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Ex-SBI chief denied bail, sent to judicial custody in Rajasthan loan scam
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Buttler, bowlers help England make it four out of four
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IN BRIEF



Capital sees five more dengue deaths
 NEW DELHI
 The Capital reported 531 dengue cases over the past week (till October 30), and five deaths, a civic report said on Monday. While the death toll for the season has reached six, the caseload for October stands at 1,196 — the highest for the month since 2017. This season's total cases have touched 1,537, which is the highest since 2018.

CITY PAGE 3

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India will achieve net zero emissions by 2070, says PM

Renewable energy will be tapped in a big way, Modi tells COP26 summit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

India will achieve net zero emissions latest by 2070, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the COP26 summit in Glasgow on Monday. Until Monday, India was the only major emitter that had not committed to a timeline to achieve net zero, or a year by which it would ensure its net carbon dioxide emissions would be zero.

By 2030, India will ensure 50% of its energy will be sourced from renewable sources. India also committed to reduce its carbon emissions until 2030 by a billion tonnes. India will also reduce its emissions intensity per unit of GDP by less than 45%. India would also



Green push: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arriving for the COP26 summit in Glasgow, Scotland, on Monday. ■ AP

install systems to generate 500 gigawatt of renewable energy by 2030, a 50 GW increase from its existing target, the Prime Minister said.

He added that in the spirit of climate justice, rich deve-

loped countries ought to be providing at least \$1 trillion in climate finance to assist developing countries and those most vulnerable.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

UN: countries must act to save humanity

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
 GLASGOW

The COP26 climate summit must act to "save humanity" and protect the planet, UN chief Antonio Guterres said on Monday, warning that currently "we are digging our own graves".

Mr. Guterres urged countries to keep the Paris deal goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius alive.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Cannot impose blanket ban on all firecrackers, says SC

Court reiterates restrictions on use of toxic chemicals

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said a blanket ban on firecrackers may not be possible, but measures ought to be in place to prevent the use of toxic chemicals in firecrackers.

This is the second time in the past few days that the court had accepted the improbability of imposing a total ban on firecrackers. On October 29, the court had made it clear that there was no total ban on use of firecrackers.

"Only those firecrackers are banned which are found to be injurious to health and



affecting the health of citizens," the court had noted in an order.

On Monday, a Special Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Ajay Rastogi orally said there could not be a complete ban of firecrackers.

The firecracker industry had moved the top court after the Calcutta High Court "prohibited the sale, purchase, use, display or bursting of firecrackers of any type at all during the upcoming Kali Puja, Diwali celebration as well as the following Chatt Puja, Jagadhatri Puja, Guru Nanak's Birthday and/or Christmas/New Year's Eve this year in the State of West Bengal".

"Strengthen the mechanism to stop misuse," the apex court reiterated its advice, with a reference to its October 29 order.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Modi discusses Afghanistan with Boris Johnson

Glasgow talks also cover climate change and post-COVID scenario

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
 NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson on Monday discussed the evolving situation in Afghanistan on the sidelines of the COP26 summit in Glasgow. The Mi-

nistry of External Affairs (MEA), in a statement, said the leaders discussed bilateral partnership in the context of climate change, Indo-Pacific strategy and post-COVID global economic recovery.

"The two Prime Ministers reviewed the implementa-

tion of the Roadmap 2030 priorities, particularly in trade and economy, people to people [ties], health, defence and security areas," said the MEA.

The MEA said both the leaders reviewed progress in the trade talks for Enhanced Trade Partnership, and also discussed bilateral cooperation in green hydrogen, renewable energy and clean

technologies, including collaboration through the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

The meeting comes days after U.K.'s Foreign Secretary Liz Truss visited India for talks on U.K.-India free trade deal and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Boris Johnson

Priyanka-Jayant meeting creates a flutter in U.P.

RLD chief terms it mere 'speculation'

ANUJ KUMAR
 GHAZIABAD

The meeting between Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rashtriya Lok Dal president Jayant Singh in the lounge of Lucknow's Chaudhary Charan Singh Airport on Sunday created a flutter in political circles about a possible tie-up for the coming Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

Curiously, photos of the

hour-long meeting went viral on a day when Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav told a news agency that the alliance with the RLD had been finalised.

While the RLD president termed it a mere "speculation", sources in the State Congress said the party did see the RLD as a "potential partner" in the state.

'POSITIVE TALKS ON' PAGE 11

Festive season fires up Oct. GST revenues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

The country's gross GST (Goods and Services Tax) revenues crossed the ₹1.3 lakh crore mark in October, the second highest collection since the tax regime was implemented in July 2017, driven largely by 'pre-festive season stocking and improved compliance'.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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Timings
DELHI

TUESDAY, NOV. 02		
RISE	06:34	SET 17:36
RISE	03:32	SET 16:07
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 03		
RISE	06:35	SET 17:35
RISE	04:35	SET 16:42
THURSDAY, NOV. 04		
RISE	06:35	SET 17:35
RISE	05:41	SET 17:20

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	31	14
Safdarjung	31	14
Palam	31	16

Delhi Palam Today
30°C Pollution level will be moderate. A dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm with mainly clear sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
31°C The weather will be dry. A slight cool and hazy morning turns slight warm day with mainly clear sky. Night remains slight cool.

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City sees five more dengue deaths

As many as 531 cases reported last week; season's total reaches 1,537, the highest since 2018

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

The city reported 531 dengue cases over the past week (till October 30), and five deaths, a civic report said on Monday. While the fatality toll for the season has reached six, the caseload for October stands at 1,196 – the highest for the month since 2017. This season's total cases have touched 1,537, which is the highest since 2018.

"Three of the five deaths occurred in areas under the North civic body. All the three patients were admitted to private hospitals and they succumbed in mid-October," a North Delhi Municipal Corporation official, who did not wish to be named, said.

However, details about the remaining two deaths were not provided by civic body officials.

Highest cases in North Delhi
North Delhi recorded the highest dengue cases last week at 134, followed by South Delhi with 127 cases. In the previous week, South Delhi had reported 98 cases, followed by North Delhi with 71 cases.

Till October 23, the city had recorded 665 cases of dengue for the month and the season's total stood at 1,006, the highest since 2018. In September, the city had reported 217 cases, which was also the highest for the month since 2018.

Delhi had recorded 1,072 cases and one death in 2020,

2,036 cases and two deaths in 2019, and 2,798 cases and four deaths in 2018.

South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) Mayor Mukesh Suryan said "no cases or deaths were recorded at SDMC hospitals" and that the civic body was taking adequate measures.

"About 60-70 dengue patients are admitted to our hospital and the number of people coming to the OPD every day is on the rise. I feel the situation will improve by the end of November when the temperature further drops. Till then, people have to be extremely careful," said Dr. S.P. Byotra, HO of Internal Medicine, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

Poor people not being diagnosed properly: Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday chaired a high-level meeting with Delhi officials to review the measures against dengue. "Many poor people are not diagnosed properly and their death goes unreported," he said, stressing on the need to ramp up dengue testing in the city. He added that primary healthcare centres may prescribe drugs to suppress the symptoms without addressing the root cause.



Visitors at the exhibition titled 'India is not Lost' at Jawahar Bhawan. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Expo by SAHMAT to mark 75 years of Independence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

To celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust (SAHMAT) has organised an exhibition of its publications and commissioned artworks over the past 30 years, commemorating major landmarks in the freedom struggle.

Titled "India is not Lost", the exhibition at Jawahar

Bhawan has a curation of works marking Mahatma Gandhi's 125th birth anniversary and the 75th anniversary of Bhagat Singh's martyrdom among others.

SAHMAT says the purpose of the exhibition is to show how citizens of all vocations stand as compatriots in the quest to remember and reform India's legacy of communal amity and creative freedom.

HC: sale of crackers not permitted

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday said that the sale of firecrackers is not permitted in the Capital as per the orders passed by the National Green Tribunal and the Supreme Court.

"Please go to the Supreme Court. The SC is already looking into the issue today. Seek a clarification. Inform NGT. They are a specialised body," the High Court told a group of traders, who had moved the court against the complete ban on the storage and sale of all kinds of firecrackers.

It also said that the pandemic was not over and it was time to be careful.

The traders who were seeking permission to sell their stock here for use outside the city withdrew their petition.



A student coming out with her guardian after attending school in west Delhi on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Allow private buses to ferry students, operators tell CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Private bus owners on Monday urged Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to allow their vehicles to ferry school students.

The Delhi Taxi, Tourist Transporters & Tour Operators Association, which represents private bus owners, alleged that not allowing private buses to ply was affecting the operators

from middle-class households.

"On the one hand, the Government is demanding that we pay road tax on vehicles which have been gathering dust over the last year and a half due to COVID-19 and on the other, it is yet to allow private buses to start operating despite schools having been opened from Monday," the association's president, Sanjay Samrat, said.

'Rushed' charge dogs Delhi master plan hearings again

We are following due process, says DDA

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Participants were unhappy with the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) at its fifth online public hearing on the 'Draft Master Plan for Delhi – 2041 (MPD-2041)' on Monday, with most complaining that the hearing continued to be held in a "hasty manner".

Similar concerns were voiced during the previous online hearings on October 25 and 27.

Over 1,400 participants were invited to submit their suggestions and objections to the board. Issues regarding development control norms of "redevelopment of Convenient Shopping Centre and Local Shopping Centre (LSC), mixed-use provisions, other activities allowed in residential areas, and redevelopment of in-

dustrial plots" were discussed.

Vishal Ohri, general secretary, LSC Federation of Delhi, said he was not "given ample time" to make his suggestions, a concern which he had raised during the previous online hearings as well.

Rajiv Kakria, another participant and the convener of the Save Our City campaign, said he was given a different date by the officials to put his points forward.

Responding to the complaints, a DDA spokesperson said "ample time" was given to the participants and that they "have already submitted written suggestions". "We are following due process. If required, we will review the situation after the hearings are completed," he added.

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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Punjab reduces power rates, Oppn. parties term it 'political stunt'

Cabinet clears 1% DA increase for government staff

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

With an eye on the upcoming Assembly elections in the State, due early next year, the Punjab Cabinet on Monday decided to reduce power tariff for domestic consumers by ₹3 per unit.

An official statement said the annual financial burden on the State government would be approximately ₹3,316 crore due to the tariff rationalisation.

The government will reduce the power procurement cost and it will be passed on to the consumers, it said.

The decision, taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, would benefit 69 lakh domestic consumers.

The Cabinet also announced increase in the Dearness Allowance of government employees by 1%, from the existing 17% to 28%, effective from July 1, 2021.

"The State government would have to bear an addi-



Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi in Chandigarh on Monday. •PTI

tional monthly burden of ₹440 crore on account of enhanced DA. We have resolved most of employees' issues and hence they have called off their strike and resumed work with immediate effect," he said, adding that the employees' who were recruited after January 1, 2016, would also be given the benefit of minimum 15% increase in the revised pay at par with other employees.

The Opposition was quick to hit out at the ruling Congress, accusing it of befooling the people of State. Shiromani Akali Dal leader Daljit Singh Cheema said Mr. Channi was resorting to 'election stunt'.

BJP's Punjab State secretary Subhash Sharma termed the tariff decision as a 'political stunt'.

Court notice to Kejriwal, others in CS assault case

Revision plea says trial court 'erroneously discharged' accused

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A special court on Monday issued notices to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, and other Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) members in a case of assault on former Delhi Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash in 2018.

Special Judge Geetanjali Goel issued the notices after a revision petition was filed in the court challenging an August 11 order by a trial court discharging Mr. Kejriwal and 10 other accused in the case, calling it "erroneous".

The revision plea, filed through advocate Kumar Vaibhav, stated that the trial



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. •FILE PHOTO

court had erroneously discharged the 11 accused and that Metropolitan Magistrate Sachin Gupta had carried out a "miscarriage of justice" by not looking into the statements in the case.

On August 11, the court

had discharged the CM and 10 other accused in the case where Mr. Prakash, who was then the Chief Secretary, was allegedly manhandled by AAP legislators at a meeting.

The prosecution had told the court that the alleged assault occurred at Mr. Kejriwal's residence where the 11 MLAs were having a meeting with Mr. Prakash. The court had, however, ordered framing of charges against AAP MLAs Amanatullah Khan and Prakash Jarwal in the matter.

Next hearing on Nov. 23
The matter has now been posted for further hearing on November 23.

Electoral roll revision exercise begins in Delhi

Draft roll, Special Summary Revision, sees a dip in voters

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi's draft electoral roll for 2022, published by the Chief Electoral Officer on Monday, showed a decline in voters compared to last year.

The previous electoral roll, published on January 1, 2021, had 1,48,98,069 voters, whereas the latest with January 1, 2022, as the qualifying date has 1,47,95,549.

The latest roll - Special Summary Revision (SSR) - shows while 3,19,222 voters were deleted from the draft, 2,16,702 were added to it. Among the deleted voters, 59,423 were declared dead and 2,51,062 had shifted within and out of the city.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Ranbir Singh said all claims and objections regarding the electoral roll can be made from November 1 to November 30.

'Voter utsav'
Calling this month-long process "voter utsav", Mr. Singh said that the SSR was aimed at including "newly eligible and left out voters who have completed or will be completing the age of 18" on or before January 1, 2022. The final roll will be published on January 5, 2022.

Mr. Singh said the draft electoral roll has been published at all polling stations of Delhi and on the

"website of CEO Delhi" on Monday.

Gender-wise count
According to the draft roll, total 80,88,031 voters are male, whereas 67,06,570 are female; on January 15, 2021, their count stood at 81,58,180 and 67,38,976 respectively. An increase in third gender voters was observed with 948 in the latest draft - compared to 913 in the previous roll. The SSR for the draft roll for November 1, 2021, was carried out across Delhi's 70 Assembly constituencies. The largest Assembly constituency is Matiala with 4,28,340 voters and the smallest Delhi Cantonment with 1,10,255.

Rahul rally in Mumbai on Dec. 28

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

Ahead of the crucial Mumbai civic polls, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will address a rally in the metropolis on December 28, party Maharashtra in-charge H.K. Patil said on Monday.

Speaking at the launch of membership drive in the State, he said by December 28, the party's foundation

day, the city unit will enrol 10 lakh members.

"Mr. Gandhi has agreed to address party workers at a rally at Shivaji Park on December 28," Mr. Patil said.

His address to the party workers will be ahead of the crucial polls to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, the country's richest civic body which the Congress once controlled.

Call of the mountains



Ice-peaked: Tourists skiing in snow-covered Koksar in Himachal Pradesh on Monday. •PTI

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2.	13/CGM/Sr.M.(E/M)-III/2021-22	Internal Electrification of newly constructed of Barat Ghar in Sector-112, Noida.	36.49
3.	14/CGM/Sr.M.(E/M)-III/2021-22	M/o Authority Building (AMC of different type AC's Installed different office in Main Administrative Office Sector-6), Noida.	58.56

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **15.11.2021 upto 5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated **16.11.2021 at 11.00 AM**.

S. N.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (₹ Lacs)
4.	05/CGM/Sr.M.(E/M)-I/ET/2021-22	Hire Charges for Innova, Honda City/Ciaz, Swift Dzire/Etios	69.21

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **08.11.2021 upto 5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on dated **09.11.2021 at 11.00 AM**.

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Hemant Kumar

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

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ACB detects ₹6.97 cr. assets of ex-constable, family

SATYASUNDAR BARIK BHUBANESWAR
The Odisha vigilance department has detected properties worth ₹6.97 crore owned by a former constable and his family members, which is 221% of their known sources of income.

The anti-corruption bureau had carried out raids at multiple properties belonging to constable Prasanna Kumar Behera, whose service was terminated for illegally running a dance bar, and his family members.

"The ex-constable and his family members were found in possession of assets to the tune of ₹6,97,15,057, which constitute 221% of their known sources of income," said the State Vigilance

Directorate.
Mr. Behera and his family members could not give a satisfactory account of the properties amassed by them. They were booked under Section 13(2) read with 13(1) (b) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 as amended by the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. Mr. Behera is currently in judicial custody.

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Chennai civic body pulls up school for attendance registers with caste names

Headmistress denies segregating students on caste basis
DENNIS S. JESUDASAN CHENNAI
A primary school had been maintaining attendance registers organising the student rolls on the basis of caste before it was pulled up by Greater Chennai Corporation on Monday.

The GCC has directed the school to discontinue the practice at once. Since the school had also divided its students into three batches on the basis of their attendance roster owing to COVID-19, it turned out that students were bunched together on the basis of their community alone.

She also produced attendance registers that showed caste mentioned against every student and said students are enrolled in the attendance register in the following order - SC (A), SC (O), MBC, BC-Hindu, BC-Christian, BC-Muslim and OC.
"This is only for administrative purpose. Students won't know which caste they are," she maintained.
When contacted, D. Sneha, Deputy Commissioner (Education), GCC said: "Across all schools, the attendance is meant to be in alphabet order only. This has never been the practice, and we'll ensure it's set right. Thank you for letting us know."
Asked about the batches, she said: "The batches will naturally change, the parents of the children will be informed today [Monday] evening."
Activist V. Gopalakrishnan demanded that action be taken against the teachers concerned. "If this can happen in Chennai city, we can only imagine the scenario in remote areas. They are teachers and they are supposed to teach against casteism and not remind them of their caste. Action must be taken against the teachers concerned. Be it intentional or otherwise, discrimination is discrimination and it cannot be tolerated."

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE PUNE
Despite the State rapidly easing restrictions and the festive season round the corner, Maharashtra's rapidly declining trend in cases continued with the State reporting its lowest single-day surge in 17 months with just 809 new COVID-19 cases on Monday as against 1,901 new recoveries.
The active case tally has now dropped to 15,552. An equally low fatality rate of ten deaths were reported, with no deaths being reported in 30 of the 36 districts. Pune, Satara, Mumbai, Ahmednagar, Beed and Sindhudurg were the only places where fatalities were recorded, said authorities. Thirteen districts in the State did not report a single case today.
Maharashtra's cumulative fatalities now stand at 1,40,226. The case fatality rate remains constant at 2.12%.
The total cases now stand at 66,03,850 while the State's cumulative recoveries have risen to 64,52,486 with the recovery rate at 97.59%.

'Alphabetical order'
The GCC directed the school to drop the existing practise and asked it to prepare fresh batches based on the alphabetical order of the name of students.
When this correspondent visited the school on Monday evening, the headmistress said: "This is not new and we have been following this attendance registers even before. We are not segregating students on caste basis. It so happened that most students of a caste are in one batch. It is unintentional."

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (Retender)
Online tenders are invited from manufacturers for supply of **French Mini Straws** to FSBS-Barapetta-Assam. Please log on to <https://assamtenders.gov.in> for participation. Last date of submission: **15-NOV-2021 (3 pm)**. Tender ID: 2021_AHVD_23266_1
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DIVINE DESTINATION

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HOLY PILGRIMAGE IN UTTARAKHAND



“Under the guidance of respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, for the first time in modern history, reconstruction and development work is being done on such a level in Shri Kedarnath Dham. This is a great occasion for the revival of the Indian culture and the tradition of Sanatan Dharma, for which we extend a hearty congratulations and best wishes to all the devotees.”

Pushkar Singh Dhama
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand



KEDARNATH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

- Construction of Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya's Samadhi Sthal
- Redevelopment of Sangam Ghat
- First Aid and Tourism Facility Centre
- Row Management in Mandakini Astha Path
- Rain Shelter, retention walls and stairs
- Administrative office and hospital building
- Construction of museum complex
- Construction of houses for *teerth purahits* in Kedarpuri

“The construction of the *samadhi* of Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya ji in Shri Kedarnath is to honour him and to combine his knowledge and qualities as an ideal forever. One can understand this through the work being done in Kedarnath, which would be an ideal pilgrimage site, whether it's a matter of convenience for the devotees or the welfare of the priest. The projects completed in Kedarnath are of high quality. They are modern and have preserved the traditional values, while also ensuring that the environment is not harmed.”

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

A BETTER, SAFER KEDARNATH AS PER PM MODI'S VISION

After Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya ji, the picture of Kedarnath Dham has completely changed under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On November 5, 2021, the PM will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for the reconstruction works in New Kedarpuri. This includes reconstruction of Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya Samadhi, flood control measures on the banks of Saraswati river, as well as construction of ghats. The government has spent Rs 70 crore on these projects. Construction of 60-meter

ON NOVEMBER 5, 2021, THE PM WILL INAUGURATE AND LAY THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION WORKS IN NEW KEDARPURI

bridge over Mandakini river for Garudchatti is also complete, while retention walls have also been created on the banks of the river to control the floods at a cost of Rs 60 crore. These projects will also be inaugurated by the PM Modi. The PM will also lay the foundation stone of schemes worth Rs 108.88 crore. These include redevelopment of Sangam Ghat in Shri Kedarnath Dham, First Aid and Tourism Facility Centre, Row Management in Mandakini Astha Path, Rain Shelter, retention walls and stairs, administrative office and hospital building construction work and civil works. The foundation stone of the museum complex will also be laid at Kedarnath Dham.

RS 708 CRORE RELEASED SO FAR FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CHARDHAM

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said that Rs 708 crore has been released by the state government for various construction works in Chardham. Under this, Rs 409 crore has been released for the works in Kedarnath. Rs 245 crore has been approved for the construction work of the first phase in Badrinath. Meanwhile Rs 55 crore has been sanctioned for various

THE EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOOD OF MANY RESIDENTS IN THE HILL STATE OF UTTARAKHAND IS DEPENDENT ON THE CHARDHAM YATRA, AND THAT'S A MAJOR REASON WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TRYING TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT ON A WAR FOOTING

works at Gangotri and Yamunotri shrines. The work of Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya's Samadhi Sthal in Kedarnath is nearing completion. The work of reconstruction of Char Dham is going on in full swing, CM Dhama said. The work of the first phase has been completed in Kedarnath, while tenders worth Rs 70 crore have also been floated for the second phase of the reconstruction work. Funds have also been approved for Badrinath Dham, and work will soon start on the same.



