister with whom they will be able to share everything, and the youth, who want to become mentors, will be able to contribute to nation building by helping in guiding the future of the country.

**'Non-judgemental guide'**  
Speaking on the reason for starting such a programme, Mr. Kejriwal said when children reach Class IX, they de-

velop several emotional and physical needs as they have to deal with a lot of pressure from peers, family and siblings, besides studies and choosing a career. "We want these children to get a non-judgemental helping hand and guiding light. Someone with whom the child can talk without any inhibitions. It is human nature that when you talk to someone, share your problems with them, you are inclined to feel cathartic. It helps one get out of a dark mindset," Mr. Kejriwal said. The government is encour-

aging people in the age group of 18-35 years from across the country to join the initiative and they can do so by registering on an app developed for the purpose. "In our families, we see elder brothers and sisters guide their younger siblings. If we replicate the same model on the national level, the whole country will become a big family. People will start seeing beyond the fault lines of caste and creed, they won't see the religion of the person they are talking to," Mr. Kejriwal said. Deputy Chief Minister

Manish Sisodia said students in Classes IX-XII need to decide what they should pursue in the future. During this time, if someone holds their hand without judging them and imposing their dreams on them, it will result in better decision-making. "If someone wants to join the police service, then there should be someone to guide them on the process and research for them as a mentor. If parents are confused on how to help their children choose a career, there should be a mentor to guide the students in taking the right decision," Mr. Sisodia said.

The mentorship programme will be of two to six months, with the first two months as compulsory module and the remaining four as optional. Mentors from various professional and academic backgrounds will guide two-five students each. They will help the students in their overall personality development by sharing their knowledge, skills and expertise.

# Delhi High Court gets two new judges

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Two new judges of the Delhi High Court were sworn in on Monday, taking the working strength of the court to 31 against a sanctioned strength of 60.

Chief Justice D.N. Patel administered the oath of office to Justices Yashwant Varma and Chandra Dhari Singh, who were transferred to Delhi from the Allahabad High Court. Justice Varma was elevated as additional judge of Allahabad HC in October 2014 and took oath as permanent judge in February 2016. He graduated in law from Rewa University and got enrolled as an advocate in 1992.

Justice Singh was appointed as additional judge of the Allahabad HC in September 2017 and took oath as permanent judge in September 2019. He graduated in law from Delhi University in 1993 and got enrolled as an advocate in 1994. The Supreme Court collegium had recently recommended the transfer/retransfer of 17 High Court judges.

# DCPCR appeals to Baijal to open schools from nursery to Class VIII

Letter says pandemic has caused serious learning losses

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) on Monday urged Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal to open schools for children from nursery to Class VIII in a staggered manner. The commission said it has received complaints from different quarters on the matter and added that school closure is affecting about four million children in the city. "Clearly, children not attending schools cannot keep them safe since the adults are moving about and returning home. There appears to be little evidence about how school closures

**Children not attending schools cannot keep them safe since adults are moving about and returning home**  
ANURAG KUNDU  
DCPCR chairman

could not read letters in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20, according to the Annual Status of Education Report 2021 by Pratham Education Foundation... About 80% of children aged 14-18 years report lower learning levels as opposed to when schools were open. About 92% of children on average have lost one specific language ability as compared to the previous years," the letter said.

The DCPCR also said that online education is inadequate. "The commission urges the Delhi Disaster Management Authority to issue necessary directions for the opening of schools and anganwadis," the letter added. The petitioner, Association of Wellness Ayurveda & Spa, said that cross-gender treatment has been "part of the traditional massage practices" and assuming prostitution to be only in the "heterosexual domain" is illogical. "Permission will be granted in areas coming under the category of commercial, local commercial, notified commercial and mixed land use. In residential areas, new spa/massage centres will not be allowed," the press note stated, adding that spas and massage centres will be allowed to operate "only between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m."

# North body bans non-segregated waste collection from Nov. 1

MUNEEF KHAN  
NEW DELHI

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Monday announced that it will impose a complete ban on the collection of non-segregated waste — from households and commercial establishments — from November 1.

missioner Sanjay Goel said the civic body will paste "red stickers" on the premises of regular defaulters. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Goel said the penalty for defaulters will be on a "daily basis". "There is not much criminality in the matter. Monetary penalty is a provision but nobody can afford to pay it all the time, so I think people would start adhering to the norms. Unless we attain a particular saturation level in waste segregation, the red stickers for defaulters will continue."

Mr. Goel said the move was being made in order to achieve the target of "100% segregation at source". Furthermore, deployment of workers at "dhalaos" has been ordered to prevent the public from dumping non-segregated waste. "Under the Solid Waste Management Rule (2016), waste segregation is important and Swach Bharat 2.0 also says the same. One of the important tasks is to segregate the waste at the doorstep," he said.

# Centre asked to withdraw order on ration scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Delhi's Food and Civil Supplies Minister Imran Hussain on Monday requested Union Food and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal to withdraw an order preventing the implementation of the city government's doorstep delivery scheme. The Centre had on October 8 written to the Delhi government's Food and Civil

Supplies Department, saying the doorstep scheme is against the provisions of National Food Security Act 2013, and therefore, "should not be implemented". In a letter to Mr. Goyal, Mr. Hussain also alleged that the Delhi government is being meted out "discriminatory treatment" as the other State governments have already implemented such schemes.

# Ganja worth ₹1 crore seized, three arrested

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Three men were arrested in west Delhi's Naraina on Monday and 661 kg of ganja worth around ₹1 crore in the international market was seized from their possession. Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Urvija Goel said the accused have been identified as Rafique Khan, 22, Raj Kishore, 42, and Chetan Gatan Khara, 36. The police said on September 29, information was

received that two persons would come in a truck and cross Naraina to supply ganja. The truck was laden with wooden logs and there was a secret chamber under the logs from where 661 kg of ganja was seized. The duo disclosed that the ganja was ordered by one Shera and his partner Bahadur Singh. Shera purchased the contraband from one Khara in Odisha. Raids were conducted in Koraput and Khara was arrested.

P.W. Division Govt. Resolution No. CAT- 2017/CR-8/Bldg-2 Date 22 October, 2018  
PRAPATRA - 1

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**

Office Of The Executive Engineer  
Address Public Works Division No. 1. Civil Line Chandrapur- 442401  
E-Mail Address - chandrapur1.ee@mahapwd.com Phone No - 07172-250245  
E-Tender Notice No. 23/SBD year 2021-22

Executive Engineer Public Works Division No .1 Chandrapur (Tel. No. 07172-250245) invites e -Tenders in **“(Item Rates) SBD”** Form, Download detail tender papers from the website https://mahatenders.gov.in The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders. Conditional Tenders will not be accepted.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated cost In Rs. Lakh
1	Construction of Cement Concrete Road of Tadali Sakharawhi Ghuggus Nakoda Usegaon Road MDR- 11 km 10/500 to 11/700 of Two lane km 11/700 to 13/100 of four lane km 16/00 to 16/500 & 17/800 to 18/700 two lane CC road in taluka and Distt Chandrapur CRIF-MAH-2020-21-246 Dt 15.04.2021	1700.00

**Download Period of Online Tender** **Online Time Table**

**All Details are Display on**

- https://mahapwd.com
- https://mahatenders.gov.in

(If any change in tender notice then all changes are shown in above website only)

3. Tender Notice board

**Rules**

- The EMD will be paid via online (RTGS / NEFT) mode only, it should be ensured that the EMD is paid online through the bidders account only.
- These works include the Post Qualification Criteria.
- Above works PWD Registration is Not Required. Any competent contractor can be participate in Tender.
- Any International Contractor its sub-company in India it can be participate in Tender.
- To participate in e.tenders the contractors should register themselves for Class-III digital signature and at the above website for e.tenders.
- Online time table is final.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Public Works Division No .1  
Chandrapur

DGIPR/2021/2022/2293



**Timings**  
**DELHI**

**TUESDAY, OCT. 12**  
RISE 06:20 SET 17:55  
RISE 12:36 SET 22:56

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 13**  
RISE 06:21 SET 17:54  
RISE 13:35 SET 00:00

**THURSDAY, OCT. 14**  
RISE 06:21 SET 17:53  
RISE 14:25 SET 00:00

**Delhi Weather** max min

Delhi City 37 23  
Safdarjang 37 23  
Palam 36 24

**Delhi Palam Today**  
36°C The weather will dry. Day will be very warm with uneasy afternoon. Night will be comfortable.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
35°C A dry weather to continue. 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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# Delhi govt. begins spraying bio-decomposer in farmlands

Applications for about 4,000 acres received, says Environment Minister

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Monday started spraying bio-decomposer solution in farmlands to decompose the stubble left after the harvest.

A bio-decomposer capsule, developed by Pusa Institute, is made into a solution through a week-long process, and according to the government, this solution can decompose straw and stubble into manure.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said the number of farmers, who are getting the solution sprayed in their fields, has doubled as compared to last year.

"We have received applications for about 4,000 acres of land as opposed to 2,000 acres last year. But those farmers who haven't applied yet will be issued a contact number (9643844287) to



A worker spraying the bio-decomposer solution at Fatehpur Jat village in Narela on Monday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

avail of this service free of cost. Farmers can register themselves and we will send our teams to the farms and help with the process," the Minister said.

Mr. Rai said the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) had asked the Delhi government to get a third-party audit of the process done and they did it with a Central agency. "We submitted a report to the CAQM, and also approached the Union Environment Minister and the Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab governments (to use the bio-decomposer)," he said.

The Delhi government sees the bio-decomposer as a

Those farmers who haven't applied yet will be issued a contact number (9643844287) to avail of this service free of cost

GOPAL RAI  
Environment Minister

solution to stubble burning and has been urging other States to adopt it.

The Minister said that problems caused by stubble burning cannot be solved without the combined effort as smoke has started entering Delhi's airspace.

"I appeal to the farmers to utilise the bio-decomposer, plough the field with a rotavator, and supply ample water so that the stubble can decompose and be converted into healthy compost," Mr. Rai said.

## No masks



All smiles: Pandal hoppers pose for a selfie on the first day of Durga Puja festivities in the Capital on Monday. • R.V. MOORTHY

# Will organise grand Chhath puja with help of civic bodies, says BJP

Party demands AAP govt. seek permission from DDMA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Monday said the "city government's decision to ban Chhath festivities was foolish" and accused the government of being anti-Hindu and anti-Poorvanchali.

State BJP president Adesh Gupta declared that the festival will be celebrated in a grand manner and the party-led municipal corporations will make arrangements for it.

"It is rather strange to impose a ban on Chhath Puja

celebrations when markets, shops and cinema halls and even swimming pools in Delhi are open. If the Kejriwal government does not review its decision, the party along with Poorvanchalis will stage a massive protest outside the Chief Minister's residence," Mr. Gupta said.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in an order last week prohibited Chhath Puja celebrations at public places in view of the COVID-19 situation.

Mr. Gupta alleged that AAP does not leave a chance

to humiliate Poorvanchalis and the BJP will celebrate Chhath keeping in mind the COVID-19 guidelines. "The BJP demands the Kejriwal government to write a letter to the DDMA seeking permission to celebrate Chhath," Mr. Gupta said.

Reacting to the BJP's allegations, AAP's spokesperson said: "The health and lives of people are most important to us. We feel sad that the BJP is playing dirty politics over it. The party has no concern for the lives of the people."

# NTPC supplying only half of agreed electricity, says Minister

'Power crisis in country, Centre should consider it a problem'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

NTPC Limited is supplying only half the committed quota of electricity to Delhi, according to authorities.

"There is a power crisis in the country and the Central government should consider it a problem. Only then can its solution be found," said Delhi Power Minister Satyendar Jain on Monday.

The Minister said the Delhi government has most of its power purchase agree-

ments with NTPC but it has cut power production at its plants by 50%.

"According to the agreement, 85% of the time in a year NTPC has to provide complete power supply and 15% of the time it can go up to 55%. But this cannot be done for all the plants at the same time. Usually, NTPC gives about 4,000 MW of electricity to Delhi, but now it is not able to supply even half of it," Mr. Jain said.

The Minister said if there

is no power crisis, as the Central government is claiming, then why are there power cuts across the country. "Why did Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath write a letter to the Centre?" he asked.

"The situation is very critical. Several Chief Ministers have written to the Centre about it. All are trying together to improve the situation," Mr. Kejriwal said on Monday, according to agency reports.

# 1,900 water conservation structures built in Gurugram

Initiative under 'Catch The Rain' plan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

Water conservation and rainwater harvesting structures have been constructed at 1,900 places and 68 groundwater wells have been revived across Gurugram district under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan's "Catch The Rain" programme.

It was revealed by Deputy Commissioner Yash Garg during a review meeting through videoconferencing, chaired by Devender Singh, Additional Chief Secretary,

Irrigation and Water Resources Department. Dr. Garg said as many as 2,113 places were identified for construction and the work was completed at 1,900 places. Work for modernisation of water tanks and other traditional waterbodies was completed at 18 of the 21 places identified.

Similarly, 68 groundwater wells were revived, 35 water-sheds developed, and more than five lakh saplings planted as part of the scheme to conserve rainwater.

# 'Govt. notice will make DTC contract workers jobless'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Monday said that thousands of DTC and cluster buses' contract workers will be unemployed as the city government has issued a notice regarding optimal utilisation of employees.

"The contract employees working with the DTC are being removed from their jobs. A notice has been issued to terminate the services of about 6,000 contract employees working in cluster buses," Mr. Bidhuri said.

He said the BJP will stand with these workers and if their jobs are not restored, they will support them in all agitations.

# One held for killing visually impaired man

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing a visually impaired man after throwing a stone at him in Outer Delhi's Sultanpuri, the police said on Monday.

DCP (Outer) Parvinder Singh said that the accused has been identified as Imran, a carpenter who is a drug addict.

The police said that on October 6, information was received that a person threw a stone at a visually impaired person. Shyam, who used to run a kiosk, was rushed to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries.

It was revealed that Imran collided with Shyam and fell on the road. He got furious, picked up a stone and hit Shyam.

## APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR CELEBRATION OF MAHARISHI VALMIKI JAYANTI

Government of NCT of Delhi is inviting applications for celebration of Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti on 20-10-2021 under "Scheme for Celebration of Birth/Death Anniversary of Eminent personalities".

Government of NCT of Delhi will provide assistance through empanelled agencies to the Organizations desiring to celebrate the event in the form of arrangement for tentage, sound, system, lighting, banners, chairs etc.

**Eligibility:-** NGOs / Organizations involved in social activities are eligible for the assistance.

**Procedure for applying:**

The Organizations desiring to avail the assistance may submit their application duly recommended by area MLA submitted by the NGOs/Organization to the Department for the Welfare of SC/ST/OBC, GNCT of Delhi, B Block, 2nd floor, Vikas Bhawan, I.P.Estate, New Delhi-02, by 14-10-2021 positively. Applications received thereafter will not be considered.

Selected NGOs/ Organizations have to provide photographs of the event organized by them and abide by stipulations of the department for proper organization of the event. Organizers will also be required to submit a declaration to the effect that Govt. guidelines/SOP applicable for organizing religious/cultural functions will be followed scrupulously to prevent spread of Covid-19.

**Note:-The celebration of Valmiki Jayanti on 20-10-2021 is subject to the existing DDMA Guidelines related to prevent spread of Covid-19 pandemic and modifications, if any, in existing Guidelines. The assistance will be provided to only those organizations who will be able to produce the necessary permission as per DDMA guidelines from the concerned District Magistrate and other concerned agencies.**

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Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/EST-E-1529/01/2020-(VOL-4) 17015 Dt :- 05.10.2021

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Value of Work (Approx.)	Period of Completion
1.	"Improvement of Bituminous Road at Chhatabar Industrial Area, Bhubaneswar (1500.00 mtr. Length)"	₹ 164.11 lakh	03 (Three) Calendar Months

**L.Other details**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4

Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar-751022, Bid ID.No. PC-EST-E-25/2021-22, 17.00 Hours of 18.10.2021, 17.00 Hours of 02.11.2021

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in). Corrigendum or addendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal [www.tenderodisha.gov.in](http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in) as well as IDCO website [www.idco.in](http://www.idco.in).

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar  
CAD-1455: OIPR-14003/11/0077/2122

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Notification No.9363/OSMCL/2021 Date : 08.10.2021

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE LOP REQUIREMENT OF THE SRI JAGANNATH MC&H, PURI**

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipments as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive GST(Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2021-22/EQP-SJP/08	Supply & installation Equipment for the LOP Requirement of The Sri Jagannath MC&H, Puri.	5,600/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	08.10.2021, 5 PM
2.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time 21.10.2021, 3 PM Start Date & Time 03.11.2021, 5 PM
3.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	06.11.2021, 11:00 AM
4.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: [www.osmcl.nic.in](http://www.osmcl.nic.in) and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha  
CAD-1461 OIPR-10112/11/0050/2122

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Notification No.9382/OSMCL/2021 Date : 11.10.2021

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF MOBILE BLOOD DONATION VAN (MBDV): BASE VEHICLE & FABRICATION**

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipments as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2021-22/EQP-MBDV/09	Supply of Mobile Blood Donation Van (MBDV) (Base Vehicle & Fabrication)	5,600/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	11.10.2021, 5 PM
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid query submission through e-mail	On or Before 18.10.2021, 1 PM E-mail : <a href="mailto:proc.osmcl.od@nic.in">proc.osmcl.od@nic.in</a>
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time 22.10.2021, 3 PM End Date & Time 05.11.2021, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	08.11.2021, 3 PM
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the Technically qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: [www.osmcl.nic.in](http://www.osmcl.nic.in) and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

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**Odisha hikes contractual workers' salary**  
SATYASUNDR BARIK BHUBANESWAR  
The Odisha government on Monday decided to enhance monthly remuneration of all contractual employees in the government sector and bring them under purview of medical reimbursement scheme. The Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved the proposal of amending the Contractual Appointment Rules 2013 and increasing the remuneration by 50%. Henceforth, they will be treated as 'initial appointee' instead of 'contractual employee'. The decision assumes significance with the panchayat and civic body polls likely to be held early next year. "As per the existing rule, the service of all the contractual employees is regularised after six years. Now, from day one, they will get 50% higher salary than that of present level," said Pratap Jena, Law Minister. Mr. Jena said, "These initial appointees can get the medical expenses reimbursed like regular government employees." In another important decision, the State government has increased its contribution towards national pension scheme from 10% to 14% in respect of the employees covered under NPS. This decision will come into effect retrospectively from April 1, 2019.

**RLD chief Jayant assures protection to minorities**  
"Those who chose to stay in India being asked to prove nationality"  
ANUJ KUMAR GHAZIABAD  
To mark the birth anniversary of Jayaprakash Narayan, Rashtriya Lok Dal president Jayant Singh on Monday promised to implement a 'Sarvodaya Yojna' if people voted the party to power in the upcoming Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh. Since last week, Mr. Singh has been sharing features of the party's election manifesto to that will be formally released on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31. Continuing with his bid to reach all sections of society, Mr. Singh at public meetings in Muzaffarnagar and Amroha said the party's election manifesto will guarantee protection to the minorities like all sections of society. "These days those who chose to stay in India after 1947 are being asked to prove their nationality," he remarked. Mr. Singh said a scholarship scheme would be launched for the students of the SC/ST and the OBC communities who get admission in top 500 universities of the world and promised an encouragement sum of ₹1 lakh for those seeking inter-caste marriage. "We will also bring an entrepreneur fund of ₹2,500 crore for SC/ST and physically handicapped youth with business aptitude to reduce economic disparity," he said. He assured financial powers to the Panchayati Raj Institutions as envisaged in the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution and promised to establish a fund of ₹2,500 crore for agriculture start-ups. "Vote to seek revenge" Addressing the farmers, Mr. Singh, who plans to participate in the last rites of the deceased in the Lakhimpur violence, said nobody thought that "a government chosen by you would not only ignore you but will also target you". "This government would try to make you forget the Lakhimpur violence but you have to remember the names who lost their lives," he said. Referring to the local leadership, he added, "And ask those who have gone into hiding where were they when the farmers were being mowed down. Seek revenge through your vote," he said, describing his party as a *fauj* (army) of farmers that will work for their betterment. Mixing the personal with the political, Mr. Singh said COVID-19 left a trail of sorrow in families across the region. "I lost my father, you lost a leader. But at that time, a section of people was having fun. According to an international magazine, the income of some corporates doubled." Taking on the BJP government at the Centre and the State, Mr. Singh said, "One is remote-controlled by the corporates, the other is out of control." In the season of appropriating icons, Mr. Singh is also not limiting himself to the legacy of his grandfather Chaudhary Charan Singh. Last week, he invoked BSP founder Kanshi Ram and promised to introduce a scheme in his name for the urban workers. Mr. Singh reminded how both Narayan and Charan Singh were followers of Mahatma Gandhi. It is significant because Charan Singh's supporters often held the anti-Emergency crusader responsible for 'decommunalising' Jan Sangh members and picking Morarji Desai over Charan Singh as the first non-Congress Prime Minister.

