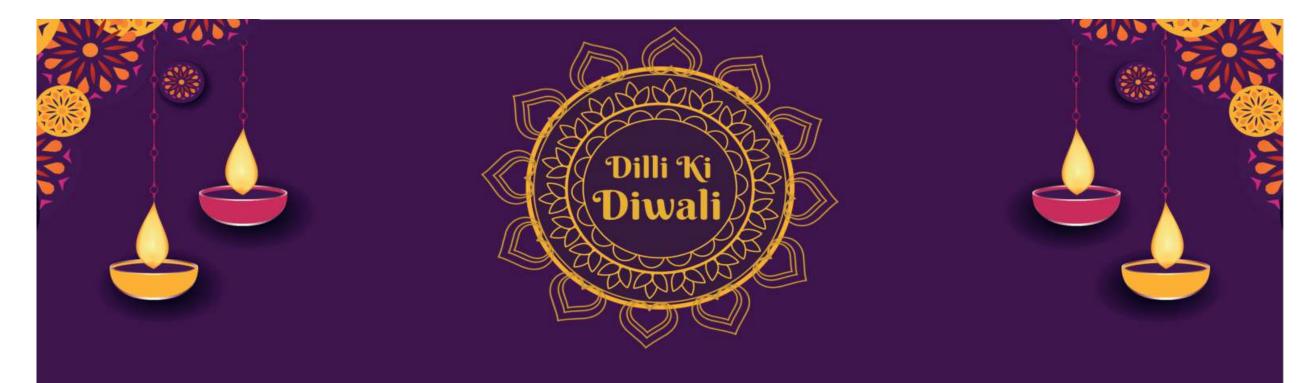
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If anyone asks 'OTP' - do not respond

Air quality in Delhi drops to seasonal low

A day before Deepavali, air quality has dipped to a seasonal low of 320 - or the "very poor" category in the National Capital Region. Despite a spike in instances of farm fires from Punjab and Harvana this week, they aren't a contributor to the poor air quality, according to meteorological analysts.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 8



Excise duty on petrol cut by ₹5, diesel by ₹10

After Centre's move, most BJP-ruled States slash fuel taxes

VIKAS DHOOT NEW DELH

The Government on Wednesday finally bit the bullet on runaway fuel prices and slashed excise duties on petrol and diesel by ₹5 and ₹10 per litre respectively, citing the need to help farmers for the rabi crop, ease inflation and give the economy a consumption boost. Following the Centre's ex-

cise duty cuts, most BJPruled States followed suit by cutting their fuel taxes, ostensibly with an eye on bringing fuel rates below ₹100 a litre. Gujarat, Karnataka, Assam and Tripura, among others, promised a ₹7 per litre cut in State levies for both diesel and petrol, while Uttar Pradesh announced a tax cut of ₹7 per litre on petrol and ₹2 per litre on diesel. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the prices of petrol and diesel would be reduced by ₹12 and ₹17 per litre respectively.

While pump level prices are expected to cool off effective Thursday, they are likely to remain close to or

Cheaper fuel

The table lists the retail price buildup of petrol and diesel in Delhi as of Nov. 1. The Centre has reduced ₹5 and ₹10 from the excise duties of petrol and diesel respectively

C:	·		•
figures in ₹/litre		Petrol	Diesel
	Base price	47.28	49.36
	Freight	0.3	0.28
	Excise duty	32.9 (-5)*	31.8 (-10)*
	Dealer rate	3.9	2.61
* to be effective from	VAT	25.31	14.37
Thursday	Retail price	109.69	98.42

above the ₹100 a litre mark for petrol in most places. The Centre has urged the States to 'commensurately reduce' the Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel to give relief to consumers.

Even if the States don't act, the actual amount of VAT levied by them on fuels is expected to reduce immediately because they levy varying tax rates on an ad-valorem basis, or simply put, as a percentage of the fuel price after central excise duties are levied.

Oil industry officials said the estimated price for petrol would reduce from ₹110.04 to ₹103.97 a litre in the capital from Thursday, from ₹115.85 a litre to ₹109.98 in Mumbai, from ₹106.66 to ₹101.40 per litre in Chennai and from ₹110.49 to ₹104.67 in Kolkata. Similarly, diesel prices are likely to soften between ₹11 and ₹12.50 a litre in the four me-

tropolitan cities. The Centre had been levying excise duties and cess of ₹32.90 per litre on petrol and ₹31.80 per litre on diesel. For context, the central excise duty on diesel was ₹3.56 per litre in 2014.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

PM calls for door-to-door vaccination

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday held a review meeting with senior officials of districts with low COVID-19 vaccination coverage. He urged officials to plan micro-strategies to improve coverage.

He called on health workers to carry out doorto-door vaccination drive.

The meeting included districts with less than 50% coverage of the first dose and low coverage of the second. The Prime Minister interacted with the District Magistrates of over 40 districts in Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and other

Urging the health workers to reach every house with the passion of "Har Ghar Tika, Ghar Ghar Tika" (vaccine at every doorstep), Mr. Modi asked them to go in the spirit of "Har Ghar Dastak" (knocking on every doorstep). "Now we are preparing to take the campaign to each household," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Covaxin gets WHO's emergency use nod

Relief for those wishing to fly abroad

Long wait ends

The WHO's emergency use licence for Covaxin has come after over 12 crore doses were administered in the first 11 months of its use in India. A lowdown:

Efficacy results were published in July showing the vaccine was about **93%** effective in preventing severe COVID-19 and roughly **65%** effective against infection with the delta variant

Covaxin was developed by Bharat Biotech in partnership with ICMR Covaxin shots were Paraguay and Zimbabwe as grants, apart from Mauritius and Iran

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN NEW DELHI

India's first indigenous CO-VID-19 vaccine, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, was granted Emergency Use Listing (EUL) by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday.

Covaxin is a whole virioninactivated vaccine against SARS-CoV-2, developed in partnership with the Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Institute of Virology, Pune. It has been granted EUL for use in persons 18 years and above, over two doses spaced four weeks apart.

However, no recommendation has been made for use in children, and available data for use on pregnant women is insufficient to assess safety or efficacy, the WHO said.

The EUL is a prerequisite for the COVAX initiative in vaccine supply, and allows countries to expedite their own regulatory approval to import and administer CO-VID-19 vaccines.

The move is expected to ease international travel for Indians who have opted for the vaccine but experts say that this would be subjected to countries clearing Covaxin through their regulatory processes.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Central teams rush to States hit by dengue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Health Ministry has rushed high-level teams to nine States and Union Territories - Haryana, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Uttarakhand, Pradesh. Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir - reporting a high caseload of dengue to support them in control and management of the dis-

ease. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya held a review meeting on the dengue situation in Delhi on November 1.

He had directed that the Health Ministry should extend help to all the States and U.T.s having a high incidence of dengue cases. A total of 1,16,991 cases had been reported by the States and U.T.s across the country, said a release issued by the Ministry.

He added that a significantly higher number of cases were reported in some States in October as compared with the corresponding period the previous vear.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

+ Despite bail, long road out of jail

ARNABJIT SUR

While Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan is finally out of jail after paperwork delayed his release on bail, not everyone is that lucky.

A number of undertrials have to spend weeks or even over a month in jail despite securing bail as they either cannot pay the surety amount or are stuck in procedural matters such as address verification, or simply due to minor errors in documentation. This is in spite of courts repeatedly stating that once a bail order is given, the release should be quick.

Lawyers say the delay in release of undertrials is an attack on their constitutional liberties.

DETAILS ▶ PAGE 8

Celebration of lights



Surreal streaks: A laser show on the banks of the Sarayu river in Ayodhya during Deepotsav, when nine lakh earthen lamps were lit, on the eve of Deepavali, on Wednesday. • PTI (SEE ALSO PAGE 9)

NCPCR issues notice to NCERT on transgender inclusion manual

Take action, rectify anomalies in document: child rights panel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Following a right-wing backlash on social media and a complaint from a former Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) pracharak, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has issued a notice to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) regarding its new training manual on inclusion of transgender children in schools.

Vinay Joshi, a former RSS pracharak and activist against fraudulent religious conversions, made the complaint to NCPCR, alleging that the manual was a "criminal conspiracy... to psychologically traumatise school students under the name of appropriate action in rectifygender sensitisation".

The issues of contention were the manual's recommendation to use genderneutral toilets and remove gender binaries in school infrastructure and processes. "Such an approach will expose children to unnecessary psychological trauma due to contradictory environments at home and in school," said the notice.

Drawing flak

The manual's suggestion to teachers to discuss the availability of puberty blockers or hormone treatments for adolescents experiencing gender dysphoria also came

in for criticism. NCERT was asked to "take

ing the anomalies in the doc ument", verify the background and qualifications of the drafting committee members, and apprise the commission of action taken within seven days. The manual is no longer available on the NCERT's website.

The Department for Gender Studies, which produced the manual, deflected all queries to NCERT director Sridhar Srivastava, who did not respond to The Hin*du*'s request for a comment.

On Monday, NCERT was trending for a brief period on Twitter after right-wing website OpIndia posted an article on the manual, accusing the council of becoming "woke".

and XII," the plea stated.

The plea added that in-

itially, the university direct-

ed that such cases be kept on

hold; however, within a few

hours, the admissions office

circulated an email to colleg-

es asserting that the Admis-

sion Advisory Committee

has decided that only marks

Annaatthe to hit 1,200 screens worldwide

It is Rajinikanth's first film after he decided not to take the political plunge

want to spend huge amounts

upfront on buying overseas

co-founder, Qube Cinema,

in the film's distribution.

"We haven't bought the

film..., but we are involved

in finding theatres and other

said his company was aiding

theatrical rights.

Senthil Kumar.

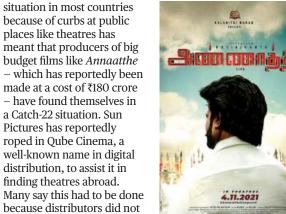
logistics," he said.

STAFF REPORTER

After the COVID-19 lockdowns, 'Superstar' Rajinikanth's Annaatthe will release on Deepavali day in about 1,200 screens globally, besides those in India. This is the first Tamil film after March 2020 to have such a massive release worldwide.

However, *Annaatthe* is different from a usual Rajini film. For starters, he has closed the chapter on his political career. The question on every exhibitor's mind is if his huge fanbase will throng theatres despite its disappointment with his decision not to enter politics. In a long while, this is the actor's first film to come out unaccompanied by rumours of a possible announcement about his political entry.

According to Sun Pictures, the film will release Second, the evolving



Sun Pictures has roped in Qube Cinema to assist it in finding theatres abroad.

in at least 1,100 screens, including 572 in the U.S and 135 across Europe. It will also release in more than 100 screens in Malaysia, 83 screens in the UAE and 17 in



New Zealand.

The film's performance at

the box office will decide whether Rajinikanth can continue his solo act as the number one of Tamil cinema, drawing an astronomical salary of close to ₹100 crore, or follow Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan and play roles that suit his age 'Theatres fully booked'

A leading producer said, "We will know tomorrow if he can continue to act as a young man opposite Nayanthara. There is huge pressure on his shoulders, thanks to his ₹100-crore salary, and if this film fails, he may have to change his approach. On the contrary, if the film is a huge hit, he will once again have proved that he is the undisputed

king of the box office. So far,

all shows on the first day are

fully booked, but second day

tickets are available."

DUSU challenges university's decision in HC

'Move to consider only Class XII marks for Kerala board students arbitrary, unfair

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi University Students Union (DUSÚ) has moved the High Court against the university's decision to consider only Class XII marks for the admission of students from Kerala State Board, which determines the grades by combining marks of Classes XI and XII.

In its plea, DUSU said it was approaching the Delhi High Court against the "arbitrary, irrational and unfair conduct" of the university authorities, who have "violated" the fundamental and legal rights of innumerable students.

It said that in terms of consistent policy, certain State boards, including the Directorate of General Education (Higher Secondary Wing), Government of Kerala, give combined marks of Classes XI and XII on the marksheets.



some colleges seeking perfect scores for courses. ■FILE PHOTO

The petition said Delhi University has, for several years, correspondingly incorporated provisions in its admission bulletin stating that in cases where State boards publish marks of both Classes XI and XII, the merit of students shall be determined on the basis of the consolidated marksheets. However, in the admis-

sion process for 2021-2022,

'Colleges objected' "When the admissions be-

XII, the plea said.

gan for the sessions 2021-2022, colleges raised and conveyed objections with regard to marksheets containing scores of both Classes XI

DU has "unilaterally and ar-

bitrarily" decided that stu-

dents would only be re-

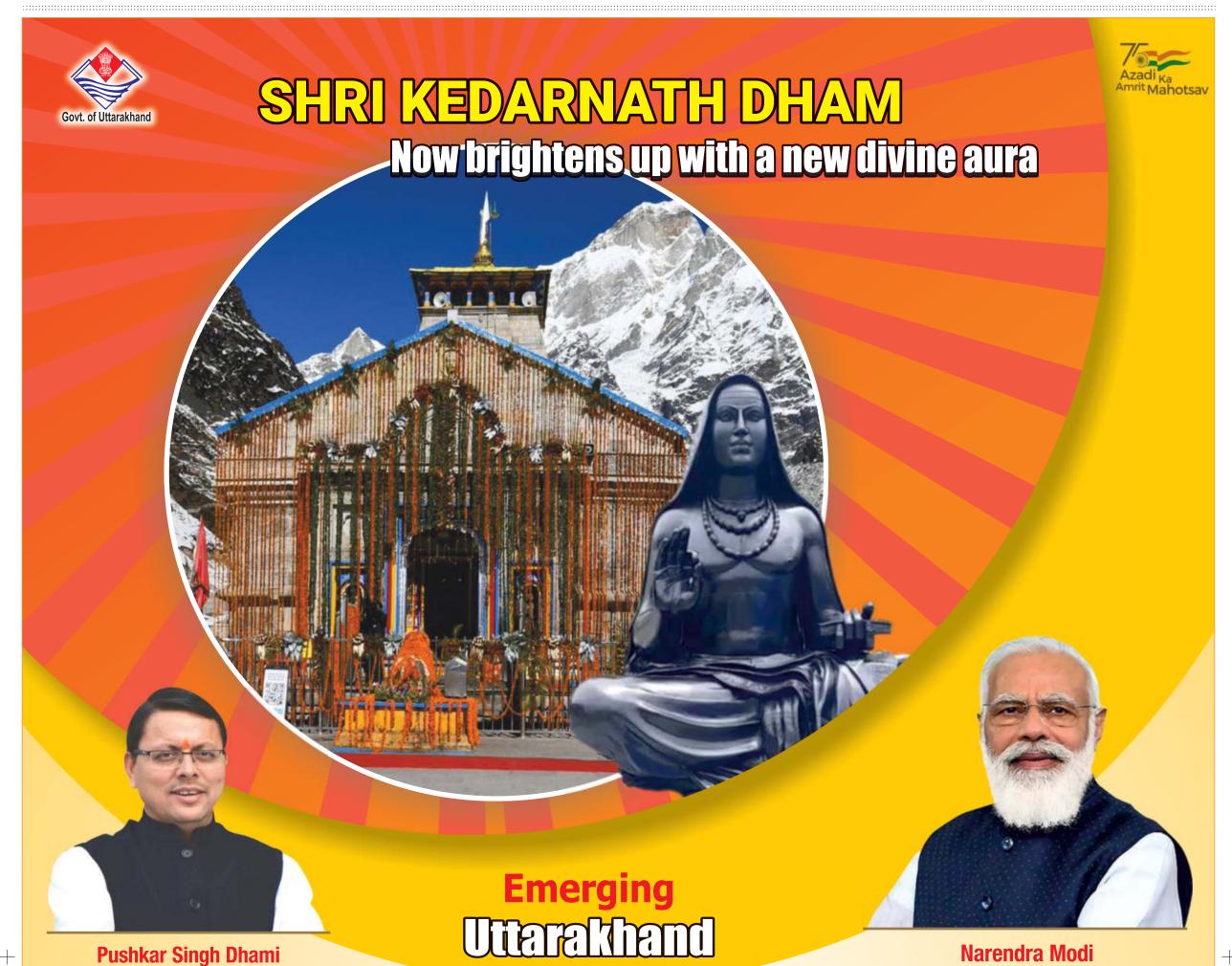
quired to fill marks of Class

of Class XII shall be considered. The High Court will hear the petition by DUSU on November 10.

The admission process at DU began on October 1 with some colleges asking for perfect score for their most sought-after courses. Students from Kerala State Board managed to grab most seats with 100% marks. This led to protests by students' groups against DU's admission policy.

The university released its four cut-off lists on October 31 but most of the popular courses are already closed for admissions

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 202





Inauguration & Foundation Stone Laying

of reconstruction works in Shri Kedarnath Dham

- Aadi Guru Shri Shankaracharya's Samadhi & Statue Spiritual experience for devotees by visiting at reconstructed Samadhi
- Residential complex for Teerth Purchit Lodging facilities for Teerth Purohits in Kedarpuri itself

Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

 Construction of flood safety and Ghats at the bank of the river Saraswati

Flood control wall constructed to guard against disaster

- Load-bearing wall for flood control at the bank of river Mandakini Flood control by load-bearing wall at the bank of river Mandakini
- Bridge on river Mandakini for Garud Chatti Smooth Movement will be facilitated with the help of reconstructed bridge between Garud Chatti and Kedarpuri
- Redevelopment of Sangam Ghat and Rain Shelter in Shri Kedarnath Dham Pilgrims will be benefitted because of redevelopment of Sangam Ghat and they will be guarded from Rain
- First aid centre and Tourists Facility Centre Unwell pilgrims will get adequate treatment & Tourists will be benefitted through Tourist Facility Centre
- [•] Mandakini Astha Path Queue Management, Mandakini Water ATM and Mandakini Plaza
- Mandakini Astha Path Queue Management will made the Darshan easy and comfortable and clean water will be available at Water ATM **Administration Office and Hospital Building**

Help will be provided to pilgrims for information, complaint & assistance and dedicated medical services will also be accessible in the hospital Kedarnath Teerth Sthal and Museum

Pilgrims will get complete information of the history of Kedarnath

Saraswati Civic Amenities Building

Locker, Changing Room, Toilet and Clean Drinking Water facilities will be available in the building for pilgrims.



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Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Gurmeet Singh Governor, Uttarakhand

CM YK

Pushkar Singh Dhami Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Satpal Maharaj

Tourism & Culture Minister, Uttarakhand

on Friday, 5th November, 2021 at 8:30 am at Shri Kedarnath Dham, Uttarakhand

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Prime Minister

Woman found

murdered in

rented house

A 28-year-old woman was

found murdered at her re-

sidence in south Delhi's

Mehrauli on Wednesday,

Jaiker said the police re-

ceived a PCR call at 2.45

a.m. from the victim's hus-

band. Avdesh Kumar, a

worker at a sweet shop,

found his wife lying uncon-

scious with a head injury at

their rented accommoda-

tion when he returned

from work. It appeared

that she had been brutally

beaten up by someone, the

DCP (South) Benita Mary

STAFF REPORTER

the police said.

Timings **DELHI**

THURSDAY, NOV. 04								
RISE 06:35 SET 17:35								
RISE	05:41	SET 17:20						
FRIDAY, NOV. 05								
RISE	06:36	SET 17:34						

 □ RISE 06:50 SET 18:02 SATURDAY, NOV. 06 RISE 06:37 SET 17:33

RISE 08:02 SET 18:49

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Delhi Palam Today 29°C A dry weather to prevail. The misty morning turns slight warm day with mainly clear sky. Night will be cool and

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 28°C The weather will be dry and comfortable with mainly clear sky. Night remains cool and hazy. Pollution level will be moderate

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Hindu Sangharsh Samiti says namaz row resolved

Muslim community denies consent, calls internal meet today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Sanyukt Hindu Sangharsh Samiti on Wednesday said the district administration officials in a meeting with the representatives of the two communities had conceded that public places could not be used for religious activities and no such places were ever designated in Gurugram for offering of Friday prayers.

Accusing the administration of acting under pressure from right-wing groups, the Muslim community called for an internal meeting on Thursday to choose representatives to engage with the administration. Gurgaon Nagrik Ekta Manch co-founder Altaf Ahmad, present at the joint meeting, said the discussion at the Deputy Commissioner's office was sabotaged by right-wing group representatives and Muslim Rashtriya Manch (RSS' wing) representative Khurshid Ra-



A press conference of Hindu and Muslim leaders after the joint meeting in Gurugram. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

jak, who were driving their one-point agenda of suppressing Muslims. He added that the Muslim community was shocked to know that the Gurugram administration had cancelled eight of the 37 spots of Jumma Namaz agreed upon in 2018.

'No designated places'

"The Samiti president, Mahavir Bhardwai, and the Muslim Ekta Manch chairman, Shehzad Khan, in a joint statement to the media after the meeting agreed that offering of namaz could not be allowed at public places, but

they added that the prayers could not be stopped immediately and more time be allowed. The number of places for offering namaz this Friday would be mutually decided upon after a meeting between the two groups. The Samiti's president said the administration rejecting the existence of the list of 37 designated places for namaz had paved the way for amicable resolution to the matter," said a press statement issued by the Samiti.

Commissioner Deputy Yash Garg did not respond to repeated calls.

'Pollution from crackers can make air quality severe post-Deepavali'

STAFF REPORTER

Delhi's air quality is expected to deteriorate to "severe" level on Friday and Saturday if pollution from firecrackers is 50% of what was seen in 2019, said authorities.

But if there is no additional pollution from firecrackers, the air quality is expected to remain in the "very poor" range, which has been continuing since Tuesday.

The city's air quality on Wednesday worsened slightly (314) from Tuesday (303) but continued in the cording to the Central Pollution Control Board's 4 p.m. bulletin, which is an average of the past 24 hours and considered the day's AQI.

Stubble fires to go up

The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to PM2.5 in Delhi is expected to go up from 8% on Wednesday to 20% on Deepavali and 35%-40% on Friday and Saturday, said government-run monitoring agency SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research).

50% of firecracker load of 2019, then AQI is predicted to enter severe category during November 4 to 6. It is predicted to improve slightly on November 6 evening onwards but will fluctuate between high-end of very poor and severe range," SA-

FAR said in a statement. "Even a smaller increment in the local emissions due to firecrackers is likely to have a significant deterioration impact during November 4 to 6 and may put the AQI in the 'severe' category," SAFAR said.

> husband told the police. When the reached the spot, the victim had already been shifted to a hospital where doctors declared her brought

dead. A case under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC

The couple had shifted to the house along with their two children two days

Govt. announces e-market for city traders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal on Wednesday announced 'Dilli Bazaar', an emarketplace, where every small and big entrepreneur from the Capital will have their own e-commerce store.

He said the portal would give a global online identity to entrepreneurs and enable

shoppers to go on virtual walkthroughs of Delhi's markets.

"The Delhi Government has taken up an initiative that is going to bring prosperity to the ventures of Delhi's traders and businesspersons," Mr. Kejriwal said in a digital briefing.

"One will be able to showcase all their products and services on this portal. Virtual bazaars are being developed on this portal," he said.

Prominent markets ranging from Khan Market, Lajpat Nagar and Sarojini Nagar would have a presence on the portal which, the Chief Minister said, was expected to be up and running by August next vear.

was registered and the crime scene was inspected.

ago, the police said.

Case registered in multilevel parking collapse

AAP demands probe; inquiry revealed technical malfunction, says SDMC official

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A day after part of an automated multilevel parking facility at Green Park collapsed, damaging a few cars, Delhi Police on Wednesday took suo motu cognisance of the incident and registered a case at Hauz Khas police station. No injuries were reported and the parking area was

subsequently closed. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleged corruption in the construction of the facility, which was built by the BJP-ruled South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), and sought a probe into the matter.

"Yesterday (on Tuesday), the automated stack parking unit at Green Park completely collapsed. And it's important to note that this was such a renowned parking system that it was inaugurated twice by two Union Ministers," AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said. AAP leader Atishi said the facility built by the corpora-

tion collapsed within a year and it was a clear proof of corruption by the BJP. "It's necessary to investigate which contractor and officer were given the responsibility of the construction. Their links with BJP leaders should also be looked into," she

SDMC standing committee chairman B.K. Oberoi, however, said investigation revealed that the electrically operated floor plates (which are used to shift cars) had "collapsed due to a technical malfunction".

"There were no irregularities in the construction. The floor plates got dismantled and fell inside the facility. The parking system had indicated an error on multiple occasions and the supervisor should have checked it," Mr. Oberoi said.

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min ARAM_{ACADEMY} **Attend**

GOVERNANCE

Mr. M. KARTHIKEYAN

WITH MATERIALS AND ANSWER

WRITING PRACTICE SESSION

Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-60

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF VI ADDL. PRINCIPAL

FAMILY JUDGE AT BANGALORE

M. C. NO. 892 / 2020

Between: SMT. Rajeshwari Sridhar

V/o Sridhar Vishwanathan aged about 55 ears, R/at No.4, Nandanam Enclave Flat 203

st Main, 3rd B Cross, Gururaja Layout

Ooddanakkundi, Bangalore- 560037.

AND: SRI. V. SRIDHAR, S/o Vishwanat

ged about 58 years, R/at No.54, Samach Apartment, Mayur Vihar, Phase 1 Extensi Jew Delhi-110091**Responde**

NOTICE

Whereas the above Petitioner have applied or Divorce U/Sec. 13(1) (1-a) of the Hindu

The above named Respondent is hereby

nind Manasa Sarovara Apartment

...Petitioner

EDUCATIONAL

FACULTY REQUIRED for UPSC GS, Optional all subjects & Maths (CSAT). Experience will be given preference. Email Resume@ Ignitecivilserv 9362991296

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Planning Haryana Chandigarh has ranted licence no. 49 of 2017 dated 21.07.17 in favour of M/s RRD evelopers for setting up of a Deen Daval Jan Awas Yoina colony on an area measuring 7.01875 acres i ector-03. Farukhnagar, Gurugram n compliance with the DTCP memo o. LC-3259/JE(S)/2021/27889 Dated: 29.10.2021. The general ublic is hereby informed that, the Director Town & Country Planning Haryana Chandigarh has vide aforesaid memo accorded in principle approval for change of developer (COD) of the licence no. 49 of 2017 dated 21 07 2017 in favour of M/s SHF SQUARE LLP. Any person or organisation having any objection to this approval may complain in the

L Senior Town Planner, Huda Complex, Sec-14, Gurugram-122001 II. RRD Developer, Ravinder Yadav, Village Tikri, Sector-48, Sohna Road, South City-ii, Opp. Universal Trade Towers, Gurugram-122018.