>> Platform constructed at Sangam Ghat

Kedarpuri attracting devotees from far and wide

Kedarpuri is being built as a new, safe and convenient religious and spiritual city, under the guidance of the Prime Minister

Shri Kedarnath Dham is one of the greatest centres of Hinduism. Seated in the snow-capped peaks of Himalaya in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand, Shri Kedarnath Dham has the power to make you feel divine. The Mandakini river originates from here. The Chardham Yatra is incomplete without a visit to Kedarnath. After the disaster in Kedarnath in 2013, its reconstruction was

started when the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014. PM Modi had given the message of "Safe Uttarakhand, Safe Yatra" after meditating in Kedarnath's meditation cave.

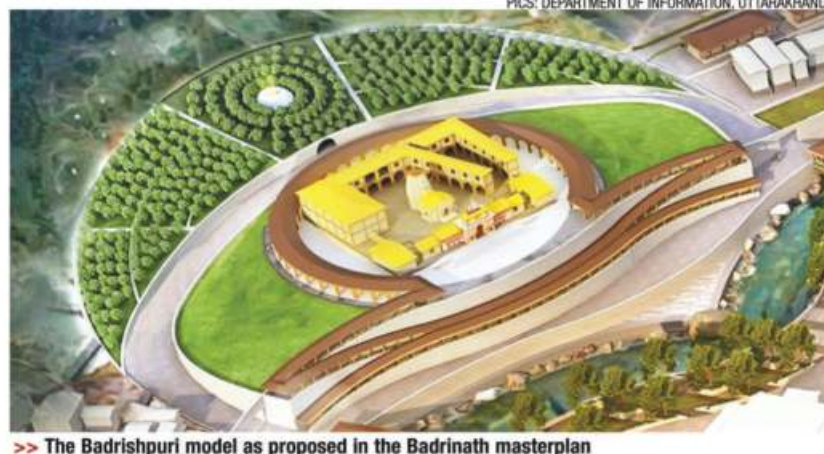
The reconstruction of Kedarnath shrine was included in the Prime Minister's dream project. Given his attachment to the shrine, PM Modi has been monitoring the project himself all along.

The reconstruction works are being done considering the future requirements, and the religious and spiritual aspects will be maintained at all costs. In 2021, Kedarpuri would be reopened in its grand form, to attract devotees of the country and those from across the world. It's truly said that, before traveling across the world, one must visit Kedarnath — a unique confluence of faith and nature.

Being very close to the PM's heart, the reconstruction of one of the holiest shrines of Hinduism is happening on a war footing, and he wants its form to be grand and divine

With the efforts of the Central government and the state government, Kedarnath Dham has incarnated into a new form. Now Badrinath Dham will be developed on the lines of development work in Kedarpuri. According to the wishes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state government has prepared the master plan of Badrinath keeping in mind the requirements of the next 100 years. After taking shape, like Kedarnath, all the four complexes of Badrinath temple will also remain open. Along with the convenience of commuting, several other works have also been proposed in the master-plan. With this, Badrinath will also emerge in a completely new and grander form. The PM took note of the matter and after reviewing the reconstruction work

Development of Badrishpuri to be done on the lines of Kedarnath



>> The Badrishpuri model as proposed in the Badrinath masterplan

- According to the proposed masterplan, the complex around the Badrinath temple will be open like Kedarnath
- There is also proposal of beautification of Badri and Sheshnetra ponds. Badriwan is also to be developed just behind the temple.

of Kedarnath, he insisted on preparing a similar plan for the development of Badri Dham as well. He also asked the authorities to make plans for the redevelopment of the shrines keeping in mind the requirements of the next 100 years. As per his wishes, the state government has prepared the masterplan of Badrinath. The first phase of the master-plan includes beautification of Shesh Netra and

Badrish Lake, riverfront development, one-way loop road construction, expansion of the hospital and construction of multi-purpose building. Meanwhile, under the second phase, site development work will be done around the Badrinath Temple. And in the third phase construction of Astha Path from the lake to the temple will be completed.

The district administration has given instructions to concerned departments to coordinate with each other and to start the proposed works in a time-bound manner. Instruction have been given to start the works of the first phase that do not face any impediments. The administration has reviewed the works at Shesh Netra, Badrish Lake, Taptkund, Brahma Kapal, Narad Kund, Sugriva Shila, Alaknand river banks, Saket Tiraha, hospital, bus station and Devdarshini, and given appropriate directions to the implementing authorities.

Meditation Cave at Kedarnath a centre of attraction among pilgrims

The Meditation Cave, in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi spent 17 hours in solitude, has become a centre of attraction for devotees. The government has prepared this ancient cave under the reconstruction project for meditation in front of Bhairavnath Temple. It was after the PM's meditation session that

the cave became popular among Indian and international pilgrims. Three more caves are also being constructed in Kedarnath Dham by the local administration. These three caves are being built at an altitude of around 12,500 feet near Kedarnath so that devotees can meditate in solitude and peace.



>> Meditation Cave at Kedarnath



>> Murals on the pedestrian walkway



>> Astha Path



>> Newly-built residences for priests



PICS: DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, UTTARAKHAND

CM DHAMI TAKES STOCK OF RECONSTRUCTION WORK

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama worshiped Kedarnath Baba and wished Bhole Baba for the prosperity of the country and the state. The CM also inspected the reconstruction work and Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya Samadhi Sthal and directed the implementing agencies to complete the project on time. He also spoke to the pilgrims at the shrine and took stock of the facilities. The CM reached Kedarnath Dham by helicopter. From here he reached the Kedarnath temple for darshan. The chief priest performed the Rudradrabhishek. After this, the CM inspected the Samadhi site of Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya, which is under construction, just behind the temple. The idol of Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya had been carried to the shrine by Chinook, an Indian Air Force helicopter, just a few days before. The CM also spoke to the officers, engineers and laborers engaged in the reconstruction work being done under the second phase.

MONITORING PROGRESS

CM Pushkar Singh Dhama, through drone imagery, is keeping a close and vigilant eye on all development initiatives of the Kedarnath project

PICS: DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, UTTARAKHAND



>> CM Pushkar Singh Dhama reviewing the reconstruction work of Kedarnath

Under the CM's direct supervision, of the six major projects under the redevelopment programme, four have been completed. This includes the construction of retaining walls along Alaknanda and Mandakini rivers, meditation caves, and electrification for proper illumination. The CM has instructed his team to focus on timely completion of the Adi Shankaracharya Samadhi and suspension bridge at 60-meter height over Mandakini river. In the next phase, nearly 13 projects will be focused upon and finished at an estimated cost of Rs 116 crores.

These 13 projects include:

- Sangam Ghat's redevelopment at an estimated cost of Rs 15.48 crore
- Structural work at the heart of Mandakini bank and Kedarnath Temple at a cost of Rs 11.45 crore
- Construction of primary healthcare facility at an estimated cost of Rs 4.82 crore
- Development of Water ATM near Mandakini at a value of Rs 1.02 crore
- Foundation work of Mandakini river at an estimated cost Rs 6.66 crore
- Rs 19.99 crore worth development of administration office and hospital building
- At an estimated cost of Rs 68 lakh, construction of security door at Gauri Kund
- Construction of stairs and other minor projects at Mandakini for Rs 21.08 crore
- Kedarnath Temple road and Mandakini structural foundation work at Rs 5.95 crore
- Development of Citizen Centre for Rs 19.14 crore
- Rs 1.24 crore worth rain shelter at Sonprayag
- Structural and foundation work at the Saraswati bank at an estimated value of Rs 5.55 crore
- Water ATM near Saraswati river for Rs 86 lakh
- Astha Path along the Saraswati river

Work on eight of the 13 projects has already begun. Both the PM and the state CM are keenly focused on the redevelopment initiatives of Kedarnath and Badrinath Dhams. Through regular video conferencing both leaders are keeping a vigilant update on the progress of the project. PM Modi envisions the development to last 100 years, even under adverse conditions. The work related to the redevelopment project is projected to be completed by 2022.

Malik, Fadnavis war of words heats up

NCP Minister tweets pic of 'drug peddler' with ex-CM's wife; BJP leader alleges former has 'links' with underworld

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Kick-starting yet another controversy and taking former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis head-on, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and State Minister NAWAB MALIK on Monday tweeted a photograph of alleged drug peddler Jaideep Rana with Mr. Fadnavis' wife, Amruta, saying "Come, let's talk about the relations between BJP and drug peddlers today". In return, Mr. Fadnavis alleged that Mr. Malik had connections with the underworld.

"He also tweeted a screenshot of the description of the 'River Anthem', where Mr. Rana has been mentioned as the Finance Head. According to sources, the mention has been removed since the allegations. Replying to Mr. Malik, Mr. Fadnavis said, "I will be exposing his underworld connections post-Deepavali and will give all the evidence to NCP president Sharad Pawar."

Those who live in glass house should not throw stones at others, he added.

On Twitter

Mr. Malik said, "I have released a photograph of a person named Jaideep Rana who is presently in Sabarmati jail. He has been arrested in a case of drug trafficking. He was the financial head of the song 'River Anthem' released by Amruta Fadnavis in which Devendra Fadnavis too was featured. The drug business grew under his ten-

'Pressurising NCB'
"He is doing all this to pressurise the NCB, which is probing the drug case against his son-in-law. The said photograph is an old one, taken during the shooting of the song and the company which made the video has clarified that they had hired his services for the song. The person under question has no relation



Yet another controversy: Nawab Malik and Devendra Fadnavis • FILE PHOTOS

whatsoever with me or my wife," Mr. Fadnavis said. He added that Mr. Malik has lit a sparkler between Deepavali, and he would burst a bomb post-Deepavali.

In his reply, Mr. Malik tweeted in Hindi. "Hai taiyar hum [We are ready]". Earlier, Mr. Malik mentioned Neeraj Gunde, one of close aides of Mr. Fadnavis during the latter's tenure as chief minister, demanding a CBI probe. "Neeraj Gunde used to frequent the CMO, from where he used to handle police transfers. Even Sameer

Wankhede was brought in by Fadnavis who is controlling drug operations. The Centre must conduct a judicial probe and even a CBI investigation," he said.

The NCP leader alleged that the BJP had been posting officers in Central services to target Bollywood and Maharashtra.

Baseless charges: Patil
Meanwhile, the BJP's Maharashtra unit president Chandrakant Patil said Mr. Malik should not make "baseless allegations" against the

former chief minister.

"Apparently the ruling MVA Government has nothing to say on serious issues facing Maharashtra such as distressed farmers, rising atrocities against women and the agitations of desperate State transport department drivers. Twenty-nine drivers have committed suicide thus far, but the State Government has no answer. So, this Government asks somebody [Mr. Malik] to raise some issues to divert the public's attention," Mr. Patil said.

Exhorting the NCP leader to stop his "baseless allegations", Mr. Patil said Mr. Fadnavis had always shown "remarkable restraint" while directing any criticism towards a ruling party leader and had certainly never commented on anyone's wife or family. Mr. Patil also claimed that Neeraj Gunde, whom Mr. Malik accused of having shadowy connections, was in fact a "clean and good social worker".

Bihar Congress launches mega membership drive

State unit chief had earlier hinted at parting ways with RJD

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

The Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee (BPCC) on Monday launched a mega membership drive in the State apparently to regain its lost ground among voters.

Earlier, the State in-charge of the party Bhakt Charan Das had announced that Congress party would contest the upcoming 2024 Parliamentary elections in Bihar on its own.

"The mega membership drive is likely to continue till 31 March 2022. We're now moving towards our commitment to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha poll in 2024 on our own", Congress Legislature Party leader (CLP) Ajit Sharma said. During our mega membership drive, added Mr. Sharma, "the party will make connection with our old party cadres and voters and will also raise issues of price hike, unemployment and corruption in the State".

Earlier in 2020, BPCC had launched a digital membership drive which, party leaders said, "was not very successful as there were some technical issues not addressed properly".

The State party president Madan Mohan Jha flagged off the mega membership drive at Sadquat Ashram, State party headquarters. Other senior State party leaders like Prem Chandra Mishra, Chandan Bagchi, Kaushik Quadri, Brajesh Kumar Munnan, Rajesh Rathore too were present on the occasion.

"The party has set the target of making 80 lakh people to be members of the party during the drive. The membership form has 10 guidelines for the new members to follow", said State party leader and spokesperson Asit Nath Tiwari.

Recently, ahead of the bypoll on two seats in Bihar, Tarapur and Kusheshwarshah State party in-charge Mr. Das

had declared to snap ties with the alliance partner Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar. The Congress party, later, also fielded candidates on two seats against RJD and JD(U) nominees.

Claim refuted

However, RJD president Lalu Prasad kept reiterating that alliance with Congress party was still intact as he had spoken to Congress president Sonia Gandhi. But, State Congress leaders strongly refuted Mr. Prasad's claim and said there was "no talk between Ms. Gandhi and Mr. Prasad".

Earlier in 2000, 2005, 2009 and 2010 too both the parties had parted ways and contested poll separately. "Our electoral dependence on RJD has made us weakened, but this time we'll do our best to rejuvenate our party voters and voters to gear up for the 2024 Parliamentary poll", said a senior State party leader.

Gang involved in leaking exam papers busted

10 people, including three retired Army officers, held in Noida; ₹9 lakh recovered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

With the arrest of 10 people, including three retired Army officers, the Noida Police on Monday claimed to have busted an inter-State syndi-

cate involved in leaking question papers of government job exams.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ranvijay Singh said, "The gang was involved in leaking

papers and also provided people who would sit in place of the actual candidates in exchange for money. Ten people, including three retired Army officers, have been arrested. They are part of a big-

ger syndicate working in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Bihar and West Bengal, among others." The police have recovered over ₹9 lakh cash and two cheques of ₹2 lakh each from them.

ED attaches Punjab resort worth ₹32.57 crore

Its owner is accused of cheating

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has attached a resort worth ₹32.57 crore, located on National Highway-1 in Punjab's Phagwara, in connection with a money laundering case registered on the request of The Netherlands Government.

The Cabbana Resort & Spa belongs to Shivlal Pabbi and his associates.

He is accused of committing cheating and forgery in The Netherlands in connivance with his Indian associates.

Hawala network
Mr. Pabbi allegedly ran a "hawala" network, an underground banking system, in The Netherlands. The proceeds of the alleged crime were laundered through Dubai-based Pakis-

tani nationals, who transferred the funds to him and his family members' Non-Resident External accounts in Phagwara.

Renowned venue

The money was said to have been invested in the construction and development of Cabbana Resort & Spa that is spread over several acres and is a renowned venue for luxurious weddings and corporate and other events.

The resort is being managed by Mr. Pabbi's cousins, Anil Kumar Chodha and Manoj Kumar Chodha.

The agency had arrested Mr. Pabbi in July while he was allegedly trying to flee the country.

Subsequently, in September, a chargesheet was filed against him and the other accused persons.

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one female **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown**, was found inside Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi on **27.10.2021** in the area of P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 77A dated 27.10.2021** at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi. The description of the dead female is as under:- **Age:** 35 years, **Sex:** Female, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Unknown. If any one having any information about this dead female please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi
DP/903/SW/2021

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4	22210044A	29.11.2021	Single piece FRP louver shutter etc.	---	6860 Nos.	149870/-
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7	29210107	30.11.2021	Low maintenance Lea Acid 200 AH etc.	RDSO	918 Nos.	95420/-
8	2221935A	30.11.2021	Set of spare of component etc.	RDSO	33 Sets.	---
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10	22201182	30.11.2021	Bent coupling link with trunnion etc.	RDSO	1018 Nos.	105650/-
11	22201703A	03.12.2021	Distributor valve including adapter etc.	RDSO	162 Nos.	71400/-
12	22210216	06.12.2021	Rear cover for Axle box etc.	ICF	8475 Nos.	222110/-

CPRO/S-77 Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur
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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-2, दुमका

शुद्धि पत्र, PR 255835
इस कार्यालय का निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या DWSD/DUMKA-2/21/2021-22 दिनांक 28.10.2021 जो PR 255835 Drinking Water and Sanitation (21-22):D में प्रकाशित है, जिसमें निम्नलिखित शुद्धियों की जाती है :-

कार्य की तालिका	पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय	शुद्धिकरण के उपरान्त तिथि एवं समय
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PR 255845**
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कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-2, दुमका
PR 256199 (Drinking Water and Sanitation)21-22*D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-2, दुमका

**शुद्धि पत्र
PR 256199**
इस कार्यालय का निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या DWSD/DUMKA-2/27/2021-22 दिनांक 28.10.2021 जो PR 256199 Drinking Water and Sanitation (21-22):D में प्रकाशित है, जिसमें निम्नलिखित शुद्धियों की जाती है :-

कार्य की तालिका	पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय	शुद्धिकरण के उपरान्त तिथि एवं समय
1 प्रि-बोर्ड मिटिंग हेतु तिथि एवं समय	09.11.2021 on 11:30 AM	16.11.2021 on 11:30 AM

शेष यथावत् रहेगा।
कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-2, दुमका
PR 256199 (Drinking Water and Sanitation)21-22*D

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this male namely **Deb Kumar Mondal, S/o Sh. Ranjit Kumar Mondal R/o H. No. 19/3762, Regarpura, Karol Bagh, Delhi, Age : 46 years, Height : 5'4", Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Round, Built : Medium, wearing White & Yellow colour Check Shirt, Black colour Pant and Black colour Sandal** in his feet has been missing from the jurisdiction of P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi since **18.10.2021**. In this regard a **DD No. 85A, dated 26.10.2021** has been lodged at P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform to the following.
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax No. 011-24368639
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO
P.S Karol Bagh, Delhi
Central District, Delhi
DP/1066/CD/2021 Ph. No. 011-28726870, 9971550794

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION,SERAIKELA

e-Procurement Tender Notice
Letter no. - 444
Seraikela / Dated:- 29.10.2021

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Time of Completion	Last date/Time for receipt of bids online	Date of Publication of Tender on website
1.	Renovation of Tirla Medium Irrigation Scheme under Gamharia Block of Seraikella-Kharsawan District.	Rs. 42,86,700.00	335 days	29.11.2021 upto 5.00 PM	23.11.2021 upto 2.00 PM
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 42,86,700.00			
3.	Time of Completion		335 days		
4.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids online			29.11.2021 upto 5.00 PM	
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website				23.11.2021 upto 2.00 PM
6.	Date of opening Tender				02.12.2021 At 2.00 P.M. in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Minor Irrigation Department Ranchi.
7.	Name & address of office inviting tender				Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Seraikela
8(a)	Contact no. of e-Procurement officer				- 9471742940
8(b)	E-mail of e-procurement Officer				- eamidsarai-semr-jhr@nic.in
9.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell				- 0651-2214784
10.	Last Date for Receipt of Bids Fee, Security and other Documents				30.11.2021 at 5.00 P.M.

Note :- Only e-Tenders will be accepted.
Further details can be seen on website <http://jhrkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation Division,
Seraikela
PR 256147 Water Resource(21-22).D

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Kashish D/o Rampal R/o H.No.125, Old Tejab Mill, Shahdara, Delhi Aged-17 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped since **03.10.2021** at about 2 PM from her residence vide **FIR No.701/21 Dated 19.10.2021 u/s 363 IPC** registered at Police Station Farsh Bazar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5'5", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Sky blue coloured Kurta, Orange coloured plazzo and red coloured slipper in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Farsh Bazar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641
FAX No. : 011-24368639
SHO, Farsh Bazar, Delhi
DP/615/SHD/2021 Tel.: 011-

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a male person namely **Karan Pal, S/o Jai Pal, R/o H.No. X-100, Camp No. 1, Nangloi, Delhi, Age: 30 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Sallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Grey Clour T-Shirt, Black Colour Pajama and White Colour shoes** in his feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Nangloi since **28.08.2021**. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 75A, dated 07.09.2021** has been lodged at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638,24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
SHO
P.S. Nangloi, Delhi
DP/1240/OD/2021 Ph.: 011-25947225, 25949470

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Hamirpur Distt. Hamirpur H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Starting Date for downloading Bid	EMD (Rs.)	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Restoration of rain damages on Various roads under Lambloo Sub-Division (Kale Amb, Lambloo-1 and Lambloo-2 Section). (SH- Repair of Pot holes)	550000.00	08.11.2021	11000.00	15.11.2021
2.	C/O and MIT on link road Kohla Plasi Km. 0/0 to 1/300. (SH- C/O 900mm dia Hume pipe Culvert at RD. 0/550 & 0/990, GSB, WMM and to 0/800 and retaining walls at KM. 0/810 to 0/845)	1421725.00	08.11.2021	28500.00	15.11.2021
3.	C/O and tarring in km 1/150 to 1/500 under OTMNP Head.	11535832.00	08.11.2021	147900.00	15.11.2021
4.	C/O link road to village Kohla Plasi Km. 0/0 to 1/300. (SH- C/O 900mm dia Hume pipe Culvert at RD. 0/550 & 0/990, GSB, WMM and to 0/800 and retaining walls at KM. 0/810 to 0/845)	3340601.00	08.11.2021	57600.00	15.11.2021
5.	C/O Culvert and link road at Both Nallah to village Chuthiar in G.P. Balduhak km 0/0 to 0/500. (SH- C/O approaches of RCC Culvert).	1546033.00	08.11.2021	30700.00	15.11.2021
6.	C/O Room for P.S.A. 3927990.00	3927990.00	08.11.2021	66500.00	15.11.2021

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer,
Hamirpur Division,
HPPWD, Hamirpur. Pin Code 177001
Telephone No. 01972-225151
e-mail: ee-ham-hpp@nic.in
HP / 4574/21-22
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Tripura BJP MLA served disqualification notice

SYED SAJJAD ALI
AGARTALA

The Tripura Assembly Speaker served a disqualification notice to BJP MLA Ashish Das who joined the Trinamool Congress at a rally addressed by party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee here on Sunday.