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**Dalit woman gang-raped in U.P.'s Jewar; one arrested**  
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NOIDA  
A middle-aged Dalit woman was allegedly gang-raped at gunpoint in Uttar Pradesh's Jewar area near Noida, police officers said on Monday, as the Opposition parties, including the BSP and the Congress, demanded action against the culprits. One of the four accused has been arrested over the Sunday morning incident even as multiple police teams were formed and surveillance teams, along with dog squads, deployed, the officers said. The key accused is absconding. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Women and Child Safety) Vrinda Shukla said, "Both are from the same village and known to each other." The key accused, a drug-addict, dragged the woman and forced himself on her, according to Ms. Shukla, even as local officials said the woman was raped at gunpoint.

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The tender specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website, www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, https://tenders.gov.in/nicgeplapp at free of cost. Tender will be opened through the NIC portal. DIPR/2910/Tender/2021 CHIEF ENGINEER/MECHANICAL/COAL

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Annex Building of SH & FW, Nayapalli, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar-751012  
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**Request for Proposal (RFP) through online for Operation & Management of Urban Primary Health Centers in partnership mode under NHM (Re-tender)**  
Odisha State Health & Family Welfare Society invites online application as per the prescribed RFP document from credible entities registered under Society Registration Act/ Indian Trust Act/ Company Act/ Institutions like Medical Colleges/Hospitals run under Govt./ Public Sector/Pvt. Sector for operation & management of some Urban Primary Health Centers in partnership mode.  
The eligibility criteria and detailed requirements for "Operation & Management of UPHC" are set forth in the RFP document which can be downloaded along with user manual for online application from the website: www.nhmodisha.gov.in. Interested bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria may submit their online application & required documents as set forth in this RFP. The bidders have to submit EMD only in a sealed envelope through Speed post/Registered post/Courier only clearly super scribing the name of the UPHC applied for management on the envelope to the CDM&PHO of the applied district on or before the last date for submission of online application mentioned in the RFP.  
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IN BRIEF



Voice sample of K. Surendran collected

KOCHI The Crime Branch unit from Wayanad on Monday collected voice samples of BJP Kerala president K. Surendran and Janadhipathya Rashtriya Sabha leader Praseetha Azhikode. Mr. Surendran allegedly paid a bribe of ₹35 lakh to JRS leader C.K. Janu to contest as the NDA candidate in Wayanad in the last election.

Students will write only 6 papers in Class X exam

HYDERABAD The Telangana Government on Monday issued orders restricting Class X board exams this year to six papers representing as many subjects against 11 papers in the past. The students will be required to appear for only one paper per subject.

# Actor Nedumudi Venu is no more

Essaying an array of unforgettable roles, he held sway across Malayalam cinema for over four decades

S.R. PRAVEEN  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Nedumudi Venu, one of Malayalam cinema's most versatile character actors, passed away here on Monday afternoon. He was 73. He was admitted to a private hospital a few days ago following liver-related ailments.

In a career spanning more than four decades and over 500 films, Venu portrayed a wide range of characters that showed his histrionic prowess. After proving his mettle on the stage, being a member of Kavalam Narayana Panicker's drama troupe, he made his film debut with G. Aravindan's *Thambu* in 1978. He won the national award for the best supporting actor in 1990 and a special mention in 2003, besides six State awards.

Venu has been part of some of the most popular films to have been made here.

Some films which he recently completed, including *Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea*, *Aarattu*, and *Puzhu*, are yet to be released in the theatres.

He had acted in several Tamil movies, the notable ones being *Indian*, *Anniyan*, *Silambattam* and the recent *Sarvam Thaala Mayam*.

Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, in his condolence message, said Venu was one of the finest actors in Malayalam and Indian cinema. His profound knowledge of traditional art forms and Indian style of acting reflected in his unique, endearing performances.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Venu found a place in the hearts of the people playing a variety of characters and through his folk songs. His passing was an irreparable loss to the State's cultural sphere, he said.

Leader of the Opposition



Nedumudi Venu

V.D. Satheesan said Venu was a perfect actor who proved himself in acting as well as in percussion arts and in drama.

Venu's body will be kept for public viewing at the Ayyankali Hall in the capital from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday. The cremation, with State honours, will be held at the Shantikavdom electric crematorium in Thycad at 2 p.m.

In one of the memorable

scenes from the 1987 film *Sarvakalashala*, college student Lal, played by Mohanlal, tells the free-spirited poet Siddhan Aashan, played by Venu: "If Aashan leaves from here, my beat would become like that of a dead body. I want that other beat, the rhythm of life." The scene leads into Aashan's rendition of *Athiru Kaakkum Malayonnu Thudthein* Venu's own folksy voice.

Breaking boundaries

That scene perhaps gives a hint of what Nedumudi Venu was to Malayalam cinema, someone with a deep link to its cultural ethos, its traditional art forms and literature, someone who imbibed the rhythm of life in Kerala's rice bowl Kuttanad and brought that sense of rhythm into his performances, which ranged from absurdly comical to deeply moving.

The actor often managed to break the boundaries of the classification of 'character actor', under which he was bracketed in.

There is not one quintessential Nedumudi Venu role, for, in his heydays, he was unrecognisable from one role to the next - a lecherous, petty thief in one and a kind priest or musician in another.

Born the youngest of five sons of P.K. Kesavan Pillai and Kunjikutti Amma in Alappuzha district's Nedumudi, a backward village that he made famous, Venu took to acting quite early, scripting and acting in plays during his school days at the NSS School in Nedumudi and St. Mary's Higher Secondary School in Champakkulam.

During his days at S.D. College in Alappuzha, he teamed up with his classmate and filmmaker Fazil for drama and mimicry performances.

# Cases lodged for 'hurting' Hindu sentiments in M.P.

Priests drop demand for barring women

ANUP DUTTA  
BHOPAL

The Ujjain and Indore police in Madhya Pradesh have lodged cases against a woman and five persons respectively for allegedly hurting Hindu sentiments.

Priests enraged over a video shot on the Mahakaleswar temple premises in Ujjain demanded that the entry of women be stopped. The State's Home Minister asked the SP to lodge an FIR against the woman on Monday. The priests dropped their demand after the registration of the FIR.

In the second incident, cases against four non-Hindu youth and the organiser of a *garba* event were lodged in Indore on Sunday night after members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal alleged that the event promoted "anti-Hindu activities".

The woman at the centre of the Ujjain controversy had posted the video she shot on Instagram, but took it down and issued a video statement apologising for her action which she said was not liked by priests and certain outfits.

Moolchand Junwal, assistant administrator of the Mahakaleswar temple, told media persons earlier on Monday that the priests lodged a complaint with the

Ujjain administration demanding action against the woman and seeking that women be disallowed entry into the temple henceforth.

"Stern action will be taken against people for releasing videos shot at religious places that hurt sentiments. In the context of a video released by a woman shot at Ujjain's Mahakaleswar temple, I have asked the Ujjain Superintendent of Police to lodge an FIR against the woman," tweeted Home Minister Narottam Mishra.

Garba event halted

In Indore, members of the VHP and Bajrang Dal created a ruckus during a *garba* event on Sunday alleging that it was promoting "love jihad", a term used by right-wing outfits to describe inter-faith marriages involving Muslim men and Hindu women. They stopped the event at Oxford College in the town's Gandhi Nagar area insisting that participation of people from other religions is not acceptable at a Hindu event. The Gandhi Nagar police lodged an FIR against four persons and the organiser of the event, an official said.

The State's communally sensitive Malwa region has reported several incidents triggered by Hindu and Muslim radical groups in the past.

# Man who used cobra to kill wife found guilty

Quantum of punishment to be announced tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER  
KOLLAM

The Kollam additional sessions court on Monday found Sooraj guilty of murdering his wife Uthra using a cobra. The quantum of punishment will be pronounced on Wednesday.

Judge M. Manoj pronounced the verdict that found Sooraj guilty under Sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 328 (causing hurt by means of poison) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence)



Brutal crime: Sooraj, accused in the Uthra murder case, being brought to the court in Kollam on Monday. ■ C. SURESHKUMAR

of the IPC. Despite heavy rain, the court and its premises saw a huge crowd waiting for the verdict in the sensational case.

Sooraj was brought to the court that was clogged with lawyers, media and pu-

blic around noon. Sooraj remained impassive during the proceedings and when the chargesheet was read, he said he had nothing to say.

Citing the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in Sushil Murmu vs State of Jharkhand (2004), Special Pu-

blic Prosecutor G. Mohanraj argued that the brutal and monstrous nature of the case merited death sentence.

Uthra's family said they were grateful to the investigation team and prosecution.

Sooraj had used a cobra to murder his wife and it was his second attempt that took the 25-year-old woman's life. Uthra's body was found on May 7, 2020 at her home in Anchal. She had survived an earlier viper bite. Her husband had paid ₹10,000 for the snakes to a handler, who later turned approver. The investigation team had conducted a post-mortem of the snake to confirm that the DNA of the same snake was found in the jar in which Sooraj had kept the cobra.

# Did not intend to single out women: Minister

Sudhakar draws flak for his remarks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

A day after drawing criticism for his remarks that many modern Indian women wanted to stay single and were not willing to bear children even after marriage, Karnataka Health Minister K. Sudhakar has clarified that he did not mean to single out women.

The Minister, who had made the remarks at the World Mental Health Day programme in the city on Sunday, has now claimed that through his address he intended to send across the message on how the Indian family value system can ad-

dress mental health issues.

"It is unfortunate that a small part of my speech has been taken out of context."

"My statement is based on a survey. The findings of YouGov-Mint-CPR Millennial Survey show that among millennials, 19% are not interested in either children or marriage. Another 8% want children but are not interested in marriage. Among post-millennials (or Gen Z adults), 23% are not interested in either children or marriage. There are very little gender-wise differences in these trends. It is applicable to both boys and girls," he said.

# Godavari river board meets to collect info on projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

A meeting of the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) on implementation of the board purview, scheduled from October 14 as

per a gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, was held here on Monday to collect the information about the Godavari Basin projects in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

**ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILWAY LINES OF THE SECTIONS RANGIYA**  
Tender Notice No: Dy.CEE/CON/RE/MLG/14/2021, Date: 07-10-2021; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works. Tender No. : EL-CON-NFR-EPC-14-RE-RT2. Name of Work: Electrification of Railway Lines of the sections Rangiya (Excl.) - Murkongselek including branch lines of Rangipara North (Excl.) - Dekargaon, Balipara(Excl.) - Bhalukpong, Hamuty(Excl.) - Nahatagan, Sripani - Dhamalgaon(Excl.), Furkating Jn. (Excl.) to Mariani Jn. (Excl.) and Tinsukia to Dangri Section including branch line of Makum Jn. to Tirap, Northeast Frontier Railway RKM / TKM - 733.35 / 947.59 on EPC mode. Tender Value : ₹ 684.76,04,000/-; Date and Time of Submission of tender at 14:30 hrs. on 05-11-2021. Physical Submission of Document mentioned in RFP upto 16:00 hrs. on 12-11-2021. Date and Time of Opening of tender at 15:30 hrs. on 15-11-2021. For details please visit in website www Ireps.gov.in  
Dy. CEE/CON/RE/HQ, Maligaon  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
Construction Organization  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**  
General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Divya Jain D/o Lt. Sh. Rajesh Jain R/o H. No. 101, 2nd Floor, Gali N0.9A, Kishan Kunj extension, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi Aged- 21 Years has been reported missing since 21.07.2021 at 9:20 AM from her house vide FIR No. 404/21 U/S 365 IPC Dated 29.07.2021 registered at Police Station Laxmi Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-  
Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'3", Face: Long, Built: Thin, Hair: Long & black, ID: Cut mark on eyebrow, Wearing: Green coloured suit, blue coloured jeans and slipper in feet.  
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Sd/-  
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-22542992, 22441741  
DP/644/ED/2021 Mob.: 8750870622

**SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON**  
General public is hereby informed that one person namely Sikander Ram, S/o Raghunath, R/o Plot No. B-263-B, Khasra No. 44/21 Ground Floor Block-B, Bhagya Vihar, Prem Nagar, Delhi. Age 60 years, Height 5'8", Complexion Shallow, Face Oval, Wearing Pink colour full baju shirt, brown colour pant, white colour gamchha and blue chappal in feet has been missing since 16.09.2021 from the area of PS Prem Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this person, but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 51-A dated 26.09.2021 has been lodged at PS Prem Nagar, Delhi.  
Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO  
Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) PS: Prem Nagar, Delhi  
Fax: 011-23011334 Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218 Ph. 011-25489080  
DP/1120/RD/2021

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE FOR PROVISION OF IMPROVEMENT OF DRAIN  
Srl. No. (1) E-Tender No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-103-21-22. Date : 01.10.2021  
Work : Provision of improvement of drain under the jurisdiction of Assistant divisional Engineer/Manendragarh.  
Tender Value (In Rs.) : ₹ 2,79,03,363/- EMD (In Rs.) : ₹ 00,00/- Completion Period : 12 Months.  
Start Date of Submission of Tender: From 11.00 hrs. on 11-10-2021. Last Date of Submission of Tender: Upto 11.00 hrs. on 25-10-2021.  
The complete information of above e-Tender Notices is available over website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders.  
Div. Tender Manager (Engg.)  
CPR/10/199 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur.  
South East Central Railway @secrail

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**  
General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Unknown D/o Unknown R/o Unknown has been found abandoned near Sheila Cinema, Nabi Karim, Delhi. The girl has been admitted to CHG-3rd, Nirmal Chaya, Hari Nagar, Delhi. In this regard, a DD No. 54-A, dated 20.10.2020 has been lodged at PS Nabi Karim, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:  
Name: Unknown, Gender: Female, Age: 3 years, Height: 2', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Pink-yellow colour frock and bare foot.  
If anyone has any information/clue about this girl, kindly inform to the following.  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO  
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641 PS: Nabi Karim, Delhi.  
Fax : 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-23521081  
DP/1022/CD/2021

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
"NOTICE INVITING TENDERS"  
Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Bilaspur Division No. I, HP-PWD, Bilaspur, for the following works from the registered contractors of appropriate class enlisted in HP-PWD, whose registration stood renewed as per the revised instructions and also registered dealers under the Himachal Pradesh, General Sales Tax Act. 1968. The important dates of the tenders are as under  
Date of application 22/10/2021  
Date of sale of tender form 23/10/2021  
Date of opening of tender. 25/10/2021  
The tenders shall be received up to 10.30 A.M. on 25/10/2021 and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives, who may like to be present. The tender forms can be had from this office against cash payment as shown below (Non-refundable) during the working hours on 23/10/2021.  
The Earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/Deposit at call/ Time Deposit Account in any of the Post-Office/Nationalised Bank in H.P. duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Bilaspur Division No. I, HP-PWD, Bilaspur must accompany with the each application. Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will simultaneously be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days. The XEN reserve the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.  
Sr. No. Name of Work Estimated Cost (in Rs.) Earnest Money (in Rs.) Cost of Tender form (in Rs.) Time  
1 2 3 4 5 6  
1. Construction of link road Mandrighat to Kuhghat via Harizan Basti Lussan Km. 0/0 to 6/500. (SH- 5/7 metre wide Formation cutting in Km. 4/500 to 4/810 and R/wall at RD. 4/810 to 4/840). 4,98,500/- 10,000/- 350/- Three months  
2. Construction of link road Mandrighat to Kuhghat via Harizan Basti Lussan Km. 0/0 to 6/500. (SH- 5/7 metre wide Formation cutting in Km. 4/810 to 5/180 and R/wall at RD. 4/840 to 4/870). 4,95,000/- 10,000/- 350/- Three months  
3. Construction of link road Mandrighat to Kuhghat via Harizan Basti Lussan Km. 0/0 to 6/500. (SH- 5/7 metre wide Formation cutting in Km. 4/870 to 5/500 and R/wall at RD. 4/870 to 4/900). 4,99,100/- 10,400/- 350/- Three months  
4. Restoration of rain damages on Chandigarh Mandi Manali NH-154 road Km. 127/0 to 158/750. (SH- C/o R/wall at RD. 141/985 to 142/0, 142/008 to 142/016). 2,78,299/- 5600/- 350/- Three months  
5. C/o Talyana Hawani Churari road Km. 0/0 to 4/0. (SH- C/o R/wall at RD. 1/429 to 1/143 and B/wall at RD. 0/500 to 0/510, 1/102 to 1/119and 1/425 to 1/440) (Under SCSP). 4,22,564 8500/- 350/- One month  
TERMS & CONDITIONS:-  
1. The contractors should have executed two similar type of works 1/3 of each amount put to tender or single work of amount equal to the amount put to tender within last 3 years.  
2. The list of similar type of work executed & work done performance certificate issued by the concerned Executive Engineer should be accompanied with application.  
3. The Earnest money should be accompanied with application. Application without earnest money will be rejected.  
4. The photo copy of PAN Number/GST Number should be attached with the application otherwise tender form will not be issued.  
5. The cost of tender form in prescribed form (Non-refundable) in form of cash in favour of Executive Engineer, Bilaspur Division No. I, HP-PWD, Bilaspur.  
6. Copy of contractor registration should be attached with the application.  
7. The copy of EPF No. should be attached with the application otherwise tender form will not be issued.  
...HIM SUCHNA AND JAN SAMPARK HP / 4467/21-22

P.W. Division Govt. Resolution No. CAT-2017/CR-8/Bldg-2 Date 22 October, 2018 PRAPATRA - 1  
**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**  
Office Of The Executive Engineer  
Address Public Works Division No. 1. Civil Line Chandrapur- 442401  
E-Mail Address - [chandrapur1.ee@mahapwd.com](mailto:chandrapur1.ee@mahapwd.com) Phone No - 07172-250245  
**E-Tender Notice No. 20/B1 year 2021-22**  
Executive Engineer Public Works Division No. 1 Chandrapur (Tel. No. 07172-250245) invites e-Tenders in "B1 - Percent Rate" Form. Download detail tender papers from the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders. Conditional Tenders will not be accepted  
Sr. No Name of Work Estimated cost In Rs. Laks  
1 Reconstruction of Bridge with Approaches on Kondha Pati Majri Warora Dahegaon Dongargaon to MDR-5 Join MDR-9 Road at ch 41/00 near Dahegaon Village in Taluka Warora District Chandrapur Job No CRIF-MAH-2020-21-16 Dt 15.04.2021 409.92  
2 Reconstruction of Minor Bridge at km 20/690 on Rajura Chanakha Dhanora Annur Antergaon to State Border MDR-16 in Taluka Rajura District Chandrapur Job No CRIF-MAH-2020-21- 42 Dt 15.04.2021 183.53  
Download Period of Online Tender Online Time Table  
All Details are Display on  
1. <https://mahapwd.com>  
2. <https://mahatenders.gov.in>  
(If any change in tender notice then all changes are shown in above website only )  
3. Tender Notice board  
Rules  
1. The EMD will be paid via online (RTGS / NEFT) mode only, it should be ensured that the EMD is paid online through the bidders account only.  
2. These works include the Post Qualification Criteria.  
3. Above works PWD Registration is Not Required. Any competent contractor can be participate in Tender.  
4. Any International Contractor its sub-company in India it can be participate in Tender.  
5. To participate in e.tenders the contractors should register themselves for Class-III digital signature and at the above website for e.tenders.  
6. Online time table is final.  
Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Public Works Division No. 1  
Chandrapur  
DGIPR/2021/2022/2297

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## Dangerous deadlock

Past border agreements are in disarray as the Line of Actual Control sees heavy deployment

As winter arrives on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the latest round of talks – the thirteenth – between India and China ended with no resolution in sight, leaving tens of thousands of soldiers facing the prospect of another harsh cold season on the heights of Eastern Ladakh. The contrasting statements sharply underlined the deadlock. The Indian Army's statement on Monday morning noted that while India made "constructive suggestions" for resolving the remaining areas, the Chinese side "was not agreeable and also could not provide any forward-looking proposals". A Chinese statement on Sunday night accused India of making "unreasonable and unrealistic demands". There was no joint statement, as in the last round in August, when agreement was reached to disengage at Gogra. The only surprise is that the discord is now fully out in the open, in contrast to the anodyne declarations of both sides in August to "enhance trust" and "expeditiously resolve" issues that have already dragged on for more than one year. In fact, recent events on the boundary offered a portent that all was not well.

