on Sunday



Kerala braces for heavy showers; orange alert in State capital



Glasgow summit yet to seal a final deal, runs into extra time



U.S. lawmakers meet Modi ahead of S400 delivery

Australia takes on New Zealand in T20 World Cup final today

17 security

personnel lost

their lives in

with Naxals

Chhattisgarh

in Sukma

district of

'Dengue cases higher than official data

The number of dengue cases reported in just seven big Delhi hospitals is more than the Government's official figure of 4,362 for the city.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2



CLASSIFIEDS ▶ PAGE 4 MAGAZINE ▶ 8 PAGES

26 Naxals killed in Gadchiroli

3 Maharashtra policemen injured in the encounter near Chhattisgarh border

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI

At least 26 Naxals were killed on Saturday in an encounter with the Maharashtra police in Gadchiroli district, said State's Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil.

"Today's action is historic not only in the history of the State but also of the country. We are proud of our police," Mr. Walse-Patil said.

The encounter reportedly place in the early hours

of Saturday at the Mardintola forest near Korchi in Gadchiroli district. A C-60 police commando team was conducting the search operation based on inputs when they encountered the Naxals, said Gadchiroli Superintendent

Red Zone Over two dozen Naxals were killed in Saturday's operation. Dozens of security personnel have lost their lives in a series of



City Hospital in Nagpur on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT of Police Ankit "We have recovered 26

est," said Mr. Goyal. The identity of the slain The team was led by Addi-Naxals was yet to be ascertional SP Somay Munde. tained, sources said. Milind Three police officials were Teltumbde, a member of the injured during the operation Maoists' central committee, and have been admitted to was suspected to be among the hospital and are said to those dead, some reports said, though police did not

bodies so far from the for-

confirm them.

April 2021: At least 22 security personnel

and 32 others injured in Maoist attack at Sukma-Bijapur in Chhattisgarh

May 2019: 15 police

personnel and a

driver lost their

district

lives in a landmine

blast in Gadchiroli

March 2018: 8 CRPF

personnel killed in

during an operation

an IED blast in

Sukma district

Mr. Walse-Patil said that the police were verifying if Teltumbde, who is also one of the wanted accused in the Bhima Koregaon case, was among the slain rebels.

The district where the ambush took place lies on the border of Chhattisgarh.

(With PTI inputs)

killed in Manipur ambush Four others in the convoy also killed in attack by militants

Assam Rifles officer, family

DINAKAR PERI NEW DELHI

The Commanding Officer (CO) of 46 Assam Rifles (Khuga Battalion) Col. Viplav Tripathi, his family and four Ouick Reaction Team (ORT) personnel were killed in an ambush by militants in Churachandpur district of Manipur on Saturday morning.

The officer's convoy was attacked with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) at Sehkan village, Singhat subdivision, in Churachandpur district.

"In the following firefight with suspected militants of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PRE-PAK)/People's Liberation Army (PLA) cadre, the CO, his wife and six-year-old son and four QRT personnel lost their lives on the spot. The other injured personnel are receiving treatment at the Behianga health care centre," a statement from Assam Rifles said. A search is on in the area.

Col. Tripathi had served in Mizoram until July 2021 before he moved to Khuga in Churachandpur district.

PM condemns attack Condemning the attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on social meida, "I pay homage to those soldiers and family members who have been martyred today. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten. My thoughts are with the bereaved fami-

Churachandpur on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Deadly strike: A vehicle in the convoy after the ambush in

"The cowardly attack on the Assam Rifles convoy in Churachandpur is extremely painful and condemnable. The nation has lost five brave soldiers including CO 46 AR and two family members. My condolences to the bereaved families. The perpetrators will be brought to justice soon," said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on social media

lies in this hour of sadness."

The insurgent group is believed to be behind the attack as the PREPAK remembrance day is celebrated on November, 12/13, an officer from Assam Rifles said.