In June, IPFT MLA Brishaketu Debbarma resigned from the party and 10 days later joined the TIPRA (Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Party) floated by State's royal scion Pradyot Kishore Debbarman.

Speaker Ratan Chakraborty said he gave Mr. Das a week's time to explain in writing why his membership should not be disqualified.

The notice was issued under The Representation of the People Act 1951.

The BJP earlier in a letter to the Speaker sought the disqualification of Mr. Das who was elected from the Surma Assembly constituency in Dhalai district in 2018.

The victory of 36 candidates of the BJP and eight of its alliance partner IPFT saw the rout of the CPI(M)-led Left Front. The Assembly has 60 members.

When contacted, Mr. Das said he was yet to receive the notice from the Speaker. "If necessary, I will challenge it in the High Court."

Mr. Das also ruled out the possibility of resigning from the Assembly.

IN BRIEF



Nehru Trophy Boat Race to restart this year

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Kerala Tourism Department is planning to restart the annual Nehru Trophy Boat Race and other major races this year by following all COVID-19 protocols, Tourism Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas said on Monday. The races were not held in the past two years owing to the pandemic.

Two-year-old sexually assaulted, one held

MANGALURU
A two-year-old girl was sexually assaulted allegedly by a labourer at Hoigebazar here. The accused, Chandan, hailing from Bihar, was arrested on Monday. The child's parents, also from Bihar, stay in a shed in Hoigebazar. On October 31, they left the child with their other daughter and left for work when the accused took her away from the house.

TPCC to provide life insurance to members

HYDERABAD
The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has decided to offer life insurance cover of ₹2 lakh to registered members of the party. A digital drive for this began on Monday. It will go on till January 26. A membership drive was also launched by the party on Monday.

Miss Kerala 2019, runner-up die in accident

KOCHI
Ancy Kabeer, winner of the Miss Kerala 2019 title, and Anjana Shajan, runner-up, died in a car accident on the Vyttila-Palarivattom NH Bypass here on Sunday night. The car driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle after it hit a motorcycle and rammed a tree. Two others who were in the car are stated to be in a critical condition.

Will tweak policy to ensure 75% jobs for Kannadigas: Bommai

Present incentive-driven scheme for industries will be reviewed, says CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Urging the people to make Karnataka Rajyotsava a "Janostava" (people's festival), Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday said the State Government would tweak the existing employment policy to ensure that Kannadigas got 75% of skilled and semi-skilled jobs.

Participating in the 66th Rajyotsava function at Sree Kanteerava Stadium here, the Chief Minister said the Government would take a decision to ensure maximum jobs for Kannadigas in both public and private sectors.

"It's not important how much money entrepreneurs invest in Karnataka, but how many jobs they are providing Kannadigas," he said.



Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai speaking at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

The existing incentive-driven policy for industries would be reviewed to ensure more jobs for local people in small and medium sectors, Mr. Bommai said.

The Chief Minister said Kannada would always get priority in the State adminis-

tration, policies and programmes. "Our language has a rich history of thousands of years. We are blessed with a rich diversity and natural resources, and also the resources and skill to safeguard them," he said.

Despite many cultural and

historical invasions, Kannada retained its rich cultural diversity.

"It is our duty to promote Kannada not only in Karnataka but also in other parts of the country and the globe. Kannada vachanas and folk songs should reach the length and breadth of the country," Mr. Bommai said.

PM extends greetings

Greeting the people of Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Best wishes on the special occasion of Karnataka Rajyotsava. Karnataka has made a special mark due to the innovative zeal of its people. The State is at the forefront of outstanding research and enterprise. May Karnataka scale newer heights of success in the times to come."

Charges framed against 18 accused in Gauri case

Trial set to begin 4 years after murder

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A city court framed charges against the 18 accused in the Gauri Lankesh murder case on October 30, nearly three years after the police filed a chargesheet against them.

The accused, presently lodged in prisons in Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Pune, were presented before court through video conferencing. All accused pleaded not guilty and claimed to be tried.

This clears the decks for the trial in the case to begin, four years after Ms. Lankesh was killed. The court adjourned the case to Decem-



Gauri Lankesh was shot dead in Bengaluru in 2017.

ber 8, when the modalities of the trial would likely begin, sources said. "The defence employed several delaying tactics in the case till now. We hope this doesn't repeat again and we will be able to fast-track the trial," said a senior SIT official.

'Pinarayi govt. meekly gave in to T.N. demand'

UDF walks out on Mullaperiyar issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) Opposition walked out of the Kerala Assembly on Monday, accusing the Government of jeopardising the State's interest in the Mullaperiyar dispute with Tamil Nadu.

Seeking leave of the House to move an adjournment motion to debate the issue, Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala said the 126-year-old dam had outlived its lifespan by at least 76 years. Experts doubted the structural integrity of the dam built to irrigate Tamil Nadu. An estimated 30

lakh people in five districts downstream of the Mullaperiyar dam lived in fear. However, the Government was dismissive of the danger. It had meekly agreed to Tamil Nadu's insistence to maintain the Mullaperiyar water level at a dangerously high 139.5 feet during the recent flood, Mr. Chennithala said.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's "thoughtless" statement that apprehensions about Mullaperiyar's safety were misplaced had bolstered Tamil Nadu's argument in the Supreme Court that Kerala was exaggerating matters.

Derecognise YSR Congress, Telugu Desam MPs urge EC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A delegation of Telugu Desam Party MPs has submitted a memorandum to the Election Commission urging it to de-recognise the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) alleging that the party had violated the Representation of the People Act by encouraging "state-sponsored terror."

Meanwhile, the YSRCP will be meeting President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday to complain to him about the "false propaganda" by the Opposition TDP which, the ruling party claims, is hurting the image of Andhra Pradesh.

The latest allegation comes against the backdrop of a war of words between the two opponents. Last week, YSRCP leader Vijaysai Reddy had called the TDP a 'terrorist organisation'.

16-page memorandum

TDP MP Kesineni Srinivas (Nani), Rajya Sabha member Kanakamedala Ravindrakumar and former MP Nimmala Kistappa met the Election Commission and submitted a 16-page memorandum.

The TDP alleged that the YSRCP Government has been carrying out an all-round assault on constitutional institutions in Andhra Pradesh, including the media and Opposition.

"The YSR Congress, founded on the ill-gotten gains by these leaders, has been a front for money laundering and illicit activities even now," the TDP memorandum said. And this money, the TDP claimed, was used to establish the media house Sakshi and to capture political power in the State.

Vanniyar quota law unconstitutional: HC

'The Act went against the Constitution'

B. TILAK CHANDAR
MADURAI

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Monday declared as unconstitutional the law providing 10.5% internal reservation to the Vanniakula Kshatriya community within the 20% reservation for the Most Backward Classes (MBCs) in education and public employment.

The court held that it was ultra vires the Constitution.

A Division Bench of Justices M. Duraiswamy and K. Murali Shankar gave its judgment on a batch of petitions that challenged the validity of the Act, which was passed hours before the model code of conduct came into force in February for the Assembly election.

No supporting material

It said the State had not collected any material to prove that the Vanniyar caste — that is, the Vanniakula Kshatriya, comprising Vanniyar, Vanniya, Vannia Gounder, Gounder or Kander, Padayachi, Palli and Agnikula Kshatriya — was unable to compete with the other extremely marginalised communities. When the entire Most Backward Classes were enjoying 20% reservation, this caste alone was given 10.5%. This would affect the prospects of the others, it said.

The government had not considered the caste-wise population, and there was no data available with the government to invoke the provision in the Constitution to provide internal reservation. There was nothing on record to establish that the government had held deliberations with all stakeholders, especially the communities that would be affected by the Act, the court said.

The court observed that by virtue of the 102nd constitutional amendment, the powers of the Assembly to include and exclude the Backward Classes was bestowed on Parliament. But the 105th constitutional amendment restored the power of the States to identify and notify the Backward Classes. The 102nd amendment came into existence on August 11, 2018, and the 105th amendment was enacted on August 19, 2021. The court held that on the date of its enactment, February 26, 2021, the State legislature had no power to pass such legislation.

The Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 1993, was brought in to protect the 69% quota.

Unacceptable, says PMK
Meanwhile, PMK founder S. Ramadoss on Monday urged the Tamil Nadu Government to appeal in the Supreme Court against the Madras High Court's verdict declaring the 10.5% internal reservation for the Vanniyars unconstitutional.

In a statement, he termed the verdict "unacceptable" because such questions were not raised by the Madras High Court or the Supreme Court against the internal reservation provided to the Muslims in the Arundhatiyyars in T.N.

He said Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, "who has understood the need for such a quota despite the fact that the law was passed by the previous [AIADMK] government", has the "duty and responsibility" to reinstate it through legal and political steps.

Farmers begin 'court to temple' march

They have been demanding that Amaravati be retained as sole capital of A.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMARAVATI

Hundreds of farmers on Monday began a 45-day padayatra, 'Nyayasthanam to Devasthanam' (court to temple), demanding that Amaravati be retained as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh.

The Telugu Desam Party, the Congress, the CPI and other parties extended support to the farmers.

Former Union Minister Renuka Chowdhury drove a tractor, as the farmers marched on, and extended solidarity with them.

680-day stir

For over 680 days now, farmers in the Amaravati region have been continuing the agitation opposing the Jagan Mohan Reddy government's move to trifurcate the State capital. They are also fighting a legal battle on the issue.

Mr. Reddy had earlier reiterated that the decision to



Long fight: Farmers from Amaravati taking out a maha padayatra against the three-capital move, from Thullur in Guntur district to Tirumala on Monday. ■ V. RAJU

have separate seats of governance at Amaravati (legislative capital), Visakhapatnam (executive or administrative) and Kurnool (judicial) was aimed at balanced development of all regions.

The farmers, who report-

edly parted with over 33,000 acres of their fertile land for the construction of Andhra Pradesh's new capital, have now undertaken the padayatra to Tirumala, the abode of Lord Venkateswara, to press their demand

for retaining Amaravati as the sole capital of the State.

The foot march will traverse through over 70 villages in Guntur, Prakasam, SPS Nellore and Chittoor districts before reaching Tirupati on December 17.

Schools in Kerala welcome students with sweets, gifts

Gaiety marks reopening after 19 months of closure

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Schools in Kerala did not hold back when it came to organising 'Pravesanotsavam' [admission festival] to welcome students back to campuses for offline classes after 19 months of closure owing to COVID-19.

On Kerala Piravi day on Monday, balloons and festoons, sweets and gifts, and *chendamalam* [percussion music] brought colour and sound to school premises in a promise of fun-filled learning, albeit in the new normal of masks and physical distancing.

Thermal scanners were used to check students' temperature and hands sanitised at the school entrance. Display boards with school layouts, batch configurations, attendance days,



A student clings to her father outside a school in Kozhikode. ■ K. RAGESH

break times, mid-day meal times, and bus boarding schedules were put up. In Ernakulam, attendance in government and aided schools was better than unaided institutions going by the initial feedback. Children with comorbidities and

those with cold and fever were told to remain at home till they recovered. Many differently abled children also preferred to stay home.

Of the total 770 schools in Alappuzha, classes began in 745 institutions. Twenty-five schools in flood-hit Kuttanad will be opened later. Besides the 745 schools, students also reached 121 higher secondary schools and 21 vocational higher secondary schools.

As many as 1,270 schools opened in Kozhikode. The district-level launch of Pravesanotsavam was held at the Government Higher Secondary School, Valayam. Students of JDT Islam High School in Kozhikode city were welcomed by robotic devices prepared in the Atal Tinkering Lab attached to the institution.

Three-tier security for Huzurabad counting

Prohibitory orders imposed near centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR

The counting of votes polled in Saturday's fiercely fought bye-election to the Huzurabad Assembly constituency in Telangana is slated to begin at 8 a.m. at the designated counting centre in Karimnagar town on Tuesday.

The electoral fate of as many as 30 candidates, including that of the BJP candidate and sitting MLA, Eatala Rajender; the ruling TRS candidate Gellu Srinivas Yadav; and Congress nominee Balmuri Venkat Narsing Rao, will be known when the final result of the bypoll will be out by Tuesday evening. The byelection saw a huge voter turnout of 86.64%.

The bypoll assumed significance as Mr. Rajender, the former Health Minister, is seeking re-election from the Huzurabad seat on BJP ticket after resigning as TRS MLA, following his expulsion from Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's Cabinet over allegations of purchase of assigned lands illegally in May this year.

Prohibitory orders have been imposed within 200-metre radius of the counting centre, where the EVMs are stored in strongrooms.

Commissioner of Police V Satyanarayana said a three-tier security layer comprising the State police and the Central Armed Police Force had been put in place at the counting centre.

Puneeth's death triggers rush at hospitals in Bengaluru

More youngsters turn up for cardiac evaluation

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Following the sudden death of 46-year-old Kannada actor Puneeth Rajkumar due to cardiac arrest, there seems to be panic among people, especially youngsters, who are now rushing to hospitals for a cardiac evaluation.

The outpatient department (OPD) at the State-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research was flooded with patients on Monday, although it was a government holiday.

Institute Director C.N. Manjunath told *The Hindu* that while doctors usually see around 1,200 patients in the OPD on Mondays, the flow was nearly 30% higher

than normal this Monday. "Till evening, doctors attended to over 1,600 patients, nearly 20% of whom had come just out of panic after watching television reports on Puneeth's death. Some 10%, who are follow-up patients, turned up ahead of their scheduled visits," he said. "The patient flow was unusually high on Sunday too. While we used to get around 150 patients on Sundays, we had over 550 patients on October 31 at our institute in Bengaluru. Even in Mysuru, where we see around 75 patients on Sundays, over 350 turned up this Sunday," Dr. Manjunath said.

He said, "It is prudent to undergo regular check-ups if people have a family history or comorbidities or have some symptoms. But, rushing to the hospital out of panic like this is unwarranted."



Panic mode: People waiting at the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences in Bengaluru on Monday.

Most of those who rushed to the OPD on Monday came with anxiety, Dr. Manjunath said, adding that some of them were even counselled.

Private hospitals too saw similar scenes. Cardiologists at the Aster CMI Hospitals said they noticed a three-fold increase in the OPD as well as emergency. Pradeep Kumar D., senior consultant (Interventional Cardiology)

at the hospital said patients, most of them in their 40s, came with complaints of chest pain and anxiety.

Ranjan Shetty, interventional cardiologist at Manipal Hospitals on Old Airport Road, who also saw an increase in his OPD, said such check-ups should not be out of panic. "We have been advising patients to get it done on a regular basis," he said.

Actor's eyes give sight to four persons

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The late Kannada actor, Puneeth Rajkumar, has gifted eyesight to four persons. Doctors at the Narayana Nethralaya, who collected his corneas, said they sliced and transplanted them into four corneal blind patients.

Addressing mediapersons in Bengaluru on Monday, K. Bhujang Shetty, chairman and managing director of Narayana Nethralaya, said, "We are very fortunate and grateful for 'Power Star' Puneeth Rajkumar's eye donation. What was unique was that we used each eye to treat two patients by separating the

superior and deeper layers of the cornea."

"The superior layer was transplanted into two patients, who had superficial corneal disease, and the deeper layer was transplanted into patients with endothelial or deep corneal layer disease. Hence, we created four different transplants from two corneas to restore the vision of four people. In Karnataka so far, to the best of our knowledge," Dr. Shetty said.

Following in the footsteps of his father Dr. Rajkumar, the family of Puneeth Rajkumar donated his eyes on October 29.



Time for action

The G20 meeting has come at a critical moment for the global political economy

At their first in-person meeting in two years, leaders of the G20 did not shy away from re-engaging with the biggest issues facing the global community today, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, a major tax agreement, and steps to address concerns regarding global economic growth and stability. On coordinated efforts to mitigate the pandemic, the focus was on vaccine production and distribution, with assurances of support to WHO's target of inoculating 40% or more of the global population against COVID-19 by 2021, and at least 70% by mid-2022. The implicit assumption in this commitment by G20 leaders is that initiatives to boost the supply of vaccines in developing countries will succeed, and cooperation will help the world overcome supply and financing constraints. On climate change, the Group leaders recommended their nations to providing \$100 billion a year toward adaptation, mitigation, and green technologies, focusing on the needs of developing countries. However, in this sphere, a divergence of views still exists across developing and developed nations: ahead of this summit and the 2021 climate conference in Glasgow, India had rejected the call to announce a target of zero emissions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears to have scored a victory in this regard as the post-summit communiqué commits the G20 to limiting global warming to 1.5° C and identified sustainable and responsible consumption and production as "critical enablers".

The world community is on shakier footing regarding the fragile post-COVID economic recovery underway after paralysing lockdowns. Unsurprisingly, given the rising inflation, spiking energy prices, and alarming supply chain bottlenecks, G20 leaders were quick to affirm that national stimulus policies would not be removed prematurely. Even so, it would remain a challenge to walk the tightrope between preserving financial stability and fiscal sustainability. Perhaps in a bid to avoid potentially debilitating wobbles in global finance, the G20 leadership agreed to slap multinationals with a minimum 15% tax to create "a more stable and fairer international tax system". This would impact the tech titans of Silicon Valley, as this initiative would make it harder for such companies to benefit from locating themselves in relatively lower-tax jurisdictions. This OECD-led reform enjoys the support of 136 countries, which account for more than 90% of global GDP, and is likely to enter into force in 2023 or after. Nations such as the U.S. are divided on whether to approve this proposal domestically, and unless there is unanimity amongst the discussants, the initiative risks facing implementation delays. The G20 meeting has come at a critical moment for the global political economy. If it results in timely, effective, coordinated action across major nations, hope for recovery will remain afloat.

A vote for stability

The vote for Fumio Kishida underlines the dominance of the LDP in Japan's politics

Defying expectations, Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) stormed to an outright majority in the country's parliamentary elections on Sunday. The elections were the first major test for the new Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida, who took over last month amid enormous challenges. He followed the short-lived tenure of Yoshihide Suga, who succeeded Shinzo Abe. Japan's longest serving Prime Minister, Mr. Abe stepped down in 2020 citing health reasons. Mr. Suga's year-long term was marred by his government's poor handling of COVID-19 and economic woes. Facing the lowest approval ratings of any Japanese leader in years, he resigned. Entering the election in these circumstances, the LDP, which held 276 seats in the 465-seat House of Representatives before the polls, was bracing for a poor show, with wide expectations that it would need to rely on its coalition with the Komeito party to cross the halfway mark. But it coasted to victory unencumbered by coalition considerations.

Mr. Kishida now has to deliver on a range of pressing challenges, including the pandemic, the economy and on the security front, relations with China. He has committed to bolstering support to hospitals to ensure a far better response should Japan face another wave. On the economy front, he has put forward a "new capitalism" aimed at an economic revival keeping the interests of the middle class as a priority. He has pledged to come up with an ambitious stimulus package this month. On foreign policy, he will have to keep in mind the wishes of his party's conservative bloc which is calling for significant increases in defence spending. Those are voices he cannot ignore considering that the new leader—Mr. Kishida was also a Foreign Minister — has no real popular support to call upon and will be beholden to what his party wants. In the election campaign, the LDP said it would double defence spending to 2% of the GDP. China's recent air incursions into Taiwan were cited as one major reason, as also North Korea's missile tests. Mr. Kishida has said he will focus on shoring up relations with Washington, and in his early days, has already reached out to the leaders of the Quad. He has also spoken with China's President Xi Jinping, with positive noises about getting relations on track. Ultimately, matters at home will decide which of his two predecessors Mr. Kishida ends up emulating. Given the flagging reputation of the LDP towards the end of Mr. Abe's term and through Mr. Suga's turbulent time in office, the vote appears to be as much an endorsement for stability as it is for his government. It also reaffirms the LDP's unchallenged position in domestic politics regardless of the troubles it has faced in recent years, underlining there is no serious challenger to its continued dominance.

Kashmir's fragility has more complex reasons

To limit what is happening in J&K solely to the impetus created by a Talibanised Afghanistan could cost India dear



M.K. NARAYANAN

Fear is the prevailing sentiment across many parts of Kashmir today. It has, in turn, led to comparisons with the situation that existed during the 1990s and the early years of the 21st century. In the past few weeks, several civilians as well as security and armed forces personnel, have been killed by terrorists, some of the latter being labelled as hybrid terrorists, though it is not clear what this phrase signifies.

Ground realities

A predictable reaction to the situation has been the exodus of Hindus, especially of the Kashmiri Pandits, and of migrant labour, fearing for their lives and their future. Side by side with this, an impression has been created of increasing support to militancy, though it is unclear whether this is indeed the case. However, as in all situations of this kind, it is apparent that impressions often appear more real than actual ground realities.

Latterly, Kashmir had managed to stay away from the headlines despite concerns expressed in different quarters about the 'disciplined democracy' being practised ever since the dilution of Article 370 and the restructuring of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) into two Union Territories. In the absence of an agile press, it has not been possible to fathom the intensity of protests against the existing order, and whether they constitute a rejection of the changes effected.