First, reports citing Indian official sources, put out two days before Sunday's talks, revealed a face-off in the Tawang Sector in Arunachal Pradesh; later, Chinese soldiers had been detained for a few hours. The reports sparked an angry reaction in China, where the military apparently leaked on social media images from last year purportedly showing injured Indian soldiers detained by China in the Galwan Valley. Statements from the Chinese Foreign Ministry, accusing India of following a "forward policy" in an explicit invocation of 1962, have vitiated the atmosphere. That China put out a statement on Sunday night barely hours after the talks concluded – a departure from normal practice in a country where statements usually are carefully vetted – suggests the PLA had no real intention to seek a resolution. This leaves the LAC in a perilous situation. Not only are several hotspots unresolved – the latest round was to discuss Hot Springs, while disputes remain over Demchok and Dopsang – the Corps Commanders were also set to work out new protocols for patrolling. Speaking this weekend, Indian Army Chief General M.M. Naravane noted a large-scale infrastructure build-up on the Chinese side, and said as Chinese troops were there to stay, Indian troops will be there to stay too. Ladakh and the western sector may remain the focus of tensions, but as recent flare-ups in Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh show, the middle and eastern sectors are hardly tranquil. Past border agreements are in disarray in the wake of China's unprecedented amassing of troops, while around 50,000 troops of each side remain deployed in forward areas, all of which make for a dangerous mix as winter falls on the Himalayas.

## Limits to accommodation

RBI's failure to rein in inflation will hurt savers and risk derailing a consumption-led revival

The RBI's latest monetary policy statement and accompanying actions reflect the dilemma confronting monetary authorities. While the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee voted unanimously to keep benchmark interest rates unchanged as part of its efforts to support growth as the economy recovers, one of the six members on the MPC demurred yet again and voted against continuing with an accommodative stance for 'as long as necessary'. Prof. Jayanth Varma had at the last meeting in August flagged the risks that prolonged monetary accommodation posed to the inflation outlook by 'stimulating asset price inflation' even as he posited that its impact in 'mitigating the distress in the economy' was arguably far more marginal. The MPC's own current inflation outlook is a mixed bag. The projection for average inflation for the full fiscal year has been cut by 40 basis points to 5.3% even as the committee stresses that with core inflation 'persisting at an elevated level', the Centre and States would need to further ameliorate supply side and cost pressures, including through calibrated cuts in indirect taxes on petrol and diesel so as to address the issue of 'very high' pump prices. In an acknowledgment of the difficulty it faces in containing price pressures even as it keeps interest rates at growth-supportive lows, the monetary panel reiterated its plea for fiscal authorities to step in and help contain inflationary pressures, especially the pass-through impact of elevated transportation costs.

Governor Shaktikanta Das tacitly conceded that the time had come to wind down the pandemic-era liquidity support as he announced the suspension of the G-SAP bond buying programme and simultaneously outlined measures to drain out surplus liquidity from the banking system. He cited the seemingly 'strengthening' growth impulses to justify the RBI's decision. Here again, the MPC's prognostication on growth is filled with uncertainties and caveats. Contact intensive services, which contribute about two-fifths to economic output and were among the worst hit by the COVID restrictions, still considerably lag their pre-pandemic levels; the manufacturing sector is still nowhere near supporting a rebound in investment demand; and, most crucially, the external environment that has so far been a major tailwind – through capital inflows and the demand for the country's goods and services – is turning more uncertain. With growing signs that some major advanced economies are gearing for an imminent normalisation of monetary policy, the elbow room for the RBI to stay accommodative is narrowing sharply. As Prof. Varma had noted in his dissent, monetary authorities face the danger of failing to fulfil the MPC's primary mandate of anchoring inflation expectations firmly around the 4% target. A failure that would hurt savers the most and risks derailing a consumption-led revival.

# The 'yes or a no' the Court must ask about Pegasus

A record of the hearings indicates that the judiciary has allowed the Government to get away with much of its evasion



GAUTAM BHATIA

In July this year, a global coalition of media organisations revealed that a mobile phone spyware – Pegasus – was being used in a number of countries to surveil journalists, activists, dissidents, and political leaders. Manufactured by an Israeli cyber-arms firm called the NSO Group, Pegasus is a highly invasive malware that once installed on an individual's phone, can collect and transmit data, track activities such as browsing history, and control functionalities such as the phone camera. The NSO Group claims that its only clients are vetted governments. The Pegasus revelations thus indicated the possibility of serious governmental abuse.

### Yet another episode

The revelations further showed that around 50,000 mobile phone numbers had been potentially infected by the spyware. Many of these numbers were Indian, and belonged to journalists, activists, and politicians. This was not the first time that such a thing had come to light. India featured on a list of Pegasus-using countries as early as in 2018. In 2019, it was found that a number of activists including some of the accused in the infamous Bhima Koregaon case had been potentially spied upon, and their mobile phones compromised. Later the same year, WhatsApp notified the Indian government of a Pegasus-related security breach, with as many as 121 Indian citizens being targeted. The July 2021 revelations, thus, were not new, but only the most recent and most extensive accounts of mili-

tary-grade surveillance being carried out upon Indians.

### A track of stonewalling

In the aftermath of the Pegasus revelations, certain countries such as France and Morocco ordered immediate investigations. In India, however, the story has been one of continuous official stonewalling. In October 2019, Right to Information requests about whether the Indian government had purchased the Pegasus software were met with a "no information available" response. Parliamentarians put questions to the Government in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, where, once again, no response on the purchase or use of Pegasus was forthcoming. The Government continued to maintain this stance in response to various Parliamentary questions put to it through 2020 and 2021, and even after the 2021 revelations, including the effective quashing of a Parliamentary Committee inquiry into the issue, with ruling party politicians disabling it from functioning by denying it a quorum.

This history clearly indicates that attempts in Parliament to hold the executive accountable for possible abuse of governmental surveillance powers has been entirely frustrated for more than two years. Under our constitutional scheme, however, there is a third wing of state that exists precisely to address situations where executive abuse and violations of fundamental rights are not being checked by the available mechanisms: the court. Consequently, at the end of July, multiple petitions were filed before the Supreme Court of India, alleging breaches of fundamental rights, and of India's legislative framework dealing with lawful interception of communications.

However, it has now been almost two-and-a-half months since the petitions came to court, with-



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out meaningful action. Between August 5 and September 13, 2021, the Court held six hearings on the case.

### The issues are simple

The issues before the Court were simple: did the Government of India authorise the use of Pegasus upon the individuals whose names had appeared in the list? If it did, was there any justification for the use of such intrusive surveillance upon individuals who, admittedly, were not accused of any wrongdoing? And if it did not, was it not a breach of the Government's constitutional obligations to protect its citizens from the use of military-grade surveillance by rogue actors? It is important to note that the petitions were not some fishing expedition asking the Government to reveal details about its general interception techniques: rather, they were brought to court by individuals who had themselves been affected by Pegasus, and were focused upon accountability: in essence, does the Indian Constitution allow for rampant and unchecked surveillance upon individuals – surveillance that goes far beyond simple interception of communication, and effectively hijacks and individual's mobile phone – with complete impunity?

Nonetheless, throughout the hearings, the Government continued upon its track of evasion: it repeatedly refused to file an affidavit setting out its stance in writing,

until nudged by the Court to do so. The final affidavit that it did file was nothing more than a recapitulation of its evasive stance in Parliament. Furthermore, it continued to resist answering the core questions put to it, on the basis that doing so would undermine "national security". This has, however, been a recent, unfortunate trend: whenever the question of widespread and serious rights violations arises, the Government recites the words "national security" like a mantra, not simply to avoid providing answers, but to hint that even asking the question is somehow illegitimate. In this way, "national security" becomes a cloak for impunity.

### On the court's conduct

Nowhere was this more evident during the course of the Pegasus hearings. If a person whose mobile phone has been hijacked by a military-grade spyware that is only sold to governments, and if the Constitution means anything at all, it means that that person has the right to know why this has been done to him, and at whose behest. And – with the inability of Parliament to hold the executive to account – the only place where the individual can seek answers is the court. This has nothing to do with "national security", and everything to do with whether we are a country governed by the rule of law – where the rule of law applies to both individuals and to the state – or whether we are living under a regime of executive impunity.

Unfortunately, however, a record of the hearings so far indicates that the Court has allowed the Government to get away with much of its evasion. Despite the passage of two and a half months, the Court is yet to pass any consequential orders including, for example, orders directing the Government to provide the information that it has refused to

provide Parliament and to citizens. Furthermore, the Court's conduct has not been limited to inaction. When the State of West Bengal set up a committee to investigate Pegasus, the Court entertained a plea against it – despite having no ground to do so – and by orally expressing its disapproval (without any clear grounds to do so), effectively compelled the State government to halt the investigation. At no point was any legal justification provided for why the Court decided to hear such an irregular plea, or why the State of West Bengal was required to stop investigating breaches of fundamental rights.

### Need for direction

On the last day of hearing, September 13, the Court indicated that it would establish a Committee to look into the matter. However, this puts the cart before the horse: it is unclear why the Court has not yet drawn an adverse inference against the Government for its repeated refusal to answer straightforward questions about potentially abusive surveillance; the setting up of a Committee would make sense after such a finding had been returned. Moreover, the substantial amount of time that has passed since the last order is worrying. In India, we have a long experience of "death by Committee": issues that require urgent attention linger for many months in a Committee, and once public memory has dulled, are given a quiet burial. It is vital that this should not happen in the present case. Thus, a direction by the Court to the Government to answer whether it has been spying on citizens not accused of any offence – a direct yes/no question – and, if the answer is yes, to require it to explain why or face legal consequences – would be a good start.

Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based lawyer

# The next step is a constitutional right to health

Presently, any investment in health care has failed to translate into a sense of security and sanctuary for many Indians



KAILASH SATYARTH

The brevity of human memory is often a blessing and even necessary for our collective healing from suffering. But the lessons we learn from suffering are possibly even more crucial. As our people continue to face individual and collective grief as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic, it is the moral responsibility of our leaders to look ahead and learn the necessary lessons.

### A place for this 'right'

The lesson here is the need for the constitutional 'Right to Health for all'. The pandemic has exposed and aggravated the cracks in our health-care systems, and this is a lesson we cannot afford to ignore and not learn.

In June this year, I called on the Parliament of India to take immediate measures to make necessary amendments to the Constitution to declare health care a Funda-

mental Right. I was reassured with positive responses from parliamentarians across party lines who have supported this call. Now, the time has come to make this a reality for India so our people never have to undergo the suffering that they did.

### Through the eyes of citizens

The primary question raised is: what will a constitutional 'Right to Health' mean for a citizen of India? I will try and explain this through the lens of three categories of citizens: farmers and unorganised workers, women and children.

Farmers are the primary protectors of our fundamental right to life. Yet, the majority remain at a loose end when it comes to their own rights and well-being, and that of their families. Without an anchor during times of severe illness or disease, generations of children of small and landless farmers, and unorganised, migrant and seasonal workers are thrown into bondage and debt by having to pay for medical costs from their limited earnings. Employment benefit schemes do not reach them, and the ones that do are mostly on paper. The implementation of the right to health



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can provide simple, transparent and quality health care to those who are most in need of such care.

Women bear a disproportionate burden of the gaps in our health-care system. The taboos and patriarchal expectations surrounding their health lead to immense avoidable suffering. In addition, social and economic challenges prevent them from freely and openly accessing the little care that is available. A 'Right to Health' would mean that services reach the woman where and when she needs them.

A large number of children who belong to the poorest and most marginalised communities of our country grow up working in hazardous situations be it fields, mines, brick kilns or factories. They are either not enrolled in schools or are not able to attend it due to the pressing financial needs of the fa-

mily – often because of unexpected out-of-pocket medical expenses.

### Making it safer for children

My organisation has rescued over 1,00,000 such children from child labour, bonded labour, and trafficking. When rescued, these children are ridden with complex health impacts of working – primarily tuberculosis, skin diseases, eyesight impairment, and malnutrition, besides the substantial mental health impact. These children have been denied a safety net of early childhood care and protection, the consequences of which are felt for a lifetime. The 'Right to Health' will help transition the children in exploitative conditions into a safer future.

A constitutional 'Right to Health' will transform not only the health and well-being of our people but will act as a leap for the economic and developmental progress of the nation. Presently, any investment in health care fails to translate into a sense of security and sanctuary for the people of India. Instead, the complex and often corrupt means of accessing even existing health care only adds to the suffering instead of al-

leviating it. The vision for Ayushman Bharat will be strengthened with a constitutional 'Right to Health'. The immediate financial security that will come with the constitutional 'Right to Health' will be seen as a measurable impact on family savings, greater investment, and jobs creation on the one hand, and in the long-term emotional, psychological and social security of people.

### As a legacy

The world is taking steps, both big and small, in recovering from the pandemic through foresight in policy and investment. India must not lag behind. The right to free and compulsory education was arguably one of the most valuable legacies of the earlier Government. The true testament of bold leadership lies in its timely, compassionate and courageous decisions for the greater good. A constitutional amendment to introduce the 'Right to Health for India' can be the legacy of this Government.

Kailash Satyarthi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, is an advocate of children's rights. He is also the founder of the Global Campaign for Education and the Laureates and Leaders for Children

## 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.

### Style of governance

It is amusing to find Home Minister Amit Shah heaping adulation on the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, calling him a "better listener" and that he does not take unilateral decisions (Page 1, "Modi not dictatorial, hears all views: Shah", October 11). The reality, sadly, is quite different, and there are numerous examples to prove this. If, as claimed by Mr. Shah Mr. Modi holds extensive discussions before taking decisions, how did the demonetisation exercise – which, doubtless, was the top leader's brainchild – end in such a disaster? Again, if Mr. Modi hears every viewpoint and also "likes criticism", why did his party get enraged by the recent plain speaking of party MP Varun Gandhi over the Lakhimpur Kheri incident? Was it due to his "patient" listening that he did not hold even a single press meet in his seven

years in office? Which democratic norms did the Government honour when it bulldozed the three Farm Bills with its brute majority in Parliament and, even now, is unwilling to make amends? The Home Minister's concept of democracy appears to be unique.

KAMAL LADDDHA,  
Bengaluru

The first page report, with its assertion, is quite startling. Ironically, the Home Minister instead of expressing his concern over the unfortunate incident at Lakhimpur Kheri has preferred to focus on the top leader as a leader of the masses and consensus. His one comment – "Only he [the Prime Minister] could have implemented a decision like demonetisation" – which tries to portray consensus, appears unconvincing. This decision proved to be a grave disaster. Mustering numbers by hook or by crook to be in power is

one thing but touching and winning hearts is a different and extraordinary democratic feat.

P.K. SHARMA,  
Barnala, Punjab

Mr. Shah's observation, "Only he could have implemented a decision like demonetisation", sounds like a backhanded compliment to the Prime Minister. The Freudian slip indicates, in effect, that demonetisation was only the Prime Minister's "unilateral decision". The Home Minister seems to have contradicted himself in the interview.

S. SANJEEVI RAO,  
Puducherry

The Prime Minister is a tall leader and experienced. That people have imposed great trust, not once, but twice in him says a lot. But the issue is not about the Prime Minister, but about the governance of the present Government. Crucial Bills are passed without debate and discussion; parliamentary

functioning is almost non-existent, and there is finger pointing almost always at the Opposition. Demonetisation, monetisation, the merger of banks and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act have been taken without consultation. Why is the farmers' struggle on for so long? Has not the Government been spending much precious time, focusing largely on elections, with only one goal of expansion?

The very fact that the Supreme Court has raised candid observations should open the Government's eyes.

BALASUBRAMANIAM PAVANI,  
Secunderabad

The Home Minister's defence of the Prime Minister's democratic credentials, coming as it does close on the heels of Mr. Modi's own assertion that he values criticism, creates the impression that a conscious bid is on to repair the top leader's image. Is this a response to the subtle

nudges he received during his recent U.S. visit? The Prime Minister needs to initiate concrete steps to restore public confidence in the sanctity of the Constitution and the rule of law. He needs to goad the Chief Ministers of his party to rule their States according to the law of the land without getting blinded by hate.

MANOHAR ALEMETHATH,  
Burlington, Boston, U.S.

The comments are acceptable as the Prime Minister's faith in democracy, optimism in principles, and development of the poor are to be applauded. The changes made by the BJP government so far have all been done for the progress of the country. Mr. Modi's spirit of service is pure.

A.J. RANGARAJAN,  
Chennai

### Nobel Peace Prize

Fact-based journalism is often con-founded with modern day challenges and

To read more letters online, scan the QR code



grave threats from autocratic regimes. The latter have a tendency to attack those who ask questions and reveal their shortcomings and even shoot the messengers of truth. That the fourth estate has been bestowed with the Nobel Peace Prize for 2021 is also a grim reminder of the rising trend of autocratic and divisive forces and the urgent need to curb them.

VJAY SINGH ADHIKARI,  
Nainital, Uttarakhand

### In the IPL 2021 final

The legend of Mahendra Singh Dhoni endures. MSD is not in his prime but the war horse that he is, he demonstrated that the ultimate test of leadership is to lead from the front. His decision to take the risk paid off handsomely. It holds a lesson to life to prove that cricket is an imitation of life and is all about a belief in one's own strength.

H.R. BAPU SATYANARAYANA  
Mysuru



# Protecting India's natural laboratories

Preserving geological heritage is as important as safeguarding biodiversity and cultural heritage



C.P. RAJENDRAN

Like social diversity, India's geodiversity, or variety of the geological and physical elements of nature, is unique. India has tall mountains, deep valleys, sculpted landforms, long-winding coastlines, hot mineral springs, active volcanoes, diverse soil types, mineralised areas, and globally important fossil-bearing sites. It is long known as the world's 'natural laboratory' for geo-scientific learning.

## Lack of geological literacy

Broken loose from a supercontinent 150 million years ago, the Indian landmass, with all its strange-looking plants and animals, drifted northwards all by itself for 100 million years until it settled under the southern margin of the Asian continent. It got entwined with the world's youngest plate boundary. The geological features and landscapes that evolved over billions of years through numerous cycles of tectonic and climate upheavals are recorded in India's rock formations and terrains, and are part of the country's heritage. For example, the Kutch region in Gujarat has dinosaur fossils and is our version of a Jurassic Park. The Tiruchirappalli region of Tamil Nadu, originally a Mesozoic Ocean, is a storehouse of Cretaceous (60 million years ago) marine fossils. To know how physical geography gets transformed into a cultural entity, we need to study the environmental history of the Indus River Valley, one of the cradles of human civilisation. India offers plenty of such examples.

Geo-heritage sites are educational spaces where people find themselves acquiring badly needed geological literacy, especially at a time when India's collective regard for this legacy is abysmal. Indian classrooms view disciplines like environmental science and geology with disdain compared to how they view other 'pure' subjects like physics, biology, and chemistry. This lack of interest in the government and our academic circles towards geological literacy is unfortunate at a time when we face a



An aerial view of the Zhangye National Geopark in the eastern foothills of the Qilian mountains in Gansu Province of China. \*ISTOCK PHOTO

crisis like global warming. As the climate of the future is uncertain, decision-making is difficult. Learning from the geological past, like the warmer intervals during the Miocene Epoch (23 to 5 million years ago), whose climate can be reconstructed using proxies and simulations, may serve as an analogue for future climate. The awareness accrued through educational activities in geo-heritage parks will make it easy for us to memorialise past events of climate change and appreciate the adaptive measures to be followed for survival.