While attacks on military convoys have taken place earlier, families of personnel were not targeted. The attack may have been planned without information that the

family was also travelling

along, the officer said. "Strongly condemn the cowardly attack on the convoy of 46 AR which has reportedly killed a few personnel including the CO and his family today. The State forces and the paramilitary are already on their job to track down the militants. The perpetrators will be brought to justice," said Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Twitter.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 9

Curbs in polluted Delhi after SC moots lockdown

Bodies recovered

, KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

All schools in Delhi will remain closed for a week beginning Monday as part of steps announced to tackle air pollution in the Capital. All construction activity has been prohibited and Government employees will

work from home. Private offices too have been advised to follow suit.

This follows an emergency meeting convened by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday to assess the impact of air pollution.

Earlier in the morning, a Special Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Mr. Kejriwal's office said.

Justice N.V. Ramana, assembled to urge the Centre and the Delhi Government to "emergency measures", even proposing a two-day lockdown, to bring air quality back to normal in capital choked by

pollution. The Delhi Government, would prepare a proposal on imposing a lockdown till the situation improved and would submit it to the court.

'Take immediate steps' "Do you know how bad the

situation is? People have to wear masks even at home... Think of a two-day lockdown... Reports said air is 'severe' in Delhi and may become worse in another two or three days... You have to take immediate measures...," CJI Ramana addressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 9 NEED TO PROTECT CHILDREN

+ Govt. under pressure to revisit 'travel bubble' policy

High fares, fewer flights cripple international travel to India

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI With airfares for returning

students and families from Europe and North America doubling and even quadrupling this winter, and permitted flights from a limited 28 countries running packed, the Union Government is facing pressure from many quarters, including foreign embassies and the tourism industry, to restore regular international flights. These flights had been cancelled due to the COVID pan-

demic in March 2020.

Diplomatic sources told The Hindu that a number of embassies have written to the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Civil Aviation demanding an end to what they see as an "unfair" system, where only those countries that the government has chosen to sign "air travel bubble" agreements with are able to run flights, and even those are limited by the Government's reciprocal agreements.

Further the agreements are meant to be only "end to end", i.e. not valid for on-

Wings clipped

Amid increasing air traffic and skyrocketing fares, diplomatic pressure to restore regular international travel is mounting

All international flights were cancelled on March 22, 2020

times, latest extension till Nov. 30 India has signed 'air bubble' deals with 28 countries. Several of

Ban extended many

them want direct flights



ward travel to a third country, meaning that travellers often have to break their journeys at multiple points to travel to a destination to which India doesn't permit a

SPECIAL

direct flight. At a recent event in the capital, Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia faced several questions from ambassadors and high commissioners on the issue, and was "besieged" by requests to normalise flights to pre-COVID levels, according to attendees.

"There is a general feeling that air bubbles have dragged on for far too long. reopen in December-January. The thinking in the government has changed recently as COVID cases are on the wane," one official told The Hindu, conceding that the government is now feeling the pressure to reconsider its policy. With nearly 100 countries now accepting Indians vaccinated with WHOapproved Covishield and Covaxin, travel agents and airlines are also asking why India is not rationalising flights, even suggesting that

the government is holding

out for renegotiating its air

service agreements. **CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 9

Hindi is a friend, says Amit Shah

Union Home Minister says it and regional languages are complementary

Raising the Hindutva pitch in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday offered voters the choice between two sets of what he abbreviated as JAMs – the BJP's Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar and mobile phones as against Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Mohammad Azam Khan and Mukhtar Ansari of the Opposition.

At a separate event in Varanasi, Mr. Shah, while stressing the need to strengthen Hindi, said democracy could only become successful when the language of the administration was Swabhasha and Rajbhasha. He also said there was "no conflict" between Hindi and other regional languages. "Hindi is the saheli and sakhi (friend) of all regional languages and there can never be any conflict between sakhis. They are complementary," he said at the All-India Rajbhasha Conference.