Incidents of violence have, however, continued. Notwithstanding this, given the hullabaloo in the immediate aftermath of the changes effected in August 2019, a degree of surface calm seemed to prevail, not very different from that which existed previously. Whether this was peace brought

about through controlled conditions, or otherwise, has been difficult to discern.

Given the recent recrudescence of violence, it is, nevertheless, evident that the situation remains fragile. Whether this means that the changes effected since August 2019 were merely a 'triumph of wishfulness over prudence', an overestimation of belief on what was possible ignoring the history of several decades past, and the failure of many previous attempts to change the *status quo*, is hence worth examining.

Pakistan apart

More important is what could possibly be the reasons for the revival of aggravated violence in Kashmir. While assessing the ground situation in Kashmir, Pakistan has always tended to be a factor. It is, however, again possible that the lessons of the past on what needed to be done — to effectively checkmate insurgency from across the border or inflame Kashmiri opinion — might have gone unheeded in the euphoria of having succeeded in altering the character of J&K and Delhi establishing a degree of direct control. Promises made and an unwillingness to use the time and opportunity to create fresh opportunities for dialogue with communities in Kashmir, allied with reputational interest in not accepting that the many steps taken, were inadequate to defeat the machinations from across the border, could also, perhaps, be additional reasons.

By this reckoning, Kashmir might well seem, in some remote way, to reveal the same attitude as many post-conflict, pre-modern, hybrid societies with mixed populations. It would imply that in the case of Kashmir, making a transformation to a more stable society will always prove difficult. In addition, Kashmir has difficult neighbours such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and China, which leaves little scope for experimentation — a true test for decision-making of any kind.

As violence escalated in J&K, it became commonplace to link it with the Taliban takeover of Af-



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ghanistan. This could, however, be a highly simplistic answer to a more complex situation. In the current context, geopolitics is something that cannot and must not be ignored. The sudden surge in violence in Kashmir needs a more careful evaluation of the facts rather than simplistic answers. It is a fact, for instance, that India's world view has steadily expanded, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, and several, including some relatively unknown, tension points have emerged. All these will need to be carefully assessed before coming up with an answer — more so since India is wedged between two known antagonists (Pakistan and China), has a Talibanised Afghanistan as its neighbour, and there has been a resurgence of international terror groups, notably the Islamic State and al-Qaeda.

The China factor

Of particular consequence in this context is China's continuing cooperation with Pakistan in many matters, its growing assertiveness in regard to its territorial claims, *vis-à-vis* India, its opposition to the prominence given to India by the West in both Asian and global forums, etc. All these have further helped cement the nexus between China and Pakistan. Intertwined with this is again the battle raging for spheres of influence between China and India, which has intensified under China's President Xi Jinping. The latter is intent on establishing an Asian system in which China sits at the summit of a hierarchical re-

gional order. All this is altering the ground realities and it is worth considering whether Kashmir is emerging as a pressure point in this context.

Intelligence is critical

What it all boils down to is the need for hard and better intelligence. Hard intelligence is critical to avoid misperceptions and miscalculations. The (recent) history of the world is replete with stories of intelligence failures, misperceptions and miscalculations, which had led to grave situations, and which might well have been avoided had there been better intelligence. The serious miscalculation about Iraqi President Saddam Hussein possessing nuclear weapons based on wrong intelligence led to unnecessary involvement by the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Iraq, followed by an unfortunate train of events that continues to haunt the world to this day. As tensions between India and China, and between India and Pakistan, intensify, the need for hard intelligence is thus vital to be able to control the train of events and avoid any serious miscalculations.

What is common to most, perhaps all, intelligence agencies — irrespective of their degrees of competence — is their limited capacity for imagination, *viz.*, to imagine future events and possibilities. Intelligence agencies, by and large, are adept at providing insights about yesterday's threats rather than future ones, specially those that exist just beyond the horizon. Moreover, as intelligence agencies become more wedded to technology, they need to realise that advances in technology tend to be a double-edged sword insofar as intelligence is concerned. It should not negate the need for improved analysis and also how important it is to provide decision-makers with information on what is taking place in the minds of their opposite numbers.

In the extant situation, Indian intelligence agencies must avoid the kind of lapses of both imagination and analysis displayed by western intelligence agencies

some years ago, who misread, misunderstood and failed to anticipate the role of Sayyid Qutb and his preachings which later set the stage for the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers in New York and other targets in the U.S. Had they understood what Sayyid Qutb preached, *viz.*, that martyrdom was a necessary part of 20th century jihad, they would not have underestimated the influence exerted by Islamist theology on the terrorist mindset.

It is, thus, important that the 'missing dimensions' of intelligence in most cases, *viz.*, thinking imaginatively and improved analytical capabilities, receive the close attention of India's intelligence agencies. Only then will it be possible to understand the nature of current events as a precursor of future threats. This is important to ensure that they do not ignore signals that may not be all too obvious at this time, and keep chasing more obvious and current aspects. Too narrowly focussed intelligence requirements, limited to current events such as, for example, tensions with China on the border, or Pakistan's attempts to push in 'irregulars' and aid the Lashkar and Jaish elements to cross over into India, may prove self-defeating. The arc of intelligence needs to be much wider and Indian intelligence agencies such as the Intelligence Bureau, the Research & Analysis Wing as also the National Security Council Secretariat should ensure that they have the necessary capabilities.

Linked to this is also the danger of 'intelligence adjustment', *viz.*, avoiding challenging conventional assumptions, which could undermine their ability to provide a more accurate picture of the larger threat. Today, when India faces problems all around it, to limit what is happening in Kashmir solely to the impetus created by a Talibanised Afghanistan without fully analysing all the facts could cost the country dear.

M.K. Narayanan is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal

Finding a way out of India's deepening water stress

In any new National Water Policy, the aim should also be to encourage conserving water resources and efficient usage



THOMAS VARGHESE

The complexity and scale of the water crisis in India calls for a locus specific response, that can galvanise and integrate the ongoing work of different Ministries and Departments through new configurations. Such an integrated approach must necessarily cut across sectoral boundaries and not stop at the merger achieved between the two Ministries of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, which led to the formation of the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2019.

Understanding sources used

Seeing India's looming water crisis through the locus of 'urban' and 'rural' not only allows a better grasp of the causative factors but also enables a stronger grip on the strategies to be deployed to reverse the water crisis. Fundamental to this is a preliminary understanding of the sources from which the country draws water to meet its varying needs. In the rural areas, 80%-90% of the drinking water and 75% of the water used for agriculture is drawn from groundwater sources. In urban areas, 50%-60% of the water supply is drawn from groundwater sources, whereas the remaining is sourced from surface water resources such as rivers, often located afar, in addition to lakes, tanks and reservoirs.

According to the composite wa-

ter management index released by the think tank NITI Aayog in 2019, 21 major cities (including Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad) were on the brink of exhausting groundwater resources, affecting about 100 million people. The study also points out that by 2030, the demand for water is projected to be twice the available supply.

The Chennai example

A significant, and by no means less worrying, example of the water crisis that unfolded before our eyes was in Chennai in 2019, where life came to a standstill and parts of the city went without piped water for months. Though this may well have been forgotten, Chennai remains a spectacle of the impending tragedies brought about by the city's inability to meet the basic needs of citizens, *vis-à-vis* drinking water, cooking and sanitation.

A closer look at the factors that brought about the water crisis in Chennai is inescapable, should we gain a better grasp of the underlying problems, especially as this was a city which among others like Mumbai had suffered from floods previously. Many have cited the poor rainfall received in Chennai in the previous year as one of the main reasons for the water crisis. Though it is true that rainfall was low, which was 50% less than normal, focusing on this factor alone would absolve responsibility by blaming the vagaries of the rainfall patterns to a fast-changing climate, without understanding the ground-level steps (or missteps) which have been equally responsible factors.

Chief among these is that the city has been built by incrementally encroaching floodplains and paving over lakes and wetlands that



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would have otherwise helped the process of recharging groundwater. The lack of space for water to percolate underground prevented rainwater from recharging the aquifers.

This was further exacerbated by the loss of green cover (which would have otherwise helped water retention) to make way for infrastructure projects. Such a situation, on the one hand, leads to flooding during normal rainfall due to stagnation, and on the other hand leads to drought-like conditions due to the prevention of underground water storage. It is only that this situation was more magnified in Chennai, but other cities in India would echo these manifestations in varying degrees owing to a lack of sustainable urban planning.

There is also the example, in Mumbai, in 2019, when 2,141 trees were felled at the Aarey colony, amid massive protests, to make space for a shed for the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited.

Need for synergy

If the Government is serious about addressing the water crisis in urban areas, the Ministry of Water Resources must reconfigure its relationship with other Ministries and Departments (Urban Development, Local Self-Government and Environment). This would be for enhanced integration and coordi-

nation through effective land and water zoning regulations that protect urban water bodies, groundwater sources, wetlands and green cover while simultaneously working to enhance waste water recycling and water recharge activities targeting aquifers and wells through rainwater harvesting.

Lessons from rural Punjab

In rural areas, the situation is no different, as the acute water crisis in Punjab shows. The draft report of the Central Ground Water Board concluded that Punjab would be reduced to a desert in 25 years if the extraction of its groundwater resources continues unabated; 82% of Punjab's land area has seen a huge decline in groundwater levels, wherein 109 out of 138 administrative blocks have been placed in the 'over-exploited' category. Groundwater extraction which was at 35% in the 1960s and 1970s, rose to 70% post the Green Revolution — a period which saw governments subsidising power for irrigation that left tubewells running for hours.

Concomitantly, cultivation of water intensive crops such as paddy have further aggravated water depletion, even turning water saline. Immediate measures need to be taken to manage and replenish groundwater, especially through participatory groundwater management approaches with its combination of water budgeting, aquifer recharging and community involvement.

Such an approach to water conservation again beckons new configurations between sectors and disciplines. At the sectoral level, the Ministries and Departments of water resources must coordinate efforts with their counterparts in agriculture, the environment and

rural development for greater convergence to achieve water and food security. At the disciplinary level, governance and management should increasingly interact and draw from the expertise of fields such as hydrology (watershed sustainability), hydrogeology (aquifer mapping and recharge) and agriculture sciences (water-sensitive crop choices and soil health). Again, the importance given to groundwater conservation should not ignore surface water conservation including the many rivers and lakes which are in a critical and dying state due to encroachment, pollution, over-abstraction and obstruction of water flow by dams.

Protecting resources

The Ministry of Jal Shakti, last year, had announced an ambitious plan to provide water connections to every household in India by 2024. In view of the ongoing erosion of water resources and an ever-increasing demand for water, the thrust should not be on promising water supply. Instead the aim should be towards protecting and conserving water resources on the one hand and minimising and enhancing efficiency of water usage on the other. As the expert committee constituted under the Union Water Resources Ministry drafts a new National Water Policy, one hopes it would be rooted in locus specific realities and allows greater flexibility for integrating the insights and work of multiple departments and disciplines making way for new configurations to sustainably manage the country's water resources.

Thomas Varghese is a researcher and consultant working on sustainable development in Kochi, Kerala

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.

Briefing the Governor

Any new Governor of a State in India is entitled to be briefed about the important activities and schemes in the State. All this information is already available in the office of the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary since continuous review takes place. In this

case, the Tamil Nadu Governor could have been quietly briefed by the Chief Secretary and the Finance Secretary. There was no need for the Chief Secretary to write to the Secretaries to make a presentation to the Governor. This was a mistake that could have been avoided (OpEd page,

"The DMK's gubernatorial test", November 1).

M.G. DEVASAHAYAM,
Chennai

On ECE

As far as early childhood education (ECE) is concerned, and children of low-income families, the anganwadi system can play

an effective role. A proper ECE can be ensured by appointing an exclusive and trained anganwadi worker/teacher to devote their full time to ECE in anganwadis. This will also ensure that class dropouts are nil or minimal.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULLI,
Hyderabad

New Zealand match

Losing is very much a part of cricket which every team, however strong, experiences at times. However, what is baffling is skipper Virat Kohli's reported post match statement about the team. Nothing could be more demotivating for any team

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than the leader speaking in defeatist language especially considering that the tournament is not over yet for India. There are pertinent questions about the team's composition too.

A. MOHAN,
Chennai

Why counting caste matters

Caste data will help us understand the contours of inequality and craft reasoned and inclusive policies



TRINA VITHAYATHIL & KALAIYARASANA A.



BHAGYA PRAKASH K

The debate about whether the decennial Census should collect data on caste from individuals who fall into the administrative categories of 'General' and 'Other Backward Classes' (OBCs) has been argued by public intellectuals, politicians, and government administrators for decades. As the Census currently only collects data on 'Scheduled Castes' (SCs) and 'Scheduled Tribes' (STs), it fails to provide comprehensive data on India's graded caste hierarchy. In the run-up to the 2011 Census, the political leadership agreed to include a full caste count in the Census. It later prevented a caste-wise enumeration in the Census. The suppression of caste-wise data took place then because of two interconnected dynamics which are likely to reoccur unless they are collectively challenged.

The importance of caste data

First, caste elites generally believe that caste no longer matters in shaping opportunities and outcomes in the 21st century. This caste blindness, or castelessness, obscures caste privileges and conceals sources of multi-generational structural advantage. Many caste elites view the collection of caste data about anyone but the most disadvantaged as unnecessary and a misuse of public resources. This perspective both serves their own interests and ignores the relational nature of caste — that is, the same societal institutions, systems, and cultural norms that have led to historic and ongoing subjugation of oppressed castes have simultaneously empowered others. To understand the full scope of disadvantage, we must also examine the full scope of privilege and advantage.

The suppression also occurred as a result of the machinery of government. Organisations tasked with designing Census questions and overseeing data collection, similar to every other key institution in society, have caste-based inequalities entrenched within them. The bureauc-

cracy blocked the inclusion of a full caste count in the Census 2011 on methodological grounds. It argued that a caste count would be "administratively difficult and cumbersome," "jeopardise the whole exercise," and "compromise the basic integrity of the Census". The official language used by the Congress-led government in 2011 was identical to the language used in the affidavit filed in the Supreme Court on September 23, 2021 by the present BJP-led government. The presentation of (supposedly) insurmountable methodological and logistical challenges is particularly effective as an excuse because it silences non-experts. Caste elites have a numerical and cultural stranglehold over the upper bureaucracy, despite more than 70 years of Central government reservations. In 2019, out of the 82 Secretaries to the Government of India, only four were SCs or STs. Following the suppression of the caste count in Census 2011, the executive bureaucracy reconfigured the Below Poverty Line survey and renamed it the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census, which had little resemblance to the original demands by caste census advocates and produced unusable caste data.

The purpose for collecting caste-wise data in the decennial Census is to understand the contours of inequality. These data are crucial to understand how caste intersects with class, gender, and regionality to structure access to resources. The collected caste data should be publicly available for use. In this regard, the caste data would continue the existing practice of the Office of the Registrar General of India to make Census data publicly available. The Census has the legal standing, public trust, operational expertise, and resources to collect, analyse, and make

public caste data. Caste data must be collected as part of this constitutionally required exercise. Having the caste Census as part of another state project, or overseen by nodal agencies other than the ORGI, as happened 10 years ago, will relegate it to parts of the bureaucracy with insufficient expertise in a nationwide data collection operation.

While counting (or not counting) caste is political, the decision should not be reduced to immediate political contingencies i.e., the expansion of reservation policies, the caste-based mobilisation by political parties, etc. In the absence of detailed caste data, we fail to name and confront major structural and foundational problems of society; leave space for opportunistic politicians to exploit each caste; and miss the opportunity to craft reasoned, data-driven, and inclusive public policies.

Addressing concerns

Yet, important concerns remain. Some progressive and anti-caste scholars fear that a full-caste count will further entrench caste identities. A caste census will require all households to think about, acknowledge, and speak about caste identities. Yet, historically outcast groups have already had to provide caste data in all postcolonial Censuses to implement reservations. A full caste-wise enumeration will help to make visible privileges and resources that have become over time disassociated with caste, despite historical, sociological, and economic evidence to the contrary. Updated data on the entire caste system, including its intersections with other identities, will provide a more complete picture of exclusion and inequality in India.

Another concern is that groups will misuse the caste data. But mis-

use of caste data already takes place. Private groups with access to money and power regularly collect caste data for their needs. Political parties map the caste and religious composition of neighborhoods, cities, and villages to mobilise votes. Collecting caste data in the decennial Census removes this private power by making caste data publicly available to all.

While methodological and logistical challenges are real, they are surmountable. Demographers in government agencies and universities have extensive experience working through these challenges. Sample surveys such as the India Human Development Survey have collected caste-wise data. In addition, research on the failed caste count suggests the importance of careful planning to prevent groups from being made invisible in the data, such as Dalit Muslims, Dalit Christians, inter-caste and inter-religious households (particularly those that cut across the line of 'untouchability' or communal divide), and LGBTQ+ individuals. Related to the discussion of castelessness, if a 'no caste' option is included in the Census, the caste count will likely undercount well-to-do caste elites. Given the purpose of the caste count, omissions of marginalised groups and elites require specific attention while designing the survey instrument, training enumerators, educating the public, and analysing collected caste-wise data. Hence, the entire process requires external oversight if the data are to be usable and to minimise potential harm. As the process unfolds, a public oversight group should work to ensure that major operational and methodological decisions align with the data collection's purpose: to understand the scope of caste-based inequities and address structural inequalities. Anti-caste organisations and public intellectuals, who have devoted their life's work to challenging caste hierarchy, must provide oversight and input. Their perspectives and lived experiences of fighting caste oppression are the best safeguards to ensure that the collected data will be used for liberatory purposes.

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The crypto conundrum

Cryptocurrencies possess no significant use value or exchange value to sustain their current high prices



PRASHANTH PERUMAL

Bitcoin and other private cryptocurrencies have been on a bull run recently. Unlike previous rallies, the current rally in bitcoin has witnessed the increasing participation of retail investors in India. Since 2020, when the Supreme Court overturned an order by the Reserve Bank of India dated April 6, 2018, restricting the use of cryptocurrencies, traffic in domestic cryptocurrency exchanges in India has grown many-fold. Yet, the future of bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies is unlikely to be as bright as many believe it to be.

A case of speculative mania?

The most important feature of cryptocurrencies that is flaunted by their enthusiasts is their limited supply. In a world where central banks create a lot of money out of thin air, it is natural for investors who are looking to protect their wealth to seek abode in alternative assets whose supply cannot be cranked up as easily. Money creation by central banks causes the price of all goods to rise and also tends to accelerate the adoption of alternative assets as currencies. When central banks create a lot of money, it leads to an increase in the prices of not just goods such as food and cars but also that of commodities such as gold and silver, considered to be alternative forms of money. Yet, for various reasons, the rally in bitcoin may be no more than a case of speculative mania.

For one, scarcity alone is not sufficient to facilitate the adoption of cryptocurrencies as money. Any asset must have either use value or exchange value in order for it to possess any fundamental value. This fundamental value, in turn, is reflected in the price of these assets in the long run. Stocks and bonds, for instance, possess exchange value that is based on the expected future cash flow from these assets. Commodities such as oil and steel possess use value because these assets are used to run vehicles and build real estate. Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies may be scarce but it is questionable whether they possess any use value or exchange value. Gold and silver have traditionally served as hedges against inflation because they possess fundamental value derived from their use as jewellery and money. But bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies neither offer direct use value nor possess significant exchange value — bitcoin can buy you very few real

goods and services. In short, cryptocurrencies possess no significant fundamental value to sustain their current high prices.

Yet, many believe that the rising prices of cryptocurrencies reflect their likely future value as a currency. It is possible that investors are bidding up the price of bitcoin because they foresee a future in which private currency is widely accepted as money. After all, all investments are forward-looking. One may also grant that the extreme volatility seen in the price of cryptocurrencies, which seems unrelated to any similar fluctuations in their fundamentals, may be due to the nascent, illiquid nature of the cryptocurrency market. However, the more cryptocurrencies are accepted in exchange for goods and services, the greater the chances of governments cracking down on them.

Issuance of money

The monopoly that governments (and central banks) possess over the issuance of money is at the root of their power and influence. This allows governments to fund their budget deficits, particularly during times of crises such as the current pandemic when tax revenues have taken an unprecedented hit. It also allows central banks to tinker with the money supply under the mandate of managing aggregate demand in the economy. In essence, monopoly control over money allows governments to indirectly tax citizens by increasing the supply of currencies, thus devaluing them. If cryptocurrencies like bitcoin are going to challenge fiat currencies like the U.S. dollar as a medium of exchange, they would essentially be challenging the authority of the government to print and spend. This is not an assault that governments will tolerate for long. They will allow cryptocurrencies to exist only as long as these currencies remain a speculative asset and not a medium of exchange.

This is not to say that governments are justified in their crackdown against cryptocurrencies. China recently imposed a complete ban on all cryptocurrencies and plans to issue its own central bank-issued digital currency. Private alternatives to fiat currencies offer people greater choice in what currencies they choose to use as a medium of exchange. The benefits of free market competition in money were elaborated by economist Friedrich Hayek in *The Denationalization of Money*. Most notably, competition between currencies to cater to the demands of customers would ensure that fiat currencies that are printed indiscriminately simply go out of use. This is the outcome that governments fear and would fight to avoid at any cost.

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STATE OF PLAY

The TDP's search for a friend

The TDP seems keen to revive its old friendship with the BJP which deems it untrustworthy

APPAJI REDDEM

There are no permanent friends and permanent enemies in politics. Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief N. Chandrababu Naidu is clearly on a mission to revive his old friendship with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre. In the hope of bringing back glory to the ailing TDP and to protect it from the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) back home, Mr. Naidu is making every effort he can to join hands with an old friend which his party has ignored at the cost of repeated setbacks in the last few years.