The importance of the shared geological heritage of our planet was first recognised in 1991 at an UNESCO-sponsored event, 'First International Symposium on the Conservation of our Geological Heritage'. The delegates assembled in Digne, France, and endorsed the concept of a shared legacy: "Man and the Earth share a common heritage, of which we and our governments are but the custodians." This declaration foresaw the establishment of geo-parks as sites that commemorate unique geological features and landscapes within their assigned territories; and as spaces that educate the public on geological importance. These sites thus promote geo-tourism that generates revenue and employment.

In the late 1990s, in what may be considered as a continuation of the Digne resolution, UNESCO facilitated efforts to create a formal programme promoting a global network of geo-heritage sites. These were intended to complement the World Heritage Convention and the UNESCO Man

and the Biosphere programme. UNESCO provided guidelines for developing national geo-parks so that they become part of the Global Geoparks Network. Today, there are 169 Global Geoparks across 44 countries.

Countries like Vietnam and Thailand have also implemented laws to conserve their geological and natural heritage. Unfortunately, India does not have any such legislation and policy for conservation. Though the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified 32 sites as National Geological Monuments, there is not a single geo-park in India which is recognised by the UNESCO. This is despite the fact that India is a signatory to the establishment of UNESCO Global Geoparks. The GSI had submitted a draft legislation for geo-heritage conservation to the Ministry of Mines in 2014, but it did not make any impact.

## The development juggernaut

Despite international progress in this field, the concept of geo-conservation has not found much traction in India. Many fossil-bearing sites have been destroyed in the name of development. This indifference — strange as it may seem given the current dispensation's penchant for crying itself hoarse about India's heritage — is going to take a toll on our heritage. The development juggernaut will soon overwhelm almost all our sites of geo-heritage. For example, the high concentration of iridium in the geological section at Anjar, Kutch district, provides evidence for a massive meteoritic impact that caused the extinction of dinosaurs about 65 mil-

lion years ago. This site was destroyed due to the laying of a new rail track in the area. Similarly, a national geological monument exhibiting a unique rock called Nepheline Syenite in Ajmer district of Rajasthan was destroyed in a road-widening project. The Lonar impact crater in Buldhana district of Maharashtra is an important geo-heritage site of international significance. It is under threat of destruction, although conservation work is now in progress under the High Court's supervision.

We are inching towards the disappearance of most of our geological heritage sites. Thanks to unplanned and booming real estate business, many such features have been destroyed. Unregulated stone mining activities have also contributed to this destruction. This situation calls for immediate implementation of sustainable conservation measures such as those formulated for protecting biodiversity. Natural assets, once destroyed, can never be recreated. And if they are uprooted, they lose much of their scientific value.

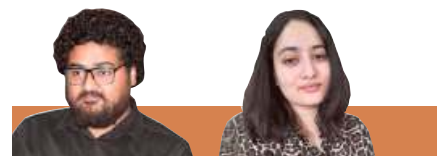
## Geo-conservation legislation

The protection of geo-heritage sites requires legislation. The Biological Diversity Act was implemented in 2002 and now there are 18 notified biosphere reserves in India. Geo-conservation should be a major guiding factor in land-use planning. A progressive legal framework is needed to support such strategies. In 2009, there was a half-hearted attempt to constitute a National Commission for Heritage Sites through a bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha. Though it was eventually referred to the Standing Committee, for some unstated reasons the government backtracked and the bill was withdrawn. In 2019, a group of geologists under the auspices of the Society of Earth Scientists petitioned the Prime Minister and the Ministries concerned about the need for a national conservation policy under the direct supervision of a national body committed to the protection of geo-heritage sites. But the government's apathy continues.

C.P. Rajendran is an adjunct professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, and author of the forthcoming book, 'Earthquakes of the Indian Subcontinent'

# The audacity of regional films

Regional cinema represents India in a much more holistic and meaningful manner than Bollywood



NEHAL AHMED & FAIZA NASIR

For long, Indian cinema has been synonymous with Bollywood. However, the pandemic-induced growth of over-the-top (OTT) platforms has opened up new vistas for audiences to watch and appreciate films from other parts of the country. Bollywood, which is largely influenced by the ebbs and flows of the box office, has often failed to capture the social complexities of Indian society. It is still quite distant from the experiences and sensibilities of the masses. It generally follows an escapist approach, where storytelling becomes a commodity. On the other hand, Malayalam, Assamese, Bengali, Marathi and Tamil cinema, to name a few, frequently depict gender, religious, caste and class disparities.

This is not to say that fantasy, which provides a break from the dreariness of our daily lives, is not an important aspect of cinema. But it is the safe distancing of Hindi cinema from hard-hitting issues such as the atrocities committed against Dalits and Muslims, religious majoritarianism, sexual inclusivity and class barriers that are a major concern.

## Pushing boundaries

The cinematic treatment of Bollywood has been formulaic. Films either derive inspiration from the West or are compelled by the process of globalisation. Over the past few years, Bollywood has churned out many hyper nationalist films, films that misrepresent minority communities, and films that assert a certain culture, thus furthering the majoritarian nation-building project.

On the other hand, regional cinema is constantly pushing boundaries with experimental takes on social and political issues. In recent years, Tamil cinema has revolutionised the art with larger social observations. Filmmakers like Mari Selvaraj, Pa. Ranjith and Vetrimaaran have produced films that explore the issues of the common man. They represent the voice of the subaltern without being apologetic unlike their counterparts in Bollywood. Mari Selvaraj and Pa. Ranjith are known for making films centred around Dalit lives. In the 1970s and '80s, there was a wave of parallel cinema in Bollywood which spoke of the victimisation of Dalits. However, in contemporary Tamil cinema, Dalits are not victims; they are assertive protagonists who actively fight back against upper caste assertion. Through his films *Kabali* and *Kaala* and

most recently *Sarpatta Parambarai*, Pa. Ranjith has brought to us Dalit heroes, who are rare in Indian film history. Mari Selvaraj has established the normalisation of Dalit characters through *Pariyerum Perumal* and *Karnan*. These films further the politics of social justice in subtle ways instead of depicting communities as pitiable beneficiaries of certain policies and lacking in dignity.

Another regional industry which has resonated with the larger Indian audience is the Malayalam industry. Malayalam cinema is known to reflect on contemporary concerns and anxieties. Most Malayalam films have small budgets, but their impact is immense because of their fresh take on common people-centric stories. Jeo Baby's *The Great Indian Kitchen*, for instance, can be considered as one of the biggest disruptors of normative gendered labour and relations. While questioning regressive gendered practices, the filmmaker employs a layered and minimalist approach to drive the message home. On the other hand, Bollywood's approach tends to be loud and sensational, with a greater focus on costume, set design, light, colour, and location than the subject at hand. In Dileesh Pothan's *Maheshinte Prathikaaram*, even the slippers of the character played by Fahad Faasil has an important role to play. Regional films are often replete with metaphors and symbols.

## Politics of majoritarianism

Today, when hyper nationalism is at its peak, Bollywood often acts as a tool in the hands of the majoritarian nation-building project. Many Hindi films use the archaic trope of cultural assertion and continue to vilify a particular community while downplaying structural inequalities in society. This trend can be witnessed in the surge in period dramas and biopics of politicians and sportspersons where characters are overglorified. On the other hand, certain filmmakers in Bengali and Marathi cinema, through their politically heightened content, are challenging polarisation and the threat to India's diversity. Aparna Sen in her 2019 film, *Ghavra Bairay Aaj*, highlights the jingoism prevalent in the political ecosystem. Another important movie is Nagraj Manjule's *Sairat* which treats caste as a political issue.

Regional cinema has woven narratives in a socially conscious manner and has the potential to substantially disrupt class and caste hegemony and majoritarianism. It represents India in a much more holistic and meaningful manner than Bollywood.

Nehal Ahmed is a research scholar of cinema at Jamia Millia Islamia and Faiza Nasir is a lecturer in Political Science

# Tackling the climate crisis

The pressure to speed up mitigation and adaptation is at an all-time high

BHAWNA ANAND

The recently published Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report from Working Group I makes a clarion call for climate action. According to the report, the past decade (2011-2020) was warmer by 1.09°C than the period from 1850 to 1900, and the 1.5°C global warming threshold is likely to be breached soon. The IPCC report warns India against more intense heat waves, heavy monsoons and rise in weather extremes in the future. The Global Climate Risk Index (2021) ranked India the seventh-most affected country by weather extremes. Responses to climate change vary from place to place as there are differences in production systems, agro-climatic and socio-economic conditions across the country.

## Adopt adaptation strategies

The pressure to speed up mitigation and adaptation is at an all-time high. India is doing well in achieving its mitigation commitments of reducing emission intensity and enhancing renewable capacity. India is targeting 450 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and it has launched mega solar and green hydrogen missions. The Shooonya programme by NITI Aayog, which aims to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles, is yet another effort towards adoption of clean technologies.

With escalating climatic risks, there is an urgency to adopt adaptation strategies. India has some dedicated initiatives towards adaptation, such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change and the National Adaptation Fund. However, a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience actions is needed to save hard-earned developmental gains and adjust to new climate conditions. Adaptation planning needs to go beyond a business-as-usual approach. A development-centric approach that aligns climate change, food security, and livelihood perspectives and takes into consideration regional specificities is crucial for reducing poverty and distress migrations. Moreover, adaptation planning requires governance at different levels to understand, plan, coordinate, integrate and act to re-

duce vulnerability and exposure.

To strengthen adaptation and resilience, India can do the following. First, it can be more prepared for climate change with high-quality meteorological data. With improved early warning systems and forecasting, we can tackle the crisis better. Premier research institutes can be roped in to develop regional climate projections for robust risk assessments.

Second, for sustainable production systems, it is necessary to develop well-functioning markets for environmentally friendly products and disseminate them for the desired behavioural change.

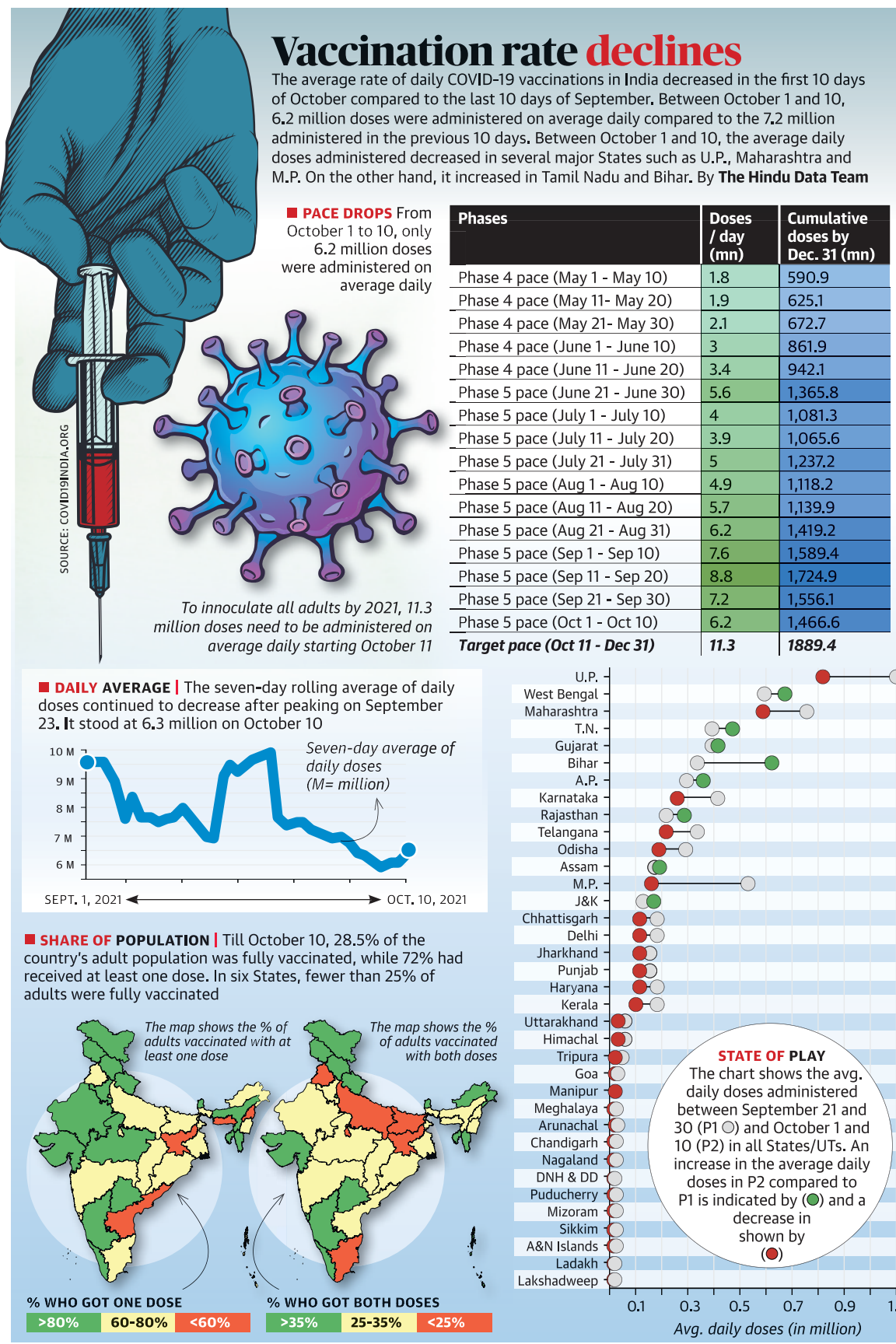
Third, it is important to encourage private sector participation for investment in adaptation technologies and for designing and implementing innovative climate services and solutions in areas such as agriculture, health, infrastructure, insurance and risk management.

Fourth, we need to protect mangroves and forests to address climate-related risks by blending traditional knowledge with scientific evidence and encourage local and non-state actors to actively participate. Fifth, major social protection schemes must be climate-proofed. We have an opportunity to create resilient infrastructural assets, diversify the economy and enhance the adaptive capacity of rural households. Sixth, for continuous monitoring and evaluation, effective feedback mechanisms must be developed for mid-course correction. Periodic fine-tuning of State Action Plans on Climate Change is crucial to systematically understand micro-level sensitivities, plan resource allocation, and design responses to serve at different levels of intensities of climate hazards.

Proactive and timely need-based adaptation is important. Without it, there will be a huge fiscal burden in the future. A more collaborative approach towards climate change adaptation is crucial. Next-generation reforms will promote new business and climate service opportunities across several sectors and thus create a sustainable economy.

Bhawna Anand is Research Officer with the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog. Views are personal

## DATA POINT



## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 12, 1971

### Pak wooing ejected foreign newsmen

Rawalpindi, October 11: Shocked by its image abroad and worried about votes against it at the United Nations, Pakistan is wooing some of the same foreign newsmen it ejected summarily from Dacca in March when the Army routed the Awami League and seized Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Spokesmen of the Ministry of Information here for the first time are promising regular briefings for foreign reporters. However, foreigners are still barred from weekly briefings conducted by the Ministry of External Affairs. Wooing does not extend to the domestic press. Although prepublication censorship of the local press has been lifted, news agencies and newspapers operate under a Martial Law regulation which amounts to virtually the same thing. The regulation forbids publishing material which "directly or indirectly" prejudices "the solidarity of Pakistan", criticises the Martial Law regime, creates alarm, criticises President Yahya Khan, creates ill-will among the various groups of people in Pakistan and insults Islam or Mohamed Ali Jinnah. The Government has also warned newsmen against speculation on national issues such as the secret trial of Sheikh Mujib.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 12, 1921

### Visits of Royal personages

One of the grounds on which Nationalists have based their opposition to the recurring visits of Royal personages to this country is the political purpose behind them and the opportunity they afford to the unscrupulous bureaucracy to artificially raise up their losing prestige in the eyes of the masses. But the almost excessive cost and sinful extravagance incurred on these occasions out of the public revenues is another and a more obvious objection which no Indian with any knowledge of or feeling for his nation's poverty and daily suffering can honestly afford to ignore. Royalty may nobly condescend to climb down to the simple and unceremonious level of the ordinary citizen and be willing to adopt a less costly and more useful programme, consistent with the spirit of the age and the needs of the people. But there are some types of mentality, untrained in the democratic spirit and discipline of the West, who still love to indulge in all costly forms and needless ceremonials of royal worship and reception, in utter blindness of the change coming over the royal outlook itself born of the consciousness as the unifying head of a democratic empire.



FROM PAGE ONE

## India, China talks end in impasse

"It was therefore necessary that the Chinese side take appropriate steps in the remaining areas so as to restore peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the western sector," the statement said.

This would also be in accord with the guidance provided by the two Foreign Ministers in their recent meeting in Dushanbe where they agreed that the two sides should resolve the remaining issues at the earliest, the statement said. Such resolution of the remaining areas would facilitate progress in the bilateral relations, it asserted.

"It is our expectation that the Chinese side will take into account the overall perspective of bilateral relations and will work towards early resolution of the remaining issues while fully abiding by bilateral agreements and protocols," it noted.

### PLA statement

The Chinese military's statement on Sunday night came not from the Defence Ministry, as was the case in some of the earlier rounds, but from the PLA's Western Theatre Command in Chengdu, which has in recent rounds appeared to have taken over the responsibility for putting out statements on the LAC situation. This is seen by some observers as Beijing placing less importance on the slow moving negotiations.

Since the stand-off began in May last year, both sides have held a series of talks at different levels—political, diplomatic and military, and as part of agreements reached, have undertaken disengagement from both sides of Pangong Tso in February and the Patrolling Point 17 at Gogra area in August. The other friction areas that remain are Hot Springs, Demchok and Depsang.

Officials remarked that while an agreement for resolving Hot Springs was within reach, Demchok and Depsang were legacy issues and tough to resolve. In addition to the overall disengagement and de-escalation, the two sides had also agreed to work out new protocols for patrolling to ensure such instances do not occur again.

The PLA statement did not suggest any agreement reached on either disengagement or on new protocols.

Senior Colonel Long Shaohua, spokesperson for the Western Theatre Command, stated, "China had made great efforts to promote the easing and cooling of the border situation and fully demonstrated its sincerity in order to maintain the overall situation of the relations between the two militaries. However, India still insisted on the unreasonable and unrealistic demands, which made the negotiations more difficult," he said. "China's resolve to safeguard national sovereignty is firm."

He called on India "to not misjudge the situation" and to "cherish the hard-won situation in the China-India border areas and abide by relevant agreements and consensus between the two countries and the two militaries."

The PLA's comment on India making "unrealistic demands" stands in stark contrast to New Delhi's view on the LAC crisis, which began in April 2020 when the PLA massed thousands of troops along the LAC, carried out multiple transgressions in eastern Ladakh, and disregarded the many previously agreed upon border agreements aimed at keeping the peace.

While negotiations have led to disengagement in some of the areas, thousands of PLA troops remain in forward areas.

## Ashish sent to police custody for 3 days

Cong. leader Priyanka Vadra observes silent fast demanding dismissal of Union Minister Ajay Mishra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

Ashish Mishra, the son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra, was on Monday sent to three days in police custody by a local court in connection with the charges against him over allegedly mowing down farmers last week during a protest at Tikonia in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh.

Eight persons — four farmers, three BJP workers including a driver of a vehicle belonging to the Mishras and a local scribe — were killed in the incident, following which two first information reports (FIRs) were lodged.

Mr. Ashish Mishra was sent to 14-day judicial custody after his arrest late on Saturday. The police then sought his custody for 14 days.

However, Chief Judicial Magistrate Chinta Ram granted the prosecution only a

three-day police custody, said prosecution lawyer S.P. Yadav.

Mr. Yadav said the police remand was granted on conditions that Mr. Ashish would not be harassed, his medical examination would be conducted, and his lawyer would be allowed to be present during his questioning.