Mr. Shah said while his mother tongue was Gujarati and he loved the language, he was more fond of Hindi. He also pitched for making Hindi flexible, and said there was no need for "any struggle" for promotion of Rajbhasha and Swabhasha.



New facility: Amit Shah laying the foundation stone of a State university in Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. • PTI

Earlier, addressing a rally after laying the foundation stone of a State university in Azamgarh, considered a Samajwadi Party (SP) stronghold, Mr. Shah took a swipe at SP president Akhilesh Yaday for his recent reference to Jinnah at a rally in Hardoi.

"Now you tell me do you want BJP's JAM or SP's JAM," Mr. Shah asked in Azamgarh, which he said was known for "fundamentalist thinking" and being a "safe haven for terrorism" under SP rule.

Mr. Shah accused Mr. Yaday of glorifying Jinnah as the election season came near. "Is there anyone here who sees a great person in Jinnah? But Akhileshji feels so because election season is here," said the BJP leader. Mr. Shah said prior to an end to these. Fight against terrorism

2017, rule of casteism, 'dy-

nasticism' and appeasement

existed in U.P. "Everyone did

not get justice," he said, ad-

ding that now Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath had brought

He suggested to Mr. Adityanath, who was also on stage, that the new university be named after Maharaja Suheldev, a medieval-era mythical warrior-king who is today revered by both Pasis (Dalits) and Rajbhars (OBC).

Though Suheldev's historicity is shrouded in mystery, over the years the BJP and RSS have aggressively projected him as an ideal Hindutva warrior who halted the march of Muslim invader Ghazi Mian, a nephew of Mahmud Ghaznavi.

Mr. Shah referred to this and said Suheldev had driven back "foreign invaders" from the land of U.P. and fought against "terrorism" back in his age. "If this university is named after him, it would be a big message for people," he said. Mr. Shah's speech was

high on Hindutva rhetoric, where on the one hand he accused the Opposition of dividing people along caste lines, causing riots, indulging in appeasement and vote bank politics, on the other he said the BJP had fulfilled the promise of a Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and diluting Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, apart from making U.P. free from all mafia.

He lauded Mr. Adityanath for making Purvanchal "machhar and mafia mukt," a reference to the Chief Minister's law-and-order policy and handling of encephalitis outbreaks in the region. Mr. Adityanath said the new university would convert Azamgarh into Aryan Garh.

Mr. Shah told voters that their blessings would help the Prime Minister to move forward and strengthen his resolve in making India a big global force and get the due respect for the country.

terrorists: CDS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

share intel on

Kashmiris now _

The people in Kashmir are now saying they will "lynch terrorists" and this is a "positive sign", Chief of the Defence Staff Gen. Bipin Rawat said at the Times Now summit.

"Nobody [terrorists] are being allowed to go scot free... The same locals are now giving information about the terrorists. In fact, now what we are told is, the locals are saying we will lynch the terrorists, which is a very positive sign that is coming in," Gen. Rawat said.

"You go to social media. There are now statements coming out where locals are saying, if you want, we will now start lynching these terrorists because we will not allow these [terror attacks] to happen," he said when asked about the source of his claim. He said it was the fear of the gun that kept the locals from disclosing information. But now they are coming forward, saying "either we will lynch them or make such arrangements that they get lynched."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 9

Tamil Nadu is firm that Mullaperiyar dam is safe

It's a victim of social media campaign, State Government tells Supreme Court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Tamil Nadu Government on Saturday stood firm by its position in the Supreme Court that the 126year-old Mullaperiyar dam is "hydrologically, structurally and seismically safe".

The State said there is a "social media campaign" triggered in Kerala against the dam. It said the steady flow of petitions to the apex court from Kerala, questioning the safety of the dam, even calling for its decom-



Decommissioning of the dam would be in violation of SC judgments, Tamil Nadu said.

missioning, is a bid to harass it. Appearing before a Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and C.T. Ravikumar, senior accused Kerala of trying "somehow to prevent Tamil Nadu to raise the level to 142 ft. at the dam on one pretext or the other by raising issues which have been fully addressed by experts from the Central Water Commission".

advocate Shekhar Naphade

'Backed by committees'

Tamil Nadu, in an affidavit, said the safety has been supported by reports of the expert committee and the empowered committee after extensive study. It said the

height of the storage level at 142 ft. was endorsed by the Supreme Court in 2014 in a judgment.