III. SHF SQUARE LLP, 2nd floor, 856, Sector 14, Gurugram 122001 within 30 days of publication of this notice.

(RAVINDER YADAV) Partner

For M/s RRD Developers

Gurugram November 04.2021

For enquiries on

announcements in this

section, please contact our

office at the following numbe

between 10a.m. and 8p.m.

New Delhi: 011- 43579797

Rate for New Delhi:

(Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines

Extra Line - Rs.160/-)

(B/W Display): Rs.60/Per Sq.cn

(Clr Display): Rs. 70/Per Sq.cm

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Online

The above named Respondent is hereby warned to appear in the Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on **06/01/2022** at **11.00 AM forenoon** to show cause against petition, falling wherein the matter will be heard and determined Ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 25.10.2021 BY ORDER OF THE COURT, Sheristedar Family Court, Bangalore (. KESHAVA & K. SREERAM, Advocate etanjali Layout, Bangalore-560075

ई - प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, कम्बाईन्ड ऑफिस बिटिडंग भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड, रांची

ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट नोटिस(द्वितीय आमंत्रण)

<u>(अल्पकालीन)</u>

टेन्डर रेफरेन्स नं0-BCD/CE/67/Saraikela/2021-22 दिनांक- 03-11-2021

1	कार्य का नाम	Proposed Construction of EVM
		ware house at Saraikela.
2	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू०)	रू० ४,३२,२३,१६४.०० (रुपये चार करोड़ बत्तीस लाख
		तेइस हजार एक सौ चौसठ) मात्र ।
3	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	11 महीने
4	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	08-11-2021
5	वेबसाइट पर बिड प्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम	17-11-2021 के 11.00 AM तक
	तिथि / समय	
6	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय	ई – प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय,
	का नाम एवं पता	कम्बाईन्ड ऑफिस बिल्डिंग, भवन निर्माण विभाग, लाईन
		टैक रोड, राची।
7	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	9973708817
8	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन	9431371592
	संख्या	

- किसी भी प्रकार का बदलाव http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा
- अन्य किसी भी प्रकार की सूचना http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

Note: UCAN Registration is mandatory for the Bidders नोडल पदाधिकारी Advt P.R.No :253196

ई – प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, कम्बाईन्ड ऑफिस बिल्डिंग भवन निर्माण विभाग, लाईन टैंक रोड, रांची।

PR.NO.256548 Building(21-22):D

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown **R/o** Unknown **Age:** about 65-70 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Wearing: Only a vest with green-red checked blanket, was found dead on 30.10.2021 at 6:30 PM at Pole No. 1064, PF No. 6-7, New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.



The dead body has been preserved in LHMC Hospital Mortuary vide MLC No. 2225/2021. In this regard a DD No. 33-A U/S 174 Cr.PC. dated 30.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Ph. No.: 011-23744073 DP/367/RLY/2021 Mob. No.: 8750871305



On behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business now invites the Tender for Technical Qualification and Price Bid (Two cover system) from Joint Venture Entity or Registered Business Partnership formed by Private Entity with Farmer Producer Organisation/s or Private entity as "Sole Applicant" to be as Market Integration Partner for operationalising 9 Primary Processing Centres in 6 Districts viz., 3 Primary Processing Centres at Pavoorchathram, Sankarankovil & Kadayanallur in Tenkasi District, 1 Primary Processing Centre at Pochampalli in Krishnagiri District, 2 Primary Processing Centres at M.Puthur & Mannachanallur – II in Tiruchirapalli District, 1 Primary Processing Centre at Harur in Dharmapuri District, 1 Primary Processing Centre at Vilathikulam in Thoothukudi District and 1 Primary Processing Centre at Chikkadasapalayam in Coimbatore District under Tamil Nadu Supply Chain Management Project for Fruits, Vegetables and Other Perishables in Tamil Nadu.

SI. No. Description To identify Market Integration Partners for Operating 9 Primary Processing Centres for Fruits, Vegetables and Other Perishables under Tamil Nadu

 $Supply\,Chain\,Management\,Project.$

Interested Joint Venture Entity or Registered Business Partnership formed by Private Entity with Farmer Producer Organisation/s or Private entity as "Sole Applicant" shall submit their Technical Qualification and Price Bid (Two cover system) in the manner and form as detailed in the Technical and Price Bid documents provided in the websites www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tn.gov.in and www.tnagrisnet.tn.gov.in. The tender document can be downloaded free of cost.

The tender documents can also be obtained on payment, in person or by courier or post from the office of the Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business, CIPET Road, Thiru.Vi.Ka.Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-32 from 10.00 A.M. to 05.45 P.M. on all working days up to 06.12.2021 after remitting the cost of the document in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of the "Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business" payable at Chennai

The filled tender document should be submitted only as Hard Copy (by Registered post / Courier / in person) upto 03.00 P.M. on 07.12.2021 and the tenders received after the due date and time will be summarily rejected. Any revision of dates / Updates will be intimated through website only. Commissioner. DIPR/3210/TENDER/2021 **Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business**

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்தீரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்தீரம் ப



Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited

BMC Bhawani Mall, Block-1, 2nd Floor, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

E-mail ld: bbsr.bscl@gmail.com, CIN: U749900R2016PLC020016

PH-0674-2548428 ; Fax - 0674-2540811 Invitation for Bids - Bid Identification No.3915/BSCL/ /2021 Dated 01.11.2021

Chief Executive Officer on behalf of Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited, Bhubaneswar invites proposals from reputed and experienced Agencies, to be received on online mode for "Interio Furnishing work for 5 floors of New BMC ICOMC Building at Unit-IX, Bhubaneswar, Odisha" as pe the details below on Engineering, procurement, Construction (EPC) basis.

NAME OF WORK	:	Interior Furnishing Work for 5 floors of New BMC ICOMC Building at Unit-IX, Bhubaneswar, Odisha on EPC Mode.
BID DOCUMENT COST	:	INR 19.52 Cr. (Excluding 12% GST)
CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	:	SUPER Class
PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF RFP DOCUMENTS IN THE WEB SITE	:	From 05.11.2021 to 20.11.2021 (till 16:30 hours)
TIME AND DATE OF PRE-BID MEETING	:	10.11.2021 at 11:00 hours
LAST DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS	:	20.11.2021 up to 17:00 hours
LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS (HARD COPY)	:	25.11.2021 up to 17:00 hours
TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF TECHNICAL PROPOSALS	:	26.11.2021 at 11:00 hours
T . B		· ONLINE LITE A F OF TAXABLE PARTY

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Chief Executive Officer, Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited OPR-13070/11/0006/2122

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Rohit Kumar

Sharma

General Public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo) Namely: Rohit Kumar Sharma S/o Maha Shankar Sharma R/o H No B-36, Gali No. 3, Deep Vihar, Vikas Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 10.10.2021 from the area of P.S. Ranhola. Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No 170A dated 12.10.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Ranhola. Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Age: 25 Years, Height: 5'10", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long. Wearing: Kathie Colour Shirt & Blue Colour Pant and Hawa

Chappal in feet. Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Ranhola, Delhi at E-mail Idcic@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in

Phone: P.S. Ranhola, Delhi 011-24368638, 24368641 Outer Distt., Delhi Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-28363001, 28363003 DP/1264/OD/2021

	MOE	DERN COACH FACTORY	, RAEBA	RELI							
	E-Advertised Tender Notice No. 45/ET/2021-22 Dated: 03.11.2021										
SN.	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Due Date							
01	07211257	Acetylene Gas Dissolved	9095 Cum	06.12.2021							
02	07211259	Extra High Purity Nitrogen Gas	103683 CUM	06.12.2021							
03	15195162C	Diplory AS Per Specifcation No. MCF/Aug/PH-1/MC/05/REV-1	100 Nos	07.12.2021							
04	15215140A	Supply installation, Commissioning & proving out of Underfiame Assembly jig & Fixtures for Train-18 set (Vande Bharat)	01 Nos	29.11.2021							

	CORRIGENDUM							
01	41/ET/2021-22 Dated: 13.10.2021	Tender no. 03215030	Due date may be read as 22.11.2021 instead of 09.11.2021					
02	41/ET/2021-22 Dated: 13.10.2021	Tender no. 04211400	Due date may be read as 22.11.2021 instead of 09.11.2021					
03	44/ET/2021-22 Dated: 29.10.2021	Tender no. 05211222B	Due date may be read as 25.11.2021 instead of 23.11.2021					
	Website Address: www.ireps.gov.in & www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in							
	SERVI	NG CLISTOMER	S WITH A SMILE					



SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED PHI Building, Sheshadri Road, Opp. S.J.P. College, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-56000 Email: latha.mdksmscl@gmail.com

No: HFW/KSMSCL/NPCB/EQPT/TND/44/2021-22 Date: 02-11-2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: 1) Tender Notification No: HFW/KSMSCL/NPCB/EQPT/TND/44/2021-22 Date: 02-11-2021 (IND-859). 2) Tender Notification No: KDL/EQPT(2)/ReTnd/ BSC/13/2020-21, Date: 02-11-2021 (IND-750) Call-2.

Nation wide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tenders: 1) Tender for Supply and installation of Ophthalmic Equipments under

NPCB and VI Programme, 2) Re-Tender for Supply and installation of Equipments for Blood Bank and Blood Storage Centers. etails regarding EMD. Terms and Conditions and other

available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 02-11-2021. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office. Sd/- Managing Director

Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410

Six held for fake tweets in Tripura

Cases registered against 71 people

SYED SAJJAD ALI

mongering

ferent police stations. The police on Wed-

nesday morning said As Tripura is struggling to counter hate that they have regiscamtered criminal cases paigns on social meagainst 71 people for dia over sporadic posting provocative materials on social communal violence in recent times, police media platforms. have arrested six people in connection with fake tweets. A to-

police stations, said a senior police official. He said they have also issued appearance notices to three others named in two other cases. The cases

tal of 11 cases were re-

gistered at different

were registered at dif-

Security agencies found 78,000 tweets till Tuesday night that carried texts, photos and videos of perpetrated communal vio-

Only 30 tweets originated from Tripura, and the rest were from other States and abroad, informed.

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)

Corporate Identification No. U40109PB20108GC033813/ Website:www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 9646107248, Email: se-tl-jal@pspcl.in)

Tender Inquiry No. 15 Dy. Chief Engineer/TL, Circle, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, Room no 310, 2nd Floor, Shakti Sadan, Jalandhar, invites one No. e-Tender of : (1) Laying of 66KV Under Ground Cable including excavation, back filling, cable dismentling uplifting, installation of route marker earthing end termination and lighting Arresto including earthing material, supply & filling sand, site testing and commis for energisation of 3rd ckt, from Sahnewal to Kanganwal, For detailed NIT & tende specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 09.11.2021 from 5.00 Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online https://eprod

punjab.gov.ir C - 400/21 PSPCL 76155/12/523/2021/9597



Regd. Office : Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004, Telephone :-0651-2400799 & Fax : 0651-2400799 / https://www.jbvnl.co.in

Tender Cancellation Notice

E-tender was invited by General Manager (IT), JBVNL for 'IT Hardware and software upgradation (billing and other application) complete turnkey installation (Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Customization and Integration of Unified Metering, Billing, Collection (MBC), Customer Information System (CIS) and Meter Data Management System (MDMS) on Cloud)' with an estimated cost of Rs 181 Cr., floated vide NIT No. - 76/PR/JBVNL/2020-21 is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances. PR No. 236007

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अप शिकायतों को टॉल फी नं 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें। General Manager (IT) PR 256485 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(21-22)#D

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo), Namely: Krishan Kumar, S/o: Vinod Kumar, R/o: H.No. K-596, Mangol Puri, Delhi Aged: 20 years, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S.Mangol Puri, Delhi since 22.09.2021 In this regard a case vide DD No. 74-A, Dated 02.10.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Mangol Puri, Delhi. His



Head (Contracts & Materials)

tion No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527

Height: 5'5" Feet Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Clothing: Red Shirt-Black Paint and White Sports Shoes in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/ kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Mangol Puri, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641

P.S. Mangol Puri. Delhi

DP/1249/OD/2021 Ph. No. 011-27921168, 27922186

झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग सर्कुलर रोड, रॉंची-834001

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

झारखण्ड संयुक्त असैनिक सेवा प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा-2021 (विज्ञापन संख्या-01/2021) के संबंध में आवश्यक सचना

झारखण्ड संयुक्त असैनिक सेवा मुख्य प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा—2021 (विज्ञापन संख्या—01 / 2021) का आयोजन माह जनवरी, 2022 में होगा। इस संबंध में विस्तृत कार्यक्रम बाद में प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।

यह प्रेस विज्ञप्ति आयोग के वेबसाइट <u>www.jpsc.gov.in</u> पर उपलब्ध है। ह0/-सविव, PR 256456 (Jharkhand Public Service Commission)21-22*D झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, राँची

No.DFS.2084/2021-22/1250

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

Sealed tenders affixing Court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five) are hereby invited from GST Registered and authorised Dealers/ Distributers/Suppliers, for supply of equipments of 1) Desktop PC 2) Color Laser Printer 3) HP Laserjet 1020 Plus Printer 4) Offline UPS 5) TLC Plate Maker for the Regional Forensic Science Laboratory, Silchar, Assam -788001 as per enclosed specification. The details of the tender specifications and necessary tender documents may be down loaded from the Web site https://forensic.assam. gov.in. The tender sent by post should be properly sealed and addressed to the undersigned and should be sent through registered post/speed post/ courier service/ by hand. The last date for receiving tender is 17th November. 2021 up to 3-00 P. M. The delivery of materials will be at Regional Forensic Science Laboratory, Silchar, Assam.

which the tender(s) will be summarily rejected. Intending tenders or their authorised representatives may be present during the opening of the tenders. The tender is to be submitted "single stage-2 envelopes system" i.e. the first sealed envelope will contain the required specifications of the Equipments offered including catalogues. The second envelope will contain only price quoted by the bidders. All the above envelopes must be separately sealed and bearing the address of the Director, Directorate of Forensic Science, Assam and the senders address should be mentioned in all envelopes.

The undersigned reserves the right or rejecting any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Directorate of Forensic Science, Assam,

BSES Raidhani Power Limited, New Delhi **BSES TENDER NOTICE** Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders. Estimated Cost Cost of EMD Due Date & Time of Submission Date & Time of Opening **Brief Item Description**

physical description is as under:

CMC/BR/21-22/ LAYING OF 2 NOS CKT OF 66 KV 3CX300 SQ.MM RB/CR/AG/0963 XLPE CABLES FROM TIKARI KALAN (MUNDKA 400 KV DTL GRID TO 66/11 KV NILOTHI GRID 10,00,000/-24.11.2021 24.11.2021 10.01 (EW21NF4011) 15:30 HRS 15:45 HRS LAYING OF 04 NOS 66 KV 3CX300MM2 XLPE CABLES (D/C) FROM 220KV PAPPANKALAN -3 (DTL) TO GOYALA KHURD (EW18NF4012) 24.11.2021 CMC/BR/21-22/ RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1 PHASE METER 33.80 Crores 33,80,000 24.11.2021 16:00 HRS RB/PR/SN/0959 WITH BOX 15:45 HRS CMC/BB/21-22/ BATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1 1KV LT FRUS 37.50 37,50,000/ 24.11.2021 24.11.2021 RB/PR/FH/0961 | XLPE INSULATED 4C X 300 SQ.MM & LTAB 3C X 16:00 HRS 16:15 HRS 150 SQ.MM CABLE

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL

HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id:xenmhchdk@yahoo.in GIST of E -NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/176/e-tendering

(Short-Term) Dated:-01.11.2021...

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K State e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced irms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned

work:-					
Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	AAA	Position of funds	TS No.
1	2	3	4	5	
Operation, Servicing and Comprehensive Maintenance Contract of Central Heating Department at Sales Tax Department , Solina , Srinagar from 15th November 2021 to 15th March 2022.		500	ACCTTS/A CSTK/PA/9 22-26Dt:- 28.10.2021	Available	6128-29 DT:- 30.10.2021

- 1. The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 01.11.2021 (18.00 hrs).
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 01.11.2021 (10:00 hrs) to 06.11.2021 (14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.
- The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 06.11.2021 (16.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagai

MHCHD/TS/6145-48 Dt:-01.11.2021 Sd/-Executive Engineer,

DIPK-11754/21 MHCHD, Srinagar



DEATH

Deeply mourned by Dr. R. Parthsarathy (IIT. Chennai) Family & Friends. Contact: M. G. Pillai: 9445093969 Parvathy Pillai: 8754549763

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES FOND REMEMBRANCE



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www.thehinduads.com **DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT**

Janasanyog/C/7486/21

Kahilipara. Guwahati-19.

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/- (Including GST)

For any guery call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brpl. Eauction@relianceada.com or details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission f tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

The tenders must accompany up date Tax Clearance Certificate, without

Sd/Director,

Gehlot emerges stronger

after sweep in bypolls

MOHAMMED IQBAL

On the verge of completing

three years during his third

stint, Rajasthan Chief Minis-

ter Ashok Gehlot has

emerged stronger after the

victory of the party at both

the Vallabhnagar and Dha-

riawad seats in the Assembly

bye-lections. With Mr. Geh-

lot's consolidated position,

the tussle between the rival

factions in the ruling party

will get diminished in the

Mr. Gehlot is likely to car-

ry out the much-awaited Ca-

binet reshuffle and make

shortly after the Deepavali

festival. The exercise will be

taken up on Mr. Gehlot's

own terms with an explicit

message that the Congress

can form the Government

again if the 2023 elections

are fought under his

Faced with Mr. Gehlot's

heightened stature, the fac-

tion-ridden Opposition Bha-

ratiya Janata Party is set to

grasp the significance of

former Chief Minister Va-

sundhara Raje, who was si-

delined during the selection

of candidates. After the tick-

ets were denied to the lead-

ers considered close to her,

Ms. Raje was conspicuous by

her absence in the election

The BJP may attribute its

humiliating defeat at the

both seats, where it was rele-

gated to third and fourth po-

sitions, to the alleged misuse

of government machinery,

but its disregard of the senti-

ments of the local party

workers deprived it of get-

ting advantage of the sym-

pathy factor. The prolonged

farmers' agitation and un-

checked rise in petrol, LPG

and edible oil prices were al-

so among the major factors

appointments

coming days.

political

leadership.

campaign.

Raje absent

IN BRIEF



Video of BJP leader slapping police goes viral

Enraged after being prevented from burning Congress leader Siddaramaiah in effigy during a protest, Karnataka BJP leader A. Papareddy slapped a police constable in plainclothes in Raichur. A video clip of Mr. Papareddy slapping him went viral.

3 hurt in blast at illegal cracker unit in A.P.

SRIKAKULAM Three youth received serious burns following a blast at an illegal cracker unit in Tekkali, Andhra Pradesh, on Wednesday. The victims were identified as Vakada Hari, Saigopal and Murthy. A few others received minor injuries in the blast that occurred while they were preparing crackers at a house in Kaccheri Veedhi

A dangerous proposition: Kerala HC

Observation comes on plea to remove PM's photo from vaccination certificate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Kerala High Court has adjourned to November 23 the hearing on a writ petition seeking a directive to the Centre to remove the photograph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the COVID-19 vaccination certificate given to paid vaccine recipients.

When the petition came up for hearing recently, Justice N. Nagaresh orally observed that the plea was 'a very dangerous proposition.' If tomorrow someone could come here and protest that they did not like Mahatma Gandhi and seek removal of his image from our currencies saying it was their blood and sweat and they did not want to see his face on it, what would happen then, the court asked.

Counsel for the petitioner submitted that the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi was



printed on currency as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulations, while the Prime Minister's photograph was affixed not based on any statutory provision.

'No relevance'

According to the petition, the photograph of the Prime Minister on the COVID-19 vaccination certificate did not have any utility. It was a certificate issued merely to confirm the status of vaccination of a person. The affixing of a photograph of the

The affixing of a photograph of the **Prime Minister on** the certificate had no relevance as could be seen from such certificates issued by other

countries

Prime Minister on the certificate had no relevance as could be seen from such certificates issued by other

The messages or motivation printed in the certificate was irrelevant since the recipient of the certificate was already convinced of its utility and had taken the vaccination voluntarily. In fact, the messaging in a certificate was no more than 'preaching to the converted.

The petitioner also contended that he had already paid for his vaccination. As a result, he had not obtained any subsidy or largesse from the Government on his vaccination. In fact, it was the shortage of free vaccine slots that forced the petitioner to opt for the paid vaccination.

The State had no right to claim the credit by inserting a photograph of the Prime Minister in the certificate issued to a paid vaccine recipient. It was a certificate issued merely to confirm the status of vaccination of a per-

The present COVID-19 campaign appears to be designed to garner a political advantage by projecting a positive image of the Prime Minister. This Governmentsponsored campaign affected both the personal decision-making process and the decision taken by the petitioner as a voter, he said.

The Union Government counsel sought more time to file a statement.

Father, imam held for Kerala girl's death

STAFF REPORTER

Following the death of an 11-year-old girl here a few days ago, the Kannur City police on Wednesday arrested her father and an imam for denying her timely medical treatment for an

The police said the girl's father, Abdul Sattar, a resident of Naluvayal, and imam Muhammad Uwais, a native of Kunjipalli, were arrested on a complaint filed by a relative of the child.

The relative had complained that Fathima, who had high fever, lost her life as she was denied proper treatment due to superstitious beliefs held by the elders in her family.

'Holy water'

The girl was allegedly given only 'holy water' by Uwais, imam of a local mosque, when she was taken to him for curing her.

Police said Uwais allegedly practised witchcraft.

Kannur City Police Commissioner R. Ilango said they were arrested in a case registered for denial of medical treatment.

The relative has sought an investigation against the imam for the mysterious death of five more persons who were allegedly subjected to superstitious practice and dissuaded from seeking medical treatment when they approached him after contracting various diseases, they said.

Police said Fathima, studying in the seventh standard, had fever for three days and died on Sunday.

She was taken to a private hospital when the fever did not subside. According to hospital sources, the girl was brought dead.

(With inputs from PTI)

Cabinet reshuffle on his own terms

Ashok Gehlot

responsible for the defeat.

While the rift in the BJP may intensify with the blame for the poor show being shifted on State president Satish Poonia, the Congress high command has received a message in no uncertain terms that Mr. Gehlot's popularity remains intact. The bypolls campaign was entirely controlled by the Chief Minister, who addressed half-a-dozen rallies in the two constituencies, while his former deputy Sachin Pilot went to the region only once, on the day of filing of nominations.

As part of the electoral strategy, Mr. Gehlot selected MLA Gajendra Singh Shaktawat's wife Preeti Shaktawat as the party candidate in Vallabhnagar despite the deceased legislator having been a staunch loyalist of Mr. Pilot. Mr. Shaktawat was one of the 18 MLAs who had shifted outside the State along with Mr. Pilot during his rebellion last year.

As Ms. Shaktawat has won riding on the sympathy wave, Mr. Gehlot can be said to have got a "disgruntled MLA" in his favour. Moreover, the Congress has snatched the Dhariawad seat from the BJP, which had won there in the last two Assembly elections, and increased its tally to 108 in the 200member House, further strengthening the position of Mr. Gehlot in the State politics.

Heated discussion at Cong. meeting over Huzurabad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

The Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting of the Telangana Congress held on Wednesday after the Huzurabad loss saw a heated exchange of words.

While the meeting was supposed to draw a plan for the agitational programmes against Government policies, serious questions were raised on the Huzurabad candidate's selection.

an SC leader was not given the ticket but a novice like Venkat Balmoor.

Senior leader V. Hanman-

Former Deputy Chief Mi-

tha Rao asked why a BC or

Hyderabad on Wednesday. • NAGARA GOPAL nister Damodar Rajnarsimha, in-charge for candidate's selection, left the meeting abruptly apparently an-

noyed that he was being tar-

great success.

Awareness Week

Taking stock: Telangana Congress leaders at a meeting in

programs are organized at several districts

in the country, including 11 in Delhi. Such

distinguished Chief Guest, Dr. N.S.

Saxena, Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir

POWERGRID) graced the occasion. Sh.

A.K. Mishra, ED (NR-I) welcomed the Chief

Guest by presenting a Book and Planter.

Sh. Manoj Kumar, Sr.GM [Vigilance] NR-I

briefed the significance of celebration of

Vigilance Awareness Week every year. The

theme of this year's Vigilance Awareness

Week was "Independent India @ 75: Self-

Reliance with Intrigrity". ED, NR-I briefed

geographical coverage/challenges,

business model, its progress over

about POWERGRID i.e. its inception,

the years and its overall position in India

and World as well. Sh. Dr. N.S. Saxena,

Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Power

Transmission Limited Chief Guest, was the

Chief Guest in the Valediction Ceremony

at RHQ. Faridabad. During his speech,

he focused on ethics, discipline, integrity

and transparency which are the key

components for the progress of a Company

and a nation as well and quite relevant

to the theme "Independent India @ 75:

SelfReliance with Intrigrity". Sh. Dr. N.S.