### 'Fair probe impossible'

Meanwhile, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra observed a silent fast at the Gandhi statue in Lucknow's Hazratganj area demanding the dismissal of Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra.

Taking to social media, Ms. Vadra later asked how Mr. Ajay Mishra could stay on as Union Minister after the arrest of Mr. Ashish on charges of allegedly killing protesting farmers. "For a fair probe and justice, dismissal of Union Minister of



Call for action: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra along with party workers on dharna in Lucknow on Monday. ■PTI

Home Affairs is necessary," Ms. Vadra tweeted.

### BJP under fire

Amid growing criticism of the BJP over the incident, which took place in the

reference to Lakhimpur Kheri, Mr. Dev Singh said that being a political leader didn't mean that one could loot or "mow down people with a Fortuner".

### Multiple charges

Mr. Ashish was arrested after he did not co-operate during interrogation and was not willing to share certain things asked of him, police had said. He was named as the accused in the murder case lodged by farmers after cars belonging to his father's convoy ran over protesting farmers. The FIR was lodged under murder, criminal conspiracy, rash driving and death by negligence, among charges.

On Saturday morning, Mr. Ashish went to the Crime Branch office in Lakhimpur after the police issued him a second summons as he failed to turn up after the first one on Friday.

## Amid row, BJP gets into huddle over U.P. election

No discussion on future of Union Minister Mishra

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday got into a huddle over the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections under the shadow of the events of Lakhimpur Kheri that left eight people dead and a cloud of controversy over local BJP strongman and Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra.

Senior leaders present at the meeting called by party president J.P. Nadda in New Delhi included general secretary organisation B.L. Santhosh, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, State BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh and State gen-

eral secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal.

Senior sources in the BJP insisted that the meeting was more about charting out the organisational programmes in the run-up to the Assembly elections rather than whether Mr. Mishra needs to step down after his son's arrest in the Lakhimpur Kheri deaths case.

### Outreach programme

"In the next 100 days, we will be charting out 100 programmes for outreach, and that is what the meeting is about. The planning of these programmes, including community outreach, meetings with *panna pramukhs* (those entrusted with reaching out to individual voters), and also getting in touch with *labharthis* (beneficiaries of welfare programmes of the government)," said a senior office-bearer of the BJP in Delhi.

## Farmer union to intensify agitation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM)'s deadline for its demands that Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra be sacked and arrested for his alleged involvement in the deaths of farmers at Lakhimpur Kheri ran out on Monday. As hundreds of farmers pour into the region for the last rites of the victims on Tuesday, the protesting unions plan to go ahead with an intensified agitation in Lucknow later this month.

The SKM accused the Minister of seeking to promote enmity and hatred against minority Sikhs of the Terai region in a speech on September 25. "On the basis of this, stern action should have been taken by now, which could have prevented the Lakhimpur Kheri massacre," the SKM said in a statement.

## Minor disturbances mark MVA's Maharashtra bandh

BJP, MNS question State government's 'double standards'

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

While the Maharashtra bandh on Monday called by the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance — comprising the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress — generally received support from all sections of society, minor disturbances were observed, with workers of the three parties squaring off with the activists of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

While the MVA claimed that the shutdown had received an "overwhelming response", it was business as usual in some urban and rural pockets. By and large, a combination of cooperation and coercion ensured that



At a standstill: BEST buses parked at Dharavi bus depot on Monday following incidents of stone pelting. ■EMMANUEL YOGINI

most establishments downed their shutters, with activists of the Yuva Sena, the NCP and the Congress fanning out across the State to enforce the shutdown.

Buses operated by the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport undertaking stayed off the road after

eight vehicles were damaged by unknown persons who pelted stones at them in the wee hours.

State Transport buses plied in many districts and local train services ran as usual in Mumbai. Several taxis continued to ply despite the shutdown.

## Industry urges more clarity on space policy

Second, the role of the government as an enabler. Third, preparing youth for the future. And fourth, to see the space sector as a resource for the progress of the common man. This translated to better mapping, imaging and connectivity facilities for the common people. Also, the space sector implied better speed from shipment to delivery for entrepreneurs, this also means better security and income for fishermen and better forecast of the natural calamity, he added.

Chirag Doshi, Managing Director and CEO, Walchandnagar Industries, said deeper engagement with academia, industry and government for research and development in space sector was needed and that "opportunity" for SMEs to work closer with Finance Ministry to get better financing was the need of the hour.

P.J. Nath, MD & CEO, of NELCO, a Tata group company, said the Centre should

move to quickly finalise the new space policy as it would help with planning for investments.

"Some policies don't help fully realise potential, for example, the maritime policy doesn't allow (private sector) to supply services to fisheries," Mr Nath said. He also requested flexibility for satellite frequency users to use any frequency range and to be able to freely buy technology from abroad.

Rohan Verma, CEO, MapmyIndia urged the Prime Minister to help install his company's mapping software in every phone as it would mean the promotion of an "indigenous innovation".

Ahead of major launches next year, India has announced its intent to liberalise the space sector and have more private companies use the facilities of the ISRO for developing as well as launching satellites. While there have been drafts of a new space policy, these are yet to take shape.

## Controversial Pak. Senate head gets Speaker's invite

Sanjrani is said to represent the interest of the military elite

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
SOBHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has invited the Chairman of Pakistan's Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, to attend the centennial celebration of the creation of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament.

The invite has not been confirmed by the Ministry of External Affairs yet but other informed sources told *The Hindu* that the August 24 letter sent to the Pakistan Senate Chairman was a routine gesture as Pakistan is part of the Commonwealth and other members of the grouping are also likely to be part of the celebration. The letter

was first reported by Pakistani social media handles working with BOL TV.

The PAC is the oldest parliamentary committee in the Indian legislative affairs and has been crucial in upholding the principle of accountability as it exercises oversight of public expenditure.

India and Pakistan were engaged through backchannel talks between December 2020 and April 2021. The talks subsequently were overshadowed by the developments in Afghanistan where Pakistan-backed Taliban fighters dislodged the Ashraf Ghani government.

The latest move also appears to be an attempt to engage the Pakistani establish-

ment as Mr. Sanjrani is believed to represent the interest of the military elite of Pakistan.

His visit is likely during December 4-5 when the events are scheduled to be held in Delhi but his presence and interactions will be of interest especially because of the spillover effect of Afghanistan visible in the spike in violence in Kashmir.

Mr. Sanjrani, a leader from the restive province of Balochistan, himself had in the past championed the cause of Kashmir saying at one point that he would write to all the parliamentarians of the world to highlight the alleged rights violations by Indian forces in Kashmir.

## Air India sale is Centre's free gift to Tatas: CPI(M)

National assets being looted: Yechury

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) on Monday termed the sale of Air India to the Tatas a free gift from the government to the group who, according to reports, is the largest donor of funds to the BJP.

Addressing a press conference at the end of a two-day Polit Bureau meeting at the party headquarters in Delhi, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the sale was part of the government's relentless looting of the country's national assets.

"This sale is tantamount to giving a free gift to the Tatas by the Modi government. The Tatas will inherit



Sitaram Yechury

₹15,300 crore of debt, which will surely be restructured, paying the Centre a mere ₹2,700 crore for the national carrier, with all its core assets. ₹46,262 crore of the remaining debt will be the burden of the government, which means that the people will bear the burden of clearing this debt," he said.

## 'Govt. buying fuel from accused Sandesaras'

Cong. produces RTI reply to back claim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday accused the government of not only facilitating a safe exit for economic offenders but also carrying on with business with them. It pointed to continued import of crude oil from Sterling Oil Exploration and Energy Production Company Ltd. (SEEPSCO), which is a Sterling Biotech group entity.

In September 2020, a special court declared Sterling Biotech group promoters Nitin Sandesara and Chetan Sandesara as economic offenders for reportedly siphoning off bank loans worth ₹15,000 crore. At a press conference at

the party headquarters in Delhi, Congress spokesperson Gourav Ballabh said while Indians were reeling under exponential increase in prices of fuel, the fugitives were prospering.

Producing an RTI reply, Mr. Ballabh alleged that instead of making efforts to bring them to law, the government was purchasing crude oil from them. "Instead of seizing their assets, the Petroleum Ministry shamelessly is indulging in business with the Sandesaras. From January 1, 2018 to May 31, 2020, shipments worth ₹5701.83 crore of crude oil were received from SEEPSCO Nigeria by Indian oil PSUs."

## 2 NC leaders from Jammu join BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Devendra Singh Rana and Surjit Singh Salathia joined the BJP on Monday, a day after quitting the National Conference (NC).

After joining the BJP at its headquarters here, Mr. Rana told journalists that the BJP would take the aspirations of the people of Jammu, who felt "relegated and a sense of deprivation", forward in national interest. He would work to "strengthen the secular ethos of Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Mr. Rana, a three-time legislator, had been the head of the NC's Jammu unit. Mr. Salathia was a two-time legislator and former Jammu and Kashmir Minister.



Back in the fold: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi flanked by Yashpal Arya, left, and Sanjeev Arya in New Delhi. ■PTI

## Uttarakhand Minister, son join Congress

Yashpal returns after 5 years in BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand Transport Minister Yashpal Arya and his MLA son, Sanjeev Arya, joined the Congress on Monday.

The Assembly polls in the State is scheduled early next year.

This is a *ghar wapsi* (homecoming) of sorts for Mr. Yashpal Arya. He had been the Uttarakhand Pradesh Congress Committee president for seven years before joining the BJP in 2017.

### Prominent Dalit leader

A prominent Dalit face in the State, he is a six-time MLA. His son represents Nainital.

Speaking at their induc-

tion, Congress general secretary (Communications) Randeep Surjewala, said Mr. Yashpal Arya forwarded his resignation to the Governor on Monday morning.

Mr. Yashpal stated that he felt relieved to be back in his home — the Congress. "The Congress has a history of sacrifice, a legacy that we are proud to carry forward. Democracy in the country can be strengthened only if the Congress is strengthened."

Senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal said the father-son duo's return in a way showed which way the wind was blowing in the State. Senior party leader Harish Rawat claimed that more BJP leaders were likely to join the party.

R.SIVARAMAN  
CHENNAI

A 28-year-old man, Murthaza of Jharkhand, who was accused of snatching chains and opening fire to chase away his pursuers, was gunned down in an alleged encounter with the police in Mevalurkuppam village near Sriperumbudur on Monday.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Kanchipuram, M. Sathiyapriya, said the accused had attacked a head constable



The spot in Irungattukottai where the incident took place. ■B. VELANKANNIRAJ

with a knife, forcing them to open fire on him.

His associate Naem Akthar, 39, was arrested.

**APPEAL**

B/o. Manimegalai is a 1 month old boy hailing from a poor family. He is suffering from Large Ventricular Septal defect pulmonary Atresia and needs Rs. 2,00,000/- for the VSD Closure/MPA PLASTY at Public Health Centre, Chennai. Kindly help him to have a new life. The donations sent through CH/D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakam Branch, A/C No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT (Please do not mention patient name on the cheque). All correspondence is done through **WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Cordell Apartments, O.No. 13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006, Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324 / 7338978027. Email id: womenwelfare.org@gmail.com Website: www.womenwelfare.org** WWS



# U.K. asks India to update climate goals

Johnson calls Modi; they speak about vaccine certifications and Afghanistan situation

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI



**Strong link:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his British counterpart, Boris Johnson, in this file photo.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, urging India to announce a "more ambitious" Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) ahead of a United Nations climate change summit in the U.K. in a few weeks. The two leaders also spoke about the issue of vaccine certifications and the Afghanistan situation.

"Prime Minister conveyed India's commitment to Climate Action, as seen in its ambitious target for expansion of renewable energy and the recently announced National Hydrogen Mission," a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) statement said.

As president of the coming climate change conference, the U.K. is asking all countries to update their NDCs to reflect climate targets for the next few decades. "Prime Minister [Johnson] underlined the importance of making concrete progress on climate change ahead of and at the upcoming COP26 Summit.

He noted that India already lead(s) the world in renewable technology and expressed his hope that they will commit to a more ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution and to achieving Net Zero emissions," said an official release from the U.K. government on the conversation.

One hundred and ninety three countries filed their first NDCs, but only 19 have so far updated them. India filed its first NDC in 2016, committing at the time to cut emissions by 33% by 2030 (from 2005 levels) and to en-

sure that about 40% of its installed power capacity comes from renewable energy, targets that the government says it is on track to reach. However, the U.K. and the U.S. have been asking India to do more in terms of declaring its second NDC, which includes India's promise of installing 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030, and to declare firm deadlines for achieving Net Zero carbon emissions and ending the use of coal for generating electricity, so as to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Mr. Modi has

been invited to the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow from October 31 to November 12, but has not confirmed his attendance yet. He had been due to attend the G7 summit as a special invitee in the U.K. in June last, but had to cancel the visit due to the second wave of the pandemic. Mr. Johnson is also expected to reschedule his proposed visits to India in January and April this year, which had to be put off due to the pandemic as well.

**Foreign Secretary visit**  
However, high-level visits by two Ministers, including the new British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss are expected shortly, and could coincide with India-U.K. naval exercises involving the U.K. Carrier Strike Group led by HMS Queen Elizabeth. Ms. Truss spoke to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar over the telephone last week about the vaccine issue as well as the U.K. India "Roadmap" for ties till 2030 and an enhanced trade partnership. According to the U.K.

statement, Mr. Modi and Mr. Johnson discussed the importance of "cautiously opening up international travel", and the issue of vaccine certification.

**Covishield recognition**  
Last week, the U.K. agreed to recognise Indian-administered Covishield and waived the need for nationals from India and 36 other countries to undertake home quarantines as long as they are vaccinated. However, the U.K. does not yet recognise Covaxin, which is awaiting clearances from the World Health Organization. "They agreed the U.K.'s recognition of Indian vaccine certification is a welcome development to that end," the British statement said.

The leaders also talked about Afghanistan, both sides said. "In this context, they agreed on the need to develop a common international perspective on issues regarding extremism and terrorism, as well as Human Rights and rights of women and minorities," the MEA statement added.

# Modi to attend G20 virtual meeting on Afghanistan

It is likely to deliberate on political and humanitarian issues

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend an extraordinary virtual meeting of G20 leaders on Afghanistan to be held on October 12.

Mr. Modi had urged the international community to carefully act on the recognition of the Taliban as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan and the G20 meeting is likely to deliberate on both political and humanitarian issues regarding the country.

Ahead of the meeting, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Minister of State Meenakshi Lekhi reminded the world about the multilateral norms that have been set in place regarding the Afghan crisis.

The G20 meeting comes soon after the United States held a round of discussion on assisting the Taliban deal with the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan as winter is deepening amid shortage of essential commodities and a collapse of

the banking system.

**Jaishankar in Bishkek**

India explained the current position on Afghanistan on Monday, with Mr. Jaishankar meeting his Kyrgyz counterpart, Ruslan Kazakbaev, in Bishkek. At the end of his visit in Bishkek, Mr. Jaishankar said, "We are closely following the developments in Afghanistan. It concerns all of us. There are expectations of the international community from the current regime in Afghanistan which are adequately elaborated in the UNSC Resolution 2593."

Ms. Lekhi also highlighted UNSC Resolution 2593 while speaking at a meeting held on Monday in Belgrade to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). "Following recent developments in Afghanistan, it is absolutely imperative that the approach of the international community is guided by the U.N. Security Council Resolution 2593," she stated, em-

phasising that the territory of Afghanistan should not be used to export terror against other countries. The G20 extraordinary meeting comes as Afghan hospitals run out of basic medicines and that country witnesses increased suffering in the rural sector because of the disruption of the agriculture supply chain.

**Italy holds talks**

Italy, the current chair of G20, has discussed the situation in Kabul and other cities of Afghanistan with world powers like Russia and China. Prime Minister Mario Draghi observed in September last week that the immediate aim of the world community was to ensure that human lives were saved in that country.

Italy believes that the Taliban's denial of women's rights makes it difficult for the world to recognise it as a legitimate political entity but maintains that people should receive financial support.

# Power struggle between Lalu Prasad's sons escalates

Tej Pratap takes out yatra, Tejashwi ignores elder brother's call

AMARNATH TEWARY  
PATNA

The bitter power struggle between the sons of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad and former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi escalated on Monday, with elder son Tej Pratap Yadav setting on a *padayatra* (foot march) from the Gandhi Maidan here to the residence of socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan to begin a LP (Lalu Prasad) movement on the lines of the JP movement in

the State. Mr. Tej Pratap had invited his younger brother, Tejashwi Yadav, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, and Mr. Prasad to join the movement. But there has been no response from them so far.

On Sunday, Ms. Devi dashed to Patna and drove straight to Mr. Tej Pratap's residence to meet him and bridge the widening rift between the siblings. However, minutes before her arrival, he left the house.



Tej Pratap

On Monday, when Mr. Tej Pratap, RJD MLA from Hatanpur, took out the *Jan Shakti Yatra*, named after a students organisation he formed recently, he moved past his mother's residence

but didn't stop to meet her. He garlanded the statue of Jayaprakash Narayan and marched barefoot in his residence in the Kadambkuan locality of Patna. However, he told mediapersons later that he would meet his mother soon to seek her blessings.

**Unsavoury remarks**

Recently, senior RJD leader Shivanand Tiwari said Mr. Tej Pratap had been asked to stay away from party affairs. He had attacked State party chief Jagdanand Singh with unsavoury remarks on several occasions. This apparently had enraged his father.

Mr. Tej Parap recently went to Delhi to meet his father, who is recuperating at his elder daughter and party's Rajya Sabha member Misa Bharti's residence, but party sources told *The Hindu* that he returned empty-handed from there. Later, he said his father had been taken "hostage" in Delhi and was not being allowed to come to Patna. But Mr. Tejashwi responded, "Can a person like Lalu Prasad be taken hostage by anyone?" He added, "He [Mr. Prasad] would come to Patna soon."

Party leaders said Mr. Prasad may visit Patna in third week of October to seek support for party candidates for the byelections to the Kusheshwarsthan (Darbhanga) and Tarapur (Munger) seats.

"Both the brothers are engaged in power struggle within the party and family as well but Mr. Tejashwi seems to have got the blessings of his parents and mass support in the party" said political observer Ajay Kumar.

# HC grants relief to Rujira Banerjee in coal scam case

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday exempted Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee's wife Rujira Banerjee from personal appearance before a trial court in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged coal scam in West Bengal.

Justice Yogesh Khanna granted Ms. Banerjee's exemption from personal appearance for the time being after Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, representing the

Enforcement Directorate (ED), urged the court to take up her plea for hearing after the Dasara break. "Till then, the lady client [Rujira] may not appear in person," the Solicitor-General said. The trial court in Delhi had directed her to appear before it personally on October 12.

The High Court will now hear the plea on October 29. On September 30, the trial court had directed her physical presence on October 12 after she appeared virtually in relation to the complaint filed by the ED.

# Adani Group tightens cargo movement

Ports run by it won't handle containerised cargo from Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat-based Adani Group, which operates ports across the country, announced on Monday that it will not handle Exim containerised cargo originating from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan from November 15.

The move assumes significance as it comes in the backdrop of the seizure of nearly 3,000 kg of heroin by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at the company-operated Mundra port on the Gujarat coast on September 16 in containerised cargo imported as talc from Afghanistan via Iran's Bandar Abbas port.

On Monday, Adani Port and Logistics that operates the Mundra Port Special



A view of the container terminal at Mundra Port in Kutch. ■ REUTERS

Economic Zone issued a trade advisory to its customers announcing that "with effect from November 15, 2021, APSEZ will not handle Exim containerised cargo originating from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan".

"This trade advisory will

apply to all terminals operated by APSEZ and including third party terminals at any APSEZ port till further notice."

**Heroin seizure**

On September 16, in a special operation, the DRI seized 2,990 kg of heroin, worth nearly ₹21,000 crore, from two containers, which were declared as containing "semi-processed talc stones", originating from Afghanistan, and were loaded onto the containers at Iran's Bandar Abbas port before landing at Mundra Port in Kutch. The DRI arrested several persons, including a couple who had apparently imported the cargo mis-declaring it as "semi-processed talc stones".