The safety aspects are being constantly monitored by the supervisory committee set up seven years ago. Decommissioning of the dam would be in violation of a series of judgments of the Supreme Court, Mr. Naphade argued on Saturday.

Senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, for Kerala, sought time to respond to Tamil Na-

worth ₹1 crore - to Budha Samal, a rickshaw-puller

bequeaths property worth ₹1 crore to rickshaw-puller

BHUBANESWAR

recently dictated her will, relatives and neighbours sixty-something Cuttack resident decided to bequeath all her property including jewellery and a three-storeyed building

who has served her family for two decades.

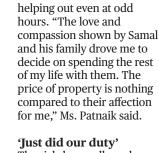
Ms. Patnaik had adopted the family of four after back-to-back tragedies struck in 2020: her husband died of cancer and six months later her daughter, a spinster, suffered a fatal cardiac arrest.

"After the death of my husband and daughter, I was left alone. It was the worst phase of my life. I experienced depression and extreme anxiety. That was the time I needed my



■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

relatives to rally around me with words of comfort... but no one turned up," she said. Mr. Samal stood by her,



The rickshaw-puller, whose

fate has changed overnight, said he had not anticipated this generosity. "I have been associated with Ms. Patnaik's family for two decades. We just did our duty," Mr. Samal said.

NEW DELHI

du's affidavit.

Odisha woman's gratitude to a friend in need Senior citizen

SATYASUNDAR BARIK When Minati Patnaik were in for a surprise. The

'Dengue cases higher than official count'

Cases reported in just 7 big city hospitals more than Govt.'s figure of 4,362 for the entire city: sources

MUNEEF KHAN

The number of dengue cases reported in just seven big city hospitals is more than the Government's official figure of 4,362 for the entire city, sources told The Hindu. This indicates that the actual number of cases, including those from other hospitals in the city, is much higher.

Several doctors, on condition of anonymity, said the official figure is low and one doctor even said that it's a "gross underestimate".

According to the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), which releases the official dengue data for the city, 4,362 cases, including those from outside Delhi, were reported this year till November 6. But the total number of cases reported at the seven city hospitals, which were selected randomly, till November 6 is over



Families of patients seen outside a fever clinic at GTB Hospital as dengue cases rise in the Capital. • FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Despite repeated attempts, the Press Relations Officer (PRO) of the SDMC did not offer a comment on the official figure being low.

'No timely reporting'

When contacted, another official of the civic body said, "Many hospitals in the city have not done timely reporting of dengue cases to the authorities. It was only after the Delhi Government notified vector-borne diseases, under the Epidemic Diseases

Act, that it became mandatory for hospitals to report the cases to the authorities. Had the hospitals done timely reporting of dengue cases, the municipal corporations could have stepped in and checked the situation in those areas."

An official at the Central Government-run Safdarjung Hospital said that "853 cases of dengue and 13 deaths were recorded from January 1 to November 1". "Of these 853 cases, 518 were from Delhi and 335 from outside. Of the 13 deaths, three were from outside Delhi while one was a resident of the city," the official said, adding that the details of the remaining nine deaths are not available.

"About 1,300 confirmed cases of dengue have been reported at Lok Nayak Hospital this year. About 20% of them are from outside Delhi," a Government source said. Some of these patients had got the dengue detection test done outside the hospital.

At the Centre-run ESIC Hospital in Okhla, 38 and 318 cases of dengue were recorded in September and October respectively, a source said. More than 750 dengue cas-

es were reported at the Staterun Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital till November 6, an official said.