Saxena, Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir

Power Transmission Limited, Chief Guest

distributed prizes to the winners of various

competitions [Online Quiz competition and

Online Essay Competition] held during

the week,2021. At last, Sh. Manoj Kumar,

Sr GM [Vig.], NRTS-I gave vote of thanks

to all for making this celebration a grand

administered the Integrity Pledge to

employees across the company through

Video Conferencing in the presence of the

functional Directors and the Chief Vigilance

Officer on the inaugural day of the Vigilance

Awareness Week 2021. Messages of the

Hon'ble President of India, the Hon'ble

Vice President of India, the Hon'ble Prime

Minister of India and the Central Vigilance

Commission were also read out on the

Vigilance Awareness

observed by BHEL

Dr. Nalin

Rao, who has also sought a serious review of the party's

The meeting decided to constitute a committee to regeted by Mr. Hanmantha view the Huzurabad loss.

'SC/ST Act cannot be allowed to be misused'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

An offence under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, cannot be presumed to be committed in every crime where the victim happens to be an SC or ST, the High Court of Karnataka has said.

The court also pointed out that if the motive for crime is not caste-based attack or hatred towards that caste, the accused can only be chargesheeted for any of the offences under the Indian Penal Code that can be appropriately invoked in the background of the incident of crime or under other laws that can be applied as the facts and circumstances indicate.

'Decide wisely'

Though the Act is essentially meant for protecting members of the SC and ST communities from atrocity or oppression, it cannot be allowed to be misused; and therefore, the court said, there is a greater responsibility on the investigating officer to take the decision wisely before filing the chargesheet. Justice Sreenivas Harish Kumar passed the order while quashing the criminal proceedings initiated against one Lokanath, a resident of the city.

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

Punjab & Sind Bank declares **Financial Results**

Today, Punjab & Sind Bank declared the reviewed financial results of the Bank for the quarter ended 30th Sept 2021.MD & CEO of the Bank Sh. S Krishnan informed that the Bank has continued its' good Profit erformance by registering a Net of Rs 218 Cr as at 30.09.2021 against a Net loss of Rs.401 Cr as at 30.09.2020. The Bank has registered a YoY growth of 15.89% in the Total Business. Retail, Agriculture and MSME (RAM) Credit has shown a growth of 7.29%. CASA Deposits has registered a growth of 13.09%. Priority Sector Advances & Agriculture Advances of the Bank stood at 47.37% and 19.43% respectively, exceeding the National target of 40% and 18% respectively. Sh. S Krishnan, MD & CEO also informed that the Bank continued its special focus on NPA Recovery. During Q2 of FY 2021-22, Bank has recovered Rs.893 Cr, including recovery of Rs.60 Cr in Technically Written-Off (TWO) accounts. The Bank has recently launched 'PSB UnIC' a unified digital platform, to provide a hassle-free banking experience to the customer and has also taken several IT initiatives. Bank has launched tailor made loan products, reduced retail loan interest rates at par with other peer Banks and has revamped some of the existing schemes to match with the best in the industry. Bank is embarking on a plan of rebalancing its portfolio as a result of which corporate advances has declined from 52% to 51% while RAM advances has grown from 44% to 46% on QoQ basis. PNB holds Mega credit Outreach

Programme in Delhi

In a bid to reach out to customers and address their credit needs, a Mega Customer Credit Outreach Programme was organized by the lead Bank - Punjab National Bank at Wazirpur Industrial Area, Delhi. The credit outreach Programme was inaugurated by Chief Guest Ms. Cheshta Yadav - District Magistrate (North-West District) Delhi. The program was attended by Shri Ashish Kumar - SDM (HQ) North-West Delhi, Shri K. Meenakshisundram -General Manager of PNB Delhi Zone, Shri Shyam Sunder Narang - Chief Regional Manager of IOB, Shri Anil Ahluwalia - Dy Circle Head North Delhi, Shri Rajinder Choudhary - AGM SLBC Delhi, executives from Public Sector & Private Sector banks and a large number of customers. While recognizing the efforts of all the banks during the Covid-19 pandemic, Ms. Cheshta Yadav appreciated the step taken by the banks to reach out to customers for their credit needs as well. Shri Ashish Kumar emphasized that Banks should give top priority to financial benefits for the poor under various Government sponsored schemes, with particular focus on the recently launched Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Shri K. Meenakshisundram said that in a bid to boost the credit off-take during

A Business Initiative the economic slowdown, credit outreach NBCC & its subsidiary HSCL pays final dividend

NBCC and its subsidiary Hindustan programs would contribute to economic Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) growth and must be continued even after under the Ministry of Housing and Urban the campaign period. On this occasion. Affairs (MoHUA), paid Dividend of INR participating Public and Private Sector Banks distributed sanction letters of around 52.24 and 4.36 crore, respectively Rs 54.64 crore to 415 customers. Punjab (including interim dividend) to the Govt. of India for the year FY 2020-21. The National Bank (North Delhi) distributed sanction letters of Rs 24.00 crore to 144 Dividend cheque(s) were presented to Shri customers. While extending a vote of Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister for thanks, Shri Anil Gupta - LDM North West MoHUA and MoPNG by Shri PK Gupta, District, appreciated all the participants CMD, NBCC & Chairman, HSCL and Shri for making the Credit Outreach Program a TLN Reddy, Managing Director, HSCL in august presence of Shri Durga Shanker Powergrid Observes Vigilance Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA; Shri Kamran Rizvi, Government Nominee Director & Additional Secretary, MoHUA; Smt. BK Vigilance Awareness Week. 2021 was observed in POWERGRID, Northern Sokhey, Director (Finance) NBCC; Shri Region-I from 26 Oct to 01 Nov,2021 at Shyam Awasthi, Director (Finance), HSCL RHQ, Faridabad. During this ceremony, along with Company Secretary of NBCC & HSCL and senior officials from the Ministry.

Power Transmission Limited (Former ED, PNB Observes Vigilance

Awareness Week Observing Vigilance Awareness Week, Shri Vijay Kumar Tyagi - Chief Vigilance Officer of Punjab National Bank (PNB) administered integrity pledge to more than 5000 people with the Bank's employees at Wagha Border, Amritsar. In line with the directives of the Hon'ble Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel on 31st October 2021, PNB is celebrating Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) from 26th October to 1st November 2021. The theme of this year's Vigilance Awareness Week is Independent India @ 75: Self Reliance with Integrity. PNB has taken various initiatives in the recent past to inculcate a sense of honesty and integrity among the employees and to control the internal systems making them more transparent. This includes launching the Tracking and Monitoring of Staff Accountability Cases portal (TMSAC) to track accountability on a real-time basis. In a recently published annual report and the booklet on Preventive Vigilance, the Central Vigilance Commission highlighted the initiatives of PNB with photographs and articles, which is a proud moment and truly remarkable feat for the Bank.

CWC enters into an MoU with agri start up EFAARMS Solution Pvt.

In the presence of Sh Amit Kr Singh, Dir (M&CP) CWC and RM Chandigarh CWC, MoU was signed by GM (Comm.) CWC & COO, EFAARMS. This will leverage the PAN India network of CWC warehouses and ancillary services for delivering quality agri-inputs at Farmer's doorstep, CWC extends 10% discount to agri-startups on published tariff for strengthening agri-sector for the welfare of farming community.

CELEBRATION CAN'T BE AT THE COST OF LIFE Life-Threatening Barium Salt Firecrackers are Prohibited



Toxic chemicals, barium

Delhi Police Wishes Citizens to Celebrate a Clean & Pollution-free Diwali

 Any willful and deliberate disobedience will be dealt very seriously.

salts firecrackers are

cause serious injury.

life-threatening and can

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.rakeshasthana@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to CP, Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi For Immediate Police Help Call 112 For Helpline Services Call 1090

Shinghal, CMD, BHEL,

Week



Mixed bag

Bypoll results hold lessons for the centralising politics of the BJP and the Congress

The results of bypolls in three Lok Sabha seats and 29 Assembly seats across 13 States and one Union Territory are a mixed bag for the BJP and the Congress. The ruling party in West Bengal, the TMC, got a resounding endorsement as it won huge victories in four Assembly seats, while the TRS, despite using all levers of power in Telangana, faced a defeat in the lone Assembly seat. The BJP took a considerable beating in Himachal Pradesh, where it rules, as it lost a Lok Sabha seat and three Assembly seats to the Congress; but it made gains in Madhya Pradesh, where it displaced the Congress in two Assembly seats while retaining a Lok Sabha seat and an Assembly seat. In Assam, it won all five Assembly seats along with a regional ally, displacing the Congress in one. The victory in the Huzurabad Assembly segment in Telangana may be the most encouraging for the BJP, as it defeated the ruling TRS that had left no stone unturned to retain the seat. The Congress defeat in the seat was so decisive that the outcome might point to a definitive turn in State politics. In Karnataka, the BJP faced a setback in the home district of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Reading too much into bypoll results is fraught with risks, but some broad points are noteworthy. Taken together, the results show that the Opposition is alive and kicking, but still devoid of a national narrative, programme or leadership. This set of byelections may not signal any consequential change in the national mood -H.P., which gave a drubbing to the BIP, has only four Lok Sabha seats, while in Bihar, BJP ally, the JD(U), retained both Assembly seats. The polls show that leadership at the State-level matters, and this may be bad news for the BJP that has increasingly centralised power and sought to undermine strong regional leaders. In Karnataka, B.S. Yediyurappa's removal as CM appears to have come with a cost; in Assam, and other northeastern States, the imprint of Himanta Biswa Sarma is unmistakable in the impressive performance of the BJP; in Madhya Pradesh the credit for the party's victories goes to CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan; and in Rajasthan the extent of its defeat can be attributed to the lack of regional leadership. The massive scale of the TMC's performance in West Bengal and the corresponding rout of the BJP prove the former's complete grip over the State, and the latter's continuing struggle to understand it. The party was tamed in the Assembly election earlier this year, and its agenda and approach continue to be distant from the thinking of the Bengali. As for the Congress, what matter more are the defeats in M.P. and Telangana, and not the victories in H.P. and Rajasthan.

The recovery toolkit

The economic recovery remains fragile; rebooting tax policy may help

The latest string of official numbers, including almost-record GST collections, healthy direct tax vide some confidence that the economy has lurched back from the danger zone for the second time in less than a year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. But the healing is still too uneven. GST revenues in October, for transactions done in September, crossed ₹1.3-lakh crore. The Finance Ministry believes this kitty would have been higher if sales of cars and products dependent on chips were not afflicted by shortages. If September's activity reflects pre-festive stocking, the actual festive spending (October-November) may keep GST numbers propped up, but it would be critical to wait for the post-celebration trajectory. October has offered mixed signals so far - manufacturing has seen a surge in output and new orders, domestic and global, but continues to shed jobs, as per the IHS Markit Purchasing Managers' Index. Moreover, manufacturing rivals Vietnam and Indonesia have seen a sharper rise. Diesel consumption, a better indicator of commercial throughput, has been lower than October 2020, while credit growth, rail passenger revenues and traffic congestion have been insipid. India's exports have held strong, but the import bill is rising too as coal, fuel and edible oil prices shoot up.

A hovering fertilizer crisis could yet dampen rabi crop and hit farm sector growth. While that could trip rural demand, rising oil prices pose a persistent threat to growth. One understands a resource-starved Government's preference for certain non-discretionary revenue flows such as those arising from 'fuel consumption' over the less certain 'discretionary consumption' revenues based on households' aspirations and confidence levels about the immediate future. But the longer-term impact of the former constricting the latter would be worse as it also puts paid to hopes of a sustainable investment pick-up. Growth engines will remain throttled rather than go full throttle towards the Centre's five trillion-dollar goal for the economy, unless consumption and investment bounce back. With Wednesday's token tax cuts on petrol and diesel, the Government is clearly changing tack from narratives about the high fuel taxes funding free vaccines and welfare schemes that can only hold legs for some distance. Whether this is prompted by recent electoral setbacks or in anticipation of the bigger State polls ahead, it may need to follow up with more tax cuts as global prices are expected to firm up further. The urban poor have been hit the hardest by the high inflation prevailing since the pandemic's onset in 2020. They, along with the much-celebrated Indian middle class, have the highest propensity for upward spending on consumer durables, homes, two-wheelers, and so on. Beyond a point, people would also like to be self-reliant just as the nation aspires to be, and that would trigger a virtuous cycle for the economy.

Batting for 'One South Asia' makes more sense

When it comes to climate change, India's ideas would pack more punch if they have a clear road map for the region



SUHASINI HAIDAR

ver the course of four days, at the G-20 in Rome and COP26 (the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference) in Glasgow, Scotland, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke at nearly a dozen events, expanding on India's plans to counter climate change. India's record since the 2015 Paris Accord and initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Dis-Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), as a part of which Mr. Modi with other leaders) launched the 'Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)' at the World Leaders Summit at COP26 were widely welcomed. The announcement of India's new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the "Panchamrit" or five goals for the future elicited applause from across the audience. Missing however, was any reference to India's own region, the subcontinent, South Asia, without which India's multiple forays on fighting climate change could well prove fruitless.

South Asia's feeble voice

The absence of a South Asian initiative on climate change led by India, accrues to a number of obvious reasons: India-Pakistan tensions that have led to the degradation of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) process, especially since 2014, when the last SAARC summit was held; events in Afghanistan and

the Taliban takeover which will bring it closer to its Central Asian rather than South Asian neighbours; the differences over pollution issues within the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) grouping that has held up its initiatives like the common Motor Vehicle Agreement (due mainly to Bhutan's opposition); and slow movement amongst the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries along the Bay of Bengal that have yet to bring about a common charter at the global level despite adding climate change as an area of cooperation a decade ago.

Impact of climate change

Why does this matter? To begin with, regardless of relations between any of the countries in South Asia (India-Pakistan being the only notable rivalry), there is no question that this is a cohesive geographical unit that is sheltered by the Himalayas to the north, fed by its many glaciers in an intricate network of rivers that fall into the ocean, and buffeted by the same climate and monsoon conditions. Second, South Asia is slowly becoming the world's biggest area of concern when it comes to climate change. According to this year's Global Climate Risk Index, India and Afghanistan are among the top 10 countries worldwide in terms of vulnerability, but South Asia classifies for the overall lowest values (https:// bit.ly/3bEuMcW). By one estimate, 20 out of 23 major cyclone disasters in the world in the past have occurred around the Bay of Bengal region, and global warming, coastal degradation and soil salinity as well as water scarcities cause the

each year. The Asian Development

Bank now predicts a decrease of 11% in South Asian GDPs by 2100 if "Business-As-Usual (BAU) Emissions" are maintained. With global warming and sea levels rising, other estimates predict there will be nearly 63 million climate migrants in South Asia by 2050 ("Costs of Climate Inaction: Displacement Distress https://bit.ly/3mERLuG).

Second, all these grim figures build a logic for a combined push for global reparations and assistance for the entire region. As a part of the developing world, the Indian subcontinent is not responsible for the massive damage done to the environment already wrought by the developed world, and according to 2019 figures, no single regional bloc has lower per capita emissions than South Asia does (https://bit.ly/3EKwZjL).

Green potential When New Delhi speaks of the need for climate justice, global funding and climate adaptation technology transfer, India's voice would only be strengthened multiple times if it speaks for South Asia as a whole. According to the World Bank's newly launched South Asia road map, climate-smart investment opportunities in South Asia total a whopping \$3.4 trillion, with "energy-efficient green buildings"

alone representing an investment potential of more than \$1.5 trillion. Green transport connectivity and infrastructure, electric vehicles could represent another \$950 billion in investment opportunities by 2030. This does not include the vast sums of funding available for cross-regional solar grids, windfarms and run-of-river energy projects (https://bit.ly/3ECXF5V).

Other drawbacks, China

However, while India and other countries in the region access global banks, including the BRICS-led New Development Bank (NDB), the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and Asian Development Bank for projects individually, there is no single South Asian entity the banks could work with for a more targeted focus and more concessional financing for the problem that faces the region.

Third, growing carbon footprints as well as post-COVID-19 economic compulsions are driving countries into closer regional coalitions, looking for solutions closer home, than those provided by globalisation and long-distance supply chains. South Asia has remained an exception, persistently showing lower inter-regional trade and connectivity, and lower levels of cooperation on migrant labour issues, inter-state tourism and cross-border employment than other regions.

Finally, New Delhi has often warned of the pernicious influence of 'Chinese solutions' to problems in the subcontinent, ranging from unsustainable infrastructure financing to environmentally harmful projects as part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), but it has been unable to proffer a viable alternative, with or without

On certain issues, where India has failed, South Asian neighbours have learned to seek help from other international partners or even each other: when India stopped COVID-19 vaccine exports this year for example, Bhutan, which received vaccines from Denmark and a number of other countries including the United States and China after a desperate global appeal, in turn helped Nepal with stocks of AstraZeneca. When New Delhi failed to respond to Sri Lanka's request for assistance with its currency and debt crisis last year, the Rajapaksa government turned to Bangladesh for a currency swap arrangement. The problems between India and Pakistan that have multiplied manifold in the past few years are no doubt a major obstacle, but not one that cannot be surmounted in the face of a common challenge, as the special SAARC conference on COVID-19 in March 2020 showed.

New Delhi can show the way

When it comes to climate change there is a chance to turn this trend, and for India, the largest country in the region sharing the most boundaries with other South Asian neighbours, to lead the way to find holistic solutions: accessing funding, tapping the latest climate adaptation technology, and finding cross-border markets for renewable energy networks. Mr. Modi's "One Sun One World One Grid" and 'Panchamrit plans' would clearly pack more punch if they contain a clear road map for the region, and strive for a common South Asian taskforce to tackle the enormous challenge that lies ahead for India and its neighbourhood this century.

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India's 5G leap is about powering tomorrow

The revolution that 4G technology ushered in can be enhanced but the nation cannot gloss over the digital divide



SURJITH KARTHIKEYAN &

The fifth generation mobile network, or 5G, is the next level of mobile network that will shape the Fourth Industrial Revolution, or Industrial 4.0, quality of service delivery, innovation, etc. by facilitating smarter and developing societies. Commercial 5G networks began to be deployed in 2020 and are expected to reach 12% of world mobile connections (1.1 billion) and generate revenues up to U.S.\$1.3 trillion by 2025 for operators. The technology that 5G uses will improve data transfer speed at unexpected higher levels almost 100 times more – and reduce latency times helping mission-critical services. Thus, 5G is essential but are we ready for it?

Some roadblocks India's telecom sector, which has revolutionised the digital space and facilitated services-led growth and quality of life, has been estimated to be one of the top performers globally for several years; but it has also been in doldrums for the last few years. Moreover, the Supreme Court of India's ruling on the dues being sought by the Department of Telecommunications (estimated to be more than ₹90,000 crore has further exacerbated the financial condition of telecom companies. It is no wonder

then that the number of telecom operators has come down to a handful from around 15 a few 🖁 years back. In this scenario, the huge investment required for 5G may add to their worries. The trial run of 5G in developed countries such as Japan and the United States reveals that the investment is very high, ranging from \$6 million per small city to \$60 million per large or densely populated

deaths of thousands in South Asia

Much potential

The new generation mobile network nas tne transformative po tential to provide a wide range of benefits to the Indian economy, which when enhanced with artificial intelligence provides a new dimension to connected and autonomous systems. Its use is a chance for Indian policy-makers to educate and empower citizens and businesses, and transform existing cities into smart and innovative cities. This may allow citizens and communities to get socio-economic benefits and comforts delivered by a well-advanced, more data-intensive, digital economy. Broadly speaking, the uses of 5G in India may encompass enhanced outdoor and indoor broadband, the Internet of things, smart cities, smart agriculture, energy monitoring, remote monitoring, smart grids, telehealth, industrial automation, remote patient monitoring and industrial automation to name some of the areas. There is great potential for India to move to an advanced digital revolution.

However, it is imperative to undertake an independent economic assessment, city wise, beginning

with the metro cities, to assess the commercial viability for 5G de-

ployment in India. Till this happens we may continue enhancing the existing quality of 4G networks. Singapore had planned iour 5G networks – two compre hensive 5G networks and two others with smaller and limited coverage, the reason being the high cost in deployment of fibre cables and the scarcity of 5G airwaves.

What needs to be done The immediate priority for India will be in identifying end users and population to be covered, analysis of the existing network and operators, identification of cities for the 5G roll out, working out an investment model, and minimisation of the digital risk and pricing based on the externalities and usage of various sectors. The deployment of 5G in India needs to be carefully planned after a cost benefit analysis by independent experts which will create a level-playing field through market mechanism such as facilitating, simulating, auctioning, ensuring competition, functioning markets, etc.

Once a case is made for 5G, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) may consider preparing a foolproof spectrum road map with a predictable renewal

process which will compensate the huge investment required for deployment and ensure coverage. A level-playing field should be created for all telecom companies with more focus on companies which have the experience of ensuring telecom networks to remote areas and the potential to provide affordable coverage. Global trial runs show that the key areas for 5G deployment are harmonisation of 5G spectrum bands, pricing and sharing of the spectrum. Sharing of available spectrum to maximise its efficient use especially in rural areas, and spectrum allocation procedures that favour investment, need to be

Essential sector-friendly steps

As the deployment of 5G network is expensive, both the Central and State governments may need to consider measures which stimulate fibre investment, attract investment through public private partnerships (PPPs) and facilitate investment funds on a nominal interest basis. Fortunately, the big telecom package along with reforms announced by the Government in the middle of September bring relief and create an enabling environment for investment in the sector. Steps such as a moratorium on dues, redefining adjusted gross revenue, and reducing spectrum charges will help all telecom companies, more so Airtel and Vodafone Idea who face precarious financial situations. Further, allowing 100% foreign direct investment in the telecom sector under the automatic route along with these policy reforms augurs well for the sector to attract investment. Implementation of 5G requires huge investment and the relief package is welcome step.

Tax issues too

The Government also needs to address information asymmetry and negative externalities through laws and regulations/taxes and subsidies. The deployment of 5G technology will also need right of access to government infrastructure such as traffic lights, lamp posts, etc. where wireless operators can deploy electronic small cell apparatus. At the same time reasonable fees may be charged by State and local governments to operators for affordable deployment of 5G equipment, Further, removing the tax burden for deploying fibre networks reduces associated costs, thereby promoting investment as was done by Singapore government, could help in the smooth deployment of fibre in

As India has already witnessed digital revolution even in its remotest areas due to cost-effective 4G technology, the use of 5G can play a vital role in enhancing this sector and also facilitating India's goal to emerge as a manufacturing and innovation hub. The negative implication of 5G is furthering the 'digital divide'. Therefore, Government policies should also focus on affordable coverage through synchronisation of bandwidth.

Surjith Karthikeyan is Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Pravakar Sahoo is Professor, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi. The views expressed are personal

$LETTERS\ TO\ THE\ EDITOR\ \ \text{Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.}$

Bypoll battle

The by-election results have thrown up a mixed bag for the BJP and the Congress (Page 1, November 3). The sheen of the BJP could be fading a bit which could be attributed to contemporary events and issues. It could be a reminder to the party to make course corrections. A. JAINULABDEEN,

- The results are an amber light for the ruling BJP. The ailing Congress may have spotted a green light and needs to act with confidence. DR. D.V.G.SANKARARAO.
- Mamata Banerjee has again proven that she is invincible in West Bengal and could now have the potential

to achieve success outside West Bengal. The by-elections show that however formidable the election machinery and the resources of the BJP may be, it can be beaten. H.N. RAMAKRISHNA,

The road from Glasgow

The green commitments that India made at COP26 are bold (Page 1, November 3). The Indian "assurances" look ambitious as they require many structural adjustments in the management of the economy. The launching of a project to develop infrastructure for small island nations (IRIS) is also a significant gesture to handhold vulnerable countries. Arguably, in the

context of resilient climate change adaptation, the developing nations should be adequately supported in green technology transmission and climate financing. The Lancet has also recently described climate change as the defining narrative of human health. Let us hope COP 26 makes a difference. G. RAMASUBRAMANYAM Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

■ Shifting from fossil to non-fossil energy by the developing nations requires the very latest technology, apart from funding. Unless the developed countries undertake to transfer technology, all the efforts of the developing world will come to naught. In addition, defining concrete and

productive action to be taken by the world during the current decade and achieving the emissions targets being committed by nations for 2030 are crucial. KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,

■ The Prime Minister of India finally pledging India to set a net zero emissions goal and date is a wake-up call for the rest of the world. Having said that, steps to slash carbon emissions by a very large percentage ought to start from this very moment. AANYA SINGHAL, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Brands and message As one who belongs to the millennial generation, I feel proud that the efforts made

by many of the creators of

manner that is best understood. Even peppy advertisements can only boost the sale of products to some extent. The majority of sales have to happen based on the 'merits' of the products. V.S. JAYARAMAN,

Chennai

brand campaigns and

advertisements are paying off

and make us understand and

appreciate the essence of

today's hybrid culture. If

some object to the ideas

thinking to blame.

■ The prime aim of

SUMAN KUMARI,

Faridabad, Haryana

presented by these brands,

they have only their narrow

advertisements should be to

create awareness/interest

about the products, in a

Internal reservation

The judgment of the Madras High Court on reservation is in the right direction. Constitutional reservation is available to those who are socially and economically backward. But for a reservation within a reservation – as here, where 10.5% was earmarked for the Vanniyars within the 20% quota for the OBCs – calls for compelling data to show that they are so exceptionally backward that they deserve such internal reservation. Since such data was lacking. the court struck it down as otherwise caste reservation would lapse into casteism which should be avoided. N.G.R. PRASAD, Chennai

On dealing with false criminal cases

Investigating officers should ensure that no innocent individuals have to suffer the rigours of the law



It is often alleged that false cases of cruelty are registered by the police at the behest of the estranged wife under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and many innocent relatives of the husband are roped in overzealously. This Section, along with Section 304B on dowry deaths, was brought in to check the menace of increasing dowry deaths and the cruelty meted out to married women by their in-laws in 1983. But its misuse has outraged many since then. Similarly, allegations are levelled sometimes for the misuse of certain provisions of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. This special law was enacted to remove the discrimination faced by the SC and ST communities, who remain vulnerable and are sometimes denied their civil rights. But it is alleged that, at times, cases are registered to settle personal scores.