One Aashi Trading Com-

pany was identified as the importer firm and is alleged to be run by M. Sudhakar and wife G. Durga Purna Vaishali. They were arrested from Chennai and brought to Kutch where a local court granted 10 days' custody of the two to the National Investigation Agency.

Following the seizure, the Adani Group had condemned attempts to drag its name into the case. "The law empowers the Government of India's competent authorities such as the Customs and the DRI to open, examine and seize unlawful cargo. No port operator across the country can examine a container. Their role is limited to running the port," the group had said in a statement.

# Swiss share third set of bank details

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI/BERNE

India has received the third set of Swiss bank account details as part of an annual exercise under which the European nation has shared particulars of nearly 33 lakh financial accounts with 96 countries.

While the Federal Tax Administration of Switzerland did not disclose names and details of all 96 countries, officials said India figured among those having received the information for the third year in a row. The details shared with Indian authorities pertained to a large number of individuals and companies having accounts in Swiss financial institutions.

The exchange took place last month. The next set of data would be shared in September 2022.

**CBIC TUMAKURU INDUSTRIAL TOWNSHIP LIMITED**  
5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.  
Phone No. 22267900, Fax : 22267901 website : www.kiadb.in  
email: mdcbic24@gmail.com

No. CBICTITL/CFO/E-Auction-02/8578/2021-22 Dtd: 11.10.2021

**PAPER PUBLICATION**

This is to inform that Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor-Tumakuru Industrial Township Ltd (CBIC-TITL), intends to invest its Surplus Funds in the short term deposits with Nationalized Bank. The details of the quantum of amount and period to be kept in short term deposits are as under:

1) **Rs.150.00 Crores** – For 3 Months (91 days) in Nationalized Banks.  
2) **Rs.420.00 Crores** – For 6 Months (181 days) in Nationalized Banks.

The complete details of the E-Auction can be downloaded from the e-portal of the Government of Karnataka at the below address: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

**Schedule of Various Events For e-Auction is as below:**

1) Date of E-Auction can be Downloaded: **12.10.2021**  
2) Last date to upload the Declaration in Annexure-B in the e-portal: **22.10.2021 on or before 15.30 Hrs.**  
3) Date and time of opening: **25.10.2021 after 16.00 Hrs.**  
4) Live Bidding: **27.10.2021, Commences at 11.00 Hrs. & Concludes at 13.00 Hrs.**

Sd/-  
**Chief Financial Officer, CBIC-TITL, Bengaluru**

DIPR/DDU/Zen/R.O.:1833/2021-22

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

Wear Mask

6 Feet  
Follow Physical Distancing

Maintain Hand Hygiene

**FACT THE FERTILISERS AND CHEMICALS TRAVANCORE LIMITED**  
(A Government of India Enterprise) Regd. Office: Eloor Corporate Materials, FACT-PD Administrative Building, Udyogamandal, Kochi 683 501, Kerala. Tel: (0484) - 2568273/260, 2545196. Web: <http://www.fact.co.in>  
E-mail: julian@facttd.com, deepu.cn@facttd.com

**E-TENDER FOR CLEARING, HANDLING & TRANSPORTATION OF BAGGED PRODUCTS AT VARIOUS RAIL HEADS IN TAMIL NADU**

[ENQUIRY NO. MM/182/E24144 dated 11.10.2021]

Online bids (two cover system) are invited for undertaking the work of clearing, handling and transportation of bagged products at various Rail Heads (RH) in Tamil Nadu for a period of 2 years, through <https://eprocure.gov.in> portal. Any change / Extensions to this tender will be informed only through our website / CPP e-procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

**Due date/time for submission of bids: 26.10.2021/3.00 PM** Sd/-  
Asst. General Manager (Materials)-T&S

**भारतीय तारामौलिकी संस्थान**  
**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ASTROPHYSICS**  
(विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, भारत सरकार के अखिल भारतीय संस्थान)  
(An Autonomous Body Under Department of Space & Technology, Government of India)  
कोरमंगला Karamangala, बेंगलूरु Bangalore - 560034.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sealed Tenders are invited for the following works:

1. Renovation of guest rooms at canteen building, CREST campus, IIA, Hosakote

Tender Notice No.: 47/IIA/CIVIL/CREST/HOSAKOTE/2021-22 dated 01.10.2021

Detailed Tender Document can be downloaded from Institute's Website [www.iia.res.in/tenders.htm](http://www.iia.res.in/tenders.htm). Last date for receipt of bid is 11.11.2021 at 15:00 hours.

Administrative Officer

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructures Division, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002

No.: **BBMP/EE/RI/TEND/03/2021-22** Date: **11.10.2021**

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)**  
(Short Term Tender Notification)  
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, invites tenders from eligible Contractors for the work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. Lakhs)
1	Repairs - Maintenance works to Kadirenahalli underpass.	169.61
2	Repairs - Maintenance works to Puttenahalli underpass.	59.35
3	Repairs - Maintenance works to Malleshwaram underpass.	59.28

**EMD (Rs. Lakhs): Relaxed as per GO No.: FD 675 Vecha-12-2020, Dated: 22.12.2020**

**Calendar of Events:** (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **11.10.2021**. (2) Date for receipt of Queries: **21.10.2021**. (3) Date of Pre Bid Meeting is on **22.10.2021 at 4:00 p.m.** (4) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:30 p.m.** on **28.10.2021** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. (5) Date of opening of Technical Proposals is **30.10.2021 at 4:00 p.m.** (6) Date of opening of Financial Proposal after Approval of Technical Proposals through e-Procurement. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Infra Division, BBMP

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTIOUS AND NOT INFECTED.

Wear Mask

6 Feet  
Follow Physical Distancing

Maintain Hand Hygiene

**DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010  
Ph No. 0522-4918504, 6692000. Website-[www.drmlims.ac.in](http://www.drmlims.ac.in)

Advertisement No.2603/Rect-FIER/DRMLIMS/2021 Dated: 11.10.2021

**Appointment of Medical Faculty on Deputation/Contractual Basis**

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow invites online applications from all categories of eligible Indian citizens for the appointment on deputation OR contractual basis on the teaching posts of Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors in various broad specialty departments. For detailed information, link to application and subsequent updates, kindly visit the Institute website- [www.drmlims.ac.in](http://www.drmlims.ac.in).

**Note:** Last date for receipt of applications is **03rd Nov 2021**. Applications, complete in all respects should be submitted till **11:59 PM** on the said last date. **Director**

**KERALA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (KINFRA), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**

**e-Tender**

KINFRA invites item rate, online tenders from registered, competent, experienced and technically & financially sound contractors/firms for the following work:  
**Development of KINFRA Petrochemical Park at Ambalamkulam, Kochi, Kerala - Phase I works**

PAC	Bid Fee	EMD	Last Date	Tender ID
Rs. 1,27,69,58,726/-	(Rs. 17,700/- INCLUSIVE of 18% GST)	Rs. 5	08/11/2021 at 5:00 PM	2021_KINFRA_444378_1

The tender document(s), can be downloaded from the e-Government Procurement (e-GP) website ([www.etender.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etender.kerala.gov.in)). For more details visit the website [www.kinfra.org](http://www.kinfra.org) or mail to [kinfra@petrochemicalpark@gmail.com](mailto:kinfra@petrochemicalpark@gmail.com).  
Place : Thiruvananthapuram  
Date : 11.10.2021

Sd/-  
Managing Director

**THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA**  
Emakulam-682031, Email:recruitment.hckerala@nic.in,  
Phone:0484-2562235 Fax: 0484-2391720

REC4-38134/2021 Dated:01.10.2021

**BRIEF NOTIFICATION**

Online applications are invited from practising Advocates having seven years of practice as on 01.01.2021 and other eligibility criteria prescribed in the detailed notification, for appointment as District and Sessions Judge in the Kerala State Higher Judicial Service against NCA & Regular vacancies as detailed below. Scale of Pay of the post is Rs. 51550-63070. Online applications can be submitted from 06.10.2021 onwards. After applying online, documents prescribed should be sent to the High Court.

Sl. No.	Re-cruitment Number	No. of Vacancies	Eligible Categories
1	4/2021	1 (NCA)	Scheduled Tribes (Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes in the State of Kerala can also apply for the post. However, only in the absence of candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribe community in the merit list, candidates from scheduled caste community will be considered for appointment)
2	5/2021	1 (NCA)	Hindu Nadars (Candidates belonging to Other Backward Classes in the State of Kerala can also apply for the post. However, only in the absence of candidates belonging to Hindu Nadar community in the merit list, candidates from Other Backward Classes will be considered for appointment)
3	6/2021	3 (Regular)	All categories

**Important dates with regard to submission of online application:**

Date of commencement of Step-I & Step-II processes and remittance of application fee through online mode	06.10.2021
The date of closure of Step-I process	27.10.2021
Date of closure of Step-II process and remittance of application fee through online mode	03.11.2021
Date of commencement of remittance of application fee through offline mode	08.11.2021
The last date for remittance of application fee through offline mode	18.11.2021
Last date for receipt of the copies of the required documents	04.12.2021

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Sd/- P. G. Ajithkumar  
Registrar (District Judiciary)

1077/F4/2021/I&PRD





**Aryan Khan bail plea hearing tomorrow**

**MUMBAI**  
The special Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) court on Monday said it would hear the bail application of actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan on October 13 in the drugs case. Mr. Aryan Khan, 23, was sent to the Arthur Road Jail on October 8 after additional metropolitan magistrate R.M. Nilekar rejected his bail application, stating that the court did not have the jurisdiction to hear the plea.

**CBT books case against IT infra firm MD, director**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against Trimax IT Infrastructure & Services Limited and others for allegedly cheating a consortium of seven banks headed by the State Bank of India of ₹862.06 crore between 2009 and 2017. Among those named as accused in the First Information Report were the company's managing director, Surya Prakash Madrecha, and its director, Chandra Prakash Madrecha.

**Eight held for gang rape of woman on train**

**MUMBAI**  
The Government Railway Police have arrested all the eight accused involved in the rape of a 20-year-old woman on board the Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express between Igatpuri and Kasara railway stations in Maharashtra, an official said on Monday. The incident took place on Friday night when the accused boarded the Mumbai-bound train at Igatpuri, and allegedly committed the crime while the train was passing through the ghat section.

# Over 2 lakh RTI pleas pending

Information Commissions lack staff: study

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A complaint filed under the Right to Information Act (RTI) in Odisha this summer would not be disposed of by the State's Information Commission until 2028 at the current rate of operations. Twelve State Information Commissions plus the Central Information Commission (CIC) would need at least a year to dispose of their appeals, and the nationwide backlog has crossed 2.55 lakh cases, according to an analysis by the Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS).

Sixteen years after the RTI Act came into force on October 12, 2005, it is a tool for citizens to demand account-

**Unanswered pleas**

The table shows the 10 panels with the highest dependencies for which data were available

Information Commission	Till Dec. 31, 2020	Till June 30, 2021
Maharashtra*	62,534	74,240
Uttar Pradesh	48,444	48,514
Central Information Commission	38,590	36,788
Rajasthan	16,771	17,922
Odisha	17,658	17,464
Telangana	10,814	11,207
West Bengal	8,694	9,097
Kerala**	6,835	7,486
Madhya Pradesh	6,893	6,577
Andhra Pradesh	4,153	5,123

\*Latest data as on May 31, 2021; \*\*Latest data as on Aug. 8, 2021

ability in governance, with an estimated 40 lakh to 60 lakh RTI requests being filed every year. When a request for information is denied by a government body, however, appeals are filed in the Central and State Informa-

tion Commissions, which act as transparency watchdogs under the law.

The SNS report documented the performance of these commissions, highlighting the delays in disposing of cases due to both short-

tage of personnel and inefficient operations. A complaint filed in Odisha on July 1, 2021 would take six years and eight months to be disposed of, the longest among States.

The CIC itself would take a year and 11 months to dispose an appeal, although it has reduced its backlog to 33,742 since filling four of its vacancies almost a year ago. However, the CIC still has three vacancies left and has not functioned at its full strength of 10 Commissioners and one chief for almost five years.

"An assessment of the functioning of the transparency watchdogs revealed that 21 out of 29 commissions in the country did not hold a single hearing during the first three stages of the national lockdown imposed in 2020," said the SNS report.

# NGT need not 'wait for Godot' to save environment, says SC

It is a unique forum endowed with suo motu powers, it says

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has declared the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) position as a "unique" forum endowed with suo motu powers to take up environmental issues across the country.

The court said the NGT need not wait for the "metaphorical Godot" to knock on its portal to flex its considerable muscles to save the environment. "The exercise of power by the NGT is not circumscribed by the receipt of applications. When substantial questions relating to the environment arise and the issue is civil in nature and those relate to the Act, the NGT, in our opinion, even in the absence of an applica-



tion, can self-ignite action either towards amelioration or towards prevention of harm," a three-judge Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar, Hrishikesh Roy and C.T. Ravikumar held in a judgment. Justice Roy, who authored the 77-page judgment for the Bench, dismissed objections from the Centre, legal experts and even the court's

own amicus curiae who all argued against the NGT clothed with suo motu powers.

The court, speaking through Justice Roy, explained that the role of the NGT was not simply adjudicatory in nature. The tribunal has to perform equally vital roles that were preventative, ameliorative or remedial in nature.

The judgment described the NGT "as a complimentary, competent, specialised forum to deal with all environmental multidisciplinary issues both as original and also as an appellate authority, which complex issues were hitherto dealt with by the High Courts and the Supreme Court".

# Another series of raids on Deshmukh's houses

CBI searches houses in Nagpur, Mumbai

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

In yet another series of raids against Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) searched his houses in Nagpur and Mumbai in connection with the leak of the preliminary inquiry report against him.

The report had allegedly given a clean chit to the former Minister, which was later overruled by the top officials of the agency. The CBI has already arrested Mr. Deshmukh's lawyer, Anand Daga, and CBI inspector Abhishek Tiwari for leaking

the report and influencing the case. Earlier in the day, it was rumoured that Mr. Deshmukh's son Salil and daughter-in-law Riddhi would be arrested as the CBI team had come with an arrest warrant. CBI sources, however, did not confirm it. Both the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) have raided Mr. Deshmukh's residential and commercial establishments several times in the past few months.

The NCP came down on the agency over the repeated raids. "This is nothing but the pure harassment of an individual," said NCP's State president Jayant Patil.

# No data on private vaccine procurement: govt.

'Information is not available as private hospitals procure vaccines directly from manufacturers'

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry said it did not know how many COVID-19 vaccines were procured by private players, nor did it have separate data on how many vaccine doses were administered by private hospitals and service providers, according to its response to a Right to Information (RTI) request filed by Commodore Lokesh Batra (retd).

Despite the fact that the government had reserved 25% of vaccine allocation for the private sector, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan recently said only 6% of the doses administered since May were in private hospi-



**Drive-in facility:** A COVID-19 vaccination drive by a private hospital at a mall in Bengaluru in June. ■ MURALI KUMAR K.

itals. To date, India has administered 65.8 crore doses.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal had earlier targeted industry groups for not doing enough on the vaccine drive. The

Centre had capped inoculation charges by private players at ₹250. Commodore Batra's query, dated August 11, asked how many doses were directly purchased by private players and how ma-

ny they administered.

**Information denied**

On August 31, the Health Ministry responded, denying the information requested. "Private hospitals/institutions etc procure vaccines directly from the vaccine manufacturers. Data asked pertains between manufacturers and private hospitals/institutions, etc.," it said. After an appeal, the Ministry reiterated its stance on September 23, insisting that "this information was not maintained and was not available" as private procurement was done directly.

In his appeal, Commodore Batra had cited a June affidavit filed in the Supreme

Court where the Centre had said it would "facilitate supply of vaccines to private hospitals [under the 25% quota] and their payment through the National Health Authority's electronic platform" to ensure "equitable access and regional balance".

With regard to doses administered, the Ministry initially said, "Separate vaccination data is not available," pointing to the COWIN dashboard for overall data. On September 23, it said, "Data of COVID-19 vaccination doses administered by [private players] may be obtained from the States/UTs where such private COVID vaccination centres are located."

# Contract staff in Odisha bought 60 plots in five years of service

Anti-Corruption Bureau finds sale deeds during searches

SATYASUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

Anti-Corruption Bureau officials in Odisha have come across a contract employee who purchased 60 plots in the first five years of his service period.

The accused, Bikash Kumar Behera, was working as the Gram Panchayat Technical Assistant (GPTA) in the rank of a junior engineer.

"The GPTA has not earned more than ₹10 lakh in his total service period, but we have detected movable and immovable properties worth over ₹1.02 crore from his possession," said Birendra Nayak, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Vigilance), Rourkela.

Mr. Nayak said as a GPTA, his job responsibilities included technical supervision of development works, such as construction of check dams and implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. "In the next six months, his job would have been regularised. He would have started a career as a full-time GPTA," said Mr. Nayak.

Three teams of the Vigilance Department conducted simultaneous searches in three places in Deogarh district on Monday.

They found that he owned a double-storey

building at Balam in Deogarh district and 60 plots – 59 of them in Deogarh and one in Sambalpur town – worth ₹50.68 lakh.

"We found the sale deeds of the plots kept in one place. The 59 plots are situated on the outskirts of Deogarh district headquarters town and mostly in village areas," said Mr. Nayak. Vigilance sources said none of the plots were inherited by the contract employee.

A four-wheeler, bank deposits of around ₹6.61 lakh, insurance deposits over ₹21.15 lakh, gold ornaments weighing 386 g and ₹2.99 lakh in cash were recovered from him.

# In another reshuffle, 7 HC judges transferred

Second set of transfers in one week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Seven judges were on Monday transferred to different High Courts. This is the second set of transfers of High Court judges effected in the last one week. Fifteen judges of 11 High Courts were transferred on October 5.

The transfers were recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium last month. The Department of Justice in the Law Ministry tweeted a list of judges transferred.

Justice Rajan Gupta of the Punjab and Haryana High Court has been sent to the Patna High Court. Justice T.S. Sivagnanam has been sent from the Madras High Court to the Calcutta High

Court. Similarly, Justice Sureshwar Thakur of the Himachal Pradesh High Court has been sent to the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Justice P.B. Bajanthri of the Karnataka High Court stands transferred to the Patna High Court.

Rajasthan High Court's Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma has been sent to the Patna High Court.

Justice T. Amarnath Goud of the Telangana High Court has been sent to the Tripura High Court. Justice Subhash Chand of the Allahabad High Court has been transferred to the Jharkhand High Court. In the latest transfer process, the Patna High Court got three new judges.

# Killing of minorities a threat to democratic fabric of India: NHRC

Panel issues notices to the J&K Govt., police over attacks

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Jammu and Kashmir Government and the police over the recent spate of targeted killings of civilians from minority communities.

The NHRC issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Police (DGP) of the Union Territory on October 9 after taking suo motu cognisance of media reports the previous day. The officials were asked to respond within four weeks, according to the proceedings. The painful incidents of killing of civilians al-

legedly by terrorists were a serious threat to the democratic fabric of the country and people's right to life, liberty, equality and dignity, it observed. "Targeted killings of those who are not Kashmiri Muslims is an attempt to keep non-Muslims out of the Valley. It is a gross violation of human rights of minority communities in the Valley," it added.

The commission referred to news reports about the killing of two government school teachers, Supinder Kaur, a Sikh, and Deepak Chand, a Hindu, in Srinagar on October 7. This was after well-known pharmacist Makhan Lal Bindroo, from

the Kashmiri Pandit community, was gunned down on October 5 in Srinagar. On the same day, Virender Paswan, a street food vendor from Bihar, was killed.

"The commission takes suo motu cognisance of the incident and directs issuance of notices to the Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir, and the DGP, Jammu & Kashmir, calling for a detailed report in the matter, including present status of the investigation being conducted and steps be taken or proposed to be taken by the authorities to safeguard innocent citizens' lives from being killed in a targeted manner," it said.