Looking for an ally

The TDP's growing desperation for a strong ally has been quite obvious in Mr. Naidu's words and deeds. Recently, in an interview to this newspaper, when asked whether he was open to exploring a return to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Mr. Naidu said: "We must explore it, otherwise others will exploit us." This is an indication that he is worried about the BJP-YSRCP friendship. The BJP, in fact, had wanted the YSRCP in the Union Cabinet but the regional party has always been averse to it, being content, instead, with extending issue-based support to the BJP. Two weeks ago, after the TDP's offices were attacked by miscreants, Mr. Naidu alleged that party persons were being targeted by YSRCP-backed mobs and requested Union Home Minister Amit Shah to deploy Central forces to ensure adequate security to the party's offices.

The TDP's tie-up with the BJP in 2014 had been successful. The TDP had gained from the anti-Congress sentiment following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh as well as the 'Modi wave'. The alliance was strongly supported by the popular actor, Pawan Kalyan. But trouble started brewing between the partners in 2018 over the issue of central funding to the State. Mr. Naidu was also upset that the Centre was not granting special category status to Andhra Pradesh and finally snapped ties with

the NDA. The BJP argued then that it had always been willing to grant the monetary equivalent of special category status to Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Kalyan launched a scathing attack against the State government, which TDP ministers alleged was being done at the behest of the BJP.

Patching up

After this fallout, Mr. Naidu started exploring alliances with the Congress and other parties, but these were unsuccessful. And so, Mr. Naidu was forced to wage a lone battle in the 2019 polls and met with an embarrassing defeat in the hands of the YSRCP. Post this debacle, Mr. Naidu has expressed regret — both in public and in private meetings with party members — for snapping ties with the NDA. During the post-poll meet of the party, Mr. Naidu said that he had nothing against the BJP and that his decisions were purely aimed at protecting the interests of the State.

Over the years, Mr. Naidu's softened stand can be seen in his appreciation for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In April 2020, for instance, Mr. Naidu hailed Mr. Modi for taking a "bold and statesman-like decision" to extend the COVID-19 lockdown. But the patch up with the BJP is not going to be easy. It might be hard for the BJP to ignore the two betrayals of the TDP — first after the 2004 polls when Mr. Naidu blamed and deserted the BJP after losing to Congress's Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy; and the second in 2018, when the TDP snapped ties with the NDA. In 2019, Mr. Shah had said firmly that the doors of the NDA would be permanently shut for the TDP. The party re-iterated this stand last month. Yet, anything is possible, says a senior BJP leader in the State on the condition of anonymity. After all, the Congress, a foe, suddenly became a friend for the TDP in 2018. For the TDP, whose prospects seem bleak in the short term, finding an ally is crucial.

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DATA POINT

Pace picks up slightly

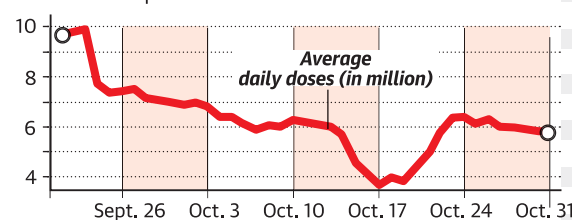
The average rate of daily COVID-19 vaccinations in India increased between October 21 and 31 compared to the previous 10-day period of the month. From October 21 to 31, 5.9 million doses were administered on average daily in the country compared to the 4.7 million administered between October 11 and 20. However, to vaccinate all adults by the end of the year, 13.3 million doses have to be administered daily on average in the last two months of 2021. Between October 21 and 31, the average daily doses administered increased in major States such as Tamil Nadu and Bihar. On the other hand, they fell in Maharashtra and Rajasthan. By **The Hindu Data Team**

SLIGHT UPTICK

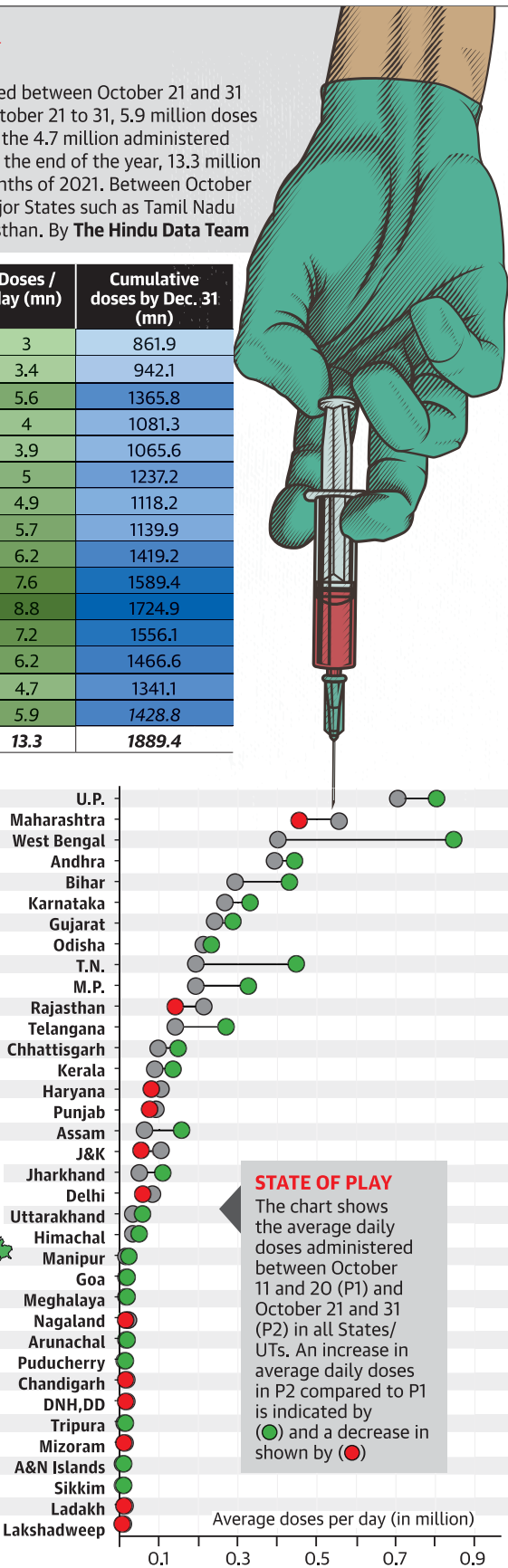
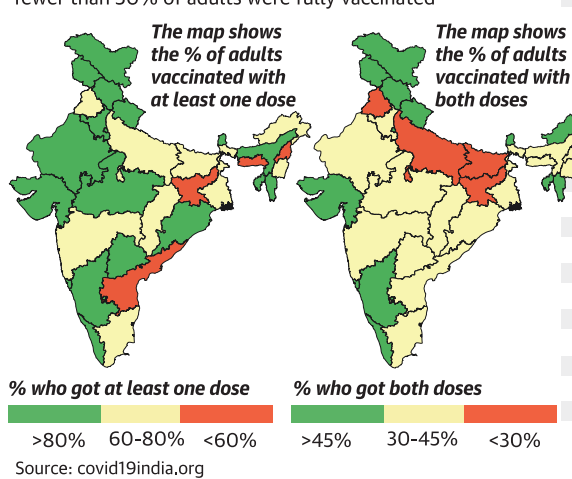
From October 21 to 31, 5.9 million doses were administered daily on average. The vaccination rate picked up after falling to 4.7 million in the October 11-20 period. To inoculate all adults by the end of the year, 13.3 million doses need to be administered on average daily starting November 1

Phases	Doses / day (mn)	Cumulative doses by Dec. 31 (mn)
Phase 4 pace (June 1 - June 10)	3	861.9
Phase 4 pace (June 11 - June 20)	3.4	942.1
Phase 5 pace (June 21 - June 30)	5.6	1365.8
Phase 5 pace (July 1 - July 10)	4	1081.3
Phase 5 pace (July 11 - July 20)	3.9	1065.6
Phase 5 pace (July 21 - July 31)	5	1237.2
Phase 5 pace (Aug 1 - Aug 10)	4.9	1118.2
Phase 5 pace (Aug 11 - Aug 20)	5.7	1139.9
Phase 5 pace (Aug 21 - Aug 31)	6.2	1419.2
Phase 5 pace (Sep 1 - Sep 10)	7.6	1589.4
Phase 5 pace (Sep 11 - Sep 20)	8.8	1724.9
Phase 5 pace (Sep 21 - Sep 30)	7.2	1556.1
Phase 5 pace (Oct 1 - Oct 10)	6.2	1466.6
Phase 5 pace (Oct 11 - Oct 20)	4.7	1341.1
Phase 5 pace (Oct 21 - Oct 31)	5.9	1428.8
Target pace (Nov 1 - Dec 31)	13.3	1889.4

SEVEN-DAY AVERAGE | The seven-day rolling average of daily doses administered stood at 5.8 million on October 31 after peaking at 6.4 million on October 24 in the October 21-31 period



SHARE OF POPULATION | Till October 31, 35% of the country's adult population was fully vaccinated, while 77% had received at least one dose. In five States/UTs, fewer than 30% of adults were fully vaccinated



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 2, 1971

Punitive action silences Pak. troops

The Indian defence forces have taken punitive action across the border for the first time on the eastern front to silence the Pakistani troops who have been repeatedly shelling for the last 11 days the Tripura township of Kamalpur causing considerable damage to property and loss of civilian life. The Defence Ministry spokesman, who disclosed the operation to-day [New Delhi, Nov. 1], did not say in so many words that the Indian armed forces had actually crossed the border to stop this Pakistani shelling, but he pointed out that this kind of action had been taken for the first time. He said: "Kamalpur has been shelled for the last 11 days by the Pakistan forces. There have been a number of civilian casualties and many buildings damaged. Our border forces have taken some action yesterday and to-day. The result is that there will be no further trouble from the Pakistan side in this sector. We were forced to take this action to stop the Pakistani shelling." The spokesman did not indicate the strength of forces involved on both sides in this operation. But he stressed that the fighting was confined to ground troops and that there was no air action.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 2, 1921

Non-Co-operation

Mahatma Gandhi writes in "Young India": There is no doubt that non-co-operation is an education which is developing and crystallizing public opinion. And as soon as it is organised enough for effective action, we have Swaraj. We cannot organise public opinion in a violent atmosphere. Just as those who have been forced by the Moplahs to recite the Kalima are no Muslims, even so those who call themselves non-co-operators from fashion or compulsion are no non-co-operators. They are a hindrance and no help. Our tyranny, if we impose our will on others, will be infinitely worse than that of the handful of Englishmen who form the bureaucracy. There is a terrorism imposed by a minority struggling to exist in the midst of opposition. Ours will be a terrorism imposed by a majority and therefore worse and really more godless than the first. We must therefore eliminate compulsion in any shape from our struggle. If we are only a handful freely holding the doctrine of non-co-operation, we may have to die in the attempt to convert others to our view, but we shall have truly defended and represented our cause.

Pain pervades J&K, says Sajad Lone

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

Peoples Conference president Sajad Lone on Monday said Jammu and Kashmir was witnessing disempowerment as a continuous process and it was achieved incrementally with unfailing frequency.

He blamed the "alien administration" for this. "The situation in J&K is unambiguously extraordinary. People are in pain and there is helplessness all around," Mr. Lone, who quit the Gupkar alliance earlier this year, stated. "The process of disempowerment that started on August 5 refuses to abate. Disempowerment has become a continuous process and is achieved incrementally with unfailing frequency," he added.

Mr. Lone had convened a meeting of the party's central working committee "to discuss contemporary political situation".

Panel to talk to farmers: Haryana CM

Manohar Lal says efforts are on under the Home Secretary to clear the blockade on the borders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Monday said that the State Government was making constant efforts to open the 'Singhu and Tikri' borders, which he added were closed by the farmers, and asserted that the problem can be solved only through dialogue.

Scores of farmers have been camping for over 11 months now at several places including Singhu-Tikri on Delhi's borders, demanding the repeal of the three farm laws enacted by the Union Government.

Plea for dialogue

Mr. Khattar, who was addressing a press conference here on the occasion of the 56th Haryana Divas, said the State Government has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of the Home Secretary to hold talks with the protesting farmers for clearing the blockade on



Unyielding stand: Farmers sitting in protest against the new farm laws at the Singhu border, in New Delhi on October 15. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the Kundli-Singhu and Tikri borders.

"Discussions are under way. Along with this, the Supreme Court has also taken cognisance in this matter. Due to the closure of the border, the people travelling along with the local residents and traders are facing inconvenience. The people blocking the highway should

understand the problem and come forward for dialogue," he said.

Mr. Khattar said that in the coming days, he would visit all the 90 Assembly constituencies of the State and interact with the people. "Due to the pandemic, the tours could not be conducted for some time. Now the programmes for the next two

months have been prepared," he said.

The Chief Minister's remarks come even as leaders of the BJP and its coalition partner, the Duhsyant Chautala-led Janmukh Janta Party (JJP), have been facing a backlash from farmers over the Centre's farm laws during the past few months. Farmer outfits have an-

nounced that all legislators who have backed the Centre's farm laws will be boycotted and not be allowed entry into villages across the State.

Toying with the youth

Mr. Khattar said transparency in recruitments was one of the focuses of his government and complete transparency was being adopted in the recruitment by the Haryana Staff Selection Commission and Haryana Public Service Commission.

However, senior Congress leader from Haryana and party's national general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala said the BJP-JJP government and Haryana Staff Selection Commission had once again made a mockery of the competence, ability and potential of the youth. He accused them of destroying the entire examination system, the manner of preparing the paper and the method of taking the exam.

Akhilesh Yadav says he won't contest U.P. polls

SP chief announces tie-up with RLD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) supremo Akhilesh Yadav on Monday said he would not contest the coming Uttar Pradesh Assembly election himself even as he announced that an alliance between his party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) was now final.

Mr. Yadav also said his uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav, who broke away from the SP to form the Pragatisheel Samajwadi party Lohia (PSPL) would get the "due honour" from his party.

"Our alliance with the RLD is final. Seat-sharing is to be finalised," he said. The RLD enjoys support among farmers of western Uttar Pradesh and is on the same page with the SP on the issue of opposing the Centre's three farm laws.

The SP has already announced an alliance with Om Prakash Rajbhar's Su-



Akhilesh Yadav

heldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SPSP).

Mr. Yadav, who is an SP MP from Azamgarh and regarded as the CM face of his party, said, "I will not be contesting the Assembly election myself."

The SP supremo, who was an MLC when he served as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh from 2012 to 2017, did not give any reason for the decision. However, later Mr. Yadav said a final decision will be taken by the party.

Centre driving a wedge in J&K: PDP

Mehbooba Mufti says New Delhi is resorting to 'naked communalism' in the UT.

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Monday accused the Central Government of "creating and fostering new fault lines between the people of Jammu and Kashmir".

Immediately after chairing a meeting of the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) of the party, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti observed that New Delhi was resorting to 'naked communalism' and pitting people against each other on the basis of religion, cast, sect and ethnicity. They were the only tools of the BJP to cover up its failure in governance. Hence divisive policies were gaining fresh ground and promoted unabashedly.

A PDP spokesman said the PAC meeting noted that New Delhi was further dividing J&K people "to accomplish the agenda of complete disempowerment of people." The party wanted people to collectively rise in unison to



Act of resistance: PDP workers protesting on Saturday against the alleged harassment of Kashmiri youth. • NISSAR AHMAD

defeat such plans.

The meeting also highlighted that apart from being robbed of their constitutional and democratic rights, people were slowly witnessing the catastrophic ramifications of the BJP-RSS plans in sectors such as business, employment, right to natural resources etc., the spokesman alleged.

"The abject failure of the BJP government has given J&K the dubious distinction of having the highest unem-

ployment rate in the country," the PDP claimed.

Party chief spokesperson Syed Suhail Bukhari asserted that the PAC would redouble its efforts to fight the designs of dividing and disempowering the J&K people and would give voice to the concerns and aspirations of all the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

He sought the immediate release of all political prisoners and speedy and impartial investigation into cases of re-

cent civilian killings.

Earlier in the day, Ms. Mufti alleged that she was disallowed to meet the family of a civilian, who was killed in a "crossfire" on October 25 in south Kashmir.

Mehbooba's charge

"When anyone is being killed by the militants, they (politicians) are being allowed to meet the slain family. It's unfortunate that whenever anyone is being killed in the forces' action, no one is being allowed to meet the bereaved family," she remarked.

The former Chief Minister had desired to meet the family of Anantnag's Shahid Aijaz, who was killed in a firing incident at Babapora area of Shopian near a CRPF camp.

According to the police, he died in the crossfire between militants and security personnel.

However, his family contested the police version.

Positive talks going on with Samajwadi Party: Jayant Singh

RLD chief says he doesn't change his view 'in one hour'

ANUJ KUMAR GHAZIABAD

Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) president Jayant Singh on Monday said "positive" talks were on with the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh.

Dismissing any plan or discussion on an alliance with the Congress following his hour-long meeting with Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at the Lucknow airport, he said: "I made my statement in Lucknow on my positive ongoing conversation with the Samajwadi Party. I don't change my view in a matter of one hour."

'Chat over chaat'

Senior RLD leader Shahid Siddiqui, who was present during the meeting, described it as "an informal chat over Lucknow chaat" where the possibility of "an alliance was not discussed". He said the party was in an alliance with the SP but didn't rule out the possibility of a broader alliance with the Congress to keep out the BJP.

"It was a mere coincidence that the two leaders met but it is a fact that after seeing the tremendous responses to Jayant Singh's rallies in western U.P. over the



Chance encounter: Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Jayant Singh at the Lucknow airport on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

last one month, every party wants to align with the RLD," he said.

Observers feel that it could be a ploy to bargain for more seats from the SP in west U.P., where the RLD feels it could do better than its partner, riding on the farmers' movement. "The SP and the RLD are natural allies but in its current form, the RLD needs to contest from a respectable number of seats as it could defeat the BJP," said a senior party leader.

'A potential partner'

Vivek Bansal, senior Congress leader from western U.P. and the party's Haryana in-charge, observed that, they discuss politics. "I don't know about broad or narrow, but we are looking

at the RLD as a potential partner in the Assembly elections. It is up to them to take a call."

He didn't deny the media speculation that the meeting was arranged by Haryana Rajya Sabha member Deepender Hooda, who is known to be close to the RLD president.

Imran Masood, Congress strongman from Saharanpur, recently urged the party to align with the SP in a television interview as it "didn't have the cadre to make an impact at the grassroots level".

"It was Mr. Masood's personal opinion. The party will take a call on it," Mr. Bansal said.

Notably, in her Gorakhpur rally on Sunday, Ms. Vadra had targeted the SP and the Bahujan Samaj Party.

Cong. begins drive for membership

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday launched its membership drive across the country that will culminate in organisational elections, including of a new president.

Heads of Congress State units launched the drive along with an online membership campaign "Join-CongressSaveIndia" to urge people to join the party in order to protect the country from forces that is "trying to destroy constitutional values".

The membership drive, which started on Monday, will continue till March 31 next year and will be followed by organisational elections. It will be held between July 21 and August 20 next year.

The election for the new Congress president will be held between August 21 and September 20 next year.

Those wishing to take up primary membership of the Congress will have to make a declaration of abstinence from alcohol and drugs.

They must give an undertaking never to criticise the party's policies and programmes in public forums, not hold property in excess of ceiling laws and undertake tasks, including manual labour.

Major swap of diplomatic postings

Ambassador to UAE Pavan Kapoor appointed envoy to Russia by the MEA

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Pavan Kapoor has been appointed envoy to Russia, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Monday, part of a major reshuffle of postings in the neighbourhood and other major capitals.

In a series of "round-robin" postings, Mr. Kapoor is being replaced by High Commissioner to the Maldives Sanjay Sudhir, who is in turn being replaced by Ambassador to Oman Munnu Mahawar. Amit Narang, Joint Secretary for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and handling



Pavan Kapoor

relations with the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Mauritius and other island neighbours from headquarters, has now been appointed Ambassador to Oman.

In addition, Director General of the Indian Council for

Cultural Relations Dinesh Patnaik will head to Spain as envoy in the next few months, the MEA announced.

Secretary, Consular Passports and Visas, and Overseas Indian Affairs (CPV & OIA) Sanjay Bhattacharyya is expected to head to Switzerland and appointments to Mexico and Myanmar are expected shortly. The Government has also extended the tenure of External Affairs Minister's special adviser Ashok Malik for another year.

According to Ministry insiders, the reshuffle is one of two major such exercises to be carried out in the next

few months, ahead of Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla's retirement due in April 2022. However, it is unclear whether Mr. Shringla, who has worked closely in the foreign service with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, will be given an extension.

Mr. Kapoor is taking over the important P-5 posting in Russia from Ambassador Venkatesh Varma, who is retiring after an eventful tenure that began in 2018, shortly after the informal summit in Sochi between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Whistleblower likely to depose before IT panel

Tharoor vows to hear Sophie Zhang

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A Facebook whistleblower Sophie Zhang is likely to depose in front of the Standing Committee on IT headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor.

Mr. Tharoor tweeted that he has sought permission from Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to allow Ms. Zhang's deposition.

He was writing in response to Ms. Zhang's tweet, "As the Lok Sabha has not asked me to testify (despite the call of @internetteedom) I've arranged to do an AMA (ask me anything) with @redditindia on Saturday,

November 6 at 8:30 pm so that I may speak directly to the Indian people". She later deleted her tweet.

Mr. Tharoor took to Twitter to clarify that Ms. Zhang was not being ignored. He pointed out that between September 12 and October 12, Parliamentary Standing Committees were suspended awaiting their reconstitution. And once the Committees were reconstituted, the members had to sit together to deliberate on agenda for the next year. "This has just happened & with its agenda official, the Committee will hold its first meetings on Nov16&17," he tweeted.