Judgment modified

Realising the misuse of Section 498A, the Supreme Court in Rajesh Sharma vs State of Uttar Pradesh (2017) issued certain guidelines, including the formation of district Family Welfare Committees (FWCs), restraint on arrest till the complaint was examined by the committee, the disposal of the proceedings by a senior judicial officer in case of a settlement between the parties, etc. However, in 2018, the Supreme Court in Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar vs Union of India modified the same judgment, stating that most of the directions had the potential to enter into the legislative field, which was not permissible. It was held that the constitution of the extrajudicial FWCs was contrary to the procedure prescribed under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

Similarly, the Supreme Court in Subhash Kashinath Mahajan vs State of Maharashtra (2018), taking cognisance of the abuse of the process of the courts with regard to certain provisions of the SCs and STs (Preven-



tion of Atrocities) Act, issued certain guidelines, including the holding of a mandatory preliminary inquiry to avoid false implication of an innocent individual, the approval of the appointing authority before the arrest of a public servant, etc.

However, in 2019, the Supreme Court in Union of India vs State of Maharashtra and Ors., overruled the above judgment and held that the guidelines were opposed to the protective discrimination given to members of SC and ST communities as envisaged under the Constitution. Lodging a false report, the court said, "is due to the human failing and not due to the caste factor".

Genuineness of allegations

These judgments indicate that the courts cannot lay additional guidelines when the existing law is unambiguous and only legislature can modify such law in its wisdom. This also means that the onus is on the police to ensure that once the law is set into action, no undue advantage of the special law is taken by the complainant. The investigating officer must not jump to conclusions as soon as a First Information Report (FIR) is registered. Some investigation must be done to confirm the genuineness of a complaint before an arrest takes place. It is a settled law that no arrest can be made in a routine manner on a mere allegation. The arrest must be necessary and justified. Mere authority to arrest is not sufficient.

The Supreme Court, in its land-

for anticipatory bail and for quashing the FIR. The Supreme Court recently held that even in non-compoundable cases that are not so serious or private in nature, the High Court, using its inherent powers under Section 482 of the CrPC, may quash the judicial proceedings even after a conviction, in case a genuine compromise is reached between the warring parties. The Law Commission, in its 243rd report in 2012, had suggested making Section 498A compoundable with the permission of the court, but it was not accepted by the Government. Fourth, in addition to the above, damages may be claimed under the law of tort for malicious prosecution and causing injuries. mark judgment in Arnesh Kumar vs What data show State of Bihar (2014), asked the pol-

case with the police. Third, the complainant may approach a High Court

As per data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in the report Crime in India 2020, about 5% of the cases under Section 498A were found to be false. About 9.4% were either non-cognisable or civil in nature or with insufficient evidence in the end. Similarly, about 12% of the cases under the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act were found to be false by the police, and about 7% were either non-cognisable or civil in nature or with insufficient evidence in the end.

Further, out of the 17,765 cases under Section 498A decided by the courts, 3,425 cases ended with a conviction. Out of the 8,138 cases under the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act decided by the courts, 3,588 cases ended with a conviction. Although there are varied reasons for acquittal, including a delay in lodging the FIR, witnesses turning hostile, compromise between the parties, lack of proper presentation by the prosecution and an appreciation of the evidence by the court, etc., the problem arises when a court concludes that a case is false.

Since the onus of arriving at the truthfulness of a case lies primarily with the investigating officer, it is their duty to investigate the case thoroughly and collect all the facts and circumstances fearlessly. This would ensure that false cases are closed in time and no innocent individuals have to suffer the rigours of the law.

R.K. Vij is a senior IPS officer in Chhattisgarh

A court order for the ages

Pegasus verdict provides an answer to question of privacy



BINOY VISWAM

In a democracy, how far should the Government be allowed to peep into a citizen's privacy? The Government of India has always maintained that there is no limit to this, as long as the act is carried out in the interest of national security. The current Government has handled all Pegasus-related issues on the basis of this premise. The Supreme Court's recent decision provides a definitive answer to this question.

The top court said national security was not a pass for the Government to spy on its own citizens. The expert committee instituted by it is mandated by stringent terms of reference. It is worth noting that the court refused to accept the Government's suggestion for a Government-sponsored commission to investigate the matter. As a result, "we the people" would like to call it a landmark decision. The ruling was made in accordance with the fundamental right to privacy.

Aadhaar case

The Supreme Court had on an earlier occasion interpreted the Constitution and its emphasis on the primacy of privacy. In the Aadhaar case, which I was also a party to, the court determined privacy to be a fundamental right. The current Government has always had a different perspective on this crucial issue. There were allegations that the Government was tapping citizens' phones utilising numerous agencies.

The advent of the Pegasus malware brought the issue to a more dangerous level. The disclosure by the Pegasus Project, a media consortium, was so alarming that it shook the entire world. According to their analysis, Pegasus was utilised in India as well as over 45 other nations. The list included journalists, politicians, judges and activists. Even Ministers in the Union Cabinet were not spared. Initially, the Government bolstered its argument by issuing a blanket denial of the report. When it failed, their strategists worked around the clock to save themselves from a catch-22 predicament.

Parliament's monsoon session arrived in the midst of this controversy. The Government's main objective was to prevent any discussion on Pegasus. The Opposition, on the other hand, was eager to hold the Government accountable. But the MPs' customary avenues for airing their concerns were systematically diluted.

Strictly following the procedures, I gave a notice for the following questions: "The number of memorandum of understandings [MoUs] the Government has entered into with foreign companies and the details sector-wise; whether any of these MoUs with foreign companies has been in order to curb terror activities through cybersecurity and the details of the same; and whether the Government has entered into an MoU with NSO Group in order to curb terror activities through cybersecurity across the nation and, if so, provide details thereof."

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat set a date for them to be included during the Question Hour. But these questions were never brought before Parliament. Moreover, the rights of the MPs were suppressed by the authoritarian arrogance of the Government. The monsoon session was marred by unpleasant incidents. An MP may be compelled to question the relevance of Parliament when it is not permitted to examine vital topics, including the Pegasus issue, the farmers' struggle and price rise. When Opposition members tried to talk about Pegasus, their microphones were turned off.

We have heard Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterating that Parliament is an avenue to debate national concerns. These assurances are like lines drawn on water. Under the cover of national security, they built a fortress to prevent any discussion on Pegasus. Even the spyware's country of origin, Israel, has launched an investigation into it. However, the Government of India was adamant to ensure that no mention of Pegasus was made in the House. An "atmanirbhar [self-reliant]" Government is preaching the ideology of hyper-nationalism and then handing over the key of national security to a spyware controlled by a foreign country.

As far as national security and a citizen's fundamental rights are concerned, the Supreme Court's terms of reference were clear. The state cannot be an adversary in the defence of basic rights. The Government defends its operations by using the term "lawful interception" to justify its acts under the guise of national security. If that argument is permitted to do its rounds indefinitely, the country will devolve into a police state. The significance of the top court's historic decision is that it underlines that restrictions on the right to privacy must pass constitutional scrutiny. Citizens will definitely look up to this verdict as a protective measure in defence of their civil liberties. But they are anxious to know how the Government will cooperate with the fact-finding voyage of the expert committee.

Binoy Viswam is an MP and Secretary of the CPI

STATE OF PLAY

Cong. sweep an alarm for BJP

Bypoll results in Himachal have shocked the party

Himachal

HARISH K. THAKUR

The results of the byelections in Himachal Pradesh have its own story to tell as the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) grip over the situation has slid, which goes against the belief that the ruling clique has leverage to capitalise on. The State went to the polls on October 30 for the Arki, Kotkhai and Fatehpur Assembly seats and the Mandi Lok Sabha seat. The results have shocked the BJP.

Although the Mandi and Arki seats were expected to be under the BJP's influence, the contest at Fatehpur and Kotkhai had weakened its prospects. However, the Congress's sweep of all four seats went against popular expectations. What was more alarming was that the Congress

had increased its vote share to 48.9% in the three Assembly seats against a meagre 28.1% of the BIP. Pratibha Singh. wife of former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh, won by a margin of 8,766 votes against Brigadier Khushal Thakur for the

BJP at Mandi. Rohit Thakur of the Congress defeated Independent Chetan Bragta by 6,293 votes, Bhawani Singh defeated the BJP's Baldev Thakur by 5,634 votes and Sanjay Awasthy defeated the BJP's Rattan Pal by 3,277 votes.

It has been a characteristic of the State for decades now that after a certain Government completes three to four years, an anti-incumbency factor comes to the fore and a formal changeover takes place. Factors like an anti-incumbency mood, failure to meet promises, ineffective leadership and the economic slowdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant role in the current development. Rising oil prices and the consequent inflation acted as the final nail in the coffin for the BJP. Moreover, the loss of stalwarts significantly influenced the results, though the controversial allocation of tickets by both the BJP and Congress also worked adversely for the two.

The BJP paid for the poor allocation of tickets to controversial candidates. In Kotkhai, it gave a ticket to

Neelam Saraik against Mr. Bragta, son of former Minister Narinder Bragta; in Fatehpur to Mr. Baldev against former candidate Kripal Parmar and in Arki to Mr. Pal against two-time winner Govind Sharma. This did not go down well with party workers and led to infighting. The Congress also denied a ticket to Rajender Kumar in Arki, Virbhadra's staunch follower. The BJP was also harsh to the rebels who worked against the party, since the official candidate could secure only around 3,000 votes in Kotkhai. The triangular contest due to intra-party factionalism, which saw a cross-party transfer of votes, seriously damaged the BJP's position in the elections. Although at Arki, the Congress also saw a

rebel in Mr. Kumar, the victory of Mr. Awasthi signified the presence of an anti-incumbency mood.

> The results are also a warning to the central leadership since BJP national president J.P. Nadda and Union Minster Anurag Thakur hail from the State. The active presence

of the duo during the campaign also received a jolt and may lead to a leadership shuffle in the State on the same lines as done in Uttrakhand this year. The real shock came from the Mandi seat, home of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. It must be an unnerving moment for Mr. Thakur as before the elections, there had been voices in the air about a repeat of Ut-

trakhand in Himachal. These elections are a precursor to the Assembly election in 2022. It shows the testing times for the incumbent Government. Rising prices have been at the root of these losses according to several pre-election surveys. Unemployment and ineffective leadership also overturned the Government's achievements of having attained 100% (first dose) vaccination during the pandemic. In between lies the riddle of politics, games of aspirations and intra-constituency dynamics that surely affect such elections.

Harish K. Thakur is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Political Science, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla

DATA POINT

ice to satisfy themselves on the ne-

cessity of an arrest under the param-

eters laid down in Section 41 of the

CrPC. Police officers, in fact, are du-

ty-bound to ensure that the princi-

ples set by the Supreme Court in its

various judgments are implemented

by the investigating officers. Further,

the judicial magistrate is also re-

quired to peruse the report fur-

nished by the police officer and satis-

fy themselves before authorising

Though there are legal remedies

available against those lodging false

reports, the general perception, ho-

wever, is that the remedial measures

are not only insufficient but also inef-

fective. The first remedial measure is

to initiate criminal action against the

person who gives false information

to the police or levels specific crimi-

nal charges against a person. The

police, after completing the investi-

gation, may initiate action under Sec-

tion 182 or 211 of the IPC respectively.

However, both these offences are

non-cognisable and a magistrate's

nod is necessary for initiating further

legal action. The court, on its own, in

certain cases directs the police to

take action under these Sections if,

on the completion of the trial, it is

found that the allegations were com-

filed before a judicial magistrate hav-

ing jurisdiction, who, after an inqui-

ry, can take appropriate action

against a person who filed a false

Second, the complaint may be

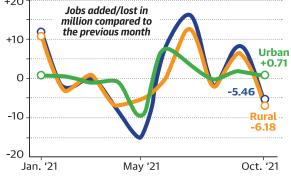
pletely false.

further detention.

Jobs lost and found in

The CMIE's* employment data for October 2021 show that the rural sector recorded a net loss of 6 million (mn) jobs in the month. The loss in employment was mostly observed in the rural construction and manufacturing sectors, which together recorded a net loss of 12 million iobs. Notably, these two sectors had absorbed around 12 million workers in September, which points to sustainability issues in these sectors in rural areas. The rural services sector and the urban manufacturing sector were able to give employment to a significant number of those who lost their jobs in October. By Jasmin Nihalani and Vignesh Radhakrishnan





3. RURAL INDIA: BREAK-UP OF SERVICES SECTOR

Of the 8.30 million jobs created in October in the services sector in rural India, the majority were in the "personal and non-professional services" category, which include house helps, cooks, beauticians, masseurs, gym trainers, barbers, plumbers, gardeners and security guards. As many States opened schools for younger children in November, the rural education sector freshly employed 1.6 million people in October, the highest for any month in 2021. In addition, about 1.19 million and 1.51 million found employment in retail trade and tourism respectively. The table shows new jobs gained and lost in rural areas across select service sectors

Month	Retail trade	Travel and tourism	Education	Personal non- professional services
Jan-21	0.80	-3.53	0.17	-1.85
Feb-21	0.70	1.38	0.74	-0.24
Mar-21	-6.04	-0.30	-0.70	1.33
Apr-21	6.01	0.07	-0.13	-1.76
May-21	-6.21	-1.94	-0.25	0.36
Jun-21	7.53	-0.30	0.70	-3.43
Jul-21	-4.38	1.27	-0.47	0.73
Aug-21	5.52	0.98	-0.27	3.56
Sep-21	-4.20	-1.46	-0.25	-2.19
Oct-21	1.19	1.51	1.58	3.19

2. RURAL INDIA: INDUSTRY TYPE-WISE

The table depicts jobs gained/lost across major industry types in rural India this year. The manufacturing sector and the real estate & construction sector, the primary drivers of employment in rural India in September, shed workers in October. Together, the sectors shed 12 million workers in October, almost the same number they hired in September. At the same time, the rural services sector absorbed about 8.3 million new workers in Octobe

Month	h Agri Manufac- Construc- turing tion		Construc- tion	Services
Jan-21	5.68	0.50	8.21	-3.77
Feb-21	1.61	-1.87	-4.09	1.38
Mar-21	6.48	0.59	-1.76	-4.71
Apr-21	-10.61	-0.42	2.89	2.17
May-21	8.81	0.57	-8.32	-6.48
Jun-21	-3.34	-0.80	0.01	4.23
Jul-21	11.74	0.35	3.01	-2.46
Aug-21	-9.27	-0.75	-0.36	8.55
Sep-21	0.55	4.70	7.55	-6.80
Oct-21	-2.03	-4.26	-7.77	8.30

4. URBAN INDIA: INDUSTRY TYPE-WISE

Urban India's real estate & construction sector and the agriculture sector saw only marginal increases in jobs in October. On the other hand, the urban services sector shed nearly 3 million jobs, the first such loss for the sector in the past five months. Manufacturing, which was shedding jobs for the past three months, absorbed the majority of workers. About 3.73 million workers were added to the sector in October

Month	Agri	Manufac- turing	Construc- tion	Services			
Jan-21	-1.13	-0.10	0.27	0.50			
Feb-21	-0.43	2.84	0.10	-1.62			
Mar-21	0.20	-1.17	-0.44	0.37			
Apr-21	2.00	-0.17	-0.20	-1.22			
May-21	-0.46	-3.69	-3.24	-3.44			
Jun-21	-2.07	4.14	2.23	3.55			
Jul-21	0.45	-1.24	2.29	2.26			
Aug-21	1.15	-0.13	-0.17	0.01			
Sep-21	-1.06	-1.83	-2.00	5.67			
Oct-21	-0.41	3.73	0.10	-2.93			

Source: * Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy

The Man Trindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 4, 1971

Chavan surveys cyclone-hit areas

A grant of ₹2 crore to the Orissa Government for undertaking relief and rescue operations in the cyclone-affected areas of the State was announced here to-day by the Union Finance Minister, Mr. Y.B. Chavan, addressing a press conference after making an aerial survey of the devastated areas in a helicopter. Lack of finance, Mr. Chavan said, would not stand in the way of relief operation. Mr. Chavan also had discussions with State Government officials. On his return from the aerial survey, Mr. Chavan had a conference with the State Chief Minister, Mr. Biswanath Das, members of the Cabinet and senior officials of the State Government on the relief measures to be taken in the affected areas. The Opposition leader in the Orissa Assembly, Mr. Binayak Acharya, was the only nonofficial present at the conference, Mr. Chavan said he had flown over the coastal stretch of Cuttack and Balasore districts for nearly three hours. One area was affected by tidal bore and the other by cyclone. Giving his impressions of the ravage, Mr. Chavan said that it was "shocking and painful". Even the Prime Minister, who was away, was deeply concerned about the tragedy, he ad-

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 4, 1921 Anti-drink campaign

In response to invitation from leaders in Mettupalaiyam and surrounding villages, a large meeting was held in Mettupalaiyam yesterday. Leaders from various places attended, including Messrs. Venkataramana Iyenger M.L.C., Vellingiri Goundar M.L.C. and Ratnasabapathy Mudaliar, President Coimbatore Taluk Board. Mr. Venkataramana Iyenger presided. Speeches were made by several leading men, including Mr. Vellingiri Goundar. A resolution was passed requesting the headmen of several castes to organise anti-drink campaigns, the tree owners not to lease trees for tapping toddy, potters not to give pots and the contractors to close shops even at a little cost and lastly requesting the M.L.C.'s to take immediate steps in the Council to have prohibition bills. The President closed the meeting with a long speech exhorting the audience to continue in the same strain in their campaign against drink fearlessly and said that so long as the campaign was carried on peacefully, they need not fear the Government and that the Government would not prohibit such measures as the resolution set forth.

IN BRIEF

Sonia accepts Amarinder

Singh's resignation

Gandhi accepted the

Congress president Sonia

resignation of former Puniab

Chief Minister Captain (Retd)

Wednesday. Party general

President has accepted the

Amarinder Singh from the

primary membership of Indian

National Congress". Mr. Singh

had sent his resignation letter

He made it clear that his party

would tie up with the BJP in

the Assembly elections.

to Ms. Gandhi on Tuesday.

secretary K.C. Venugopal

said, "Hon'ble Congress

resignation of Captain

Excise duty on petrol cut by ₹5, diesel by ₹10

The RBI has been mooting fuel tax cuts since February to cool down persistently high inflation. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had defended the high taxation saying there is no assurance that the States would cut duties if the Centre did so and called for a coordinated approach.

On Wednesday, the Finance Ministry said the reduction in excise duty on petrol and diesel "on the eve of Deepavali" would boost consumption and keep the inflation low.

The Government had recently blamed the need to service oil bonds issued by the UPA Government to rein in high prices during its tenure. In the past few weeks, it has also argued that the petroleum taxes are helping fund COVID-19 vaccination and other welfare

'Too little, too late'

The Opposition criticised the move as being too little, too late and being nudged by electoral pressures. Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool Congress termed it a "stunt".

"Happy Deepavali for Government of India. Last year, excise duty on petrol increased by 65% but now decreased by 15%. Between April and September, Government's collection from excise on petrol rose 33% compared to last year. Collection of excise is 79% more than pre-Covid levels," he said in a tweet.

"In 2021, price of petrol was hiked by ₹28 & Diesel by ₹26/litre. After losing 14 byelections & two Lok Sabha seats, reducing Petrol-Diesel price by ₹5 & ₹10 is tomtommed as 'Deepavali Gift' of Modi Ji!," tweeted Congress leader Randeep Singh Suriewala.

In a statement, the Finance Ministry said, "In recent months, crude prices have witnessed a global upsurge. Consequently, domestic prices of petrol and diesel had increased in recent weeks exerting inflationary pressure. The world has also seen shortages and increased prices of all forms of energy."

At the last GST Council meeting in September, the Government had taken note of a Kerala High Court order asking for the inclusion of petroleum products under the GST net to be considered. However, the Council had reached a consensus that this was not the appropriate time to do so.

Emphasising that the excise duty on diesel had been lowered by twice the amount as petrol, the Ministry said this would particularly help farmers in the upcoming rabi season.

Prime Minister calls for door-to-door vaccination

He also suggested that raising awareness on the benefits of vaccination was the only solution and asked the officials to take help from religious leaders to encourage people to get their doses soon.

The Prime Minister noted that religious leaders are very enthusiastic about the vaccination campaign and urged for a special emphasis on taking their message to the public.

The Prime Minister cautioned that equal attention need to be paid to seconddose vaccination because whenever the cases of infection start decreasing, sometimes the feeling of urgency decreases.

"You will have to contact those people who have not taken the second dose despite the stipulated time on a priority basis... ignoring this has created problems for many countries," he said.

He emphasised that under the free vaccine for all campaign, India created a record of administering about 2.5 crore doses in a day which bears testimony to its capabilities.

Covaxin gets WHO's emergency use nod





According to information released by the WHO, Covaxin was found to have 78% efficacy against COVID-19 of any severity, 14 or more days after the second dose, and is extremely suitable for low- and middle-income countries due to its easy storage requirements.

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, welcoming the announcement, said, "This is a proud moment for the entire country."

The WHO in its tweets on Wednesday said that the Technical Advisory Group, convened by the WHO and made up of regulatory experts from around the the Covaxin vaccine meets the WHO's standards for protection against CO-VID-19; that the benefit of the vaccine far outweighs risks; and that the vaccine can be used. It added that Covaxin vac-

world, has determined that

cine was also reviewed by the WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE)

Dr. Krishna Ella, chairman and MD, Bharat Biotech, said, "Validation by the WHO is a very significant step towards ensuring global access to India's widely administered, safe and efficacious Covaxin."

Central teams rush to States hit by dengue

"A total of 15 States/UTs are reporting their maximum cases this year; these States contribute 86% of the country's total dengue cases till October 31," the release noted. The Central teams are tasked with assisting and supporting the States/UTs to mount an effective public health response.

The teams have been asked to report on the status of availability of kits and medicines, early detection, availability and use of insecticides, status of anti-larval and anti-adult vector con-

trol measures. They will also brief the State health authorities on their observations.

Palestinian PM calls for Indian support

In meeting with Modi, Mohammad Shtayyeh says New Delhi can play a stabilising role in West Asia

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

NEW DELHI India can play a stabilising role in West Asia by maintaining cooperation with "all related parties", Prime Minister of Palestine Mohammad Shtayyeh has said.

In a statement issued after he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday in Glasgow on the sidelines of the COP26 summit, Mr. Shtayyeh said India had a historic tradition of supporting the rights of the Palestinian people and that its technical support should be "parallel to the political support".

'We look forward to a well-established and distinguished Indian role in Middle East [West Asia] based on the historical perspective of India's foreign policy, foremost of which is supporting the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its

PEERZADA ASHIQ

The recently inaugurated

Srinagar-Sharjah flight was

forced to take a longer route

on Tuesday after Pakistan

raised objections over the

use of its airspace. Union

Home Minister Amit Shah in-

augurated the direct flight

between Srinagar and Shar-

jah on October 23 during his

three-day visit to J&K. The

flight was the first direct in-

ternational connection from

tion to take a longer route

was conveyed to the Go First

airlines on October 31 after

Pakistan "denied the air-

ny in Kashmir as a change in

Pakistan's stand towards In-

dia. But the detour means

that the flight, which was

scheduled to be three-hour

long, now takes an addition-

al 30 minutes to reach Shar-

jah. The airfare too has gone

Government and airline

sources said that other west-

bound flights using Pakis-

The flight was seen by ma-

space all of a sudden".

An official said the direc-

Srinagar.

But continues to permit other flights



Need of the hour: State of Palestine's Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh speaks at COP26. • REUTERS

capital," Mr. Shtayyeh said. He said India's role in multilateral organisations required "strenuous efforts in cooperation with all related parties to achieve security and stability in the Middle East and West Asia".

The meeting, though on the sidelines of the global summit on environment and climate change, is of significance as it comes soon after the four-day visit to Israel by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. The visit was commented upon widely as

tan's airspace, including

those to the U.S. and U.K.

Srinagar was unavailable for

tan closed its airspace for

flights from India after In-

dian fighter jets targeted a

terrorist camp in Balakot in

the aftermath of an attack in

Pulwama. The airspace was

National Conference vice-

president Omar Abdullah

said, "Very unfortunate. Pa-

kistan did the same with an

Air India Express flight from

Srinagar to Dubai in 2009-

10. I had hoped that Go First

airways being permitted to

flying over Pak airspace was

indicative of a thaw in rela-

tions but that wasn't to be."

president Mehbooba Mufti

said it was puzzling that the

Government of India did not

even bother securing per-

mission from Pakistan to use

its airspace for international

(With inputs from

Iagriti Chandra)

flights from Srinagar.

Peoples Democratic Party

reopened later in July.

The Airport Director of

In February 2019, Pakis-

were unaffected.

it excluded a trip to the Palestinian territory.

The Palestinian leader pointed out that India had an important role to play in international affairs due to its growing profile.

"We are ready for all forms of cooperation with India which is serving as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for 2021-22 and was re-elected to the Human Rights Council for the 2022-24."

The comments can be interpreted as subtle messages for support on multilateral platforms.

In recent years, India has broken the tradition of supporting Palestine at the U.N. In 2019, India voted in favour of Israel at the ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) to deny observer status to a Palestinian organisation named Shahed. In June, India abstained during the voting on a resolution calling for investigation into Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip at the Human Rights Council which drew strong protest from Foreign Minister Riyad Al Malki who wrote a letter critical of India's abstention.

Mr. Shtayyeh, who attended the COP26 summit earlier, made headlines for saying Israeli occupation threatens the Palestinian environment.

Threat to environment "We are here to tell the

world that the Israeli occupation is the most critical long-term threat to the Pales-

tinian environment," Mr, Shtayyeh said while reading his comments as the leader of the Palestinian delegation on Monday.

Mr. Modi also met his Israeli counterpart Naftali Bennett on Tuesday before leaving for New Delhi and invited him to India to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic ties.

Technical backing Mr. Shtayyeh appreciated In-

dia's financial and technical support.
"This support must be pa-

rallel and complementary with the political support of the Palestinian cause and in a manner that guarantees the implementation of international resolutions."