Sources at three private hospitals said they reported at least 700, 400, and 240 dengue cases till November 6. "The official figure is a there is a lot of pressure on us from the MCD and we can't do much as we need to go to them for many permissions," a doctor at one of the three private hospitals said.

Doctors at other hospitals, which did not share their data, also said the official figure is low considering the caseload they faced.

"NS1 antigen test works to detect dengue only in the first four to five days of the infection. We were getting serious patients who were coming to us after five or six days. In a majority of these cases, the NS1 antigen test was coming out to be negative but the patients had all the signs of dengue such as falling platelets. These patients are not officially counted as dengue patients," a doctor at Delhi government-run Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital said.

At RML Hospital, an additional 23-bed dengue ward has remained full since its establishment on October 27.



Whiff of grilled tikkas in the air

Beat the nip in the air with a piping hot platter of Awadhi fare

though our tea - with a bakneaded with milk, giving it con quiche (baked by the a pleasant aftertaste.

guests), egg sandwiches, mutton chops and almond cake - was rather heavy. The sight of the galouti kababs and parathas was enticing, so we found ourselves happily tucking into the Awadhi fare.

Kababs and parathas

The kababs were delicious, with just a hint of the fragrance of nutmeg in it. It wasn't as soft as galouti can be, but I liked it this way. A bit firm, it didn't crumble upon touch, and went deliciously well with the paratha, which was mildly sweet, as varki pa-

rathas

meant to be. These parathas are from the usual parathas,

The chicken malai tikka got pass marks. It was creamy, but not memorable enough. I have had juicier tikkas in little corners of Old Delhi. The boti kabab was a surprise, it came blanketed in thick gravy, which again was delicious. I mopped up the gravy - rich, but not overly so - with a soft roomali roti. However, the next time I order from there, I am going to ask them to go easy on red chilli. It gave the gravy colour and contributed to the taste, no doubt, but left me tossing and turning all night.

Legacy of Awadh has its pros and cons. I was happy with the pros, of course the galouti with the paratha won a high grade – and I am sure they will be able to customise the chilli factor for their clients. Meanwhile, I wait for the return of my friendly neighbourhood tandoor – and the whiff of

Dog beaten to death with sticks; case registered

Incident video viral on social media

STAFF REPORTER

A street dog died after two unidentified men thrashed it with sticks in Shahdara's Rohtash Nagar area. A video of the incident went viral on social media.

The video showed one person approaching the dog with a stick in his hand. He then beat the dog with hte stick following which the dog started limping and tried to run away. Another person then attacked the dog with another stick and the animal fell unconscious. Another dog fled the spot, the video showed.

CCTV footage of the inci-

ऋषभ पंत

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय क्रिकेटर

DIP/Shabdarth/D/0128/21-22

dent showed it happened on Tuesday at 11.56 a.m.

Probe under way

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) R Sathiyasundaram said based on a complaint submitted by one Saurabh, a resident of East Rohtash Nagar, a case under Section 428 (mischief by killing or maiming animal of the value of ten rupees or upwards) of the Indian Penal Code and 11A of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 has been regis-

Further investigation into the matter is under way, the

Red alert



Pocket pinch: Tomatoes on sale at the Azadpur Mandi on Saturday. The price of tomatoes in Delhi has gone up to ₹80 per kg. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



 WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh) • JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543 NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
 LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

BJP has increased taxes by 17 times and forced traders to pay it: AAP

Party will face consequences for its negative campaign: BJP

The Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday said the BJP-governed municipal corporation has increased taxes by 17 times and forced traders to pay it. The party had reduced taxes close to elections, but it is not returning the money that the traders were forced to pay earlier, AAP claimed.