KERALA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (KINFRA)
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

CORRIDORUM-II
Work: Development of KINFRA Petrochemical Park at Ambalamughal, Kochi, Kerala - Phase 1 works

The eligibility criteria of the above-mentioned work is modified and the last date for the bid submission is extended up to 16-11-2021 at 05:00 PM. For more details visit the website www.kinfra.org, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and email it.kinfra@petrochemicalpark@gmail.com

Place: Thiruvananthapuram Sd/-
Date: 02.11.2021 Managing Director

A.P. STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A State Government Undertaking)
D.No. 554-P-3, Stalin Corporate Building, 2nd Floor, Behind Autonagar Bus Stand, VILAVANADA - 520 007, A.P.

SW/M2/235/Chemicals-Pur2020-21, Date: 01-11-2021

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

We are inviting E-Tenders in Two Bid (Technical Bid & Price Bid) System for supply of chemicals (Aluminium Phosphide, Deltamethrin & Malathion) on Annual Rate Contract basis. Interested Bidders may contact at our Head Office on Phone No. 0866-2556244 / 9849057693 or view on Website <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> Tender notice may also be viewed in our web site: apswc.ap.gov.in

Tender id for Aluminium phosphide: 453332
Tender id for Deltamethrin: 453397 Sd/-
Tender id for Malathion: 453411 Managing Director

TAMIL NADU URBAN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT BOARD, MADURAI CIRCLE
NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

FORM OF CONTRACT: "LUMPSUM" (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

Tender Notice No.071/DB/2021 Dated:01.11.2021

For and on behalf of Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board, sealed tenders consisting of two separate sealed covers one for Pre-qualification with EMD to be enclosed in 'A' cover and another for price schedule with name of work duly superscribed to be enclosed in 'B' cover, are invited from the registered contractors under Class-I and above in TNUHDB / Government Departments / Government undertakings by the Superintending Engineer, Madurai Circle, Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board, 169, K.K.Nagar Main Road, Madurai - 20 up to 3.00 PM on 02.12.2021 and the same will be opened at 3.15 PM on the same day in the presence of the Tender Scrutiny Committee.

S. No	Name of Work	Tender Value (Rs. in Lakh)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Construction of 252 nos of Slum tenements adopting T.D.37/2018 including internal water supply, sanitary and electrification arrangements including development works at Pottalkalam Phase-II, Allingaram Municipality in Thiru District under HFA, Vertical-III (AHP) of PMAY. CER-Madurai No.12/HFA/2020-21	2424.35	12,23,000/-
2	Construction of 264 nos of slum tenements adopting T.D.31/2017 (G+2) including internal water supply, sanitary and electrification arrangements including development works at Thathanaickanpatti in Palani Taluk of Dindigul District under HFA, CER-Madurai No.14/HFA/2020-21	2385.89	12,04,000/-
3	Construction of 240 nos of slum tenements adopting T.D.31/2017 (G+2) including internal water supply, sanitary and electrification arrangements including development works at Pappankulam in Ambasamuthiram Taluk of Tirunelveli District under HFA, CER-Madurai No.16/HFA/2020-21	1985.10	10,03,000/-
4	Construction of 528 nos of slum tenements adopting T.D.31/2017 (G+2) including internal water supply, sanitary and electrification arrangements including development works at VOC Nagar in Thoothukudi District under HFA, CER-Madurai No.17/HFA/2020-21	4748.25	23,85,000/-

The cost of tender schedule, EMD should be drawn as Demand Draft or Banker's Cheque from Nationalised / Scheduled Bank payable in favour of the Executive Engineer, Madurai Division, TNUHDB, payable at Madurai for S.No.1 & 2 and in favour of the Executive Engineer, Tirunelveli Division, TNUHDB, payable at Tirunelveli for S.No.3 & 4. The tender documents may be obtained from the office of the Superintending Engineer, Madurai Circle, TNUHDB, 169, KK Nagar Main Road, Madurai - 20 on written request along with cost of the tender document to a value of Rs.17,700/- (Non refundable) upto 3.00 PM on 02.12.2021. Conditions for participating in the tenders may be seen from the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons therefor.

Superintending Engineer, Madurai Circle, 169, K.K.Nagar Main Road, Opp. Jawagar Hospital, Madurai 625 020.
DIPR/3190/Tender/2021

APPOINTMENT

INSTITUTE OF NURSING SCIENCES AND RESEARCH (INSeR)

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE

NABH Accredited (an autonomous centre under Government of Kerala) Thalassery, Kannur Dist., Kerala - 670 103, Phone: +91 490 2399205, 2355881 Fax: 91 490 2355880, Email: mcclty@gmail.com, Web: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in

MCC/494/2021-Est 30/10/2021

IMMEDIATELY REQUIRES ON PERMANENT BASIS (EXISTING VACANCY)

PROFESSOR CUM PRINCIPAL (Scale of pay (PB)- ₹ 37400 - ₹ 67000, (GP-10000)

Application in the prescribed MCC form, with detailed bio data, attested copies of testimonials/Certificates, Experience, etc. along with D/D worth ₹ 2500/- (₹ 1000/- for SC/ST candidates) favoring Director, Malabar Cancer Centre, payable at Thalassery, should reach the undersigned on or before 20/11/2021. Application form and details are available in www.mcc.kerala.gov.in Sd/- DIRECTOR

श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी फाउंडेशन, कोलकाता
Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata
(Formerly KOLKATA PORT TRUST)

Tender No. SMPK/KDS/CIV/IT/2622/60 for Design, Engineering & Construction for Rehabilitation of 7, NSD Old Berth including development of Backyard at N.S. Dock of KDS, SMP, Kolkata. Pre-bid meeting : 16.11.2021 at 3.00 P.M. Last date of Submission : 09.12.2021 upto 3 P.M. For details, please visit www.smpportkolkata.shipping.gov.in and <https://kopt.envida.in>

ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED
Dr.Y.S.R VIDYUT SOUDHA, CORPORATE OFFICE, ITI COLLEGE ROAD, VILAVANADA-520 008

E-Procurement Notice
APCPDCL invites online bids under e-procurement for supply of various batteries (a) 12V, 100AH - 210 Nos (b) 12V, 42AH - 120 Nos (c) 12V, 17AH-164 Nos. (d) IEDs for transformer protection - 12 Nos. (e) IEDs for feeder protection - 22 Nos and (f) FO switches - 28 Nos. Tenderers can have further details and download the tender schedules from e-Procurement marketplace from 02-11-2021 i.e. <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> (published by APCPCL). Ph: 0866 2954555 & Email: cgpmnm.cpdccl@apcpdcl.in

Chief General Manager/ P&M
APCPDCL, Andhra Pradesh.

TELANGANA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION Limited
(A STATE GOVT. UNDERTAKING)
Regd. Office: "B" Block, # 6-3-655/1A, Civil Supplies Bhavan, Somajigutta, Hyderabad - 500 082, Telangana

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE
Lr.No.MKGTG/M2/USB/KMS 21-22 Date: 01-11-2021

Tenders for supply of serviceable old 50kg gunnies to be delivered at various buffer godowns/MLs Points/PPCs of TSSCL located in (1) Wanaparthy, Wanaparthy, (2) Wanaparthy, Atmakur and (3) Gadwal Districts of Telangana State for packaging of Paddy during KMS 2021-22 are being called for through Govt of Telangana e-Procurement Platform. Tenders will be opened for technical scrutiny on 06-11-2021 from 02.00 PM onwards and RFP can be downloaded from <https://eprocurement.telangana.gov.in> & www.tsscl.telangana.gov.in. Contact details: 7995050702, 7995050703 Sd/- Vice Chairman & DPR No: 2280-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/17/2021-22, Dt:01-11-2021 Managing Director



IN BRIEF
Manmohan Singh's wife thanks doctors, nurses

NEW DELHI
A day after former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was discharged from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), his wife Gursharan Kaur expressed her gratitude to doctors, nurses and well-wishers for their support. Dr. Singh was admitted to the AIIMS on October 13 where he was diagnosed with dengue fever. "We would like to convey our special thanks to all the doctors, nurses and support staff of AIIMS and numerous well-wishers for their whole-hearted support and hard work for his speedy recovery," she said.

Ganga Mission in Guinness records

NEW DELHI
The National Mission for Clean Ganga set a Guinness World Record on the first day of the Ganga Utsav for the highest number of photos of handwritten notes uploaded on Facebook in an hour. Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat posted his message on Facebook, after which the activity was opened for the public at large. An official said the event was held to raise awareness on Ganga rejuvenation and to expand the reach of the festival. People posted poems or articles on 'Maa Ganga' on the Namami Gange Facebook page. PTI

Orissa HC allows use of green fireworks

BHUBANESWAR
The Orissa High Court on Monday granted permission for sale and use of only green crackers that are approved by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO). The All Odisha Fireworks Dealers Association had moved the High Court seeking permission for sale of green crackers for Deepavali. A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice S. Muralidhar and Justice B.P. Routray said the sale and use of fireworks should be limited to only green fireworks that conform to the formulation proposed by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute.

Parachute unit practises combat manoeuvres

Army conducts airborne exercise in eastern Ladakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As the Army prepares to remain deployed in large numbers in the high-altitude areas of eastern Ladakh with the stand-off with China still unresolved, the 50th Parachute Brigade is conducting an airborne exercise and combat manoeuvres along the northern borders in the region to validate its rapid response capabilities.

"On Monday, airborne troops were inserted to a drop zone at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet," an Army source said on Monday. "Pre-acclimatised troops, along with specialist vehicles and missile detachments, were transported via C-130 and AN-32 aircraft from five different mounting bases to validate inter-theatre moves, precision stand-off drops, rapid



High on the hills: The 50th Parachute Brigade during an exercise in eastern Ladakh. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

grouping and capture of designated objectives with speed and surprise."

The drop was particularly challenging due to the low temperatures of up to minus-20 degrees and rarefied atmosphere in super high-altitude terrain, the source said.

The exercise involves use of oxygen systems during

free fall jumps and integrated battle drills by airborne forces, mechanised columns and attack helicopters for seamless integration. The parachute brigade is known as the Shatruijeet Brigade.

With winter approaching, the Army has mostly completed its stocking to support the troops for the next few months.

Veteran pedals into third Guinness record

Lt. Col. Pannu cycled from Gujarat to Arunachal in 9 days, 7 hours and 5 minutes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

"Cycling is liberating, it is an elixir to the soul," said Lt. Col. Bharat Pannu, a serving Electronics and Mechanical Engineer (EME) officer in the Army, as he bagged his third Guinness world record by cycling across the country from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh covering a distance of 3,800 km in nine days, seven hours and five minutes.

His effort was part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, which is being observed as 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' in honour of the soldiers who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Lt. Col. Pannu has already set two consecutive world records for fastest solo cycling.



Leap forward: Lt. Col. Bharat Pannu already has two records for fastest solo cycling to his credit. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I am proud to be a part of the armed forces... To attempt a Guinness world record, one doesn't only need to be committed but also smart, and with a clear strategy to win," he said on his latest effort.

Lt. Col. Pannu began his journey on October 17 from Koteswar, Gujarat and

finished in Kibithoo, Arunachal Pradesh, on October 26.

His effort by way of providing all the necessary requisites was supported by udChalo, a consumer technology company, offering travel, financial services, group housing, consumer electronics and

Australia recognises Covaxin

The move allows those who have got both doses to travel to the country

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

The Government of Australia has recognised Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

This recognition from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of the Department of Health will enable travellers fully vaccinated with Covaxin to travel to the country.

With Monday's announcement, Australia has become the first major economy to grant recognition to both the Indian-manufactured vaccines - Covishield and Covaxin.

Modi thanks Morrison
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised Australia's decision.

"I thank my dear friend PM Scott Morrison for Australia's recognition of India's Covaxin. It is an important step forward in the post-COVID partnership between India and Australia," he said in a social media message.



Shot in the arm: Covaxin is a two-dose vaccine manufactured by Bharat Biotech. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

An announcement from the TGA said the recognition was for travellers aged 12 and over.

"In recent weeks, the TGA has obtained additional information demonstrating these vaccines provide protection and potentially reduce the likelihood that an incoming traveller would transmit COVID-19 infection to others while in Australia

or become acutely unwell due to COVID-19," declared the announcement.

It stated that the relevant information regarding the vaccine was provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the vaccine sponsors. The announcement noted that anyone who had received two doses of a TGA-recognised vaccine "at least 14 days apart is regard-

Novavax's COVID-19 jab approved in Indonesia

NEW DELHI
Biotechnology firm Novavax Inc and its partner Serum Institute of India (SII) on Monday said they have received the first emergency use authorisation (EUA) for Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine in Indonesia. The SII will manufacture the vaccine in India and market it in Indonesia under the brand name Covovax, Novavax Inc said in a statement. Initial shipments are expected to begin soon. PTI

ed as fully vaccinated from 7 days after the second dose". Travellers with two doses of the same vaccine or two doses of two different vaccines (heterologous) too would be considered fully vaccinated seven days after the second dose.

The move will help many Indian students return to Australia to continue their studies.

Rescue guide launched for Ganges river dolphin

The mammals often get stranded in irrigation canals

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

The Jal Shakti Ministry on Monday released a guide for the safe rescue and release of stranded Ganges river dolphins. The document has been prepared by the Turtle Survival Alliance and the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department (EFCCD) of the Uttar Pradesh Government. The guide has been drawn from years of experience of rescuing 25 Ganges river dolphins stranded in irrigation canals.

The Ganges river dolphin is the national aquatic animal of India and is listed as 'endangered' under the IUCN Red List Assessments, Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972), Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade



Ganges river dolphins are listed as 'endangered' on the IUCN Red list.

by the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group.

Best practices on crowd control, dolphin capture from canals and handling, transfer, transport and release are part of the guide.

"Found throughout the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India and Bangladesh, the Ganges river dolphin [*Platanista gangetica gangetica*] is a global priority and is also an indicator of healthy aquatic systems," said Shailendra Singh, director of Turtle Survival Alliance, India.

The guide was also simultaneously released via local fishermen at the Ghaghra river, a prime habitat where most of the rescued dolphins were released in the past few years.

CBI takes over investigation into the 'Bike Bot' swindle

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The CBI has taken over the probe into the 'Bike Bot' scam in which more than two lakh people were allegedly cheated of about ₹15,000 crore on the false promise of lucrative returns on investments in a bike taxi service scheme by a company registered as the Garvit Innovative Promoters Limited (GIPL). Under the

scheme, an investor had to pay ₹62,100 per bike with an assurance of ₹5,175 in monthly returns and other benefits.

The agency has named 15 people, including the company's chairman-cum-managing director Sanjay Bhati, in the First Information Report (FIR). The Dadri police in Uttar Pradesh had earlier registered 11 cases and made several arrests in the matter.

According to the CBI case, complaints had earlier been submitted and the Noida district authority and the police were aware of the fraudulent activities of the company but did not take any action. The complainants alleged that the then Senior Superintendent of Police and the Superintendent of Police in Crime Branch pressured them to withdraw their complaints.

Judge suspended on charges of sexual assault

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A Special Judge, dealing with the Prevention of Corruption Act cases, in Bharatpur city of Rajasthan has been suspended after a first information report was registered against him and two others on the charge of sexually assaulting a minor boy. An Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officer was also suspended for allegedly threatening the 14-year-old.

The Rajasthan High Court issued orders late on Sunday

night placing Jitendra Singh, who is of the District Judge cadre, under suspension with immediate effect pending preliminary enquiry and the contemplated departmental inquiry.

In a complaint lodged with the police, the boy's mother alleged that Mr. Singh and two other persons had been sexually assaulting her son for the last one month after intoxicating him with a narcotic substance. The judge and the two other accused had threatened the

boy with implicating his family in false cases if he spoke about the assault to anyone, according to the complaint.

Mr. Singh allegedly befriended the boy at the District Club in Bharatpur, where he used to play tennis. He allegedly took the boy to his residence and had sex with him several times. The matter came to light when the minor told about this to his mother last week.

The other accused were identified as Anshul Soni, the judge's stenographer,

and Rahul Katara, another staff member of the court. The FIR has been registered at the Mathura Gate police station.

The victim's family also alleged that ACB Circle Officer Parmeshwar Lal Yadav had threatened to kill the boy. The Home Department has placed Mr. Yadav under suspension as per the Rajasthan Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1958.

A video of Mr. Singh apologising to the boy and his

mother has gone viral on social media in Bharatpur. The police will verify the video during the investigation.

The judge has lodged a counter-complaint against the boy's family, accusing them of blackmail and extortion.

Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights chairperson Sangeeta Beniwal has sought a report from the Bharatpur Superintendent of Police and asked the authorities to carry out an impartial probe.

TH CROSSWORD + 13392 Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids: @ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjptn> SCAN TO PLAY

ACROSS

- Affectionate feeling shown by drunkards consuming strong cannabis (4,4)
- Woman with flair captures man's heart and love (6)
- Kamala is elected, curbing unease (7)
- Centre of Ophthalmology in Bosnia analysed pink-eyed rabbits (7)
- Decline to wear gold for so long (5)

- Crude and most frivolous model popping ecstasy on stage (9)
- What census worker might do to be knocked out? (4,3,5)
- Readiness to protect gangster? Darn liar! (5,7)
- Runs round and leaps up to control rebellious horse (9)
- One left with wonder in Nigerian town (5)
- Again throw out former husband in disgust (7)
- A hit song, the latest rag (1,2,4)
- Parking in bazaar around old American city (2,4)
- Wedding song by extremely happy chaps swilling ale (8)

- **DOWN**
- Starter of bonda in rasam, original South Indian dish (6)
 - Turn to embrace single lady giving encouragement (6)
 - Demand to fire president for bit of misconduct (9)
 - Toss a lifeline frantically to rescue last character - it's suitable for every purpose (3-4-4-3)
 - Deft to cuddle maiden in promenade (5)
 - Judicial writ by lawyer after staff reviewed problem (8)
 - Dislike keeping outlandish ties in stall (8)
 - Enthralled by sake say, get terribly wasted in lounge (4,6,4)
 - Threw wicket around lunchtime resulting in reprimand (9)
 - Needless to say, one avoids ferocious rogue (2,6)
 - Man after delay enters drain to get pile of waste matter (4,4)
 - Fellow abandoned plea for possible release from prison (6)
 - Enjoy hosting a show (6)
 - Scruffs in Italian city wanting lire (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13391

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Pentagon rattled by China's military push

They are expanding rapidly in space, in cyberspace and then in land, sea and air, says Gen. Mark Milley

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

China's growing military muscle and its drive to end American predominance in the Asia-Pacific is rattling the U.S. defence establishment. American officials see trouble quickly accumulating on multiple fronts — Beijing's expanding nuclear arsenal, its advances in space, cyber and missile technologies, and threats to Taiwan.

"The pace at which China is moving is stunning," says Gen. John Hyten, the second-highest ranking officer in the U.S. military, who previously commanded the U.S. nuclear forces and oversaw the Air Force space operations.

At stake is a potential shift in the global balance of power that has favoured the U.S. for decades.

A realignment more favourable to China does not pose a direct threat to the U.S. but could complicate



Power point: A model of LY-70 air defence missile weapon system displayed at an airshow in Zhuhai. • REUTERS

U.S. alliances in Asia. New signs of how the Pentagon intends to deal with the China challenge may emerge in the coming weeks from Biden administration policy reviews on nuclear weapons, global troop basing and overall defence strategy.

For now, officials marvel at how Beijing is marshalling

the resources, technology and political will to make rapid gains — so rapid that the Biden administration is attempting to reorient all aspects of U.S. foreign and defence policy.

The latest example of surprising speed was China's test of a hypersonic weapon capable of partially orbiting

Earth before re-entering the atmosphere and gliding on a manoeuvrable path to its target. The weapon system's design is meant to evade U.S.

NEWS ANALYSIS

missile defences, and although Beijing insisted it was testing a reusable space vehicle, not a missile, the test appeared to have startled U.S. officials.

Sputnik moment

Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the test was "very close" to being a Sputnik moment, akin to the 1957 launching by the Soviet Union of the world's first space satellite, which caught the world by surprise.

Gen. Milley and other U.S. officials have declined to discuss details of the Chinese test, saying they are secret. He called it "very concern-

ing" for the U.S. but added that problems posed by China's military modernisation run far deeper.

"That's just one weapon system," he said in a Bloomberg Television interview. "The Chinese military capabilities are much greater than that. They're expanding rapidly in space, in cyber and then in the traditional domains of land, sea and air." On the nuclear front, private satellite imagery in recent months has revealed large additions of launch silos that suggest the possibility that China plans to increase its fleet of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs.

Pentagon officials and defence hawks on Capitol Hill point to China's modernisation as a key justification for rebuilding the U.S. nuclear arsenal, a project expected to cost more than \$1 billion over 30 years.

U.K. vows action if France does not back down in fishing row

"The French have made completely unreasonable threats"

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Britain on Monday warned France it will take action if Paris does not withdraw "unreasonable" threats to impose trade measures in an increasingly acrimonious row over post-Brexit fishing rights.

President Emmanuel Macron said on Sunday that Britain must give ground in the dispute or France will trigger trade reprisals on Tuesday, saying: "The ball is in Britain's court."

But Britain's Foreign Secretary Liz Truss told Sky News on Monday that "we will use the mechanisms of our trade agreement with the EU to take action" if Mr. Macron goes ahead with his plans. "The French have made completely unreasonable threats, including to the

Channel Islands and to our fishing industry, and they need to withdraw those threats," she said.