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(set by Lightning)

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**16** Low-pitched sounds from horn damaged at church by one (7)

**19** Appreciates naval officer freeing a liberal at El Salvador (7)

**21** Lane with sitar event – completely odd (6)

**23** Extraordinary maid nearly grasps frameworks (9)

**25** Newton lost financier – one bringing dough (5)

**26** Hold on – one leaving child with one's roommate (6)

**27** Pose with hard worker after he becomes tentative (8)

**28** Rigorous imprisonment further disheartened troublemaker (6)

**29** One operating without ton of fish (8)

**DOWN**

**1** Formally withdraw from south eastern church with daughter and engineer (6)

**2** Yes, comes went to pieces in community (9)

**3** Machine to cut short foam (5)

**4** Former tennis player editor transformed (7)

**6** First off prevent influence of painting material (3,6)

**7** Coniferous tree made appealing, taking away its tops (5)

**8** Worried, he omits old fruit drink (8)

**11** Follow on journey, missing the first boundary (4)

**15** A red room designed by engineer in facility for planes (9)

**17** Restrain friend with move to end a game (9)

**18** It may raise gent going up with force (8)

**20** Mark evidence (4)

**21** Group receiving unique selling point with doubt (7)

**22** Hundred going down for particle that may not be elementary! (6)

**24** Proportion of limited food allowance (5)

**25** One interrupting supporter right by small shrub (5)

**ACROSS**

**1** Detective at emergency room left in dazed state (8)

**5** He often left mysterious events solved for starters (6)

**9** Raincoat changed for Ivanisevic, perhaps (8)

**10** Finish off punch old teetotaler consumed to get drunk (6)

**12** Author to study at American university exiting Austria (5)

**13** Igloo gets built for expert on rocks (9)

**14** Leave someone helpless at thoroughfare in London (6)

**SUDOKU**

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

**Solution to puzzle 13374**

L	I	V	E	L	O	N	G	R	A	T	I	O	
N	O	N	A	L	X	Y	E	I	T	U			
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**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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



# Ready for strategic partnership agreement with Russia, says Iran

It is expected to be on the lines of pact Tehran concluded with China in March

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TEHRAN

Iran is ready to sign a strategic partnership with Russia, mirroring one concluded early this year with China, the Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

"The initial arrangements of this document, entitled the Global Agreement for Cooperation between Iran and Russia, have been concluded," said Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh.

"We are in the process of finalising diverse clauses of the document, and we will send it to Moscow," he told reporters.

"In recent years, it has become necessary to improve relations between Iran and



**Deepening ties:** Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, left, and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian. \*AP/FILE

Russia and to concentrate on strategic partnerships," he added.

"Between Iran, China and Russia, the eastern axis is emerging."

He added that Tehran hopes the document will be

signed in the coming months.

Iran in March concluded a 25-year strategic and commercial cooperation agreement with China after several years of talks.

And in mid-September

Iran was admitted to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, led by Russia and China.

Meanwhile, Iran on Monday called on European countries to guarantee an existing nuclear deal that the parties are set to revisit during a planned resumption of talks in Vienna.

"The European capitals, including Berlin, have been passive spectators," Mr. Khatibzadeh told reporters.

"We therefore expect all parties, when they arrive in Vienna, to know that they have no choice but to adhere to their obligations under the nuclear deal," he said during his weekly news conference.

# HK's largest pro-democracy party shuns 'patriot only' poll

Most of city's Opposition figures jailed or disqualified

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
HONG KONG

Hong Kong's largest pro-democracy party will not contest the upcoming "patriot only" legislature elections after none of its members met the party's own application deadline on Monday.

The decision means the December polls have been effectively boycotted by the city's pro-democracy Opposition with even the movement's most moderate wing deciding it is not worth taking part.

The Democratic Party's membership had been split on whether to continue with Hong Kong's political process as authorities crack down on dissent in response to huge and often violent

protests two years ago.

On Monday, the party said none had applied from its membership by the deadline.

One member, veteran Tiananmen Square activist Han Dongfang, previously said he wished to run but did not manage to secure enough nominations within the party.

Hong Kong's government has been pushing the narrative that the once outspoken city remains politically pluralistic even as scores of Opposition figures are jailed and disqualified from standing for office.

Most of Hong Kong's major pro-democracy parties have either disbanded or seen their leadership deci-

rated by arrests and prosecutions.

Under an overhaul imposed by Beijing earlier this year, only those deemed "staunch patriots" are allowed to take part in politics and anyone standing for public office must be vetted for national security risks.

The overhaul has also further reduced the number of directly elected seats in the city's legislature from half to less than a quarter.

The rest will be appointed by reliably pro-Beijing committees and special interest groups that have been vetted for their political loyalty.

Beijing is sensitive to any move that might cast doubt on its new "patriots only" political model.



# Schallenberg sworn-in as Austria's leader

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
VIENNA

Austria got a new Chancellor on Monday, two days after former leader Sebastian Kurz resigned amid corruption allegations, but the direction of government policy was not expected to change.

Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen swore in Alexander Schallenberg, the former Foreign Minister, as Chancellor. Career diplomat Michael Linhart became the new Foreign Minister.

Mr. Schallenberg, 52, told reporters on Monday that he would do "everything to refill the trenches" caused by the recent government crisis and also "do everything in my power to serve our beautiful country of Austria."

He also said he would continue to work closely with the conservative Mr. Kurz. Both share a hard line on immigration.

Mr. Kurz, 35, announced on Saturday that he would step aside to defuse a political crisis triggered by prosecutors' announcement that he is one of the targets of an investigation into suspected bribery and breach of trust. Mr. Kurz's junior coalition partners, the Greens, had demanded his replacement.

Mr. Kurz denies any wrongdoing. Although he stepped down as Chancellor, he is keeping his role as party chief.

# Iraq says it has arrested Islamic State's financial chief

Sami Jasim served as a deputy leader of IS under Al-Baghdadi

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BAGHDAD

Iraq said on Monday it has detained a top leader of the Islamic State group and a longtime al-Qaeda operative in a cross-border operation.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi tweeted the news, identifying the man as Sami Jasim, who oversees the Islamic State's financial operations and served as the deputy leader of IS under the late Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Mr. Al-Kadhimi described it as "one of the most difficult" cross border intelligence operations ever conducted by Iraqi forces.

Jasim has a \$5 million

bounty on his head from the U.S. State Department's Rewards for Justice programme, which describes him as having been "instrumental in managing finances in a cross-border operations."

"While serving as IS deputy in southern Mosul in 2014, Jasim reportedly served as the equivalent of IS's finance minister, supervising the group's revenue-generating operations from illicit sales of oil, gas, antiquities, and minerals," the website says.

Iraqi intelligence officials said that Jasim was detained in an identified foreign country and transported to Iraq few days ago. They spoke on condition of anonymity be-

cause they were not authorized to speak of the operation on the record.

Jassem worked with al-Qaeda in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant who was killed in a U.S. airstrike in Iraq in 2006. He assumed various security positions in Iraq, and moved to Syria in 2015, after the Islamic State group, an al-Qaeda offshoot, declared its caliphate in 2014 and became the deputy of al-Baghdadi, the extremist group's leader.

Al-Baghdadi was killed in a U.S.-led raid in northwestern Syria in 2019, under former U.S. President Donald Trump.

# Post-recovery, Nasheed returns to Male

He was undergoing treatment in Germany for injuries from an assassination bid

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

Former President and Parliamentary Speaker of the Maldives Mohamed Nasheed on Monday returned to capital Male, five months after he survived an assassination bid, following which he was flown to Germany to undergo treatment for the grave injuries.

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih received the Speaker, also his party colleague, at the airport, signalling a thawing of tensions between the leaders, after Mr. Nasheed criticised the President for "pandering to religious extremists".

Mr. Nasheed's return was kept under wraps due to persisting security concerns, according to sources in Male.



**Back home:** President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, right, with Parliament Speaker Mohamed Nasheed. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"It is nice to be back home," he told *The Hindu* from Male on Monday night.

The explosion on May 6, near Mr. Nasheed's residence took the Maldives and the world by shock. Maldives police termed the incident a "terror attack" and attributed it to a local religious extre-

mist group that sympathises with the Islamic State. Police have arrested some key suspects in the case and are continuing the probe with assistance from the Australian Federal Police and American investigators.

Mr. Nasheed openly condemns religious extremism

and the attack on him was widely seen as a chilling message to critics.

Months into his recovery, Mr. Nasheed issued a statement asking President Solih to "course-correct before it is too late".

The Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) to which both President Solih and Mr. Nasheed belong, was on the verge of a split amid growing differences between the two factions backing them, especially over the party's response to religious extremism. However, the party has stayed together until now.

Maldivian media showed Mr. Solih receiving Mr. Nasheed with a warm embrace, even as scores of supporters waited to greet Mr. Nasheed.

# Car bomb blast in Syrian town kills 4

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIRUT

A car bomb exploded in a northern Syrian town controlled by Turkey-backed Syrian opposition fighters Monday, killing at least four people, rescue workers and a war monitor said.

The bomb exploded in a market in the town of Afrin in Aleppo province. Volunteers with the Syrian Civil Defense, rescuers who operate in opposition areas, said the death toll would likely rise. The civil defense group said a woman was among those killed.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights put the death toll at six, including suspected opposition fighters.

The explosion hit near the market in the town center not far from a post for the dominant armed group in the area, the Army of Islam, according to the Observatory.

# Tunisia gets a new government, with record number of women

This comes 11 weeks after Saied suspended Parliament

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TUNIS

Tunisia got a new government on Monday after more than two months without one, with the Prime Minister naming her Cabinet, including a record number of women.

The ministerial appointments announced by Prime Minister Najla Bouden filled a vacuum that had persisted since President Kais Saied abruptly dismissed his former Cabinet and suspended Parliament 11 weeks ago, concentrating all executive powers. His critics and constitutional lawyers have likened his actions to a coup.

Ms. Bouden, named September 29 by Mr. Saied as Tunisia's first female Prime Minister, said during the swearing-in ceremony of her new Ministers that their main priority would be fight-



Najla Bouden

ing corruption.

The new Cabinet has an unprecedented 10 women, including the PM. They include Leila Jaffel, new at the Ministry of Justice, and Sihem Boughdiri Nemseya, reappointed as Finance Minister.

Mr. Saied had previously promised a new government for July.

But he then partially suspended the Constitution on

September 22 and gave himself the power to rule by decree. He has argued that pandemic-hit Tunisia is in crisis and that the measures are temporary.

Opponents termed his move a coup but many Tunisians, sick of a political class seen as corrupt and incompetent, initially welcomed it.

Protests for and against Mr. Saied have attracted thousands of people in recent weeks.

The President on Monday said he would "make efforts in the coming days" to launch a "genuine national dialogue" involving Tunisians from across the country.

Feminist groups have hailed Ms. Bouden's nomination as a step forward for women in Tunisia, seen as a pioneer for women's rights in the Arab world.

# Nobel for research on wages, jobs

U.S. based economist showed that higher minimum wages do not hurt hiring

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
STOCKHOLM

The Nobel prize for economics was awarded on Monday to U.S.-based economist David Card for pioneering research that showed an increase in minimum wage does not lead to less hiring and that immigrants do not lower pay for native-born workers, challenging commonly held ideas.

The prize was shared with two others for creating a way to study these types of societal issues.

Canadian-born Dr. Card of the University of California, Berkeley, was awarded one half of the prize for his research on how minimum wage, immigration and education affect the labour market, while the other half was



**Laurels galore:** (from left) Guido Imbens, Joshua Angrist, and David Card, who won the Nobel Prize for economics. \*AFP

shared by Joshua Angrist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Dutch-born Guido Imbens from Stanford University for their framework for studying issues that can't rely on traditional scientific methods.

## 'Reshaped research'

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said the three have "completely reshaped empirical work in the eco-

nomics sciences."

Together, the three helped rapidly expand the use of "natural experiments", or studies based on the observation of real-world data. Such research made economics more applicable to everyday life, provided policymakers with actual evidence on the outcomes of policies, and in time spawned a more popular approach to economics, epitom-

ised by the bestseller *Freakonomics* by Stephen Dubner and Steven Levitt.

In a study published in 1993, Dr. Card looked at what happened to jobs at fast-food restaurants Burger King, KFC, Wendy's and Roy Rogers when New Jersey raised its minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.05, using restaurants in bordering eastern Pennsylvania as the control - or comparison - group.

Contrary to previous studies, he and his research partner Alan Krueger, who died in 2019, found that an increase in the minimum wage had no effect on the number of employees.

Dr. Card's minimum wage research fundamentally altered economists' views of such policies.

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MARKET WATCH

	11-10-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,136	0.13
US Dollar	75.36	-0.49
Gold	46,038	0.17
Brent oil	83.92	----

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	737.45	-2.45
Asian Paints	3306.05	-0.85
Axis Bank	787.15	-5.20
Bajaj Auto	3852.10	36.55
Bajaj Finserv	17713.95	164.50
Bajaj Finance	7817.10	84.90
Bharti Airtel	690.85	-4.65
BPL	454.40	4.95
Britannia Ind	3840.60	-42.70
Cipla	913.75	-3.35
Coal India	196.85	8.40
Divis Lab	5143.05	71.75
Dr Reddys Lab	4894.35	45.15
Eicher Motors	2851.75	33.80
Grasim Ind	1651.75	52.95
HCL Tech	1302.90	-19.25
HDFC	2749.25	28.60
HDFC Bank	1633.80	31.15
HDFC Life	717.30	-4.80
Hero MotoCorp	2857.80	15.70
Hindalco	487.50	13.85
Hind Unilever	2645.10	5.05
ICICI Bank	713.30	9.90
IndusInd Bank	1173.25	-1.15
Infosys	1690.95	-32.90
IndianOil Corp	131.55	-0.25
ITC	238.05	6.35
JSW Steel	672.40	6.55
Kotak Bank	1975.40	39.05
L&T	1716.90	-10.00
M&M	895.60	17.80
Maruti Suzuki	7700.80	270.80
Nestle India Ltd.	19084.65	98.20
NTPC	144.80	3.70
ONGC	165.00	4.05
PowerGrid Corp	193.45	5.75
Reliance Ind	2652.65	-18.60
SBI Life	1206.10	9.65
State Bank	469.25	11.25
Shree Cement	28022.45	265.30
Sun Pharma	832.55	11.15
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd	816.25	-2.50
Tata Motors	415.75	32.80
Tata Steel	1313.20	12.05
TCS	3685.60	-250.05
Tech Mahindra	1400.20	-39.75
Titan	2362.40	4.20
UltraTech Cement	7330.25	-5.50
UPL	742.45	4.45
Wipro	652.80	-8.35

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 11

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	75.16	75.48
Euro	86.88	87.25
British Pound	102.39	102.83
Japanese Yen (100)	66.51	66.82
Chinese Yuan	11.65	11.70
Swiss Franc	81.05	81.40
Singapore Dollar	55.48	55.72
Canadian Dollar	60.32	60.58
Malaysian Ringgit	18.01	18.10

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



TAFE unveils tractor service initiative

CHENNAI  
Tractor major TAFE has unveiled a nationwide tractor service campaign 'Massey Service Utsav'. Through this initiative, TAFE intends to reach out to more than 10 lakh customers. The goal is to benefit farmers by reducing maintenance cost and providing them with best-in-class service, it said.

Airtel, Vodafone contest ₹3,050-crore demand

NEW DELHI  
Telecom majors Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have moved telecom tribunal TDSAT to challenge the Telecom Department's demand notices for the payment of ₹3,050 crore in penalties in the points-of-interconnect matter, according to a source. PTI

# 'Ebbing COVID wave, pace of jabs aiding economic recovery'

Agri growth, rebound in manufacturing, buoyant revenues augur well: FinMin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India's economic recovery has spread its wings, the Finance Ministry said on Monday, stating that the ebbing of the second COVID-19 wave and fast-paced vaccination had spurred further momentum in economic activity, with mobility reaching 90% of pre-pandemic levels.

Asserting that India would be able to vaccinate its adult population by 2021-end, given the current pace of vaccination, the Ministry said this would be a remarkable feat in the global context.

"India's average daily inoculation rate witnessed a 91% increase from 41.3 lakh in June to 78.7 lakh in Sep-



On the move: Mobility has reached 90% of pre-pandemic levels, the Ministry says in its monthly review. ■ SHIV KUMAR

tember, the highest in the world after China," the Ministry pointed out.

Citing an uptick in industrial output and a moderation in inflation, the Ministry said India was well-placed on the path to swift recovery

with growth impulses 'visibly transmitted' to all sectors of the economy. "Sustained and robust growth in agriculture, sharp rebound in manufacturing and industry, resumption of services activity and buoyant revenues are

suggesting that economy is progressing well," it noted in its monthly economic review for September.

Agriculture continued to strengthen rural demand on the back of estimated increase in kharif production, record-high procurement of wheat and paddy in the rabi marketing season and ongoing kharif marketing season, respectively, it said. A satisfactory monsoon promises similar benefits in the future as well, the Ministry added.

In tandem with growth impulses across the economy, bank credit growth improved to 6.7% in the fortnight ended September 10, compared with 5.3% a year earlier, it pointed out.

## Maruti Sept. production slides by half

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) witnessed a drop in production of more than 50% last month owing to the shortage of semiconductor chips.

In a regulatory filing, the auto major reported total production of 81,278 units in September as compared with 1,66,086 units in September 2020.

"Production volume of the company in September 2021 was affected due to electronic components shortage," it noted. MSI had reported an 8% drop in total production in August on a yearly basis to 1,13,937 units.

## 'DoT, TRAI working on optimal use of spectrum'

'5G, satellite services spurring demand'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Telecom Ministry is engaged in discussions with regulator TRAI to work out ways for optimum utilisation of "finite resource" spectrum, especially for air-wave bands sought for both 5G services as well as satellite communication, a senior official said on Monday.

"The demand for satellite-based and terrestrial telecom services have put unprecedented demands on radio spectrum, in particular the C band and the Ka band frequencies are needed for both space-based as well as terrestrial telecommunications services," Telecom Secretary K. Rajaraman said.

Speaking at an event organised by newly-formed industry body Indian Space Association, the Secretary added that since spectrum is a finite resource, its value can be augmented through sharing and with coexistence by different services. "Thus, it is necessary to ensure efficient use of spectrum... including revisiting the uses in the existing frequency bands as well as in the new frequency bands. We are engaged in this exercise in consultation with TRAI."

'Investments needed'

Speaking at the same session, TRAI Chairman P.D. Vaghela added that there was an 'urgent need' for policies that attracted investments, allowed use of space technology for the common man and ensured flexibility and ease of doing business.

Mr. Vaghela added that the regulator was in the process of releasing a consultation paper for licensing framework for satellite earth station gateways - an area



that requires "complete transformation" to facilitate establishment of earth stations by any satellite operators. Further, TRAI is working on bringing out a consultation paper for developing a comprehensive single window online portal, having interdepartmental linkages for transfer of application and information for parallel processing.

The Telecom Secretary added that the recommendations from TRAI on the licensing framework for satellite space connectivity for low bit-rate applications are currently under consideration by the DoT. "We hope to take a decision very soon. This is likely to open up a large potential for IoT and machine to machine-based applications," he said.

Speaking at an earlier session Telecom and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the government is fully committed to reforms and ensuring healthy competition in the sector and asked the industry to study the global best practices and come up with suggestions to contribute in formulation of enabling policy.

The Centre wanted "to reform this sector and provide a level-playing-field to everybody. We want... healthy competition in this sector. Please come up with recommendations which will help us formulate policy in that direction," the Minister said.

## Crude drives rupee lower, bond yields spurt

Currency at lowest since July 2020

REUTERS  
MUMBAI

Indian bond yields hit their highest levels in almost 18 months while the rupee fell to its lowest level since July 2020 as the sharp rise in global oil prices raised concerns about its impact on domestic inflation.

India imports 80% of its oil needs and high prices result in increased imported inflation. "The rally in crude is ongoing and until we see some respite, rupee and bonds will remain under pressure. It needs to be seen if the RBI comes in to protect the rupee or not," said a senior dealer with a private bank. The rupee ended at 75.36 per dollar after touch-



ing 75.39 during the day.

Oil prices rose 2%, extending multiweek gains, as an energy crisis gripping major economies showed no sign of easing amid a pickup in economic activity and restrained supplies from major producers.