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "We grew up listening that the BJP is the business community's party. Today when the BJP is in power, it has done nothing but brought pure destruction to the traders' community. Forget the Centre, if we look at the BJPled MCD, in the last five years they have tortured the traders to the point of making

them shed tears of blood." Responding to the allegations, Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said being an MLA for seven years, Mr. Bharadwaj should know that if the rate of any government tax is reduced in the middle of the year, the excess tax paid is not refunded but adjusted in future.

clientele. The heady aroma

of grilled food was always

alluring but I looked espe-

cially forward to it on fall

evenings, when the body

yearned for something

The gentleman has not

reopened his shop yet but I

hope he does it soon. The

thought of those juicy tik-

kas picked up on November

evenings from his little cor-

ner had me scouring the In-

ternet for suitable kabab

and tikka outlets in my part

of the city. I clicked on a

place called 'Legacy of

Awadh' in Sector 7 (D 66),

Noida, had a look at the me-

nu, and decided that this

was what I was looking for.

Two dear friends were

coming over for tea and I

hoped to persuade them -

with a platter of kababs – to

stay back for dinner. I en-

tered an order for mutton

boti kababs (₹290 a plate),

mutton galouti kababs

(₹300 for six pieces), chick-

en malai tikka (₹330), varki

paratha (₹40 per piece)

and roomali roti

(₹20 each). The

food was deli-

neat little

We quite

vered

through

Swiggy

boxes.

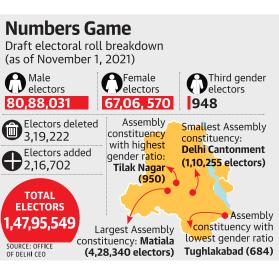
enjoyed

"The people of Delhi will never forgive AAP leaders for running negative campaigns and the party will face consequences in the 2022 civic elections," he said.

1 नवंबर से 30 नवंबर 2021

EC appoints 3 electoral roll observers for special summary revision

Qualifying date for draft roll is Jan. 1



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Ranbir Singh on Saturday briefed the electoral roll observers for the ongoing special summary revision (SSR), 2022, of the draft electoral roll with January 1, 2022 as the qualifying date.

The Election Commission of India has appointed three electoral roll observers for the 11 districts of Delhi to monitor the SSR activities in their respective areas and guide the District Electoral Officers.

"During the special summary revision, the electoral roll observer is required to visit each district under his responsibility at least three times. The first visit will be during the receipt of claims and objections, the second during the disposal of claims and objections and the third visit during the finalisation of the electoral roll," a press note stated.

Madhup Vyas, Secretarycum-Commissioner, Development, was allotted the west, south-west and south-east districts, while Dilraj Kaur, Principal Secretary, PWD, got New Delhi,

east, north-east and Shahdara districts. The central, north and north-west districts of Delhi were assigned to Alice Vaz, Secretary, Higher and Technical

Voter awareness drive

Mr. Singh also emphasised the ongoing voter awareness campaign and the special voter registration camps, which will be held across all polling stations on November 27 and 28. Claims and objections regarding the electoral rolls can be made till November

According to the draft roll released on November 1, the total number of electors in the city is 1,47,95,549. A total of 80,88,031 electors are male, 67,06,570 are female; the number of third gender electors stood at 948.

The SSR for the draft roll released on November 1, 2021, was carried out across Delhi's 70 Assembly constituencies. The largest Assembly constituency was Matiala with 4,28,340 electors and the smallest was Delhi Cantonment with 1,10,255.

A ND-NDE



01 जनवरी 2022 तक यदि आपकी उम्र 18 वर्ष या इससे अधिक है और मतदाता सूची में आपका नाम दर्ज़ नहीं है तो तुरंत पंजीकरण कराएं



ऑनलाइन वोटर हेल्पलाइन App डाउनलोड करें

अधिक जानकारी के लिए स्कैन करें:

अपने पोलिंग बूथ या

विधानसभा क्षेत्र के वोटर सेंटर या

नज़दीकी कॉमन सर्विस सेंटर पर जाएं

ऑफलाइन





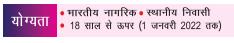
फॉर्म

अगर आपके पास वोटर आई डी है, तो अपना नाम सूची में अवश्य चेक कर लें



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(f) (v) (iii) (ceodelhioffice