"If somebody behaves unfairly in a trade deal you're entitled to take action against them and seek some compensatory measures. And that is what we will do if the French don't back down."

Angry Paris

France is angry that Britain and the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey have not issued some French boats with licences to fish in their waters since Brexit took full effect at the start of 2021.

Paris has vowed that, unless licences are approved, it will ban U.K. boats from unloading their catches at French ports from Tuesday

and impose checks on all products brought to France from Britain.

Jersey's Minister for External Relations Ian Gorst said on Monday that his officials had followed the terms of the Brexit deal, which stipulates that boats should only be granted licences if evidence is presented that they fished in the waters before 2016. "We've really tumbled over ourselves to be as engaging and as reasonable as possible," he told Sky News.

Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson complained to EU chief Ursula von der Leyen on Saturday that French threats over fishing were "completely unjustified" as he held out the option of invoking the Brexit dispute tool for the first time, drawing the EU itself into the row.

Islamists call off rally after talks with Pakistan Govt.

They are demanding release of leader

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

A banned Pakistani Islamist party on Monday called off a march to the capital and ended its occupation of a major highway after reaching a deal with the government, following more than a week of clashes that left seven policemen dead.

The Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) was protesting over the detention of its leader, arrested in April when the group was outlawed by authorities, and was demanding the expulsion of the French Ambassador from Pakistan over pu-

blication of blasphemous caricatures.

Several thousand supporters had begun a stop-start march from the eastern city of Lahore to the capital Islamabad, reaching about one third of the way. "We have called off our march to Islamabad after reaching an agreement with the government," Sajjad Saifi, a spokesman for the TLP, said.

"Our supporters have moved to the nearby park and until 50% of terms are fulfilled we will stay here," he added. The government has refused to comment on the details of the talks.

Japan's PM Fumio Kishida calls victory after 'tough' election

He vows to take leading role in climate action

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida declared victory on Monday after his ruling coalition won a strong majority in national elections, vowing to boost the virus-hit economy and "take a leading role" in Asia's push towards carbon neutrality.

Mr. Kishida, a soft-spoken centrist who has been in office for a month, said he would set out plans for a pandemic spending package



Fumio Kishida

this month in a bid to revive the world's third-largest economy. Before heading to the COP26 summit, Mr. Kishida said he was committed to climate targets set by his predecessor Yoshihide Suga.

"We will not only stand firm on our 2050 carbon-

neutral goal but also take a leading role in working towards zero emissions in Asia," he said.

The long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its junior coalition partner Komeito won 293 of the 465 seats in Parliament's Lower House, local media reported while the official result was finalised. The coalition had previously held 305 seats.

"It was a very tough election, but the people's will — that they want us to create this country's future under the stable LDP-Komeito government and the Kishida administration — was shown," Mr. Kishida said.

Abiy defiant as rival Tigray forces make advance

Federal troops are fighting: Ethiopia PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NAIROBI

Ethiopia's Prime Minister has called on citizens to redouble efforts to combat the rival Tigray forces who claim to have seized key cities on a major highway leading to the capital, while a new wave of detentions of ethnic Tigrayans has begun.

A move on Addis Ababa is a new phase in the war that has killed thousands of people since fighting broke out a year ago between Ethiopian and allied forces and Tigray ones who long dominated the national government before Prime Minister

Abiy Ahmed took office in 2018. His spokeswoman, Bilene Seyoum, said on Monday that Mr. Abiy "is where he's meant to be, leading the country's front and centre".

Mr. Abiy, in a statement on Sunday, said federal troops are fighting on four fronts against the Tigray forces and "we should know that our enemy's main strength is our weakness and unpreparedness".

Amid calls for attacks against ethnic Tigrayans, he said "we should closely follow those who work for the enemy and live amongst us".

Four killed in Lagos high-rise collapse

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LAGOS

A high-rise building under construction collapsed in Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos on Monday, killing at least four people with dozens more feared trapped inside the rubble.

Rescue officials said many workers were caught inside the 21-floor building in Lagos's wealthy Ikoyi residential and business district when it crumbled.

Ibrahim Farinloye of the National Emergency Management Agency said four people had been rescued and four bodies recovered from the site.

Sri Lanka fisher leaders meet Indian envoy

They convey concern over 'delay in India's response' to bottom trawling issue

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

The Indian High Commissioner in Colombo on Monday assured Sri Lanka's northern fishermen that he would convey their concerns over bottom trawling by Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait to both New Delhi and Tamil Nadu and look at some immediate measures to address the problem.

A delegation of fisher leaders from Sri Lanka's northern districts, along with Jaffna legislator M.A. Sumanthiran, met Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay in Colombo on Monday, and voiced concern over the "delay in India's response" to the issue of bottom trawling in the Palk Strait. The meeting was consequent to a recent discus-



Seeking solution: Fisher leaders with Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay on Monday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sion, held when High Commissioner Baglay called on Tamil National Alliance (TNA) leader R. Sumanthan last week, according to TNA spokesman Mr. Sumanthiran, who was also at the meeting. "The fisher community leaders recalled that the Indian side had agreed twice — in 2010 and 2016 — to phase out and end the prac-

tice of bottom trawling. But it has not ended yet," the Jaffna MP told *The Hindu*, after Monday's meeting.

A fortnight ago, northern Sri Lankan fishermen held a sea rally, demanding that Sri Lanka implement its laws against bottom trawling, a destructive fishing method that erodes the seabed, endangering marine organ-

isms. Dozens of boats with black flags travelled 100 km from the north-eastern Mullaitivu town to Point Pedro in Jaffna, with some TNA MPs joining the protest. Fishermen from Tamil Nadu crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and fishing in Sri Lankan waters, using the harmful bottom trawling fishing method, has been a recurring flash-point in India-Sri Lanka ties.

"The High Commissioner listened to the fisher leaders' grievances and told them that he would convey their sentiments to both New Delhi and Tamil Nadu. He agreed that while long term solutions are taking time, it is important to come up with some short-term measures meanwhile," Mr. Sumanthiran said.

In Afghan hospital, unpaid doctors and Taliban clash

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KABUL

The Taliban-appointed supervisor of a small district hospital outside the Afghan capital has big plans for the place — to the dismay of the doctors who work there.

Mohammed Javid Ahmadi, 22, was asked by his superiors, fresh off the fields of battle from a war that has spanned most of his life, what kind of jobs he could do.

It was Ahmadi's dream to be a doctor; poverty had kept him from gaining admission to medical school, he said.

He chose the health sector. Soon after, the Mirbacha Kot District Hospital just outside of Kabul became his responsibility.

Different priorities

It's a job Ahmadi takes very seriously, but he and the other health workers in the 20-bed hospital rarely see eye-to-eye. Doctors are de-


manding overdue salary payments amid critical shortages of medicine, fuel and food.

Ahmadi's first priority is to build a mosque inside the hospital quarters, segregate staff by gender and encourage them to pray. The rest will follow according to the will of God, he tells them.

The drama in Mirbacha Kot is playing out across Afghanistan's health sector since the Taliban takeover. With power changing hands overnight, health workers have had to contend with a difficult adjustment. The host of problems that preceded the Taliban's rise were exacerbated.

In Mirbacha Kot, doctors have not been paid in five months.

"What can we do? If we don't want to come here there's no other job for us. If there was another job, nobody can pay us. It's better to stay here," said Dr. Gul Nazar.



NOTICE INVITING BID
Providing Consultancy Services for Feasibility, DPR and Preparation of Bid Documents for Implementing Solar Power Generation on CIDCO properties.


CIDCO of Maharashtra Limited through the process of E-tendering invites "ON LINE" Item Rate bids in two bid system (Part I: Technical Bid & Part II: Commercial Bid) from experienced and eligible prospective bidders fulfilling the mandatory eligibility criteria and scoring minimum qualifying marks of 75 in the Technical Bid Evaluation, comprising of total 100 marks and who have completed work of similar nature work as mentioned below:

- 1. Name of work :** Providing Consultancy Services for Feasibility, DPR and Preparation of Bid Documents for Implementing Solar Power Generation on CIDCO properties. **2. C. A. No. :** 02/CIDCO/EE(NMIA)/2021-22
- 3. Bid Security :** ₹2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh only)
- 4. Term of Consultancy :** 275 (Two Hundred Seventy Five) Days
- 5. Method of Selection :** Least Cost Quality based Selection (LCQS) system
- 6. RFP Fee :** INR 11,800/- (Indian Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) - including GST @ 18%, non-refundable, to be paid via online payment gateway mode only. This RFP document is non-transferrable.

Bid Documents along with Bidding Programme will be available on the website mahatenders.gov.in from 03/11/2021 at 17.01 Hrs.

Chief Engineer (NMIA)

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MARKET WATCH

	01-11-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,138	1.40
US Dollar	74.87	0.00
Gold	46,673	-0.46
Brent oil	84.62	----

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	704.40	11.40
Asian Paints	3121.80	21.70
Axis Bank	752.35	10.35
Bajaj Auto	3726.15	18.90
Bajaj Finserv	17565.70	-255.45
Bajaj Finance	7413.95	13.75
Bharti Airtel	712.50	27.15
BPL	421.65	3.95
Britannia Ind.	3678.15	2.40
Cipla	909.25	4.20
Coal India	170.75	6.30
Divis Lab	5228.20	78.05
Dr Reddys Lab	4801.45	142.25
Eicher Motors	2560.00	75.20
Grasim Ind.	1789.00	67.90
HCL Tech	1189.20	45.45
HDFC	2887.95	43.25
HDFC Bank	1605.30	22.45
HDFC Life	689.80	9.35
Hero MotoCorp	2680.70	23.60
Hindalco	478.15	18.35
Hind Unilever	2407.10	13.95
ICICI Bank	803.90	1.85
IndusInd Bank	1229.10	88.90
Infosys	1700.05	32.30
IndianOil Corp	131.65	3.70
ITC	226.85	3.65
JSW Steel	688.95	19.80
Kotak Bank	2076.50	45.35
L&T	1795.35	28.70
M&M	870.35	-13.90
Maruti Suzuki	7615.55	133.15
Nestle India Ltd.	18939.60	-60.55
NTPC	134.30	1.65
ONGC	153.15	4.10
PowerGrid Corp	187.75	2.70
Reliance Ind.	2537.80	1.55
SBI Life	1163.35	17.80
State Bank	515.70	13.55
Shree Cement	29145.75	510.50
Sun Pharma	811.80	16.80
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.	824.90	15.40
Tata Motors	485.70	2.00
Tata Steel	1364.90	48.95
TCS	3476.40	78.65
Tech Mahindra	1522.15	44.30
Titan	2406.30	22.75
UltraTech Cement	7775.10	139.05
UPPL	720.05	-20.15
Wipro	655.45	8.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 01

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.68	75.00
Euro	86.98	87.36
British Pound	103.01	103.45
Japanese Yen (100)	65.59	65.87
Chinese Yuan	11.67	11.73
Swiss Franc	81.88	82.24
Singapore Dollar	55.47	55.72
Canadian Dollar	60.48	60.74
Malaysian Ringgit	18.03	18.12

Source: Indian Bank

TVS Motor unveils 125cc Raider in Nepal

CHENNAI
TVS Motor Company has announced the roll-out of the 125cc TVS Raider motorcycle for 'aspirational young customers' in Nepal.

SPORT

TV PICKS

Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 11.15 p.m.; Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

IN BRIEF

Indians shine in Asian Youth chess

CHENNAI
India won the overall championship in the girls' event of the Asian Youth Chess Championship (online) that concluded recently with two gold, three silver and two bronze medals. The gold medals were secured through Susmita Bhowmik (u-18) and R. Pooja Shree (u-8). In the open category also India picked up two golds through H. Bharath Subramanyam (u-14) and Pranav Anand (u-16).

Tsuneyama and Yamaguchi triumph

PARIS
Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama and Akane Yamaguchi claimed the men's and women's singles title at the French Open, a BWF World Tour Super 750 badminton event, here on Sunday. While the unseeded Tsuneyama upset fourth-seeded Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei 15-21, 21-8, 21-17, top seed Yamaguchi beat compatriot Sayaka Takahashi 21-16, 21-12 in the final.

Delhi beats Kerala

DEHRADUN
Despite a fine all-round show by Keerthy K. James (3/28 and 41), Kerala went down to Delhi by eight runs in the senior women's one-day tournament here on Monday.

The scores: Delhi 193 for eight in 50 overs (Priya Puniya 46, Ayushi Soni 50, Simran Dil Bahadur 70, Minnu Mani 4/38, Keerthy K. James 3/28) vs Kerala 185 in 49.3 overs (A. Akshaya 49, I.V. Drishya 3, Keerthy K. James 41, Parunika Sisodia 3/35).

October manufacturing activity quickens, job losses persist: PMI

'Producers recorded strongest improvement in operating conditions since Feb.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The country's manufacturing activity expanded for the fourth month in a row in October, as reflected by the IHS Markit Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). The survey-based PMI rose to 55.9 from 53.7 in September.

Manufacturing jobs continued to slide though producers recorded the strongest improvement in overall operating conditions since February, and business optimism hit a six-month high. A PMI reading of 50 indicates no change in output levels.

Overall new orders grew at the fastest pace in seven months, while factory output also increased at the strongest pace since March.



Tale of agony: Global demand for raw materials has spurred input cost inflation to a near eight-year high. ■ M. PERIASAMY

New export orders surged as well, the quickest in three months, according to IHS Markit. Input purchases increased at the fastest pace since April, as producers geared up to cope with the surfeit of new orders. However, the cost of inputs be-

gan to pinch, with the overall inflation for them surging to a 92-month high. "Anecdotal evidence highlighted higher chemical, fabric, metal, electronic component, oil, plastic and transportation costs," IHS Markit noted.

As capacities were still not

fully utilised and government norms were in place surrounding shift work, employment continued to decline. The silver lining was that the rate of job shedding was marginal in October.

"With companies gearing up for further improvements in demand by building up their stocks, it looks like manufacturing activity will continue to expand throughout the third quarter of 2021-22 should the pandemic remain under control," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit.

She flagged input cost inflation as a worry, citing that it was "at a near 8-year high, as strong global demand for scarce raw materials continued to push up prices."

Electricity demand rose 4.8% in Oct.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's power consumption grew 4.8% in October to 114.37 billion units (BU), indicating a good recovery amid coal shortages at electricity generation plants, according to power ministry data.

Last year in October, power consumption stood at 109.17 BU and in the same period in 2019, it was at 97.84 BU.

During October, the peak power demand met or the highest supply in a day stood at 174.60 GW, higher than the 169.89 GW seen a year earlier. The data clearly shows that there is recovery in power consumption as well as demand in the country.

Goods exports climb 42%, imports surge 63%

Inward shipments of coal, gold double

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports stood at \$35.47 billion in October, or 35.2% higher than the pre-pandemic level of 2019 and 42.3% above the number in October 2020.

However, imports grew faster to \$55.37 billion, or 62.5% higher than a year ago and 45.8% over the number in October 2019.

Month-on-month, October's merchandise exports were almost 5% more than September's \$33.8 billion, as per preliminary estimates of the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Coal and gold imports more than doubled during October, rising by almost 119% and 104%, respectively,

from a year earlier. Imports of vegetable oil also jumped by almost 60%.

The trade deficit for October more than doubled from a year earlier to \$19.9 billion but was lower than the record deficit of \$22.6 billion in September 2021.

"Encouragingly, non-oil exports rose to a seven-month high of \$30.3 billion in October, 30% higher from a year ago," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

"A sustenance of healthy export growth will be crucial to contain the current account deficit in light of the recovery and commodity price-led surge in merchandise imports," she said, adding oil imports also dipped after a spike in September.

CIL output up 6.4%; supply for power jumps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

State-owned CIL on Monday said its coal production increased 6.4% year-on-year to 49.8 million tonnes (MT) in October.

The development assumes significance in the wake of power plants facing fuel shortages.

The production by Coal India Ltd. had stood at 46.8 MT in the corresponding month last year, the company said in a BSE filing.

CIL also said supply to power producers registered a 23% y-o-y jump to 48.2 MT in October, in view of concentrated efforts to consolidate dwindling stock of the dry fuel at electricity-generating utilities of the country.

Borrowing cost for States surps to 7.02%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

For the first time this fiscal, the weighted average cost of States' market borrowings crossed the 7% mark at auctions held on Monday, with the average cut-off jumping by 12 bps to 7.02%.

The spike is surprising as seven of the nine States did not participate in the auctions after the States got the final tranche of the GST compensation last week, ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said.

At 7.02%, the State developmental loan cut-off is the highest this fiscal.

This, despite the release of the final tranche of GST compensation loan of ₹44,000 crore on October 28, within weeks of the second tranche disbursal of ₹40,000 crore, the rating agency said.

Maruti, Hyundai October sales fall on supply woes

Chip shortage drives double-digit slide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Leading carmakers Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) and Hyundai witnessed a double-digit drop in sales in October on account of the global semiconductor shortage impacting production. Kia India and Honda Cars also saw a fall in dispatches from a year earlier.

Tata, M&M buck trend

However, companies such as Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), Nissan and Skoda managed to show growth last month despite supply chain challenges.

The country's largest carmaker (MSI) said domestic sales slipped 32% to 1,17,013 units last month as against 1,72,862 units in October 2020. Rival Hyundai Motor India reported a 35% de-

cline in domestic sales to 37,021 units. It had dispatched 56,605 units to dealers in October 2020.

The global semiconductor supply constraint continues to be a challenge, resulting in lower production across the industry, it said.

Kia India witnessed a 22% decline in wholesales to 16,331 units, while Honda Cars saw domestic dispatches slide 25% to 8,108.

M&M said domestic passenger vehicle sales rose 8% to 20,130 units. Tata Motors reported a 44% jump in domestic passenger vehicles to 33,925 units in October compared with 23,617 a year earlier. Nissan India's domestic wholesales rose over threefold to 3,913 units, while Skoda reported a more than twofold jump to 3,065 units.

Tata Motors Q2 net loss widens to ₹4,416 crore

Higher expenses, lower JLR sales cited

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Tata Motors Ltd. (TML) on Monday reported widening of consolidated net loss to ₹4,415.54 crore for the quarter ended September 30, due to higher expenses and lower sales of British arm JLR, amid a global shortage of semiconductors.

The company had posted a consolidated net loss of ₹307.26 crore in the same period last fiscal, Tata Motors said in a filing.

Consolidated revenue from operations stood at ₹61,378.82 crore against ₹53,530 crore in the year-earlier quarter, it added.

Total expenses were ₹65,712.83 crore, compared with ₹54,982.77 crore a year



earlier. British arm Jaguar Land Rover had revenue of ₹3.9 billion with a pre-tax loss of ₹302 million in the second quarter, the company said. On a standalone basis, TML posted a net loss of ₹659.33 crore. It had a net loss of ₹1,212.45 crore in the same quarter last fiscal.

In Q2 FY22, wholesales, including exports, increased 56.3% to 1,71,823 units, Tata Motors added.

CUMI Q2 net rises 25% on higher sales

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Murugappa group firm Carborundum Universal Ltd. (CUMI) standalone net profit for the second quarter ended September rose 25% to almost ₹63 crore on improved sales volume.

Income from operations rose 30% to ₹551 crore. Revenues from abrasives, ceramics and electro-minerals stood at ₹268 crore, ₹172 crore and ₹142 crore respectively, CUMI said.

CUMI's arm Foskor Zirconia (Pty) Ltd., South Africa, had incurred a ₹3.70 crore loss for the six-month period ended September, of which ₹1.89 crore had been considered in the group's consolidated financials, being parent's share.

RACING

Cosmic Ray takes the honours in Rajyotsava Trophy

BENGALURU: S. Attaollahi-trained Cosmic Ray (Sandesh up), won the Rajyotsava Trophy, the main event of the races held here on Monday (Nov 1). The winner is owned by United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd.

1. GANGA PLATE (DIV. II), (1,600m), rated 00 to 25: AMALFI SUNRISE (Arshad) 1, Handsome Rocky (Rajesh K) 2, Capital Gain (Nazerul) 3 and Skiahtos (Rayan) 4. 2-1/2, 1 and 1. Im, 40.87s. ₹29 (w), 17, 19 and 65 (p), SHP: ₹29, THP: 141, FP: 308, Q: 118, Trinella: 3,271 and 1,121, Exacta: 19,366 and 1,383. Favourite: Amalfi Sunrise. Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd, M/S. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala. Trainer: Rajesh Narreddu.

2. JOG FALLS PLATE (DIV. III), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45: GAROMOND (P.S. Chouhan), 1, Arlette (Akshay K) 2, Ocean Dunes (Antony) 3 and Sir Phoenix (Arshad) 4. 3/4, 10 and 2-1/2. Im, 13.22s. ₹18 (w), 12, 15 and 16 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 49, FP: 51, Q: 25, Trinella: 137 and 85, Exacta: 219 and 90. Favourite: Garamond. Owners: Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mr. R. Shiva Shankar & Mr. G. Surendranath. Trainer: Ir-

fan Ghatala. 3. TETRARCH PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only. (Terms): ETOSHA (Arshad) 1, Divine Blessings (Antony) 2, Pink Jasmine (Akshay K) 3 and Capri Girl (Dhanu Singh) 4. Not run: The Inheritor. 8, 1 and 6-1/2. Im, 12.63s. ₹15 (w), 10, 12 and 14 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 40, FP: 36, Q: 28, Trinella: 97 and 35, Exacta: 174 and 104. Favourite: Etosha. Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt. Ltd., Mr. K. Harish Nayak & M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

4. JOG FALLS PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45: BALTIMORE (Antony) 1, Bold Move (Salman Khan) 2, Rezaiz (Naveen K) 3 and Dynamical (Kiran Rai) 4. Not run: Jokshan. 2-1/2, 3/4 and Lnk. Im, 14.61s. ₹17 (w), 10, 36 and 58 (p), SHP: 120, THP: 109, FP: 304, Q: 109, Trinella: 2,581 and 1,106, Exacta: 8,325 and 3,568. Favourite: Baltimore. Owners: Mr. Vivek N. Rao, Mr. Vital Belandor & Mr. Kodandaram Ramaiah N. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

5. VIDHANA SOUDHA TROPHY (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only. (Terms): A STAR IS BORN (Yash) 1,

Douglas (Vinod Shinde) 2, Muirfield (Antony) 3 and Magellan (J.H. Arul) 4. 3-1/4, 6-3/4 and 5-1/2. Im, 25.45s. ₹13 (w), 11, 48 and 15 (p), SHP: 187, THP: 34, FP: 2,018, Q: 208, Trinella: 1,473 and 534, Exacta: 8,655 and 2,967. Favourite: A Star Is Born. Owners: Villou Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. rep by Dr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla & Mrs. Natasha A. Poonawalla & Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla, Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Ms. Delna Z. Poonawalla & Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole. Trainer: Rajesh Narreddu.