The meeting between Mr. Modi and Mr. Shtayyeh is the first between them since February 2018 when PM Modi visited Palestine months after he paid a visit to Israel.

No properties attached by I-T Dept.: Ajit Pawar

A day after the I-T Dept provisionally attached assets allegedly linked to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Aiit Pawar, his office on November 3 said no properties linked to him had been seized and that the agency had not sent any notice on this count. His lawyer Prashant Patil said media reports on the alleged seizure of the properties linked to Mr. Pawar had "no basis in fact".

DRDO, IAF jointly test anti-airfield weapon

The Defence Research and **Development Organisation** and the Indian Air Force have iointly carried out two flight tests of the indigenouslydeveloped smart anti-airfield weapon. The weapon was launched by an IAF aircraft from the Chandan ranges at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on October 28 and November 3, a Defence Ministry statement said. "In both the tests, the

No more proof against

intended target was hit with

to collect ₹100 crore.

Pak. closes airspace to A day before Deepavali, air quality Srinagar-Sharjah flight in Delhi drops to seasonal low

It is likely to improve after Nov. 6 from rise in windspeeds

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ NEW DELHI

A day before Deepavali, air quality has dipped to a seasonal low of 320 - or the "very poor" category in the Delhi National Capital Region. Despite a spike in instances of farm fires from Punjab and Haryana this week, they aren't a contributor to the quality, according to meteorological analysts.

There were close to 2,700 instances of stubble burning on Wednesday and on Tuesday, 3,000 instances were recorded from Punjab, 203 from Haryana and 87 from Uttar Pradesh. "The contribution of biomass burning in PM2.5 concentration is likely to be less than 5% as winds are not favourable for transportation of pollutants," according to an analysis from the Air Quality Early Warning System of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The air quality over Delhi is likely to remain poor, at least until November 6 and fires from Punjab and Harya- tra, Fatehabad, Ambala and then improve from an anticina were down by 50% from Jind.



Grim day: Delhi's skies wore a grey appearance on the eve of Deepavali on Wednesday. ■ v.v. KRISHNAN

pated rise in windspeeds. Moisture and the lack of adequate winds also lower the mixing height that then retards the natural dispersion of pollutants. A mixing height less than 6,000 m with average wind speed less than 10 kmph is unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants. Currently the mixing depths are around 1,700 m and windspeeds less than 10 kmph. A note on Wednesday from the Commission for Air Management Ouality (CAQM) said instances of stubble burning and farm Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshe

last year. The active paddy residue burning events in Punjab, Haryana, NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan and the NCR of Delhi have come down from 43,918 in 2020 to 21,364 in 2021 during September 15-November 2, thus registering an overall reduction in the fire counts by 22,554.

The hotspots of paddy residue burning in Punjab are Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Firozpur, Patiala, Ludhiana and Kapurthala. Similarly, the hotspots in Haryana are

Deshmukh: Param Bir MUMBAI Former Mumbai Police

high accuracy," it said.

Commissioner Param Bir Singh has told a commission set up to investigate corruption allegations against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh that he does not have any further evidence on the matter. The affidavit was filed before the committee appointed to probe the letter written by Mr. Singh alleging that Mr. Deshmukh had directed Vaze

Despite bail, it's a long road out of jail for many

The delay in release of undertrials who have been granted bail by courts is an attack on their constitutional liberties

ARNABJIT SUR NEW DELHI

Faizan, 19, arrested on Mav 31 in a case of robbery, was granted bail by a Delhi court on September 24, but was eventually released on October 16 after tackling a series of legal hurdles.

Similarly, Javed*, an accused in an arson case in connection with the Delhi riots, was granted bail on June 10 last year, but it took a 20-day ordeal for him to be released from the Mandoli jail, where he was languishing since March last year.

Almost a week has passed after Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan was released from the Arthur Road Jail a day after being granted bail by the Bombay High Court due to delay in paperwork following which they missed the deadline to provide the iail with physical copies of the release orders. This shines a light on a number of undertrials who have to spend several weeks to more than a month in jail after being granted bail as they either cannot pay the surety amount or are stuck in unnecessary delays like address verification or simply due to errors minor documentation.

In Faizan's case, the court had imposed a bail bond of ₹50,000 on the teenager, who works at a small private company while his father is a contract labourer. Since he could not arrange the same, an application was moved by his lawyer seeking a reduction of the amount but it was denied. "It took some time but his relatives managed to collect the surety amount and he was released after 23 days," his lawyer Dinesh Tiwari said.

In Javed's case, the court, as part of the bail bond, asked him to submit a fixed deposit receipt of ₹25,000. "Since he didn't have the amount readily available, we offered his e-rickshaw in its place which cost much more than ₹25,000 but the court refused to accept it and it further delayed the process," his lawyer Tanvi Sharma, recalled.

Constant hurdles

Several lawyers The Hindu spoke to claimed that among the several legal obstacles faced by these undertrials, arranging a local surety, a condition imposed by a majority of courts while granting bail, has proved to be a major concern. "The undertrial might be an impoverished migrant from some farflung place and will not have someone who will stand surety for him or her," Mr. Tiwari said.

He said that often, issues arise during address verification or when there is an error in the release warrant. "Address verifications take a lot of time as the police personnel might have to go to the accused or the surety's village which takes a week or more. There are also errors



Red tape: Aryan Khan had to wait a few days for his release after getting bail. Several others endure the same. • FILE РНОТО

in the accused's name on the release warrant but jail authorities can always check the FIR where the case details are already mentioned," he

After an accused is granted bail, a bail bond is imposed where a local surety, a relative or a friend of the unarranges the amount, be it in the form of property documents, vehicle papers, or through an fixed deposit receipt.

If the accused violates the bail conditions, the submitted amount or collateral will be deducted or seized res-A local surety is generally

combined with submission of a personal bond, where an undertrial signs an affidavit of a particular amount, which needs to be deposited if he or she breaches bail

conditions.

Advocate Chandan Goswami pointed out that often, getting a certified bail order copy becomes a cumbersome process. "Unless you ask for a dasti copy, the court doesn't upload the order copy which further scuttles the process," he said.

On the insistence on local sureties, Mr. Goswami said "The Supreme Court and several High Courts have repeatedly clarified that a surety can be local or from any other state but the law dictates that you have to accept it nonetheless and let the

Procedural delay

He added that while proper legal representation speeds up the process, those who cannot afford such assistance continue to languish in

"Even with legal aid, it takes around four days to complete all the formalities. If the order gets uploaded on the website instantly and is sent directly to the jail, it wouldn't take so long," he said.

jail for at least a month.

"In one case, a 23-year-old orphan was granted bail in a theft case six months ago, but he hasn't been released vet as he has no legal aid to ensure a surety and even his bail order wasn't available with the court. Often, jail authorities don't even have the release orders on time," advocate Tamanna Pankaj

However, advocate B. Badrinath claimed that courts have been generous in letting undertrials out only on personal bonds over the past few months. "While imposing a local surety, the court keeps in mind the risk factor of the accused absconding,"

he said. Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves said that courts have repeatedly said that once a bail order is given, the release should be quick.

Meanwhile, senior advocate Rebecca John argued "Even if the court is concerned about the accused breaching bail conditions, merely imposing a heavy surety will not prevent that from happening because there have been cases where undertrials have jumped bail despite a high surety."

She added that once a bail

order is passed, "any unnecessary delay in release is a violation of constitutional protections". "For verification, trial courts should follow a strict timeline so that people don't have to spend more time in custody."

Earlier this year, the release of student activists Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Iqbal Tanha in a Delhi riots case was delayed by two days over verification of their addresses and sureties, following which the Delhi High Court ordered their immediate release.

Supreme Court judge Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, while speaking at an online event on Wednesday, called the delay in communicating bail orders to jail a "very serious deficiency" which needs to be addressed on a "war-footing" as it "touches upon the human liberty" of the

prisoner. This comes after the Supreme Court in July had taken suo motu cognisance of the delay in the release of 13 prisoners from the Agra Central Jail despite being granted

The apex court, in September, gave the go-ahead to implement a system called FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) which would allow transmission of e-copies or court orders through an electronic channel to jail authorities.

*Name changed on request

M ND-NDE

Scores level after bypolls: Chidambaram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Wednesday claimed that the bypoll results in Assembly constituencies show that "the honours are even" today between the BJP and the parties opposed to it.

In a series of tweets, analysing the results of 30 Assembly seats across 14 States, Mr. Chidambaram wondered which way "will the wind blow in the 2022 in elections States".

"Here is a thought provoking analysis – BJP won seven seats and its declared allies won eight seats. Congress won eight seats. Non-BIP parties won seven seats of which only one seat was won by a crypto-ally of the BJP, namely YSR Congress. The other six seats were won by parties opposed to the BJP," the former Finance Minister said on Twitter.

"The honours are even today. Which way will the wind blow in 2022?" Mr. Chidambaram added.

"It's Diwali and inflation is at its peak. It's not a matter of joke. I wish the Modi government had a sensitive heart for the public," former Congress president Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

Bangladesh national held for terror links

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a Bangladesh national for his alleged association with banned terror outfit Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

The case pertains to online recruitment and radicalisation of the youth by the JMB. The arrest of accused Mohammed Abdul Mannan Bachu was made during a search operation in West Bengal on Tuesday.

Bachu belongs to Bangila Chadshi in Bangladesh's Barisal. He has been living at Panchghara in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

The latest searches also led to the seizure of electronic devices, fake Indian Voter ID cards, Aadhaar cards and other papers used to create such identification documents.

ISSUED BY PR O (WATER)

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

BJP meeting to review bypoll results

J.P. Nadda to address national executive on Sunday; Modi to deliver concluding speech

NEW DELHI

The BJP will get into a huddle on Sunday for the long-delayed meetings of the party's national executive, and on top of the agenda will be the Assembly elections next year as well as a review of the justconcluded byelections which yielded mixed results for the party.

The meeting will be held from morning to mid-afternoon, and will be kicked off by BJP president J.P. Nadda's address to the executive. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the concluding address.

As COVID-19 protocols are in place, only national executive members of the party who live in Delhi, national office-bearers of the party and Union Ministers who are members of the national executive will be asked to be present in person, while those outside Delhi have



Dealt with a blow: Congress workers celebrating in Mandi in Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday. The BJP lost all the seats they contested in the State. • PTI

been asked to join virtually. A day after the results of the byelections to 29 Assembly seats and three Lok Sabha seats across 11 States, BJP leaders admitted that in the case of Himachal Pradesh at least, where the party lost all the seats it was contesting, a review into the

causes of defeat was important and was going to take place soon.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur, himself an MP from Himachal Pradesh, speaking to the news agency ANI said in Dharamshala that "the Himachal Pradesh will call a timely meeting, discuss people's mandate and look for reasons behind it. Learning from it, steps will be taken to make necessary improvements so that the lotus [the BJP's electoral symbol] blooms again in 2022 [when Himachal Pradesh goes for Assembly polls]."

When pressed for the reasons for the party's loss in the State, Mr. Thakur refused to pinpoint any one reason, while Chief Minister Jairam Thakur had pointed to high prices being a factor.

Local factors

"It's too early to say anything. Results came in different States of the country. The BJP won all five seats in Assam, we won in Madhya Pradesh, won one out of two seats in Karnataka. Every State has its own local issues for bypolls, every party brainstorms over it, we will do it too," he said.

A political resolution, likely covering issues such as the farmers' protests over the three controversial farm Bills, the vaccination programme and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir will be debated and passed during the national executive meet-

Temples now get funds: Adityanath

'Only *kabristans* benefited earlier'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said the previous Governments in the State were spending public money on boundary constructing walls of kabristans, while his Government was spending the money on reconstruction and beautification of temples. Mr. Adityanath was speaking in Ayodhya during the Deepotsav event.

Mr. Adityanath said those who loved kabristan invested public money on such places. And those who love dharm and sanskriti are using the money on the uplift of religion and culture.

In the past too, in particular in the 2017 Assembly election, Prime Minister Modi himself had drawn a parallel between two communities in a contentious re-



Yogi Aditvanath during Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya on Wednesday. • PTI

mark that if a kabristan was being constructed, a shamshaan should too.

In Ayodhya, Mr. Adityanath also announced that the free ration being distributed to the poor in the State would be extended till Holi next year, coinciding with the 2022 Assembly elections. This would benefit 15 crore people, he said.

Congress likely to revisit its alliance with the RJD in Bihar

Before polls, seat sharing ran into troubled waters

SOBHANA K. NAIR

The humiliating results in the byelection to two Assembly seats in Bihar has made the Congress sit up and rethink its relationship with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) as many leaders in the State feel that the alliance is dragging them down. In both seats, its vote share is far below the victory margins of the winning Janata Dal(U). On the other hand, the RJD is ready to forget and forgive, irrespective of the ugly spat.

Bhakta Charan Das, Bihar

State in-charge of the Congress, told The Hindu that the results and the events preceding it would be analysed before the party takes a

While admitting that the party's performance in the bypolls was sub-par, he also put the blame on the RJD. "Lalu Prasad Yadavji's comments that the Congress and the RJD have reached an understanding, signalling to voters that it's a friendly match, because of which even the ones who were keen on us decided to desert us," he

Ms. Das added that the alliance should be based on a "clear-cut understanding" between the two sides. "Otherwise, it is meaningless to



Congress is upset with Lalu run-up to the polls.

be together," he added. The Congress decided to

go solo after the RJD refused to concede Kusheshwarsthan to it. The Congress got only 5,603 votes in Kusheshwarsthan, which is 20 fewer than the tally of Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti (Ramvilas). The JD(U) won by more than 12,000 votes. In Tarapur, the Congress got only 3.590 votes whereas the victory margin for the JD(U) was

The prolonged identification with the RJD has marginalised the Congress in Bihar. Leaders point out that in the 1995 Assembly election, the only instance when Mr. Lalu Prasad formed a majority government in the State, the Congress had a 16% vote share and 29 seats. To serve the interests of individual leaders in the State, the party, instead of occupying the Opposition space, went soft on the RJD. Nitish Kumar and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) moved into the vacuum

left by the Congress.

In the 2000 election, the Congress's vote share fell to 11%, with the party winning 23 seats. All the 23 Congress MLAs supported Mr. Yadav's minority government. "The Congress practically subsumed its identity within the RJD. And the slide that started from 1995 has not halted since," a senior Congress leader said.

While the RJD, the Congress leaders argue, will retain the Muslim and Yadav vote bank in the Assembly election, there is always a strong recoil. "There is a deep-seated fear among the voters that, if the RJD comes to power, the misadministration of Lalu Prasad's regime will return. This leads to an

aggressive counter polarisation. Why should we carry this baggage?" a senior Congress leader said.

Congress leaders also say

that in the Lok Sabha elec-

tion, the Yadav vote bank has already started deserting the "We have to think about

the longer run, especially the next Lok Sabha election in 2024," a Congress leader

Dispute over candidates The RJD does not share this sentiment. What happened in these bypolls, senior RJD leader Manoj K. Jha said, was episodic in nature, with a dispute over the candidate.

The RJD, he said, wanted to field a person from a mar-

ginalised community but the Congress was not on board with it. "These results categorically tell you that the RJD has got votes from non-traditional quarters. Our vote share has actually gone up. The alliance with the Congress remains robust and State-level leaders should refrain from making denigrating remarks against the RJD, which doesn't do their [Congress] party a favour," Mr. Jha

RJD leaders are confident that the Congress's central leadership will prevail over the State leadership. "The truth is that they will never break ties since the party's Delhi leadership would not want to lose a trusted ally," another RJD leader said.

Government of Odisha, "e"- Procurement Notice **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)** Bid Identification No. C.C.E.Dkl.(R&B) 07/2021-22 Email Id- sedklpwd@gmail.com Letter No.1906 / Dt.29/10/2021

The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road and Bridge work a detailed below: : Road and Bridge work 1. Name of the work

2. No of works 3. Estimated Cost

4. Cost of tender paper 5. Class of contractor

re details required above can be seen on website www.delhi.govtprocurement.com

6. Period of Completion of work : 09 (Nine) Calendar months

of bid Document in the website

: Rs.10,000.00 : 'A', 'Special' & 'Super'

· 02 (Two) Nos Rs 4 46 41 911/- to Rs 6 82 23 169/-(as given in co

(as given in column No.06 of table)

(as given in column no.07 of table) From Dt.08.11.2021 to 05.30 P.M. of Dt.22.11.2021

8. Date of opening of bid

: Dt.23.11.2021 at 11.30 hours Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal.

OFFICE OF THE DY. DIRECTOR (HORTICULTURE) EAST DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF N.C.T. DELHI CHANDRAWAL: WATER WORKS NO.II CIVIL LINES: DELHI-54 Office Telephone No. 23811418 E-mail: ddheast2019@gmail.com "STOP CORONA; WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE" Press Short NIT No.12(Item No.01)/(2021-22)/Re-invited) Name of Work Earnest Money (EMD) Publication date of time for receipt of tender from solution

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVERNMENT OF N.C.T. OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SWD) IX SEC-11 ROHINI DELHI-110085 "STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Mai Press NIT No.07 EE (SWD) IX (2021-22) S. Name of Work Earnest Money (EMD) Last date / time for receipt of tender through e-procuren Supply, Installation, Testing and tem Cost 91.30 Lakhs EMD is exempted as | 2021 DJB 210578 1 | 14.12.2021 ioning of Cloth Disc Filte er present Govt, norms, Howe set various STPs of DJB includ bidder has to fill Annexure-I in lieu (Package-B) NIT along with all terms and condition is available on website. https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.ir

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT SMS HOSPITAL, JAIPUR (Sawai Man Singh Road, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302001) (Phone 0141-2518222, 2560291, Email-ms.smshospital@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING BID (UBN No. MCJ2122WLRC00150) Sealed Single Stage Two-envelopes unconditional online Bids for Supply provider are invited on behalf of The Government of Rajasthan for the procurement of services listed below, from importers/authorized dealers/service company/Agents & other service provider firm up to 5.00 PM on 29/11/2021

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost lakh	Bid Security	Bidding Docu- ment fee(Rs.)	Bid Process- ing Fee (Rs.)	UBN No.
01	Rate contract of security services for two year at SMS Hospital Jaipur	1200.00	120000/-	1000/-	1000/-	

Details of NIB, Bidding Schedule, conditions and Bidding Document may be seen on the website of the State Public Procurement Portal http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or e-procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and may be downloaded from there

No.14309 DIPR/C/11002

Medical Superintendent Date: 29.10.21

Contractors, Er sountission is a so perfinited, or the following works upp 3.00 PM of 015,22021. The reliefs will be opened by the Corporation Office on the same day at 3.30 PM. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the Tender specified, the Tender will be opened on next working day. The Contractor who wish to participate in the Tender and your load bit Tender documents through these. PMEP and possible Tender sound in the Tender and possible the Tender documents through these. PMEP and the Tender work of the Tender work of the Tender sound in the Tender sound to the Tender sou

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l.).	Name of the Work	Estimate Cost (Rs.in Crore)	Earnest Money (Rs.in Lakhs)	Contractor Class				
•	Improvements of Sathya Stadium-Providing Walking Track in Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation	3.00	3.00	I class contractor				
	Improvements of Sathya Stadium – Providing Skating Ground, Volley Ball Court Fencing, Construction of Toilet Blocks, Entrance Arch.	2.00	2.00	I class contractor				
₹/32	3230/Tender/2021 Commissioner							

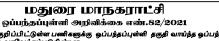
Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation.



OIPR - 34132/11/0009/2122

DY. DIRECTOR(HORT.)-EAST

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) IX



மதுரை மாநகராட்சி கீழே குறிப்பிட்டுள்ள பணிகளுக்கு ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி தகுதி வாய்ந்த ஒப்பந்ததாரர்களிடமிருந்த ஆணையாளர் அவர்களால் வரவேற்கப்படுகின்றன. வ.எண். 1) Ma.Po. 1/ TNSUDP – 01/21-22 பணியின் பெயர் : Renewal of B.T Road surface at Meenakshi Street yyanar Colony 1st, 2nd street, Madura Coats, Ponnagaram Broadway, Ponnagaram 3rd, 4th Cross Street and Elli Vagar 70 feet Road in Ward 5, 9,11,17 Zone - 1. மான். 2) Ma.Po. 1/ TNSUDP — 02/21-22 பணியின் பெயர் : Renewal of B.T Road surface at Servodhava st

Kovilpillai colony street,TB Road -Kennet cross street, STC Main Road , B1 road to Police Station Road, Bodi Lin (ICDS to Canal), Bharathiyar 4th street, Bharathiyar Main Road, Jawahar 1st cross street, Kathannapillai street North and South, Navalar Nagar 3rd street, Subramaniyapillai street, SVB Main road to Navalar 3rd st, Malar Ezhi Main and Cross street, Lakshmanan Street and HMS Colony in ward 16,17,18,19, 20, 21, 22 in Zone -1. ப.எண். 3) Ma.Po. 2/ TNSUDP – 03/21-22 பணியின் பெயர் : Renewalof B .T Road and Providing B.T. Road a North RTO (Press Colony), Sambakulam main road, Alagarnagar 4th street, Mangalakudi main road, Anna naga East 3rd street, sevalayam main road, Kakkan street & sivashamnugampillai st, Kamarajar 1st st, chokkikulam ol agraharam, Thirumukkulam North street, llango Aadikalar st., meenakshi st and Kamaraja East west street . Kamarajathenmadi st., Sankagarnagar main & cross street and Pudurvandipathai main road in ward No.27, 28, 34 35, 36, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47 Zone -2

ப்பண். 4) Ma.Po. 3/ TNSUDP – 04/21-22 பணியின் பெயர் : Renewal of B.T Road surface at East Marret Srte Part), North Marret Street (Part), Munichalai Road (Part) (East Veli Street to Obulapadithurai Jn), East Masi Stree (Part), Anuppanadi Main Road, Pandiya Valalar Street, New Mahalipatti Road, Chinnakanmai Street, Keela Marre treet (Part), Palace Road in Ward No-50, 57, 66, 68, 71, 73, 74 in Zone-3.

டாண். 5) Ma.Po. 4/ TNSUDP – 05/21-22 பணியின் பெயர் : Renewal of B.T Road surface at Agraharam mai oad, Vengadachalapuram road, Vasanthanagar 3rd street, Jaihindpuram N.N road, Old meenakshi mill colony oad, A.Rthoppuroad, R.M.S road, Westmarrat road, Westvadampokki street, Krishnarayar tank road, Nadar lane todu, A.Khiloppulodu, K.M.S. olad, Westimalari lodu, westvadanipokar street, Kribariaaya dain kidad, Kadari Maninagaram main road, Petchiammanpadithurai road (Thiru.vi.kasalai to North veli street), Dhanappamudali stree Petchiammanpadithurai street (North veli street to North masi street), Nayakkar new street, North perumal meistr treet, Parameswaran pillai street, Nanmaitharuvarkovil street, South marrat street, North Vadampokki Street Nehr aagar 5th and 6th streets in Ward No. 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83, 85, 86, 93 in Zone -4.

மதிப்பீட்டுத் தொகை ரூ. இலட்சத்தில் (GST உட்பட) : வ.எண்.1–க்கு 298.00, வ.எண்.2–க்கு 302.00, வ.எண்.3-க்கு 449.00, வ.எண்.4-க்கு 341.00, வ.எண்.5-க்கு 478.04 ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளிகள் சமர்ப்பிக்கும் நாள் : 03.11.2021 to 06.12.2021 3.00 PM (அனைத்து பணிக்கும்)

ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளிகள் திறக்கப்படும் நாள் : 07.12.2021 3.30 PM (அனைத்து பணிக்கும்) இதர விபரங்களை https://tntenders.gov.in என்ற இணையதனத்தில் தெரிந்து கொள்ளலாம், E-mail Address : mducorpce@gmail.com Contact No: 0452-2532412

செப்தெடு/32316ுப்புதப்புள்ளி/2021 "சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்." பதுறை மாநகராட்ச GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NIT No. 17 / 2021-2022 / BCMC / MW / CHENNAI, Dated: 02.11.2021 FORM OF CONTRACT: LUMPSUM

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Sealed tenders will be received by the Superintending Engineer, PWL Building Construction & Maintenance Circle, Medical Works, Chepauk, Chennai 600 005 for the works as mentioned belo rom the Registered Contractors in Public Works Department on or before **09.12.2021 upto 03.00 P.M.** and wi**ll** be open by the Superintending Engineer on the same day in the presence of Contractors or their authorized agents at **03.30 P.M.** Amount of Earnest Money Deposit & Period documents with GST Name of Work should be remitted of Completion wo Cover Syste Construction of Out Patient Block and Administrative Building (Block A) for the Establishment The Executive Class- I in PWD with Rs.15,000/ Engineer, PWD, Building Rs.6837.00 of Multi Super Speciality Hospital in the premises of King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research, Guindy, Chennai-32 Rs.1800/-18 (Eighteen) Months Construction Division-I, Medica limit of above Rs.75 Lakhs (GST) Works, Chepauk, Chennai-5 The Executive Class- I in PWD with Rs 15.000/ Engineer, PWD, Building Complex and Intensive Care Unit (Block B) Building for the Establishment of Multi Super Rs.36,25,000/-Rs.7225.00 18 (Eighteen) Months Rs.1800/peciality Hospital in the premises of ing Institute of Preventive Medicine nd Research, Guindy, Chennai-32 limit of abo (GST) Division-I, Medica Rs.75 Lakh: Works, Chepauk, Chennai-5 The Executive
Engineer, PWD,
Building Constructio
Division-I, Medical
Works, Chepauk, Construction of Radiodiagnosis Block and Wards Building (Block C) for the establishment of Multi Super Speciality Hospital in the premises of King Institute of Preventive Medicine

and Research, Guindy, Chennai-32 Tender schedule can be downloaded free of cost from the websites "https://www.tenders.tn.gov.in" uhttps://www.tntenders.gov.in" upto 08.12.2021 Tender schedule can also be obtained from the Building Construction.