India's benchmark 10-year bond yield closed at the session high of 6.34%, its highest since April 17, 2020.

## 'OneWeb likely to use ISRO's platforms for 2022 launches'

Global space race has begun, says network chairman Mittal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Mittal on Monday said the "space race" had truly begun and the private sector should ensure that India remained on the cutting edge of the space industry.

Speaking at the unveiling of the Indian Space Association, Mr. Mittal added that Bharti-backed OneWeb, which already had 322 satellites in orbit, will use India-built PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) and the heavier GSLV-MkIII (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) as potential platforms to launch OneWeb's

satellites in India from 2022.

"I have been associated with this industry for nearly a year and a half now and I can say with a great deal of certainty... the space race has truly begun, and this race is getting accelerated every day... we are seeing that very very large powerful countries along with private sector are moving their agenda at a very fast pace," said Mr. Mittal, who is also chairman at OneWeb.

'Time to move ahead'

Mr. Mittal added that it was time for the private sector now to take advantage and ensure that India remained

on the cutting edge of the space industry.

"New technologies, R&D where billions of dollars are being spent, are upending old technologies. It is... time for us to move. In the next three to five years, the space industry will dramatically alter," Mr. Mittal said.

He added that OneWeb had entered into an arrangement through Letter of Intent with NewSpace India Ltd. the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), to use PSLV and the GSLV-MkIII as potential platforms to launch OneWeb's satellites in India from 2022.

## CIL ups supply to power units to 1.51 MT a day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

State-owned CIL on Monday said it had scaled up the supply of coal to power utilities across the country to 1.51 million tonnes (MT) per day during the past four days of the current month, and stressed that it was building up adequate evacuation logistics to transport the dry fuel.

The development assumes significance in the wake of reports that warned of a power crisis due to coal shortage.

The average supplies to the coal-fired power plants during October so far has been 1.43 MT per day, augmented to 1.51 MT in the past four days.

## 'India invited to become full-time IEA member'

Country must then raise reserve stock

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

International Energy Agency (IEA) has invited India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, to become its full-time member - a proposal, if accepted, will require New Delhi to raise strategic oil reserves to 90 days' requirement.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said he held online discussions with IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.

"As a natural corollary to the India-IEA strategic partnership, Dr. Birol invited India to deepen its cooperation with IEA by becoming a full Member," Mr. Puri tweeted without saying if



Hardeep Singh Puri

the full-time membership proposal was acceptable to the Centre or not.

In March 2017, India became an associate member of the agency. On its website, IEA states: "India is becoming increasingly influential in global energy trends."

India's current strategic oil reserves equal 9.5 days of its requirement.

## AI's ₹16,000-cr. unpaid bills to go to AIAHL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The government will transfer about ₹16,000 crore of unpaid fuel bills and other pending dues that Air India (AI) owes to suppliers, to a special purpose vehicle before handing over the loss-making airline to the Tata Group, Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary, DIPAM, said.

Air India Assets Holding Ltd. (AIAHL) will also be saddled with 75% of AI's debt that the Tata Group is not taking over. He said he did not expect dues to increase much by December as the Centre would continue to support the airline's operations to maintain it as a going concern.

## 'AI-Vistara may hit global plans of IndiGo, SpiceJet'

'New combine is a formidable force'

LALATENDU MISHRA  
MUMBAI

The combined force of Tata group's airlines, namely Air India and Vistara, is expected to pose challenges for the international ambitions of IndiGo and SpiceJet, said analysts at ICICI Securities.

"Air India plus Vistara is a formidable force in the international segment. This is evident considering the network [7 of Vistara and 70 of Air India, without considering the overlap], wide body aircraft fleet of a total of 49 [2 Vistara and 47 Air India] and international market share [of 64%] of the combination," analysts Ansuman Deb and Ravin Kurwa wrote in a note. "This entity can



pose serious threat to the international long haul aspirations of IndiGo or the international cargo plans of SpiceJet," they said.

Vistara, which started international operations in August 2019, plans to further grow its network once it receives four 787-9 dreamliners by 2023.



R. Dinesh

## TVS SCS raises ₹590 crore from Exor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS), a leading provider of integrated supply chain solutions, has raised ₹590 crore from a fund managed by Exor.

The funds will be used for 'growth and transformation'. "TVS SCS will leverage its tech-enabled global solutions to outgrow the industry," said R. Dinesh, MD, TVS SCS.

# SPORT

## Argentina has it easy against Uruguay

Colombia snaps Brazil's winning run; Panama stuns USA

WC QUALIFIERS

REUTERS  
BUENOS AIRES

Two goals in the minutes before half-time, one of them an unusually fortunate counter from Lionel Messi, helped Argentina on its way to a comfortable 3-0 win over Uruguay in a World Cup qualifier here on Sunday.

Eight minutes before the break Messi floated a 35-metre pass into the area but it was missed by both advancing striker Nicolas Gonzalez and goalkeeper Fernando Muslera and somehow sneaked into the net.

Six minutes later Lautaro Martinez missed at a chance on the edge of the box but the loose ball fell into the path of Rodrigo De Paul who made no mistake.

Martinez made up when



Wrapping it up: Lautaro Martinez fires in Argentina's third and final goal against Uruguay. ■ AFP

he converted a low cross from De Paul 17 minutes into the second half.

Perfect game

"We played a great game," said Messi. "Everything worked out perfectly."

"Uruguay wait for you and they generate danger. Once

we got the first goal we started to find space and the goals appeared."

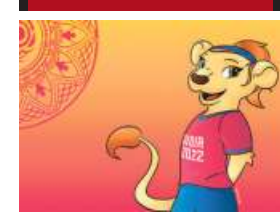
The win, combined with Brazil's 0-0 draw at Colombia earlier in the day, narrows the gap between leader Brazil and second-placed Argentina to six points at the top of the 10-team South

American qualifying group.

The stalemate also ended Brazil's nine-match winning run.

In the CONCACAF World Cup qualifiers, Anibal Godoy's 54th-minute goal gave host Panama a historic 1-0 victory to end USA's unbeaten run

IN BRIEF



Mascot for U-17 women's World Cup unveiled

NEW DELHI  
Coinciding with the International Day of the Girl Child, FIFA on Monday unveiled Ibha, an Asiatic lioness, as the official mascot for the U-17 women's World Cup to be held in India between October 11 and 30 next year. ANI

Madan Maharaj rides on Eynnaya's winner

BENGALURU  
Loveday Okechukwu Eynnaya scored a 90th-minute winner as Madan Maharaj FC edged Rynth Sports and Cultural Club 1-0 in the I-League Qualifiers on Monday. Madan Maharaj is now joint-top in Group A with four points, alongside Rajasthan United FC.

## Ayush and Rupal are fastest in heats

ATHLETICS

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

As expected, Haryana's Ayush Dabas returned the fastest time of 47.38 seconds in the men's heats on the opening day of the 3rd National Open 400m championship at the Nehru Stadium complex here on Monday.

Winner of the National under-23 title recently in 46.58 seconds - the fifth fastest time by an Indian this year - Dabas stood out in the crowd that included seven runners who covered the distance inside 49 seconds.

Similarly, Uttar Pradesh's Rupal won her heats in 56.13 seconds in the girls' under-18 section, and emerged way faster than three others who clocked sub-60

timings.

Karnataka's Rihan C.H. was the fastest in the boys (under-16) heats following his effort of 49.31. UP's Himanshu Rathi was next best in 50.71 while three others - Delhi's Aman Choudhary, UP's Sonu Chaudhary and Andhra's Setty Lohit - warmed up for the battles ahead with sub-52 efforts.

Rahul Githala (Rajasthan) topped the boys' under-18 heats in 48.77, which was better than teammate Pan-kaj's 48.97, the fastest time in the boys' under-20 section. In the girls' under-16, Karnataka's Priyanka Olekar (58.97) and Tamil Nadu's Kanista Teena (59.08) were two of the fastest semifinalists.

The semifinals are scheduled on Tuesday morning and all the finals in the afternoon.







IN BRIEF



**Shubhankar finishes season's best tied third**  
MADRID  
Shubhankar Sharma produced his best performance of the year with a final-round five-under 66 to sign off tied third at the ACCIONA Open de Espana that placed him in the top-60 of the Race to Dubai standings. Rafa Cabrera Bello won the title. PTI

**Im Sung-jae takes title; Lahiri disappoints**  
LAS VEGAS  
Anirban Lahiri finished 64th after a final round 71 at the Shriners Children's Open here on Sunday. Lahiri carded 65, 70, 72, 71 to finish six-under. Korean Im Sung-jae posted a four-shot victory. PTI

**India beats Bahrain in women's friendly**  
MANAMA  
India women beat Bahrain 5-0 in a women's international friendly on Sunday. Pyari Xaxa (19th, 68th), Sangita Basfore (13th), Indumathi (34th) and Manisha (69th) scored for India. PTI

**Kipruto and Kipyogei win Boston Marathon**  
BOSTON  
Kenya's Benson Kipruto won the men's race while Diana Kipyogei led a Kenyan sweep of the women's podium in the Boston Marathon on Monday, each winning their first-ever major title. India's Nitendra Singh Rawat finished 31th in a time of 2:22.01s. REUTERS

**BFI ropes in Devandro, Suranjoy as men's coaches**  
NEW DELHI  
M. Suranjoy Singh and L. Devandro Singh, whose stellar boxing careers were cut short by injuries, have been roped in as coaches for men by the BFI ahead of this month's World Championships. They are among 14 coaches short-listed for the National camp in Patiala. PTI

# Mahika thrives on Clark's guidance

Says the coach told her that if she worked on her second serve, she would reign

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

A week before the national championship, Mahika Khanna felt homesick and returned to Shahjahanpur from the Accelerate Academy in Gurugram.

"I was at the Academy from May and really wanted to be home," said Mahika, who dropped one set on way to the under-14 title, defying her wafer thin frame.

**Encouraging words**  
Three months before the national championship, coach Todd Clark, who has done a lot of good work with Indian players over the years, had told Mahika that she had the potential to win the national title.

"When I played the first under-18 tournament, he told me that if I worked on my second serve, I would win the title. I did!" beamed Mahika, quite relaxed after her first round victory in the ongoing national under-18



**Motivator:** National under-14 champion Mahika Khanna with coach Todd Clark. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

championship. Introduced to the game by her sports loving father Gagan Khanna who has played cricket big time, Mahika had tried many academies over the years.

"In our place there was only one court and no players. So, I had to go to Bareilly, about 80 km from home, to learn the game. Even now, my school is Alma

Mater in Bareilly. They support me a lot," said Mahika, capturing the essence of her journey so far.

It calls for some vision to put a rank outsider as a favourite for the national title, but Todd Clark has great clarity in his coaching.

"We have a ladder system in training. We have groups of different levels of players. There are regular matches. If

a higher-level player loses to a lower-level player, they exchange their places in the groups. Initially, I used to cry after losing, and felt bad about being in the lowest group. But it motivated me to train better. Now, I like the system a lot," said Mahika.

**Superb competitor**

The coach places his faith on Mahika because of her being a superb competitor.

"The win in the pre-quarterfinals against Priyanka Rana gave me a lot of confidence. I had lost to her twice earlier," said Mahika, who dropped the only set in the tournament to her.

"After winning the under-14 title, there was no time for celebration. I had to quickly go to court No.11 and play my qualifying match for under-18," recalled Mahika.

There was some pressure on Mahika as her father had left all his business to take care of her tennis. "Now I am more confident. I play free without thinking about anything," said Mahika.

# Ajay rallies to beat Daksh

Qualifier Nandini advances, downing Renne

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Ajay Malik bounced back from the brink of defeat to beat Daksh Agarwal 6-7(4), 7-6(0), 6-2 in the first round of the National junior tennis championship at the DLTA Complex here on Monday.

In another interesting match, lucky loser Azmeer Shaikh beat Khush Sharma 6-2, 6-3. The top four seeds, Nishant Dabas, Aman Dahiya, Denim Yadav and Karan Singh moved into the second round.

In the girls' section, qualifier Nandini Dixit capitalised on her sharp game in beating Renne Singla 7-5, 6-0.

**The results (first round): Under-18: Boys:** Nishant Dabas bt Sagar Kumar 6-0, 6-1; Maanav Jain bt Jasmeet Duhan 6-2, 6-1; Ansh Kundu bt Mukil Ramanan 6-2, 6-4; Dhruv Hirpara bt Rajeshwar Reddy 6-2, 6-3; Lokesh Pun bt Deep Munim 7-5, 6-3; Ananth Manimuni bt Pasad Ingale 6-1, 6-2; Jason David bt Tharakesh Ashokar 6-0, 6-2; Aayush Bhat bt Jaishnav Shinde 0-6, 6-1, 6-1; Karan Singh bt Anup Bangargi 6-2, 6-1; Aditya Rathi bt Abhik Arora 6-2, 6-3;



Ajay. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shivam Kadam bt Rakshak Tarun 6-7(2), 6-2, 6-1; Tarun Korwar bt Torus Raat 7-6(10), 6-2; Rushil Khosla bt Tushar Mittal 6-0, 6-2; Skandha Rao bt Vansh Yadav 6-4, 6-1; Rohin Lotlikar bt Ninaad Ravi 6-0, 6-0; Aditya Nandal bt Rishi Jalota 6-2, 6-2; Sandesh Kurala bt Arjun Kundu 6-1, 6-1; Nikhil Mittal bt Yugraj Singh 6-2, 6-1; Azmeer Shaikh bt Khush Sharma 6-2, 6-3; Suresh Keerthivassan bt Yogee Panwar 7-6(3), 6-1; Abhay Chhabra bt Ajnabi Dahiya 6-3, 6-4; Saheb Sodhi bt Yash Baghel 6-2, 6-1; Kevin Karthik bt Vansh Nandal 6-4, 6-3; Denim Yadav bt Monil Lotlikar 4-6, 6-2, 6-0; Parv Nage bt Pra-

gathesh Shivashankar 5-7, 6-2, 6-1; Arjun Phogaat bt Raghav Poonia 6-2, 7-6(2); Kush Arjaria bt Ayush Hindale 7-6(4), 6-1; Daksh Prasad bt Bushan Haobam 6-3, 6-4; Ajay Malik bt Daksh Agarwal 6-7(4), 7-6(0), 6-2; Yashvardhan Singh bt Kartik Saxena 2-6, 6-2, 3-1 (conceded)

Arjun Premkumar bt Tanishq Jadhav 7-5, 6-2; Aman Dahiya bt Sahil Tambat 6-0, 6-2.

**Girls:** Amodini Naik bt Sakshi Thakkar 7-6(3), 7-5; Lakshya Vishwanath bt Tanushri Pandey 6-0, 6-1; Renee Singh bt Harleen Kaur Dhanda 6-4, 6-4; Hitakanya Narwal bt Lakshmi Gowda 6-4, 6-2; Sachi Sharma bt Niyati Kukreti 6-3, 4-6, 6-1; Ikaraju Kanumuri bt Yati Besain 6-1, 6-2; Tamanna Takoria bt Samiksha Dabas 7-6(5), 7-5; Mahika Khanna bt Mridhula Palanivel 6-1, 6-3; Veda Raju Prapurba bt Trisha Malik 6-3, 6-3.

Ananya SR bt Suryanshi Tanwar 6-2, 7-6(2); Abhaya Vemuri bt Harnoor Kaur Sidhu 6-1, 6-4; Shrichandrakala Tentu bt Riya Kaushik 7-6(50), 6-1; Somya Arya bt Hannah Nagpal 1-6, 7-5, 6-4; Kristi Boro bt Apurva Vemuri 6-4, 7-5; Nandini Dixit bt Renne Singla 7-5, 6-0; Kundali Majgaane bt Srivaly Medishetty 6-3, 7-6(1).

# Chaitanya-Pradeep duo bags title

MOTORSPORTS

ASHWIN ACHAL  
HAMPPI

Chaitanya and Pradeep Kumar won the coveted 'Pro modified' class of the 4x4 Hampi Off Road Challenge at Hampi over the weekend. Chaitanya and Pradeep, driving a modified Maruti Suzuki Gypsy, finished the first day in fourth spot, with 490 points.

A fine performance on the second day propelled the duo to the title, edging out nearest rival pair of Kranti-Dhanraj by seven

points overall. Atul Thomas and Siraj, with a modified Mahindra Thar, won the 'Modified' class. Vinay Kumar-Vikram, driving a Mahindra Thar, won the 'Stock diesel' class. Varun Kumar-Adarsh, on a Maruti Suzuki Gypsy, took top honours in the 'Stock petrol' class.

The event attracted 37 entries from across the country.

**The results (winners): Pro modified:** Chaitanya & Pradeep Kumar. **Modified:** Atul Thomas & Siraj. **Stock diesel:** Vinay Kumar & Vikram. **Stock petrol:** Varun Kumar & Adarsh.

# AITA names four women's ITF events

ANI  
NEW DELHI

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) announced four ITF World Tour events for women, in addition to the three for men announced earlier, on Monday.

Bengaluru will host a tournament from Nov. 29 followed by Solapur from Dec. 6. The prize money is \$15,000. Pune will play host to the penultimate tournament with a prize money of \$25,000. The last event will be in Navi Mumbai with a prize money of \$25,000.

NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

**Saksham takes eight wickets**  
Saksham Tyagi (8/30) bowled St. Kabir Academy to a 191-run victory over Star Sports Academy in the 1st Indian Soldiers (u-13) day-night tournament.

**The scores:** St. Kabir Academy 248/1 in 30 overs (Gorish Dahiya 89 n.o., Abhishek Chahal 78 n.o., Avneet Malik 53) bt Star Sports 57 in 15 overs (Saksham Tyagi 8/30).

**Exciting win for Wonders**  
Harsh Bidhuri, Abhishek and Adnan took Noida Wonders to a one-wicket victory over Greater Valley in the 4th Skillz youth tournament.

**The scores:** Greater Valley 199/8 in 40 overs (Bhavi Sharma 55, Ronak 42, Vivek Dhami 3/31) lost to Noida

Wonder 200/9 in 38 overs (Harsh Bidhuri 46, Abhishek 37, Adnan 32, Virat 3/21). **Kirit Kaushik scalps six**  
Kirit Kaushik (6/22) guided York Club to a 118-run victory over Ramakant Achrekar Academy in the fifth Ashok Goyal memorial tournament.

**The scores:** York Club 200 in 48 overs (Aryan Kumar 38, Shaurya Sindhu 31, Nitik Mathur 30, Mohit Dikka 3/15) bt Ramakant Achrekar 82 in 33 overs (Kirit Kaushik 6/22, Nitik Mathur 3/7).

**Gulzar and Shubham excel**  
Gulzar (98) and Shubham Verma (3/39) played key roles in Uday Bhan Club's 27-run win over Anand Sports Akshardham in the Swatik Cup.

**The scores:** Uday Bhan 277 in 36 overs (Gulzar 98, Mohit Panwar 41, Rachit Bhatia (3/27) bt Anand Sports Akshardham 250 in 37.4 overs (Naman Tiwari 62, Rohit Sharma 55, Shubham Verma 3/39).

**Mohit Bhati scalps four**  
Mohit Bhati (4/11) was the hero of Florence Academy's 32-run victory over We Cricket Leaders in the Push Academy (u-13) league.

**The scores:** Florence Academy 171/7 in 40 overs (Rihaan Kohar 57, Nidhish Gaur 53) bt WCL 139 in 34.4 overs (Virat Tyagi 47, Sandeep Parihar 32, Mohit Bhati 4/11); Push Tulip 39 in 21.4 overs (Vijay Kalra 4/1) lost to Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy 40/3 in 6.1 overs (Raunak 3/15).

# ISSF updates medals tally

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Indian shooters had won so many medals in the Junior world championship in Lima, that the organisers had a tough time keeping tab of the count.

After being credited with 16 gold, 15 silver and nine bronze medals at the conclusion, the NRAI had pointed out that the count was wrong to the ISSF.

The international federation promptly ratified a fresh count that credited 17 gold, 16 silver and 10 bronze medals to India.

Thus, India won 43 of the 117 medals, and 17 of the 39 gold.

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