6. RAJYOTSAVA TROPHY (1,400m), 3-y-o & over: COSMIC RAY (Sandesh) 1, Shemyscript (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Northern Alliance (Ashhad Asbar) 3 and Automatic (S. Shareef) 4. 4-3/4, Lnk and 4. Im, 24.21s. ₹15 (w), 12 and 39, SHP: 59, THP: 25, FP: 147, Q: 83, Trinella: 292 and 144, Exacta: 1,741 and 1,119. Favourite: Cosmic Ray. Owner: United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

7. JOG FALLS PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45: SCHAFFENBERG (Shreyas Singh) 1, Perfect Rendition (Dhanu Singh) 2, Stone House (Akshay K) 3 and Drusilla (A. Imran) 4. 8-1/4, 2-1/4 and 3/4. Im, 13.70s. ₹107 (w), 27, 18 and 10 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 55, FP: 998, Q: 191, Trinella: 2,556 and 783, Exacta: 1,686 and 490. Favourite: Drusilla. Owner: Mr. Prithvi Sivaji Dorai. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

8. GANGA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,600m), rated 00 to 25: KENNINGSTON COURT (Akshay K) 1, Lantana (Antony) 2, Cinco De Mayo (M. Naveen) 3 and For Old Times (S. Saqlain) 4. Not run: Marco Polo, My Vision and Top News. 5, 1/2 and 5-1/4. Im, 40.94s. ₹13 (w), 11, 20 and 28 (p), SHP: 45, THP: 39, FP: 70, Q: 52, Trinella: 337 and 184, Exacta: 5,182 and 1,665. Favourite: Kenningston Court. Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd. & Mr. Rajan Aggarwal. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala. Jackpot: ₹757 (45 tkts.). Runner-up: 190 (7 tkts.). Treble (i): 40 (136 tkts.); (ii): 349 (20 tkts.).

Pecanwood for Royal Calcutta Turf Club Cup

BENGALURU: Pecanwood, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the Royal Calcutta Turf Club Cup (1,400m), the main event of the races, postponed from Oct. 31, to be held here on Tuesday (Nov. 2). False rails (width about 4m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1. INAUGURATION PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 1-30 p.m.: 1. Akasi (-) (-) 60, 2. Orogenesis (6) Chandrashekar 59.5, 3. Perfectgoldenera (10) Dhanu Singh 59.5, 4. Light Of Love (7) A. Imran 59.5, 5. Smile Around (11) M. Naveen 59.6, 6. Row Gold (9) Vivek 58.5, 7. Gazabo Talk (8) S. Shareef 58.8, 8. He's The One (2) Md. Habeeb 57.9, 9. Chul Bul Rani (5) D. Patel 55.5, 10. Iconic Princess (3) Shreyas Singh 55.5, 11. Awesome Girl (4) Toufif Khan 54.5 and 12. Elite Agent (1) Rajesh Kumar 51.5.

1. PERFECTGOLDENERA, 2. ICONIC PRINCESS, 3. LIGHT OF LOVE
2. NIGVE PLATE (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-00: 1. De Villiers (5) P.S. Chouhan 57, 2. Gunnamster (2) Nazerul 57, 3. Sacramento (8) Ranjeet Singh 57, 4. The Matrix (10) Jagadeesh 57, 5. Dawn Rising (1) R. Marshall 55.5, 6. Demeter (12) Akshay K 55.5, 7. Domina (3) Antony 55.5, 8. Knotty Princess (7) J.H. Arul

55.5 9. Lady Supremos (6) Saddam H 55.5, 10. Southern Chrome (4) Kiran Rai 55.5, 11. Spirit Dancer (9) C.S. Jodha 55.5 and 12. Striking Support (11) Arshad 55.5.

1. DE VILLIERS, 2. DEMETER, 3. SACRAMENT
3. INAUGURATION PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30: 1. Caesars Palace (3) S. Shareef 62.5, 2. Crimson Heart (6) M. Naveen 62.5, 3. Marco Polo (1) J.H. Arul 62.4, 4. Super Gladiator (4) Chethan K 60.5, 5. Zhu Zhu Zest (10) S. Saqlain 60.5, 6. Augustina (2) Nazerul 59.5, 7. Adela (9) A. Imran 59.8, 8. Hawking (11) R. Marshall 59.9, 9. Shan E Azeem (12) Dhanu Singh 59, 10. Florencia (7) P. Mani 58.5, 11. Scintilla (5) Indrajest Singh 55.5 and 12. Song And Dance (8) Rayan 54.5.

1. ADELA, 2. SHAN E AZEEM, 3. MARCO POLO
4. VEDAVATI PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 3-00: 1. Christopher Wren (8) Arshad 60, 2. Exclusive

Buttler serves up yet another feast

His maiden T20I hundred sets up a 26-run win over Sri Lanka; England makes it four in four

ICC T20 WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHARJAH

Jos Buttler hit the first century of the ICC T20 World Cup as England effectively booked its semifinal spot with a 26-run victory over Sri Lanka on Monday.

Buttler's unbeaten 101 — his maiden century in 86 T20Is — steered England to 163 for four after being invited to bat first.

The bowlers, led by Adil Rashid, then combined to bowl out Sri Lanka for 137 in 19 overs and helped England win its fourth match on the trot in Group 1. Sri Lanka slipped to its third loss in four matches.

Only South Africa and Australia can match its eight points, but England already has the cushion of a far superior run rate.

Buttler smashed six fours and six sixes in his 67-ball knock and put on 112 with skipper Eoin Morgan, who made 40, to lift England after it was in trouble at 35 for three.

The England opener, who hit an unbeaten 71 in the win over Australia, surpassed his previous T20 best of 83 and leads the batting chart with 214.

"I felt like I used a lot of my experience. I remember saying a while ago, if I can put both parts of my game together then I think I'll be getting into a really good place with my T20 batting," said Buttler.

Sri Lanka had England on the backfoot but Buttler took the attack to the opposition as he reached his hundred off the final ball of the innings with a six.



Shifting gears: After a quiet start, Buttler exploded at the death. • GETTY IMAGES

Leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga got two early wickets, that of Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow, who was trapped lbw for nought off the first ball. The right-left combination of Buttler and Morgan stood firm to grind down the Sri Lankan attack with some sensible batting.

Buttler reached his fifty off 45 balls and shifted gears with some powerful hits that unsettled the Sri Lankan bowlers.

Morgan joined the charge with one four and three sixes

in his 36-ball knock before being bowled by Hasaranga, who returned figures of three for 21.

In reply, Sri Lanka lost early wickets and was never in the chase till Shanaka (26) and Hasaranga got together.

Relay catch

The two put on a threatening stand of 53 for the sixth wicket before a relay catch between Roy and substitute Sam Billings sent back Hasaranga. The Lankans never recovered from that blow.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

Jason Roy b Hasaranga 9 (6b, 1x4), Jos Buttler (not out) 101 (67b, 6x4, 6x6), Dawid Malan b Chameera 6 (8b, 1x4), Jonny Bairstow lbw b Hasaranga 0 (1b), Eoin Morgan b Hasaranga 40 (36b, 1x4, 3x6), Moeen Ali (not out) 1 (2b); Extras (lb-1, w-5): 6; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 163.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-13 (Roy, 1.2 overs), 2-34 (Malan, 4.6), 3-35 (Bairstow, 5.2), 4-147 (Morgan, 18.2).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Chameera 4-0-43-1, Hasaranga 4-0-21-3, Kumara 4-0-44-0, Theekshana 4-0-13-0, Karunaratne 2-0-17-0, Shanaka 2-0-24-0.

SRI LANKA

Pathum Nissanka run out 1 (1b), Kusal Perera c Morgan b Adil Rashid 7 (9b), Charith Asalanka c Moeen b Adil Rashid 21 (16b, 3x4, 1x6), Avishka Fernando lbw b Jordan 13 (14b, 1x4), Bhanuka Rajapaksa c Roy b Woakes 26 (18b, 2x4, 2x6), Dasun Shanaka run out 26 (25b, 2x4, 1x6), Wanindu Hasaranga c sub (Billings) b Livingstone 34 (21b, 3x4, 1x6), Chamika Karunaratne c Roy b Moeen 0 (2b), Dushmantha Chameera c Malan b Jordan 4 (4b, 1x4), Maheesh Theekshana c Jordan b Moeen 2 (2b), Lahiru Kumar (not out) 1 (2b); Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (in 19 overs): 137.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Nissanka, 0.3), 2-24 (Asalanka, 3.3), 3-34 (Kusal, 5.1), 4-57 (Avishka, 8.3), 5-76 (Bhanuka, 10.5), 6-129 (Hasaranga, 16.5), 7-130 (Shanaka, 17.2), 8-134 (Chameera, 17.6), 9-134 (Karunaratne, 18.2).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Moeen 3-0-15-2, Woakes 2.3-0-25-1, Adil Rashid 4-0-19-2, Jordan 4-0-24-2, Livingstone 4-0-34-1, Mills 1.3-0-19-0.

Toss: Sri Lanka; MoM: Buttler. England won by 26 runs.

Next assignment

Sri Lanka: Nov. 4 vs West Indies, Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST

England: Nov. 6 vs South Africa, Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

Innings scan

	England	Sri Lanka
47	Dots	47
9	Fours	12
9	Sixes	5
36/3	PP	40/3
8.15	RR	7.21

Fans asked for the dream of 2007, getting the nightmare instead

Overriding concern is the manner in which India, especially the batters, threw in the towel

AMOL KARHADKAR
DUBAI

At the beginning of the T20 World Cup — when the euphoria of the Yellow Brigade regaining the IPL was still strong — loyal worshippers of the Men in Blue were anticipating a repeat of 2007 come November 14.

No doubt the fans are experiencing 2007, but not the one they had hoped for.

Humiliation

Instead of reliving the dream of the inaugural World Twenty in September 2007, they are going through the nightmare of March 2007, when India crashed out of the

league stage of the ODI World Cup in the West Indies.

Back then, Rahul Dravid's boys were knocked out after losing to Sri Lanka in the last game of a pool of four. Cut to 2021, India seems to be virtually out of contention for the semifinals following two humiliating defeats.

As a result, India's campaign is in danger of ending with the league stage on November 8.

Remote chances

There still is a remote possibility — winning the remaining games by big margins and other results going its

way — of making the semifinals, but it appears to be rather far-fetched or merely something to keep statisticians interested.

No doubt Pakistan and New Zealand deserve all credit for the way they devised plans and, more importantly, executed them.

But the manner in which India — especially the batters — threw in the towel raises multiple questions.

Wider discussions about workload management, bubble fatigue, thrust on all-format specialists and administrators' approach, etc are bound to happen. But let's keep them aside

for another week.

India still has to complete the tournament, and hopefully win the remaining three games to give fans some reason to cheer.

Exposed

The two games exposed the fears of many about the squad composition and choice of the XI.

India's preferred top three — Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul and Virat Kohli — like to give themselves a few balls before unleashing their strokes.

But batting yourself in has become a luxury in T20 cricket. In a format that has been evolving with every

passing year, India seems to be stuck in a time warp.

Despite tweaking the opening combination, India appeared to be indecisive in its approach after being asked to bat.

None of the top four tried to unsettle the bowlers. Neither could they get off to a flier nor set the foundation for a late flourish.

Recipe for disaster

The top four on Sunday scored a combined 45 runs off 55 balls. It turned out to be a recipe made for disaster, one that will haunt the team — and the fans — for years.

Pakistan — a complete package

AYAN ACHARYA
ABU DHABI

Pakistan's hat-trick of wins in the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup means it is close to sealing its spot in the semifinals when it takes on Namibia on Tuesday.

Babar Azam's men began by ending their India hoodoo at World Cups with a record 10-wicket win in Dubai. It has set the tone for a tournament where Pakistan's uncharacteristic consistency and enviable chutzpah have become the hallmarks.

The world's No. 2 T20I team has a highlights reel of mesmerising bowling spells and whirling moments of brilliance with the bat, including Shaheen Afridi's fiery new-ball assault against India in which he claimed both openers and Asif Ali's unbeaten 25 off seven during which he hit four sixes in an over to down Afghanistan.

Pakistan has played 14 T20Is in the UAE since 2016, winning each of them. But one has to sacrifice the cold objectivity of stats to better understand what the team has achieved at this World Cup so far.

It isn't the emergence of a special sporting talent; it is a team working as one. Any fan of cricket will tell you that Pakistan has always been good before finding a way to collapse.

But implosion is one thing it has steered clear of this time — there were moments against New Zealand and Afghanistan when things could have gone awry, but they commanded the chase. There is a steeliness to this Pakistan side, but more importantly, there is a well-executed plan.

In 2021, Babar and Mohammad Rizwan have put



Catching the attention: The Pakistan players have sent the shutterbugs into a frenzy at the T20 World Cup. • AFP

on 713 runs as a T20I opening pair, at an average of 59.41. Both have an understanding that if one gets out early, the other will look to bat through. After the India win, Rizwan had revealed as much.

Then there's the mercurial finisher Asif, who has proved he has the temperament, power and above all, the self-belief to shine under pressure. Against Afghanistan, he sent Shadab Khan back to stay on strike for the 19th over and backed himself to seal the chase, and he did. That, coupled with Mohammad Hafeez and Shoaib Malik's experience, makes this a formidable batting line-up.

Potent bowling

Pakistan's success has also been built on its bowling line-up. Afridi and Haris Rauf offer swing and pace. Hasan Ali and Imad Wasim are the middle-over enforcers. And Shadab brings the wily leg-spin. Buoyed by a togetherness forged in pre-tournament distractions —

TODAY'S MATCHES



South Africa vs Bangladesh

ABU DHABI, 3.30 P.M. IST

H 2 H IN T 20 I S

Played: 6



South Africa vs Bangladesh

6 | 0



Pakistan vs Namibia

ABU DHABI, 7.30 P.M. IST

H 2 H IN T 20 I S

FIRST MEETING

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Zlatan rolls back the years

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MILAN

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored his 150th Serie A goal as AC Milan beat Jose Mourinho's Roma 2-1 on Sunday to remain second on goal difference behind Napoli.

The Sweden striker, who turned 40 earlier this month, also thought he had scored his 400th goal in domestic leagues but was denied a second of the encounter with VAR finding offside in the second half.

Stefano Pioli's side finished the game down a man as left-back Theo Hernandez was shown a red card for a shoulder challenge. Real Sociedad returned to the top of La Liga on Sunday but its joy was tempered by having to share the points after an injury-time strike for Basque rival Athletic Bilbao in a 1-1 draw.

The results: LaLiga: Getafe 2 (Unal 31, 56) bt Espanyol 1 (Gomez 38); Real Sociedad 1 (Isak 58-pen) drew with Athletic Bilbao 1 (Muniain 90+1).

Bundesliga: Borussia Munchengladbach 2 (Plea 12, Hofmann 40) bt VfL Bochum 1 (Blum 86).

Serie A: Salernitana 0 lost to Napoli 1 (Zielinski 61); Roma 1 (El Shaarawy) lost to AC Milan 2 (Ibrahimovic 26, Kessie 56).

Norrie eases past Delbonis

Djokovic returns with a win in doubles



On a roll: Norrie lost just three games in the opening round. • AFP

PARIS MASTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Cameron Norrie outclassed Argentina's Federico Delbonis 6-2, 6-1 to reach the second round of the Paris Masters on Monday, saying he was proud to still be in contention for the season-ending ATP Finals.

"It is always a goal to be in the mix for something like that," said Norrie, who could seal his place in Turin by lifting the Paris trophy.

The 26-year-old British No. 1 has been one of the most impressive performers on the circuit this year, rising to 13th in the rankings released on Monday having begun the year 71st in the world.

Novak Djokovic, back on court for the first time after his loss in the US Open final to Daniil Medvedev and his partner Filip Krajinovic beat Australian pair Alex de Minaur and Luke Saville 4-6, 6-4, [10-7] to reach the second round.

Nadal's plans

Meanwhile, Rafael Nadal said on Monday that he wants to return in December in Abu Dhabi, as he targets the Australian Open in January.

The results (first round): Cameron Norrie bt Federico Delbonis 6-2, 6-1; Sebastian Korda bt Aslan Karatsev 6-2, 6-7(9), 7-6(5); Marton Fucsovics bt Fabio Fognini 6-1, 6-7(6), 7-6(5); Dusan Lajovic bt Mackenzie McDonald 6-3, 6-4.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Tuesday's fixtures

■ Malmö vs Chelsea, Wolfsburg vs RB Salzburg (11:15 p.m.)

■ Villarreal vs Young Boys, Juventus vs Zenit, Bayern vs Benfica, Sevilla vs Lille, Dynamo Kyiv vs Barcelona, Atalanta vs Man United (1.30 a.m. Wednesday)

Sasikiran upsets Fedoseev, joins Nihal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Veteran K. Sasikiran upstaged fancied Russian Vladimir Fedoseev and caught up with an unbeaten Nihal Sarin in the second score-group at 3.5 points after five rounds of \$425 FIDE Grand Swiss chess tournament in Riga, Latvia, on Sunday.

In the women's section, D.

Harika drew with the 2015 World championship finalist Natalija Pogonina to reach 3.5 points.

Harika is sharing the sixth spot behind the five-leader pack.

Fifth-round results (involving Indians):

Open: Manuel Petrosyan (Arm, 3.5) drew with Nihal Sarin (3.5); P. Harikrishna (3) drew with Da-

riusz Swiercz (USA, 3); K. Sasikiran (3.5) bt Vladimir Fedoseev (Rus, 2.5); David Navara (Cze, 3.5) bt D. Gukesh (2.5); R. Praggnanandhaa (3) bt Rauf Mamedov (Aze, 2); Raunak Sadhwani (2.5) bt Aleksandr Rakhmanov (Rus, 1.5); Jorge Cori (Per, 2) drew with S. P. Sethuraman (2); Arjun Erigiasi (2.5) bt Aleksandra Goryachkina (Rus, 1.5); Surya Shekhar Ganguly (2) bt Luka Budisavl-

jevic (Srb, 1); B. Adhiban (1.5) bt Antenateina Raketomaharo (Mad, 0.5).

Women: D. Harika (3.5) drew with Natalija Pogonina (Rus, 3.5); Vantika Agarwal (3) drew with Zhansaya Abdumalik (Kaz, 3); Batkhuyag Munguntuul (Mgl, 3) bt Padmini Rout (2); Salome Melia (Geo, 2.5) drew with R. Vaishali (2.5); Madara Golsta (Lat, 0.5) lost to Divya Deshmukh (2).

2020 Government sports awards presented

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

It was a return to the real world from the virtual as the Arjuna, Khel Ratna, Dhyana Chand, Dronacharya and other government sports awards were presented physically to the awardees of 2020 by the Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur here on Monday.

The awards were presented by President Ram Nath Kovind virtually last year, and the cash component had also been transferred to the accounts of the awardees then. The physical trophies were presented to the awardees on Monday in the capital.

The Sports Ministry had handed over a total of 74 national sports awards, including five Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratnas and 27 Arjuna



The 'real' thing: The physical trophies were handed over to the awardees by Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

awards for 2020.

There was no announcement as yet about the selection of awardees for this year, or the function to be staged for presenting the awards.

The ceremony was attended by most of the awardees including Rani Rampal, Vinesh Phogat, Manu Bhaker, Saurabh Chaudhary, Mariyappan Thangavelu, Lovli-

na Borgohain, Atanu Das, Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty.

"The journey of the awardees doesn't end here. There is more to be achieved. We must also continue to look for talented athletes, groom them and make them capable of winning medals at the international level. I request all the athletes to take the pledge of

We must also continue to look for talented athletes, groom them and make them capable of winning medals at the international level

ANURAG THAKUR

at least grooming and training five such athletes who can win medals for India," said Thakur.

Nishant and Sanjeet enter quarterfinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BELGRADE

Nishant Dev (71kg) and Sanjeet (92kg) entered the quarterfinals of the AIBA men's World Championships here on Monday.

Nishant defeated Mexico's Marco Alvarez Verde 3-2 on Sunday.

However, Rohit Mor (57kg) and Sumit Kundu (75kg) bowed out.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): 71kg: Nishant Dev bt Marco Alvarez Verde (Mex) 3-2; 92kg: Sanjeet bt Giorgi Tchigladze (Geo) 4-1; 57kg: Serik Temirzhanov (Kaz) bt Rohit Mor 4-1; 67kg: Kevin Brown Bazain (Cub) bt Akash Sangwan 5-0; 75kg: Yoelnis Hernandez (Cub) bt Sumit Kundu 5-0.



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