8 Maintenance Circle Office, Medical Works, Chepaula, Chennai - 600 005 during office hours upto 05.45 PM by remitting cost of schedule as furnished as above column 6 and 7 by remitting through Chelan in State Bank of India, Chennai-1 Details in this regard are also available in the following website.

Rs.30,42,000/-

Rs.7061.00

www.tenders.tn.gov.in (or) www.tntenders.gov.in

Superintending Engineer, PWD, Building Construction & Maintenance Circle Medical Works, Chepauk, Chennai 600 005 · சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

Rs.15,000/

Rs.1800/-

Class-I in

PWD with

limit of abov

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coa India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/respective Subsidiary Company (CCL. www.centralcoalfields.in). CIL e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in in addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal https://gem.gov.in"

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, सभाग-द्वितीय उदयपुर मु. बांसवाड़ा

No./NITNo.09/2021-22/SPL-14 Date: 22 निविदा सूचना संख्या: 09/2021-22

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर मु. बांसवाडा के अन्तर्गत गुण नियन्त्रण प्रयोगशाला (०३ न.) जिला बांसवाड़ा, प्रतापगढ़ एवं ड्रंगरपुर में कुशल जनशक्ति प्रदान करना, परीक्षण प्रयोगजाला उपकरण प्रदान करना, एनएभीएल प्रत्यायन प्राप्त करना एवं 04 वर्षों के लिये ज़िला गुण नियन्त्रण प्रयोगशालाओं के संचालन हेतु निविदा प्रपत्र के अनुसार कुशल एवं योग्य सेवा प्रदाता फर्म /एजेसी / कम्पनी से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं www.sppp.raj.nic.in" पर देखा जा सकता हैं। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल इस्ताधर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक है ।

NIB No. -. PWD2122A1918 UBN No-PWD2122SLOB09380 अतिरिक्त मख्य आंभयना सानिवि, संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर, मु. बांसवाडा DIPR/C/11072/2021

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE



NOTICE INVITING GLOBAL TENDER -CPRIBLR21NIT14 Date: 03-11-2021 Online e-tenders are invited from eligible manufacturers/ suppliers for the following in conformation to National

International standards wherever applicable **AUGMENTATION OF SHORT CIRCUIT TEST FACILITIES** AT HIGH POWER LABORATORY, CPRI, BENGALURU **PACKAGE 2: SHORT CIRCUIT TESTING**

TRANSFORMERS (3X1400MVA) The bid document consisting of the scope of work, technical specifications, quantities and the terms and conditions to be complied with and other necessary documents shall be purchased from Purchase Authority, Purchase Division, Central Power Research Institute, P. B. No. 8066, Sadashivanagar P.O., Prof. Sir. C. V. Raman Road, Bengaluru-560080, Telephone No. +91-(0)80-22072271 / email id: purchase@cpri.in from 05-11-2021 onwards. CPRI/ADVT/30 /2021 Purchase Authority-CPRI



(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)

Gandhinagar

E-Tendering

Tenders are invited by TCGL for following works: 1)Selection of Agency on turnkey basis for Tent / Craft

Stalls/Food Stalls Facility at Dholavira In 2021-22. 2)Selection of Agency for organizing Bicycle Race in Polo Forest, Dist Sabarkantha, Gujarat.

3)Selection of Agency for Organizing an Ultra trail off road Running event at Dholavira, Khadir Bet, Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.

Interested bidders / agencies may download the tender document from the website: www.nprocure.com from Dt.03/11/2021 onwards. Tender document may also be referred on www.gujarattourism.com. Managing Director of TCGL reserve the right to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Managing Director,

M ND-NDE

Private jets fly out of COVID turbulence

Demand exceeds supply forcing frequent fliers to consider buying their own luxury aircraft

JAGRITI CHANDRA

Luxury travel on private jets has surpassed pre-COVID levels, according to two of the biggest airports in the country. There are now more first-time users and international trips, and demand has outstripped supply of planes to such an extent that many frequent fliers unable to get aircraft at the time and place of their choice are considering buying their own jets.

The number of chartered flights at the Delhi and Hyderabad airports has been showing a steady increase every month since June 2021, when the second wave of COVID-19 started to wane. The Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, which has a dedicated terminal for business jets, saw between 910 and 980 departures and arrivals per month between June and September, indicating an increase of 10% to 22% from the figures for the calendar year 2019.

The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad recorded between 74 and 110 departures and arrivals per month during these four months, which is an increase of 10% to 54% from

Taking flight | The number of chartered flights which departed from the Delhi airport increased substantially from June 2021. In June, July, August and September the number of departures crossed the levels seen in the corresponding months of 2019 1,500_T 1,000 -500

those in the corresponding months in 2019.

Leisure travel

"Leisure travel is essentially the driver for the increase in chartered flights contributing to more than 50% of the trips. This is followed by corporate and election-related flying," says a spokesperson for Bird Group, which oversees operations at the business jet terminal in Delhi along with its Swiss partner,

ExecuJet. "Earlier, private jets were looked down upon by certain corporates, but now they have become more acceptable in boardrooms and at management levels for flying their team principals in the interest of safety and efficiency," says Kanika Tekriwal, founder, JetSetGo, a private jet operator.

Concerns over health safety during the pandemic has also led to the emergence of a new class of people willing to splurge on air travel. "There is a whole new customer segment that has been introduced during the pandemic and this includes those who could afford to but didn't fly private because it was considered a wasteful means of luxury," Ms. Tekriwal says. She says they are here to stay.

International trips

In a fillip to the sector, there are many more international trips than before because of restrictions on commercial passenger airlines. These rake in four to 10 times the money a domestic flight would earn – a return flight from Delhi to Mumbai on an eight-seater plane costs ₹10 lakh, a Delhi-Dubai return flight on a 13-seater ₹40 lakh and a 12-seater for London up to ₹1 crore. And, there is no let-up in

demand. "With offices reopening, many who were until now opting for staycations every month are looking at two-week-long holidays at the end of the year. We are getting a lot of interest for the U.K., the Netherlands, France," says Sachit Wadhwa, co-founder at BookMy-Charters, a private jet aggre-

"Demand exceeded the supply as leisure travel is being planned well in advance for December and January," he says.

The demand has been so robust that Mr. Wadhwa's company is expecting to clock in four times the revenue it saw pre-COVID. "These are from actual bookings, but enquiries are 12-15 times the number of calls we received pre-COVID. This is the reason why we are also adding to our pool of available planes."

But Mr. Wadhwa and Ms. Tekriwal aren't the only ones planning to add to their fleet. "Individual customers and corporates who are frequent flyers are looking at purchasing their own machines because of availability issues. They may not get the aircraft of their choice when they need it, so I may give them an upgrade or a downgrade. So, they are exploring the option of purchasing planes," says Mr. Wadhwa.

"Two or three business houses have approached us and we are helping them with financial structuring," says Vishok Mansingh, CEO, Vman Aviation Services.

At COP26, T.N. teenager tells leaders that youth are angry

Vinisha expresses frustration with empty promises

D. MADHAVAN

As a child, Vinisha Umashankar, a Class 10 student, used to walk with her mother and a bag full of washed and dried clothes to get them ironed from a couple who ran a mobile ironing cart in her street in Tiruvannamalai town in northern Tamil Nadu. She saw how her clothes were ironed with charcoalfilled cast-iron boxes by the couple, sweating as they worked in the heat. She returned, not just with her ironed clothes, but with an intent to make their lives better.

Years later, as she grew up, Vinisha, now 15, found her answers in sunlight. A solar-powered ironing cart, which would replace the conventional charcoal ironing box, would power a steam ironing box to do its job. Her innovation brought her laurels from around the world, including the prestigious Children's Climate Prize in November 2021. The prize given by the Swedenbased Children's Climate Foundation is one of the



Vinisha Umashankar

most significant climate-related awards for young inno-

On Tuesday, Ms. Umashankar, one of the finalists for the Earthshot Prize, was asked by Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, to speak her mind on clean energy at a meeting that discussed clean technology and innovation as part of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glas-

Among her audience were world leaders, including British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, U.S. President Joe Biden, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Young people have every reason to be angry and frustrated at leaders who have made empty promises and failed to deliver. None of what we discuss today is practical for me. We need actions rather than promises to live in a habitable world," she said at the meeting on Tuesday. Her speech received a standing ovation. Her parents, S. Umashan-

kar, a business consultant, and U. Sangeetha, a schoolteacher, watched their only child's speech on the world stage at close quarters as they travelled with her to Glasgow. "She (Vinisha) is class topper and her time management between studies and extracurricular activities is excellent. Her mother teaches science in our school," S. Prathiba Shyam, Principal, S.K.P. Vanitha International School. Tiruvannamalai, said.

Ms. Umashankar's mobile ironing cart has solar panels with a roof connected to a 100 Ah battery. It takes five hours of bright sunshine to fully charge the battery, which in turn powers the steam ironing box for six

Judge arrested in sexual assault case

Rajasthan police have questioned him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The police on Wednesday arrested a judge, who was recently suspended on charges of sexually assaulting a minor boy, after his interrogation in the case in acwith procedure laid down for judicial officers.

The accused, Jitendra Singh, was taken after his arrest from Jaipur to Bharatpur, where he was earlier posted as the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption Cases.

Mr. Singh has been booked at the Mathura Gate police station in Bharatpur under Section 377 (unnatural offences) of the Indian Penal Code and the relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The judge's stenographer, Anshul Soni, and a staff member of the anti-corruption court, Rahul Katara, are the other accused. Superintendent of Police,

Bharatpur, Devendra Kumar Bishnoi said Mr. Singh was interrogated in the presence of a Metropolitan Magistrate and arrested as per the guidelines of the Supreme Court. The top court has ruled in its judgment in Delhi Judicial Service Association vs State of Gujarat that a judicial officer should be

arrested under intimation to the District Judge or the High Court, as the case may

Mr. Singh, who is of the District Judge cadre, was placed under suspension by the Rajasthan High Court after the first information report was registered against him on a complaint lodged by the 14-year-old boy and his family. The High Court has also deputed a vigilance team to investigate the allegations against him.

'Boy was drugged'

The boy's mother alleged that Mr. Singh and the two other accused had been sexually assaulting her son for the last one month after intoxicating him with a nar cotic substance.

The judge as well as the other accused had threatened the boy of implicating his family in false cases if he spoke about the assault to anyone, according to the complaint.

Mr. Singh had allegedly befriended the boy at the District Club in Bharatpur, where he used to go to play

However, Mr. Singh has lodged a counter-complaint against the boy's mother and her family, accusing them of blackmail and ex-

Centre flags rise in number of COVID-19 cases

Health Ministry writes to Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday asked Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir to undertake a review of the rising COVID-19 case numbers and weekly positivity rates, and enhance

In letters to the Himachal Pradesh Health Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Principal Secretary of Health and the Jammu and Kashmir Additional Chief Secretary of Health, Arti Ahuia, Additional Secretary of the Union Health Ministry, highlighted the increase in number of weekly new COVID-19 cases since last week and early signs of rise in positivity rates last month.

Ms. Ahuja stressed strict enforcement of COVID-appropriate behaviour, especially during festival celebrations. Previously on October 30, Ms. Ahuja had written to West Bengal and Assam, expressing concerns over the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the two States.

Early indication

In her letter to Himachal Pradesh, Ms. Ahuja said that there has been a nearly 22% increase in weekly new cases



State governments continue COVID-19 surveillance through random testing.

since last week and that there were early signs of increase in positivity: 2.7% in the week of October 4-10 to 3.3% in the week of October

"It is reassuring to note that the State has witnessed a gradual increase in the tests conducted from 38,726 in the week of October 4-10 to 44,549 in the week of October 25-31. ," Ms. Ahuja said. Andhra Pradesh, she said,

has shown a high quantum of weekly new cases over the past four weeks, and although the weekly positivity is less than 2.5%, it has stayed stagnant for the past two weeks. The State has also wit-

nessed a decline in tests conducted from 2.82.959 in the week of October 04-10 to 2,41,838 in the week of October 25-31, she stated.

the Union Territory has shown an approximately 61% increase in weekly new cases - 1,354 the week of October 25-31 as against 843 cases in the week of October 18-24. Although the weekly positivity is less than 1%, there has been a 67% increase in positivity in the last two weeks from 0.3% in the week of October 18-24 to 0.5% in the week of October 25-31. Kathua has been identified as a district of concern due to high quantum of cases and positivity over 2.5%

With regard to Jammu and

Kashmir, Ms. Ahuja said that

She said J&K needed to increase testing.

Celebrate in a safe and clean

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

way: President

President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday urged citizens to celebrate Deepavali in a clean and safe manner and contribute towards "conserving and protecting"

environment. Greeting people on the eve of Deepavali, Mr. Kovind said, "Deepavali sym bolises the victory of good over evil and light over darkness. This festival is largely celebrated by people following different beliefs across various sections of our society. The auspicious occasion of Deepavali gives the message of mutual affection, fraternity

festival together in a clean and safe manner and resolve to contribute to the conservation and protection of environment," the

Quake linked to mass fish kill in Arunachal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Landslips caused by an earthquake of 3.4 magnitude close to the border with China led to mass fish death in the Kameng river in Arunachal Pradesh, it is learnt.

The interval between the earthquake and the discovery of thousands of dead fish floating in the river was more than a fortnight.

Officials in the East Kameng district said the earth-

quake on October 13 happened in the vicinity of the source of the river at an elevation of about 6,300 metres above Mean Sea Level. Kameng is not a transboundary river.

The landslips dumped several tonnes of mud and rock into the river, substantially reducing the flow of water. The river turned blackish due to very high turbidity resulting in low dissolved oxygen that killed

NHRC asks Tripura government to submit report on violence

DAMINI NATH NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the Tripura government for a report on the recent instances of political and communal violence in the State.

Acting on an October 28 complaint by Trinamool Congress spokesperson Saket Gokhale, the NHRC on Tuesday directed its registry to send a copy of the com-

plaint to the Tripura chief secretary and Director-General of Police, asking for action-taken reports within four weeks.

"The complainant...has highlighted issues regarding rising incidents of political violence and violence against persons from religious minority community in the State of Tripura. It is alleged that workers of ruling party of the State had attacked leaders of All India

Trinamool Congress while they were campaigning in the State," the NHRC said. The commission said the

complainant had also alleged that an MP and other Trinamool workers had been attacked, referring to Rajya Sabha MP Sushmita Dev. The complaint also cited the incidents following a Vishwa Hindu Parishad rally in north Tripura, where a mosque and some shops were vandalised.

brotherhood". "Let us celebrate this

THEROSSWORD+ 13394 Type your answers in our online grids: (a) https://grgo.naga.link/jinTh

16 Review part of digital art – so real in front of the head (7) 18 Mobile phone... or has he been written off? (2-5)

Display keystrokes of genius.

@ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

20 Drink – drink for happiness mostly (7)

22 A duty to return grant (5)

24 Power cable, one kept on an instrument (9) 26 Cricket side not on time – you should make a law (9)

27 Island of liberty (5)

28 As is the custom, you won't find them in any legal tome (9,4)

2 Drugs stashed inside, not set up by bushmasters, perhaps (7) 3 Reason why landfills don't cost much? (4,5)

4 Under silent cover, show you don't care (5)

5 Off centre with commander in chief? (9) 6 Drank too much going up to station (5)

7 Free ride to support those born poorer (7)

8 Basically money and approval should correspond (13) 9 Not as much between, say headland and having no land to call

17 Shaft — one goes in to mix thoroughly (9) 19 A record going through layer of gas (7)

21 Perhaps allow to carry papers when sick (4,3)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13393 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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FAITH

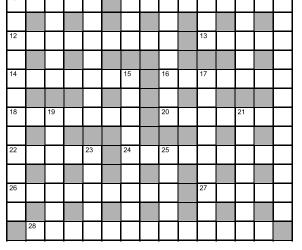
Twenty-eight Saiva Agamas

Thirumoolar in his Thirumandiram speaks of the significance of the Saiva Agamas. There are 28 Saiva Agamas, said R. Narayanan in a discourse. Lord Siva has five faces, of which Sadyojata represents the Western direction, Vamadeva the North, Aghora the South and Tatpurusha the East. The four Vedas came from these four faces. Saiva Agamas came from Isana – the fifth face. To understand the Agamas fully, one must have followed the prescribed four paths -Carya, Kriya, Yoga and Jnana. Carya is doing service in temples, and serving His devotees. Kriya is studying under a guru and then worshipping Siva. Meditating on Him is Yoga. God realisation is Jnana.

Sixty-six people learnt the Saiva Agamas, which emanated from Lord Siva. Not all of them learnt all the Agamas. The first 10 Agamas are Kamika, Yogaja, Cintya, Kaarana, Ajitha, Dipta, Sukshma, Sahasra, Amsuman and Suprabheda. Ten divine persons learnt these, each one learning one of the 10. The names of these 10 are: Pranava, Sudhaakya, Sudipta, Kaarana, Susiva, Eesa, Sukshma, Kaala, Amsu and Dasesa. Each of them taught two devotees. So 20 more people learnt the first 10 Agamas. These 20 include Trikala, Hara, Bhasma, Vibhu, Gopati, Ambika, Sarva Rudra, Trimoorthi, Hutaasana, Vaishravana, Prabhanjana, Bhima, Dharma, Ugra,

Aditya, Vignesa, Sasi etc. So, a total of 30 people learnt the first 10 Agamas, which are known as Siva Bheda. The remaining 18 Agamas were studied by 18 people, each of whom taught one person. So a total of 36 persons studied these 18 Agamas. Anadi Rudra, Paramesvara, Parvathi, Padmabhu, Vyoma, Prajapathi, Nandikesa, Brihaspati are the names of some who studied these 18 Agamas, which are known as Rudra Bheda.





ACROSS

1 Supercilious crook dropping down (13)

10 Drug dealer's lost his head — show him his place (5)

11 He gets it new – restricts pressure in the eyes, they say (9) 12 Figure out God with deacon (9)

13 Blemish covered in with rags (5) 14 Other teams collect two points — that's extremely foul (7)

15 Wine drinking – a gram turns her into a vixen (9)

23 One among others, grew up to be a stunner (5)

25 Material stuck in the percolator brought up (5)

U.S. puts Israeli maker of Pegasus spyware on 'black list'

Biden Govt. wants 'to stem the proliferation of digital tools used for repression'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

U.S. authorities on Wednesday put the Israeli maker of the Pegasus spyware on a list of restricted companies, taking aim at software central to a scandal over surveillance of journalists and officials.

The company, NSO, was engulfed in controversy over reports that tens of thousands of human rights activists, journalists, politicians and business executives worldwide were listed as potential targets of its Pegasus software. Smartphones infected with Pegasus are essentially turned into pocket spying devices, allowing the user to read the target's messages, look through their photos, track their location and even turn on their camera without them knowing.

"These tools have also enabled foreign governments to conduct transnational repression, which is the practice of authoritarian governments targeting dissidents, journalists and activists outside of their sovereign borders to silence dissent," the U.S. Commerce Department said in a statement.



Under lens: An NSO office near the Israeli town of Sapir. • AP

to the so-called "entity list"

means exports to them from

U.S. organisations are res-

tricted. For example, it is

now far harder for American

researchers to sell them in-

availability of software such

as Pegasus now allows even

cash-strapped authoritarian

governments to effectively

purchase their own answer

to the United States' National

Security Agency, with highly

invasive surveillance pow-

ers. While companies offer-

ing such technology have

sprung up around the world,

several have been founded

"Today's action is a part of

in Israel.

Critics say the widespread

formation or technology.

NSO fired back at the decision, saying its "technologies support U.S. national security interests and policies by preventing terrorism and

"We will advocate for this decision to be reversed," a NSO spokesperson said, adding that its compliance controls have resulted in "multiple terminations of contacts with government agencies that misused our products".

Washington also targeted Israeli company Candiru, Singapore-based Computer Security Initiative Consultancy PTE (COSEINC) and Russian firm Positive Technologies.

The companies' addition

rights at the center of U.S. foreign policy, including by working to stem the proliferation of digital tools used for repression," the Commerce statement said. Zero click

the Biden-Harris Administra-

tion's efforts to put human

Following the initial concern over Pegasus, a subsequent wave of worries emerged when iPhone maker Apple released a fix in September for a weakness that can let the spyware infect devices without users even clicking on a malicious message or

The so-called "zero click" is able to silently corrupt the targeted device, and was identified by researchers at Citizen Lab, a cybersecurity watchdog organisation in

Israel's defence establishment has set up a committee to review NSO's business, including the process through which export licenses are granted. NSO has insisted its software is intended for use only in fighting terrorism and other crimes and says it exports to 45 countries.

In stunning upset, Republicans win Virginia Governor race

Joe Biden had won the State in the general election last year

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

Republicans won big in Virginia on Tuesday night, with their gubernatorial candidate, businessman Glenn Youngkin, beating former **Democratic Governor Terry** McAuliffe, in a State that U.S. President Joe Biden won by 10 points in the general election last year.

At noon on Wednesday, Republicans also looked like they were winning or at least tying the race for the House of Delegates, the lower chamber of the State, where all but nine seats are being contested. Republicans need at least nine seats to flip the chamber where Democrats have a majority (55-

A GOP victory in Virginia and a close gubernatorial race in New Jersey come as U.S. President Joe Biden's job approval ratings are at an all time low – in the early forties – and Democrats are struggling to sort out internal differences that have prevented them from passing a massive social security infrastructure and

legislation. Mr. Youngkin, a 54-yearold former private equity executive, had a two percentage point lead on Wednesday morning, when 99% of the vote had been counted. He had managed to cut into Democratic margins in suburban areas, where white voters had been turned off by former U.S. President Donald Trump last year. He also won some rural areas with margins greater than those Mr. Trump had last



Glenn Youngkin

The former President sent out messages of endorsement for Mr. Youngkin (and claimed credit for his victory), but Mr. Youngkin was careful not to get too close to Mr. Trump during the campaign and stayed away from joint appearances. He also did not not write off the former President.

However, also of note, is that Virginia and New Jersey have historically elected Governors from the opposing party of the sitting President in off years (i.e., a non-mid term or general election year).

The outcome of Tuesday night, however, suggested that Democrats' strategy – at least in the State – of rallying voters against Mr. Trump did not work. Mr. McAuliffe, who was the Governor from 2014 to 2018, tried, but without enough success, to portray his opponent as a version of Mr. Trump (even referring to him as 'Glenn

Central issues

Central issues in the campaign were education and the economy. Critical Race Theory – which analyses how systems and institutions maintain and engender racial disparities – became a Republican talking point in the race, though it is not taught in Virginia schools. Mr. Youngkin also rejected mask mandates in schools and said parents' rights to "decide what's best for their children", must be respected. He also ran on a campaign to support school choice, funding for law enforcement and cut State

Mr. McAuliffe called Mr. Youngkin's campaign against Critical Race Theory a "racist dog whistle".

He also committed to raising teacher salaries above the national average and making historically large investments in education. On the economy, like his opponent, Mr. McAuliffe pledged to increase jobs, backed an increase in the minimum wage and said he would introduce mandated paid sick and family leave across the

Other races

In other races on Election Day, Boston elected city council member Michelle Wu as Mayor, the first woman Mayor and person from an ethnic minority group to hold the post.

New York elected Eric Adams, who will become the second African American in the Mayor's seat.

As The Hindu went to press, the New Jersey Governor race was tight without a clear victor, with Democratic incumbent Philip Murphy and Republican contender Jack Ciattarelli running neck and neck.

Fed to begin slowing economic aid

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Federal Reserve will begin dialling back the extraordinary economic aid it has provided since the pandemic erupted last year, a response to high inflation that now looks likely to persist longer than it did just a few months ago.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Fed said it will start reducing its \$120 billion in monthly bond purchases in the coming weeks, by \$15 billion a month, though it reserved the right to change that pace. Those purchases have been intended to hold down long-term interest rates to encourage borrowing and spending. With the U.S. economy recovering,

that is no longer needed. The Fed will slow its \$80 billion in Treasury purchases by \$10 billion a month and its \$40 billion in mortgage-backed securities by \$5 billion in November and December and said similar reductions "will likely be appropriate" in the following months. That suggests that the central bank might decide to accelerate its pullback in bond buying if inflation worsens.

If the pace is maintained, the bond purchases would end altogether in June. At that point, the Fed could decide to raise its benchmark short-term interest rate, which affects many consumer and business loans. That would be much earlier than Fed officials had envisioned last summer, when they forecast that the first rate hike would not happen until late 2023.

Taliban commander killed in hospital attack

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KABUL

A Taliban military commander was killed when his men responded to an Islamic State suicide bomb and gun attack on a hospital in the Afghan capital, officials said on Wednesday. At least 19 people were killed in Tuesday's attack on Kabul's main military hospital.

Hamdullah Mokhlis, a member of the hard-line Haqqani network and an officer in the Badri Corps special forces, is the most senior figure to have been killed since the Taliban

seized Kabul. "When he got the information that Sardar Daud Khan Hospital was under attack, Maulvi Hamdullah (Mokhlis), the commander of the Kabul corps, immediately rushed to the scene," a Taliban media official said.

"We tried to stop him but he laughed. Later, we found out that he was martyred in the face-to-face fight at the hospital," he added.

In a statement, the Islamic State-Khorasan said five of its "fighters carried out simultaneous coordinated attacks" on the site.



e-TENDER NOTICE The TSTransco invites online Bids under e-procurement Name of the work 1 TSPMM 13-32/2021 Supply of 21 Nos 50 MVA 132/33kV Power Transformers 2 TSPMM 13-33/2021 Supply of 14Nos 160MVA 220/132/11kV Auto Transformers 3 TSPMM 31-34/2021 Supply, Erection & Commissioning of Various capacities of 48 V Battery Chargers for Communication Systems -135 Nos. 4 TSPMM21-35/2021 Supply of LTAC panels Tenderers can have further details and download the tender schedule from e-procurement market place i.e., http://tender.telangana.gov.ii Tarasately (Contact Nos: Chief Engineer/P&MM, TSTransco , ne: 040-23396000, Extn.:3670/3583/3276/3521/3334/3487/ 3460/ 3332/ 3537/3323, Fax No:040-23303736. www.tstransco.gov.in Sd/-Chief Engineer/P&MM RO No: 31/21

Shock in China as tennis star accuses top leader of sexual abuse

Peng Shuai says Zhang Gaoli, then Tianjin party boss, assaulted her 10 years ago

ANANTH KRISHNAN

Top Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai's allegations of a sexual assault and subsequent years-long affair with a senior Communist Party of China leader and former Vice Premier has triggered intense debate in China as well as a massive effort by the authorities to censor it.

In a late night post on Tuesday on her official account on Sina Weibo, the Twitter equivalent used in China, Ms. Peng, a household name in the country, a former world number one in doubles, and winner of two grand slams, revealed in an emotional message how she was sexually assaulted by Zhang Gaoli, then the Communist Party boss in Tianjin, 10 years ago when she was 25 years old.

Ms. Peng said she had been invited home by Mr. Zhang, who was 65 at the time, and his wife, and his wife had stood guard by the door when the attack happened, which left her in shock and in tears.

She said the two then began an intermittent affair, until Mr. Zhang was in 2012 promoted to the highest echelons of power in China as the seventh-ranked member of the Politburo Standing Committee that came to power that year, led by Xi Jinping. Mr. Zhang, she said, resumed the affair after his retirement in 2018.

Neither Chinese authorities nor Mr. Zhang have as yet responded to Ms. Peng's statement.

She said in the message she had no evidence for her claims, but added she was determined to tell the truth. "For someone of your standing Vice-Premier Zhang Gao-



Peng Shuai, left, and Zhang Gaoli

li, you have said you are not afraid," she said, "but even if it is only me like an egg hitting a rock or moth going to the flame seeking self-destruction I will tell the truth about you."

Ms. Peng's are the latest of a series of sexual misconduct allegations that have targeted men in power in China, who rights activists say have gotten away with impunity for their actions for years. Despite numerous people speaking out since 2018, China's "Me Too" movement has largely been stifled by the authorities, who have, as in Ms. Peng's case, scrubbed out information and restricted information about cases that have come up, usually through social media posts, against prominent personalities in universities, the media and major companies.

This is, however, the first allegation made against the highest levels of the party leadership. The Politburo Standing Committee, which Mr. Zhang served on for five years, is the ruling party's highest body. While the conduct of senior party officials is hardly shocking to many Chinese, with numerous officials in the past who were



tinely accused by party authorities of carrying on sexual relations with many mistresses, what is unprecedented about Ms. Peng's case is that both figures are household names in China and Mr. Zhang occupied one of the country's highest offices. The sensitivity of Ms. Peng's allegations against a senior official brought even tighter censorship restrictions than the usual. On Wednesday, Ms.

Peng's name could not be searched for on Weibo while people were barred from posting information about the case on WeChat. Her original post was deleted but screenshots were shared by users. Those were later deleted too. Significant and rare

Teng Biao, a lawyer and legal rights activist previously based in Beijing who is now in the U.S., observed how significant and rare it was for

anyone to speak out about top officials. "Former vice premier, Politburo Standing [Committee] member Zhang Gaoli, allegedly raped tennis star Peng Shuai. Based on what Peng has written, it's not an affair. It is rape," he said on Twitter. "Top Communist Party leaders have unlimited power in China. [It is] extremely rare a victim dares to disclose their scandals."

Lu Pin, a Chinese feminist activist who is editor of Feminist Voices, saluted Ms. Peng's courage in speaking out and said the latest case underlined the continuing relevance of the "Me Too" movement in China.

"Peng Shuai's revelation is very important. It allows people to see the real life of China's top leaders as never before, behind the powerwrapped morality," she said on Twitter. "Imagine their excessive abuse of power being so authentically identified under the witness of so many people. Why does everyone know that Peng Shuai's revelation is too real?"

She said "every victim bravely stood up, awakened people irreversibly, and demonstrated and encouraged the next victim to stand up and shake society more and more powerfully." "Me Too has challenged the normalcy of society, about what can be said, about what it is not right," she said.

Starting in 2018, numerous Chinese women spoke out against instances of sexual misconduct, from college students speaking out about their professors to an employee at tech giant Alibaba. In September, a court in Beijing ruled against Zhou Xiaoxuan in the first "Me Too" case that went to court after a three-year trial. Ms. Zhou had accused a wellknown host working for the State broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) of sexually harassing her at their workplace.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Public Works Division Aurangabad

E-Tender Notice No. 22 Of 2021-2022

E- Tender for the following works in "B-1 Form" for the 06 (SIX) Works is invited via online E-Tendering system from Contractor/Agency/Firm/Company of Eligible Class by Executive Engineer Public Works Division Aurangabad (No.0240-2331174) on behalf of Public Works Department of Government of

details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-Tendering Portal https://mahatenders.gov.in on sub Portal of public works Department also on www.mahapwd.com portal as per online tender Schedules.

Executive Engineer Public Works Division Aurangabad

DGIPR/2021/2022/2551

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027 NO: KST/CO/PRO/549/2021-22

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or commercial offers) through e-procurement portal http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in are invited for supply of following goods/services:

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 05 Dated: 02/11/2021

Tender Value Tender submission of tender Nomenclature in Lakhs Rs (Approx.) @17.00 Hrs. G-27/21-22 Procurement of Creme Wove Paper 420.00 02.12.2021 G-28/21-22 Procurement of Jumbo Thermal Roll 320.00 02.12.2021 250.00 G-29/21-22 Procurement of Self Adhesive Plastic Felt 02.12.2021 G-30/21-22 Procurement of Automotive Cables 150.00 02.12.2021 G-31/21-22 Procurement of Aluminium POP Rivets 90.00 02.12.2021 A-14/21-22 Procurement of Piston Assembly & Ring Sets 400.00 02.12.2021 Procurement of U Bolt, Centre Bolt and Spring 300.00 02.12.2021 250.00 02.12.2021 A-16/21-22 Procurement of Shackle Pin and Bushes A-17/21-22 Procurement of Cylinder liners. 100.00 02.12.2021 **Short Term Tenders** Procurement of Pre-Cured Tread Rubber & Allied 15.11.2021 G-32/21-22 3000.00 materials G-33/21-22 Procurement of Liquid Urea 500.00 11.11.2021 Procurement of 235-75R-17.5", 16PR/14PR 11.11.2021 Tubeless Tyre and 9.00x20 radial Tyre tube flap. Supply of M.S. Welding Electronics and CO2 MIG 11.11.2021 G-35/21-22 welding coils. G-36/21-22 Procurement of Window Flock Channel with Rubber 65.00 11.11.2021 G-37/21-22 Supply of Dissolved Acetylene Gas 65.00 11.11.2021 Supply of Compressed Oxygen Gas, Carbon di 35.00 11.11.2021 oxide & Commercial organ Gas

Tender numbers A-13/20-21 Dtd: 10.08.2021 - Procurement of U Bolts, Centre Bolts and Spring Clamps been cancelled due to technical reasons.

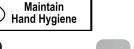
Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope, other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded / published through e-portal only.

NOTE: Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone No. 080-22230960,080-22234115). Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com for further information if required.

(Tender Inviting Authority) DIPR/DDU/JA/2069/2021-22 COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.

Follow Physical

Distancing



Sd/- Controller of Stores & Purchases

	03-11-2021	% CHANG
Sensex	59,772	-0.4
US Dollar	74.46	0.2
Gold	46,411	-0.9
Brent oil	82.26	-2.5
NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANG
Adani Ports	709.20	6.8
	3170.65	
Axis Bank	750.60	5
Bajaj Auto	3698.40	43.4
Bajaj Finserv	17500 45	-33
	1/309.43	33
Bajaj Finance.	7516.25	
		60.9

NIFTY 50		
		CHANGE
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv		
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL		
Britannia Ind		
Cipla		
Coal India		
Divis Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech	1176.35	5.70
HDFC		
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever	2411.35	7.55
ICICI Bank	785.95.	15.00
IndusInd Bank	1177.95	34.60
Infosys	1702.50	4.60
Indian OilCorp		
ITC	222.45	3.15
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank	2037.55.	39.10
L&T		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd.		
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life		
State Bank		
Shree Cement		
Sun Pharma		
Tata Consumer	101.33.	27.43
Products Ltd	826 an	-6 90
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra		
Titan		

EXCHANGE RA	TES						
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 03							
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL					
US Dollar	74.26	74.58					
Euro	86.03	86.43					
British Pound	101.15	101.59					
Japanese Yen (100)	65.21	65.49					
Chinese Yuan	11.61	11.66					
Swiss Franc	81.46	81.86					
Singapore Dollar	55.01	55.27					
Canadian Dollar	59.80	60.06					
Malaysian Ringitt	17.86	17.96					

Centre releases GST dues of ₹17,000 cr. to States

The Centre released GST compensation dues of ₹17,000 crore to States on Wednesday, taking the total compensation paid out from GST cess collections so far

October services output grows at decade high, PMI shows

'Confidence still subdued as cost pressures build up, export orders remain weak'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India's services sector recorded its strongest output growth in ten-and-a-half years in October, as reflected by the survey-based IHS Markit Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which accelerated to 58.4 from 55.2 in September. A reading of 50 indicates no change from the previous month's economic activity levels.

The pace of job creation based on the survey of 400 firms remained moderate but quickened from September to the fastest since February 2020.

"The recovery of the services sector entered its third straight month, with firms



Price to pay: Service providers are worried as pricier inputs may deter future growth, De Lima says. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

scaling up activity at the fastest pace in ten-and-a-half years and creating more jobs," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit. Services businesses also faced the sixteenth successive monthly

increase in input costs, with the inflation rate hitting a sixmonth high and outpacing its long-run average.

Firms surveyed by IHS Markit cited higher fuel, material, retail, staff and transport costs. Overall business

confidence remained subdued due to growing concerns around price pressures. With input costs again rising sharply, companies raised their fees in October at the fastest pace in close to four-and-a-half vears.

"A substantial rise in prices charged for the provision of services in India had no detrimental impact on demand," Ms. De Lima said.

"That said, service providers were concerned that persistent inflationary pressures could deter growth in the coming year," she added.

"New export business decreased in October, a trend that has been recorded since the COVID-19 outbreak," the firm said in a statement.

Cairn to begin process to end tax dispute

REUTERS

Cairn Energy has entered into certain undertakings with India which would allow for the refund of taxes billion-dollar under a dispute.

The news comes after the oil and gas producer said in September it was considering undertakings with the Indian government after changes were made to a retrospective tax law at the heart of the row.

Cairn said it would start filing the necessary documents to expedite the refund of about \$1.06 billion.

"Cairn will commence the filing of the necessary documentation ... intimating the withdrawal, termination and/or discontinuance of various enforcement actions," the firm said in a statement.

SBI Q2 net rises 67% on asset quality, provisions

'Collections improve as curbs ease'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

State Bank of India's (SBI) second quarter net profit surged 66.7% to ₹7,627 croredue to improvement in asset quality and lower provisions for bad loans.

In a filing, India's largest lender said it had recorded its highest quarterly net profit. "The outcome in asset quality... has been quite encouraging," said chairman Dinesh Khara. "The first quarter saw elevated levels of fresh slippages as collections were severely impacted due to COVID-related tra-

vel restrictions," he said. "Now there is no major concern relating to asset quality because underwriting has improved significantly," he added, saying the bank expected its loan



Operating profit rose 9.84% to ₹18,079 crore. The lender has fully provided ₹7,418 crore due to the change in family pension rules.

Net interest income climbed 10.7% to ₹31,184 crore. Loan-loss provisions slid 52% to ₹2,699 crore.

Net non-performing asset (NPA) ratio dipped 7 basis points (bps) to 1.52%, while the gross NPA ratio declined 38 bps to 4.9%. Provision Coverage Ratio stood at

'Reforms will aid telcos in saving cash'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The seminal reforms announced by the government for the telecom sector will help preserve cash flows and enable the industry to drive investments. Bharti Airtel CEO Gopal Vittal said on Wednesday.

Speaking at Bharti Airtel's Q2 earnings call, he said while over the next 3-4 years, 5G will be present on an ubiquitous basis in most key cities, in the immediate short term much will depend on the pace of the regulator's consultation and the actual timing of the auction.

"The government announced seminal reforms that will help preserve cash flows and enable the indus-

'MSME margins badly hit by commodity price surge'

RBI role key to stability: PHDCCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Industry chamber PHDCCI on Wednesday said skyrocketing commodity prices were severely impacting the price-cost margins of businesses, especially MSMEs, observing that the RBI had a crucial role to play in balancing inflation and maintaining currency stability.

The assertion is among the chamber's suggestions outlining the focus areas for RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das in his second term.

These include attaining and sustaining a high growth trajectory to become a \$5-trillion economy. "Skyrocketing commodity prices are severely impacting margins of businesses, especially MSMEs... RBI's



role becomes crucial to balance inflation... and maintain currency stability while attaining high growth," PHDCCI suggested.

It also urged Mr. Das to focus on maintaining adequate liquidity in the system while balancing inflationary pressures. "Demand should remain intact to [help economy] regain

Canada funds to pick up 50% in NHAI InvIT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan will be the anchor investors for the Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) with each picking up 25%

Besides, NHAI would retain a minimum of 15% equity and the rest would be offered to domestic institutional investors.

The InvIT will initially have a portfolio of five operating toll roads with an aggregate length of 390 kilometers, with more roads planned to be added later.

The total enterprise value of the five roads was pegged at ₹8.011.52 crore.

Poor IBC recovery calls for process rejig: Crisil

'Only 5% recoveries in high-value cases'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Only a third of the admitted financial claims of insolvent companies have been recovered since the onset of the bankruptcy process five years ago, a domestic credit rating agency said. With only ₹2.5 lakh crore

in recoveries, there is a need for a 'stronger push' to make resolutions under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) process more effective, Crisil said, admitting that the law has tilted the power equation in favour of creditors from debtors.

"A closer look at the data shows, however, the recovery rate and resolution timelines have a lot more room for improvement. This



thening of the code and stabilisation of the overall ecosystem imperative," it said.

the agency comes amid concerns raised over low recoveries, of about 5%, in recent high-value cases. It may be recalled that initially, the recoveries were much higher in the specifically earmarked dozen accounts.

"Besides low recovery rate and longer time frame, a key challenge is the high number of cases going to liquidation," agency director

Govt. picks 42 white goods firms for PLI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The government said it has 'provisionally selected' 42 air-conditioner and LED manufacturers with committed investment of ₹4.614 crore as beneficiaries under Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods.

"The approved investments of ₹4,614crore are likely to generate net incremental production of around ₹81,254 crore and direct employment for about 44,000 people," the Minister of Commerce and Industry said. Those selected include 26 for air-conditioner manufacturing with committed investments of ₹3,898 crore and 16 for LED Lights with committed

Ronaldo bails out United yet again

Juventus and Bayern advance; Barcelona stays in the hunt



Rescue act: Cristiano Ronaldo lets rip Manchester United's second goal to salvage a draw against Atalanta. • GETTY IMAGES

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Cristiano Ronaldo scored another late goal to rescue Manchester United in the Champions League on Tuesday, as his former club Juventus and Bayern Munich both secured qualification for the last 16 with two group games to spare.

Ronaldo fired in from the edge of the box a minute into injury time to snatch United a 2-2 draw with Atalanta in Italy and keep it on course to qualify from Group F.

He had earlier cancelled out Josip Ilicic's opener to equalise at the end of a slick team move in first-half stoppage time.

However, having lost Raphael Varane to injury before that, United went behind again in the 56th minute when Duvan Zapata ran through, evading Harry Maguire before slotting in.

The goal was initially dis-

allowed for offside before being given after a VAR review, but Ronaldo thwarted the hosts again with his ninth goal in 11 appearances since returning to Old Trafford and his record-extending 139th goal in the competition. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's

side are level on seven points atop the group with Villarreal.

Captain Paulo Dybala's brace helped Juventus to a 4-2 win over Zenit Saint Petersburg in Turin as it kept up its 100 percent record in Group H to secure a last-16

Juve is three points clear of reigning European champion Chelsea, which beat Malmo 1-0 in Sweden with a second-half Hakim Ziyech

Thomas Tuchel's side needs one more point to be certain of advancing. Robert Lewandowski net-

ted a hat-trick as Bayern steamrollered Benfica 5-2 in Germany to make it four wins from four in Group E, securing its progress and leaving it requiring a single point to clinch first place. Meanwhile managerless Barcelona boosted its quali-

fication hopes, Ansu Fati's goal in Ukraine securing a second straight 1-0 win over Dynamo Kiev to lift it up to second above Benfica. The results: Group E: Dynamo Kyiv O lost to Barcelona 1

(Fati 70); Bayern Munich 5 (Le-

wandowski 26, 61, 84, Gnabry 32, Sane 49) bt Benfica 2 (Morato 38, Nunez 74). Group F: Villarreal 2 (Capoue 36, Danjuma 89) bt Young Boys O; Atalanta 2 (Ilicic 12, Zapata 56) drew with Man-

chester United 2 (Ronaldo Group G: Sevilla 1 (Ocampos 15) lost to Lille 2 (David 43pen, Ikone 51); Wolfsburg 2 (Baku 3, Nmecha 60) bt RB

Salzburg 1 (Woeber 30). Group H: Malmo O lost to Chelsea 1 (Zieych 56); Juventus 4 (Dybala 11, 58-pen, Chiesa 78, Morata 82) bt Zenit 2 (Bonucci 26-og, Azmoun 90+2).

Perfect platform to catch the eye of IPL scouts

The tournament, which begins on Thursday, will serve as a memorial to Avi Barot

MUSHTAQ ALI

ASHWIN ACHAL

The Syed Mushtaq Ali Tro-I phy (SMAT), which commences on Thursday, is timed perfectly to give cricketers the chance to grab the attention of IPL teams ahead of the mega auction.

The first tournament of the 2021-22 domestic calendar season features 38 teams, split into five Elite groups and one Plate group. Group matches will be held in six centres - Lucknow, Guwahati, Baroda, Delhi, Haryana and Vijayawada while all knockout matches will be held at Delhi.

Standout performers in this 19-day tournament are sure to attract the attention of IPL scouts. Venkatesh Iyer (Madhya Pradesh and Kolkata Knight Riders), Shahrukh Khan (Tamil Nadu and Punjab Kings), Chetan Sakariya (Saurashtra and Rajasthan Royals) and Mohammed Azharuddeen (Kerala and Royal Challengers Bangalore) are some of the players who have used this tournament recently as a springboard to grab IPL contracts.

"This is a big platform, especially for the white-ball season coming up. There are a lot of things to look forward to with the big IPL auctions coming up. Everybody will be looking forward to doing well here and getting noticed by the IPL teams," Karnataka captain Manish Pandey said.

In-form players

Several names who shone bright in the recent IPL will be seen in action here. Orange Cap holder Ruturaj Gaikwad (Chennai Super Kings) and dashing wicketkeeper-batsman Sanju Samson (Rajasthan Royals) lead



A springboard: Players will look to do well to get noticed by IPL teams ahead of the auction. TWITTER/KSCAOFFICIAL

THE SCHEDULE

Thursday

Elite A (Lucknow): Tamil Nadu vs Maharashtra; Odisha vs Goa; Punjab vs Pondicherry. Elite B (Guwahati): Bengal

Chhattisgarh; Baroda vs Services; Karnataka vs Mumbai. (Vadodara): Jharkhand vs Rajasthan; Himachal vs Haryana; J & K vs

Elite D (New Delhi): Assam vs MP; Gujarat vs Kerala; Rail-

wavs vs Bihar. Elite E (Haryana): Hydera-

Maharashtra and Kerala respectively, while Prithvi Shaw (Delhi Capitals and Mumbai) and Mayank Agarwal (Punjab Kings and Karnataka) will look to build on their fine

Defending champion Ta-

bad vs Saurashtra; Uttarakhand vs Delhi; UP vs Chandigarh.

Plate (Vijayawada): Vidarbha vs Arunachal Pradesh; Nagaland vs Manipur; Tripura vs Sikkim; Meghalaya vs Mizoram.

Maharashtra; Goa vs Pondicherry; Tamil Nadu vs Odisha. B (Guwahati): Elite Karnataka vs Chhattisgarh; Services vs Mumbai; Bengal vs

Elite A (Lucknow): Punjab vs

Baroda. Elite C (Vadodara): J & K vs

mil Nadu, placed in Elite-A at Lucknow, will miss the services of the Dinesh Karthik. All-rounder Vijay Shankar will lead the side in Karthik's absence.

The tournament will serve as a memorial to Saurashtra

Elite D (New Delhi): Railways vs MP; Kerala vs Bihar; As-

Jharkhand vs Himachal

Rajasthan; Haryana vs Andhra;

Elite E (Haryana): UP vs Saurashtra; Delhi vs Chand-Hyderabad

Plate (Vijayawada): Manipur Arunachal Pradesh; Meghalaya vs Sikkim; Vidarbha

vs Nagaland; Tripura cricketer Avi Barot, who passed away due to cardiac

arrest last month at the age

Barot was brilliant in the previous edition of SMAT, scoring 283 runs at average of 56.6.

Slovakia stuns USA

REUTERS

Underdogs Slovakia pulled off a stunning 2-1 win over the United States at the Billie Jean King Cup here on Tuesday.

Germany crashed out of

the competition, after a 3-0 loss to Switzerland for a second defeat in Group D. The results: Group A: Rus-

sia bt Canada 3-0; Group B: Australia 2 bt Belgium 1; Group C: Slovakia 2 bt USA 1; Group D: Switzerland bt Germany 3-0.

Pakistan women's cricket team in quandary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Three more Pakistani women cricketers tested positive for COVID-19 to take the total count to six as country's cricket board is in a limbo to assemble a proper squad ahead of its home series against West Indies.

Earlier, three other players also had tested positive for COVID and are already in quarantine from the rest of the squad in the camp set up in Karachi.

A Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official said that currently 12 out of the 18 players announced for the series are training at the National stadium where the first ODI is slated on November 8.

The West Indies women's team led by Stephanie Taylor have already reached Karachi and are presently undergoing a three-day isolation at the team hotel and they will start training from Friday.

Rohit and Rahul pulverise Afghanistan

The two add 140 for the opening wicket as India piles up 210 and wins by a 66-run margin

ICC T20 WC

AMOL KARHADKAR

Virat Kohli lost the toss for the third straight time and India was asked to bat first yet again. However, those were the only similarities from the two previous games as the batters went ballistic and notched up the highest total of the edition -210 - inthe Group 2 Super 12 match against Afghanistan on Wednesday. In reply, the Afghans were restricted to 144 for seven, giving India its first win of the competition.

The change of venue despite the long boundaries at the Zayed Cricket Stadium seemed to have worked in India's favour as Rohit Sharma (74, 47b, 8x4, 3x6) and K.L. Rahul (69, 48b, 6x4, 2x6) bulldozed the Afghan attack. The reunion at the top worked wonders as the duo's 140-run stand set up the foundation for a massive total. Rishabh Pant and Hardik Pandya's lusty blows meant India crossed the 200-run mark.

Afghanistan was never in the chase. Skipper Mohammad Nabi (35) and Karim Janat (42 not out) were involved in a 57-run partnership for the sixth wicket. Mohammed Shami finished with three for 32 while R. Ashwin, playing in India blue colours after four years, spun a web around the Afghan batters to return excellent figures of 4-0-14-2.

Earlier, Suryakumar Yaday, who recovered from back spasm, replaced Ishan Kishan in the XI and paved the way for the first-choice opening combination of Rohit and Rahul to bat together again. With the team in a must-win situation in its remaining three games, and



in the company of Rahul. • GETTY IMAGES

₊ Guptill runs hot as New Zealand holds off Scotland

Opener's blistering 93 pilots the team to 172 before the Kiwi bowlers keep their nerve

that too by huge margins, it needed a blazing start.

In contrast to their approach in the first two games, Rohit and Rahul went after the Afghanistan bowlers right from the word go.

The moment Rohit lofted off-spinner Nabi over cover for a four in the opening over, it was clear that he meant business. Rohit showed his ability to clear the field with ease and even played the odd nudge past the wicketkeeper which sped to the fence. With Rohit playing the big shots, Rahul joined the party and the two took the team past the 100-run mark in the 12th over.

Rohit then took on Rashid Khan, arguably the best T20 bowler, tonking the leggie for successive sixes in the 14th over. However, Rohit fell in the next over while Rahul followed soon after. Off the next 21 balls, Pant (27 n.o., 13b, 1x4, 3x6) and Hardik (35 n.o., 13b, 4x4, 2x6) showcased their big-hitting prowess, adding 63. The contest was sealed then and there.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Martin Guptill hit 93 and be-

came only the second man to

pass 3,000 T20I runs as New

Zealand defeated Scotland by

16 runs at the ICC T20 World

five before Scotland battled

to score a respectable 156 for

five in its 20 overs. It was the

Kiwis' second win in three

The 35-year-old Guptill,

who put on 105 for the fourth

wicket with Glenn Phillips,

made his runs off 56 balls

NEW ZEALAND

Martin Guptill c MacLeod b Wheal

93 (56b, 6x4, 7x6), Daryl

Mitchell lbw b Sharif 13 (11b, 1x4),

Kane Williamson c Cross b Sharif O

(4b), Devon Conway c Cross b

Watt 1 (3b), Glenn Phillips c

Greaves b Wheal 33 (37b, 1x6),

James Neesham (not out) 10 (6b,

1x4), Mitchell Santner (not out) 2

(3b); Extras (lb-5, w-15): 20; Total

FALL OF WICKETS

1-35 (Mitchell, 4.1 overs), 2-35

(Williamson, 4.5), 3-52 (Conway,

(for five wkts. in 20 overs): 172.

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand made 172 for

Cup on Wednesday.

games



SCOREBOARD

INDIA

K.L. Rahul b Naib 69 (48b, 6x4, 2x6), Rohit Sharma c Nabi b Janat 74 (47b, 8x4, 3x6), Rishabh Pant (not out) 27 (13b, 1x4, 3x6), Hardik Pandya (not out) 35 (13b, 4x4, 2x6); Extras (b-2, lb-1, w-1, nb-1): 5; Total (for two wkts. in 20 overs): 210.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-140 (Rohit, 14.4 overs), 2-147

AFGHANISTAN BOWLING

Nabi 1-0-7-0, Sharafuddin 2-0-25-0, Naveen 4-0-59-0, Hamid 4-0-34-0, Naib 4-0-39-1, Rashid 4-0-36-0, Janat 1-0-7-1.

AFGHANISTAN Hazratullah Zazai c Shardul b

Bumrah 13 (15b, 1x4, 1x6), Mohammad Shahzad c Ashwin b Shami O (4b). Rahmanullah Gurbaz c Hardik b Jadeja 19 (10b, 1x4, 2x6), Gulbadin Naib lbw b Ashwin 18 (20b, 3x4), Naiibullah Zadran b Ashwin 11 (13b, 1x6), Mohammad Nabi c Jadeja b Shami 35 (32b, 2x4, 1x6), Karim Janat (not out) 42 (22b, 3x4, 2x6), Rashid Khan c Hardik b Shami O (1b), Sharafuddin Ashraf (not out) 2 (3b); Extras (w-4): 4; Total (for seven

Innings scan

with six fours and seven sixes

after New Zealand was asked

His first six off Alasdair

Evans in the sixth over took

him past the 3,000-mark in

the format, second only to Vi-

6.1), 4-157 (Phillips, 18.2), 5-157

SCOTLAND BOWLING

Wheal 4-0-40-2, Sharif 4-0-28-2,

Evans 4-0-48-0, Watt 4-0-13-1,

SCOTLAND

George Munsey c Southee b Sodhi

22 (18b, 1x4, 2x6), Kyle Coetzer c

Southee b Boult 17 (11b, 4x4),

Matthew Cross b Southee 27

(29b, 5x4), Richie Berrington c

Conway b Sodhi 20 (17b, 1x4,

1x6), Calum MacLeod b Boult 12

(15b), Michael Leask (not out) 42

3-0-26-0,

46

to bat.

(Guptill, 18.3).

Greaves

1-0-12-0.

Scotland

50

14

48/1

FALL OF WICKETS

(Shahzad, 2.6), 2-13 (Hazratullah, 3.1), 3-48 (Rahmanullah, 6.5), 4-59 (Naib, 9.3), 5-69 (Najibullah, 11.5), 6-126 (Nabi, 18.1), 7-127 (Rashid, 18.3).

INDIA BOWLING Shami 4-0-32-3, Bumrah 4-0-25-1, Hardik 2-0-23-0, Jadeja

3-0-19-1, Ashwin 4-0-14-2, Shardul 3-0-31-0. Toss: Afghanistan.

MoM: Rohit Sharma. India won by 66 runs.

Next assignment

India: Nov. 5 vs Scotland, Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

Afghanistan: Nov. 7 vs New Zealand, Abu Dhabi, 3.30 p.m. IST

Innings scan

India		Afghani- stan							
28	Dots	51							
19	Fours	10							
10	Sixes	7							
53/0	PP	47/2							
10.50	RR	7.19							

Next assignment

New Zealand: Nov. 5 vs

Scotland: Nov. 5 vs India,

rat Kohli. Chasing a target of

173, the Scots were 76 for two

team some hope with a brisk,

undefeated 42 off 20 balls

with three fours and three

sixes. However, the expe-

rienced New Zealand attack

Matthew Leask gave the

Namibia, Sharjah,

3.30 p.m. IST

in 10 overs.

Dravid appointed India Head Coach

His innings will begin with the home series against NZ

ASHWIN ACHAL BENGALURU

Former India captain Rahul Dravid has been appointed as the Head Coach of the senior Indian men's cricket team, the BCCI announced on Wednesday. Dravid takes over from Ravi Shastri, whose term ends after the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup.

Dravid, among the finest batters India has produced, was unanimously appointed by the Cricket Advisory comprising Committee former international cricketers Sulakshana Naik and R.P. Singh.

Dravid's innings will commence with the home series against New Zealand later this month.

'Absolute honour'

"It is an absolute honour to be appointed as the new Head Coach of the Indian cricket team, and I am really looking forward to this role. Under Shastri, the team has done very well, and I hope to work with the team to take it forward.

"Having worked closely with most of the boys either at NCA, under-19 and India 'A' set up, I know they have the passion and desire to improve every day.

"There are some marquee multi-team events in the next two years, and I look forward to working with the players and the support staff to achieve our potential," a BCCI release quoted Dravid as saving.

Dravid's former India teammate and BCCI Presi-



Ready to take strike: Dravid will be keen to propel Indian cricket to greater heights. • TWITTER/BCCI

He (Dravid) is a stalwart of Indian cricket and it will be nice working with him in future

ROHIT SHARMA

dent Sourav Ganguly stated, "BCCI welcomes Rahul Dravid as the Head Coach of India's senior men team. Rahul has had an illustrious playing career and is one of the greats of the game.

"He has also served Indian cricket as Head of National Cricket Academy (NCA) with distinction, Rahul's effort at the NCA has nurtured several young cricketing talents who have gone on to represent the country on the international stage. I am hopeful that his new stint will take Indian cricket to new heights."

"The Board congratulates Shastri (Team Director & Head Coach), B. Arun (Bowling Coach), R. Sridhar (Fielding Coach) and Vikram Rathour (Batting Coach) on a successful tenure.

"Under Shastri, the Indian cricket team adopted a bold and fearless approach and performed creditably both in home and away conditions," the BCCI said, thanking the former India skipper. The two Test series wins in Australia – in 2018-19 and 2020-21 - count among the highlights of Shastri's

Earlier this year, Dravid donned the role of interim head coach for the Indian team's limited-overs tour of Sri Lanka. Shastri was with the Indian team on the Test tour of England, which was being held at the same time.

In the thick of it

Dravid has served as the NCA Director and as the coach for the India Under-19 and India-A sides. Under his guidance, India won the 2018 ICC Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand.

TODAY'S MATCHES

DUBAI, 3.30 P.M. IST

Bangladesh

Bangladesh

Australia

Australia

West Indies

Australia needs a win to stay afloat

Bangladesh, out of the semifinal race, has only pride to play for

AYAN ACHARYA

Australia will take on Bangladesh in a must-win Group 1 Super 12 contest of the ICC T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

It needs to beat Bangladesh and then the West Indies on November 6 to keep its qualification hopes alive.

Even then its fate will hinge on England beating South Africa on Saturday. Bangladesh is at the bottom of the points table with four

Points table

England

Australia

Sri Lanka

West Indies

Bangladesh

Pakistan (Q)

Afghanistan

New Zealand

India

Namibia

Scotland

South Africa

Australia exposed Glenn

4

3

4

4

4

3

3

3

3

After the India-Afghanistan match on Nov. 3

3

2

0

2

2

1

0

4

0

2

2

2

3

Maxwell, its best batter, to a raging England attack by sending him at No. 4. Either Marcus Stoinis or Matthew Wade could be promoted to take the sting out of the bowling in such situations. Mitchell Marsh, who was dropped for the clash with England to include Ashton Agar, could return against Bangladesh.

Bangladesh could bring back Mustafizur Rahman in place of Nasum Ahmed. Taskin Ahmed bowled superbly for his two for 18 against South Africa. He will be one to watch.

desh spin-bowling coach, remains optimistic despite his team's poor run.

"We need to maintain that winning mindset and build confidence."

PTS

8

6

4

2

2

0

8

4

4

2

2

0

NRR

3.183

0.742

-0.627

-0.590

-1.598

-1.435

1.065

1.481

0.816

0.073

-1.600

-2.645

Q: Qualified

ABU DHABI, 7.30 P.M. IST Played: 14 West Indies Sri Lanka

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

FRIDAY'S MATCHES

New Zealand

Namibia SHARJAH, 3.30 P.M. IST

H2H IN T2015 FIRST MEETING





DUBAI, 7.30 P.M. IST The only T20I between India and Scotland (2007

World Cup) was abandoned with a toss

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Nishant and Sanjeet also

Djokovic shakes off the rustiness to progress

Injured Tsitsipas concedes his second round match

On the rampage: Guptill smashed seven sixes and six fours in

PARIS MASTERS

his 56-ball knock. • GETTY IMAGES

REUTERS

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic had to work hard for a threeset victory over Hungarian Marton Fucsovics at the Paris Masters on Tuesday in his first match since losing the U.S. Open final, and missing out on a calendar Grand Slam, in September.

He showed signs of rustiness in the French capital on his return to action in the second round, after getting a first-round bye, eventually winning 6-2 4-6 6-3.

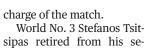
The first set was comfortable, and it looked like the Serbian would mark his return with a routine success, but Fucsovics rallied in the



Hanging tough: Djokovic did not let a stutter in the third set unnerve him against Fucsovics. • GETTY IMAGES

second, breaking twice to take the set. Djokovic looked to be in

trouble in the deciding set, with Fucsovics playing the better tennis, but from 1-1, 30-30, the Serb won 10 points in a row to take



sipas retired from his second-round match against Australian Alexei Popyrin with what appeared to be a right arm injury.

The 23-year-old Greek was

trailing 4-2 during the first set when he called the trainer on court before shaking hands with his opponent to signal his retirement.

Felix Auger-Aliassime and Carreno Busta dropped out of contention for the ATP Finals by losing in the second round. The results: Second round: No-

vak Djokovic bt Marton Fucsovics 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; Casper Ruud bt Alexander Bublik 6-4, 6-0; Alexei Popyrin bt Stefanos Tsitsipas 4-2, retd.; Dominik Koepfer bt Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3, 7-5; Hugo Gaston bt Pablo Carreno Busta 6-7(3), 6-4, 7-5. First round: Marcos Giron bt

Frances Tiafoe 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-3: Gael Monfils bt Miomir Kecmanovic 4-6, 7-5, 6-3; Marin Cilic bt Alejandro Davidovich 6-3, 6-4; Diego Schwartzman bt John Millman 7-6(2), 5-7, 6-2;

(20b, 3x4, 3x6), Chris Greaves (not out) 8 (10b): Extras (lb-2. w-6): 8; Total (for five wkts. in 20

FALL OF WICKETS

1-21 (Coetzer, 2.4), 2-66 (Munsey, 7.5), 3-76 (Cross, 10.5), 4-102 (MacLeod, 14.5), 5-106 (Berrington. 15.4)

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING Boult 4-0-29-2, Southee 4-0-24-1, Milne 4-1-36-0, Santner 4-0-23-0, Sodhi 4-0-42-2.

Toss: Scotland: MoM: Guptill New Zealand won by 16 runs.

Srikanth and Sourabh advance

Prannoy and Aakarshi ousted in the opening round

HYLO OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SAARBRUCKEN (GERMANY)

K. Srikanth and Sourabh Verma advanced to the prequarterfinals, even as H.S. Prannoy and Aakarshi Kashyap made first round exits, in the HYLO Open Super 500 badminton tournament here Wednesday.

Srikanth, seeded sixth, beat Koki Watanabe of Japan 21-15, 21-10 in 32 minutes, while Sourabh received a walkover in his first round match against Max Weisskirchen of Germany.

Prannoy went down 21-16, 17-21, 7-21 to the lowerranked Irish shuttler Nhat Nguyen in a match that last-



Breezing through: K. Srikanth took just 36 minutes to get past Koki Watanabe of Japan. • FILE РНОТО

ed 57 minutes.

Nguyen (Ire) bt H.S. Prannoy The results (first round): Men: 16-21, 21-17, 21-7. K. Srikanth bt Koki Watanabe (Jpn) 21-15, 21-10. Women: Neslihan Yegit (Tur) bt Sourabh Verma w/o Max

Aakarshi Kashyap 21-7, 23-21.

Weisskirchen (Ger): Nhat



A gritty Nishant troubled Russia's Vadim Musaev with his fantastic hand speed and never-saydie spirit but just could not match him on impactful punching, going down 1-4 in his quarterfinal. Sanjeet, who was a quar-

terfinalist in the event's last edition, ended at the same stage once again, losing 0-5 to Italian Aziz Abbes Mouhiidine.

M ND-NDE

Honoured, says Neeraj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Selected for the prestigious

Major Dhyan Chand Khel

Ratna Award after winning a

historic gold in the Tokyo

Olympics, star javelin

thrower Neeraj Chopra said

on Wednesday that he will

continue to work hard and

bring more laurels for the

awarded the Major Dhyan

Chand Khel Ratna alongside

some outstanding sport-

"Aap sabhi ke sahyog aur

support ke liye tahe dil se

dhanyavad (thank you from

the bottom of my heart for

the support from all of

you)," the 23-year old tweet-

"Koshish ye hi rahegi ki aise

hi apne performances se

desh ke liya aur success haa-

sil kar paun! (I will continue

to work to achieve more suc-

cess for the country through

my performances)."

"I am honoured to be

NEW DELHI

country.

spersons.

More success

TV PICKS

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

Men's World Boxing Championships: Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m. 2. 3 & Sonv Six (SD & HD). 11.30 p.m.: Sonv Ten 1 & Sonv Six (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m.

Conference League: Sony Ten 2 & Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m.

Sports 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.

**Aon's World Boxing
Conv Six (SD

IN BRIEF

Sneh Rana guides

(Sneh Rana 61 n.o.).

Amrit and Diya triumph

Amrit Dhankar and Diya Chaudhary won the boys and girls titles respectively in the

The results (finals): Under-14 boys: Amrit Dhankar bt Parmath Kaushik Diya Chaudhary bt Rhosyn

Manpreet also to get the Khel Ratna

President of India to honour the awardees on November 13

SPORTS AWARDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Olympic bronze-winning Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh has been added to the list of Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna awardees. All the awards, including the Arjuna and Dronacharya, will be given away by the President of India on November 13.

The awardees: Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna: Neeraj Chopra (athletics), Ravi Kumar (wrestling), Lovlina Borgohain (boxing), P.R. Sreejesh, Manpreet Singh (both hockey), Avani Lekhara, Manish Narwal (both para shooting), Sumit Antil (para athletics), Pramod Bhagat, Krishna Nagar (both para badminton). Mithali Rai (cricket) and Sunil Chhetri (football).

Arjuna: Arpinder Singh (athletics). Simraniit Kaur (boxing). Shikhar Dhawan (cricket), C.A.



Recognition: Indian hockey team skipper Manpreet, originally chosen for the Arjuna Award, will be given India's highest sporting honour ■FILE PHOTO

Bhavani Devi (fencing), Sandeep Narwal (kabaddi), Himani Uttam Parab (mallakhamb), Abhishek Verma (shooting).

Ankita Raina (tennis), Deepak Punia (wrestling); Monika, Vandana Katariya, Dilpreet Singh, Harman Preet Singh, Rupinder

Pal Singh, Surender Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Birendra Lakra, Sumit, Nilakanta Sharma, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy: Panjab University.

the bowling chart for the

spinner Wanindu Hasaranga

has topped the bowling

chart for the first time in his

career after two successive

three-wicket hauls.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka leg-

first time.

ranjeet Singh (all hockey); Yogesh Kathuniya, Nishad Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Sharad Kumar (all para athletics). Suhash Yathiraj (para badminton), Singhraj Adhana (para shooting), Bhavina Patel (para table tennis) and Harvinder Singh (para

Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh,

Shamsher Singh, Lalit Kumar

Upadhyay, Varun Kumar, Sim-

Dronacharya: Life-time: T.P. Ouseph (athletics), Sarkar Talwar (cricket), Sarpal Singh (hockey), Ashan Kumar (kabaddi), Tapan Kumar Panigrahi (swimming); Regular: P. Radhakrishnan Nair (athletics), Sandhya Gurung (boxing), Pritam Siwach (hockey), Jai Prakash Nautiyal (para shooting) and S. Raman (table tennis).

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar: Manav Rachna Educational Institution and Indian Oil Corporation Limited for encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility.

Ramkumar advances

INDIANS ABROAD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Ramkumar Ramanathan defeated Aldin Setkic of Bosnia and Herzegovina 7-6(7), 4-6, 6-3 in the first round of the €44,820 Challenger tennis tournament in Eckental, Germany on Wednesday.

€44,820 Challenger, Bergamo, Italy: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Radu Albot (Mda) &

Other results:

Artem Sitak (Nzl) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-2, 6-2. \$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (first round):

Nikita Volonski (Aus) bt Rishabdev Raman 6-4, 6-2. Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Mirko Martinez (Sui) & Ajeet Rai

(Nzl) bt Zakai Stone (US) & Amaan Siddiqui 6-4, 6-2. Warren Wood (US) & Tushar

7-6(5), 3-6, [10-8].

Neeraj Chopra. • FILE РНОТО

\$60,000 ITF women, Nantes, France: Singles (first round): Anhelina Kalinina (Ukr) bt Karman Kaur Thandi 6-3, 6-3; Sada Nahimana (Bdi) bt Ankita Raina 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF women, Heraklion, Greece: Singles (first round): Karen Mathiens (Fra) bt Sowjanya Bavisetti 6-3, reted.

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Nicole Gadient & Corina Mader (Sui) bt Emira Stafford (US) & Jennifer Luikham 7-6(3),

\$15,000 ITF women, Castellon, Spain: Singles (first round): Carlota Martinez Cirez (Esp) bt Sathwika Sama 6-0, 6-1.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Maria Josefina Zehnder (Arg) & Sathwika Sama w.o. Mihaela Djakovic (Srb) & Chantal Sauvant

Nothing short of a dream, says Chhetri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The first footballer to be conferred with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Indian maestro Sunil Chhetri on Wednesday said the 16-year journey has been nothing short of a dream.

Since his India debut on June 12, 2005 against Pakistan in Quetta, Chhetri has rewritten the country's football history many times and he has now added another feather in his cap by being named for the country's highest sporting award.

"I am really thankful and honoured. I have always said that it is a dream that I have gone through, and it would not have been possible without my family, team-



mates and coaches I have played under," Chhetri said.

"It has been amazing to play for the National team,"

Bumrah jumps to joint 24th PRESS TRUST OF INDIA nindu Hasaranga has topped Pakistan captain Babar

India's Rohit Sharma moved up a place to 23rd in the batting chart while pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah jumped 10 places to joint 24th in the ICC men's T20 rankings on

Azam's two successive halfcenturies in the T20 World Cup have helped him overtake England's Dawid Malan and grab the No. 1 position for batters. Babar is at the top for the sixth time.

Sri Lanka leg-spinner Wa-

ISL: Odisha FC announces squad war, Hendry Antonay, Lalhrezuala Sailung, Thangmuansang, Deven Sawhney, Victor Mongil, Hector Rodas. Midfielders: Thoiba Singh Moirangthem, Vinit Rai, Paul Ramfangzauva, Isaac Vanmalsawma, Isak Vanlalruatfela, Liridon Krasniqi, Javi Hernandez,

> tluanga, Nikhil Raj. Forwards: Akshunna Tyagi, Daniel Lalhlimpuia, Aridai Cabrera, Jonathas Cristian De Jesus.

ADVERTISEMENT

MAIN CAUSES OF (PASC) LONG / POST COVID SYMPTOMS DISCOVERED

and scientists have come a lot closer to identify the main causes for Long/Post Covid symptoms.

In a recent Webinar, Dr. Shankara Chetty from South Africa, Dr. Kamal Dua from the UTS University Sydney and the Indian biotech company Vedicinals, presented some of their new findings on causes of Long/Post Covid conditions.

A growing number of former COVID-19 patients are experiencing many long lasting symptoms, including fatigue, shortness of breath, loss of smell and taste and a large number of up to 200 symptoms.

Somewhere between 15-40% of patients suffer from sometimes multiple Long Covid conditions.

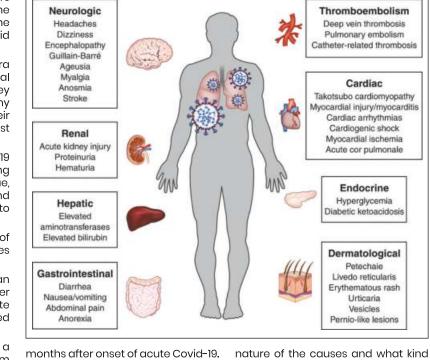
It affects women more than men and can develop even after asymptomatic or mild to moderate Covid19 conditions. It is also reported in many younger patients.

It can affect the ability to lead a normal life, to work or perform the most basic activities in many patients.

When does the Long Covid start?

continuation of the acute Covid-19 conditions. In other cases, between the acute Covid19 conditions and the onset of Long-Covid Symptoms,

Usually, Long Covid is diagnosed if



Commonly it can take 5 to 12 month to resolve, and some patients show dysregulated biomarkers and symptoms even after more than one year. If not treated properly it can lead to chronic illnesses and even organ damage.

Many clinics and teams of doctors around the globe have started to specialize in the treatment of these so called Long Haulers, but the condition is relatively new and there is still a lack of understanding the true

of therapy will really help. Dr. Shankara Chetty from South Africa and his network of doctors have

> causes and are very successful in treating patients accordingly. Including the findings of various other specialists from the US and UK, the treatment protocols are getting more targeted and show faster

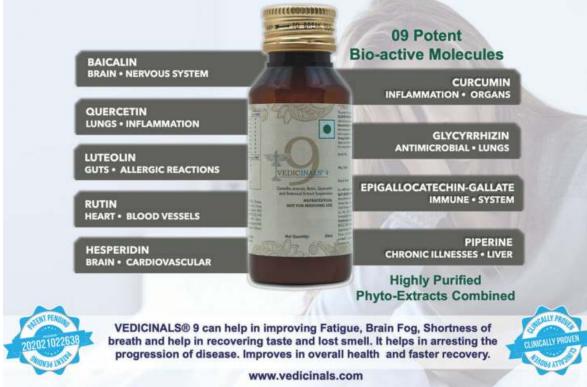
> deciphered the most likely underlying

As Long Covid is a multi systemic illness, developing in several stages, the choice of pharmaceutical drugs in combination with specially developed nutraceuticals is showing that this can now be targeted in a much more successful way.

Most important is the insight, that severe Covid19, as well as Long Covid conditions are for a big part Spike protein which triggers the following INFLAMMATION

In order to prevent patients from developing severe, or Long

LONG / POST COVID SYMPTOMS?



LONG COVID BIOMARKERS INFLAMMATION THROMBOSIS IL - 6 D - Dime C - Reactive Protein (CRP) ABNORMAL LUNG X-RAY FINDINGS

Above data was derived from Phase2 Clinical Trials, Vedicinals CTRI; 12-10-2020; TrialID: CTRI/2020/10/028364

to keep the patients well-being as the main focus of all efforts!" says Mr.Prakash Salunke, managing director of VEDICINALS INDIA Pvt Ltd Contact: www.vedicinals.com

Prakash Salunke

Managing Director & Share Holder

"We want to invite scientists, medical practitioners and Universities to join

the ongoing research efforts. This is

still a serious situation and we have

Covid symptoms, a change of

understanding and the way of

This new therapeutic approach,

has been developed by Dr.

Shankara Chetty and in parallel

by the VEDICINALS TEAM from Pune

treatment has to be evaluated.

Maharashtra,

https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmicb.2021.698169/full

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CM YK

(Friday) Europa

(Friday)

FRIDAY
Men's T20 World Cup: Star

Championship: Sony Six (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m. Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1 a.m. (Saturday)

Antetokounmpo helps **Bucks end losing streak**

Giannis Antetokounmpo finished with 28 points, nine assists and eight rebounds as Milwaukee Bucks ended its three-game losing streak with a 117-89 road win over the Detroit Pistons. The results: Milwaukee 117 bt

Detroit 89. Miami 125 bt Dallas 110 Utah 119 bt Sacramento 113. Phoenix 112 bt New Orleans 100, LA Lakers 119 bt Houston 117. AFP

Railways to victory

Sneh Rana's unbeaten 61 enabled Railways to beat Tamil Nadu by eight wickets in a BCCI-Sr. women Elite-B round-3 on Wednesday. **The scores**: TN 111 in 44.2 overs (M. D. Thirushkamini 38, D. Hemalatha 4/19, Meghna Singh 3/23) lost to Railways 117/2 in 21.5 overs

CHANDIGARE

AITA Championship series junior tennis tournament at on Wednesday

3-6, 6-3, 6-1. **Under-14 girls**: William 6-2, 6-2.

Sunil Chhetri. ■ FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHUBANESWAR Odisha FC on Wednesday

announced its squad for the Hero Indian Super League 2021-22 season. The Bhubaneswar-based team is gearing up for the

opening match against Ben-

galuru FC on November 24

at Vasco, Goa. The squad includes six foreigners – Mongil, Hector Rodas, Javi Hernandez, Ari-

dai Cabrera, Liridon Krasniqi (AFC) and Jonathas De Jesus – while seven youngsters Lalhrezuala Sailung,

Sawhney, Thoiba Singh Moirangthem, Isak Vanlalruatfela, CVL Remtluanga, Akshunna Tyagi and Nikhil Raj have been classified as developmental players.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Kamaljit Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Ravi Kumar. Defenders: Gaurav Bora, Lalruathara, Sahil Pan-

Mawihmingthanga, Nandhakumar Sekar, CVL Rem-

Sharma bt Wissam Abderrahman & Mohamed Amin Oueslati (Tun)

Clinical Trial Register | ICTRP | ID: ictrp-CTRl202010028364

In most cases it is simply a

there can be a "hidden" period. **How long does long Covid last?**

the symptoms persist for more than 2 A WEBINAR ON



Dr. Shankara Chetty



LONG TERM EFFECTS OF COVID-19

CAUSES, SYMPTOMS & REPORTED TREATMENT OPTIONS





www.healthcare-channel.com



and THROMBOSIS.