DELHI

SUNDAY, NOV. 14 RISE 06:43 SET 17:29 RISE 14:55 SET 02:00 MONDAY, NOV. 15

RISE 06:44 SET 17:28 RISE 15:25 SET 02:56

TUESDAY, NOV. 16 RISE 06:45 SET 17:28 RISE 15:54 SET 03:50

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City 11

Delhi Palam Today 27°C Patchy thick smog likely in morning. Day would remain comfortable. Pollution level to continue with poor condition over the area.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 26°C The weather wil be comfortable with sever pollution level. A cool & misty morning turns comfortable day with partly cloudy sky. © Copyright Skymet Weather 2019

THE HINDU

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Need to protect children from toxic air: CM No respite as AQI

Kejriwal chairs emergency meeting on pollution, says Govt. drafting proposal on lockdown possibility

NEW DELHI

Protecting children from "breathing toxic air" was of paramount importance to the Delhi Government, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday after chairing an emergency meeting over the grave pollution situation in the Capital.

In the meeting it was decided that physical classes will be shut at both Government and private schools for a week and education of children will continue online, Mr. Kejriwal's announced.

All Government offices will be closed for one week in a bid to reduce vehicular traffic. Construction activity will be prohibited for three days between November 14 and 17 as weather forecasts are indicating a "fatal pollution situation" during the period.

Mr. Kejriwal said the Delhi Government was drafting a proposal on whether a lockdown could be imposed in the city and it would be placed in front of the Su-



Wheezing metropolis: A thick layer of smog envelops Delhi on Saturday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

preme Court after consulting all the stakeholders, including the Centre and the agencies under it.

"The pollution levels have significantly risen in Delhi in the past few days. The data at hand clearly state that air wasn't as polluted prior to September 30 and was within the 'satisfactory' level even on bad days. Till September, the AOI was around 100, but since then it has been steeply rising," Mr. Kejriwal was quoted as having said at the meeting.

"This is happening primarily because farmers in our neighbouring States have been forced into a situation where they have to burn their stubble. However, the Delhi Government does not intend to waste crucial time in this situation by entering into a blame game," he said at the meeting.

The sole motive of the Delhi Government at this juncture, he said, is to "overcome the emergency-like situation and protect the people of Delhi, especially children".

'Most extreme step'

"A suggestion propped up during the (Supreme) Court hearing on whether Delhi can impose a complete lockdown to tackle the pollution situation... We are drafting a proposal on this and will place it in front of the court in the next hearing. This will

all it is taken, so all agencies concerned with the matter will be consulted at length first," he said.

be the most extreme step if at

The Opposition parties -BJP and Congress – took the opportunity to accuse the Delhi Government of having done nothing to prevent the situation from deteriorating to the level it had.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said every October the Delhi Government comes up with a "pollution control plan which mainly charges the Haryana and Punjab Governments for the situation due to stubble burning".

"It is because of laxity of the Kejriwal Government that Delhi has now become a gas chamber. It is all due to his lax attitude that Delhiites are now having throat problems, burning eyes and other serious problems," he alleged.

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Ch. Anil Kumar also blamed the situation on the AAP Government's "incompetence and

remains 'severe'

'It is expected to improve in next 2 days'

STAFF REPORTER

Delhi's air quality continued to be in the 'severe' category for the third consecutive day on Saturday and is likely to improve during the next two days, according to auth-

Several other cities in the NCR such as Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad, and Ghaziabad and towns in north India, including Bulandshahr, Bhiwadi, Jind, also faced 'severe' level of air pollution, as per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

Air quality of the national capital has been 'severe' for seven out of nine days post-Deepavali. The other two days had 'very poor' level of air pollution.

Stubble burning has been high for over a week and is one of the major causes for air pollution in the city, as per data of the governmentrun monitoring agency SA-FAR. On Saturday, the con-

tribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to PM2.5, a chief pollutant, in Delhi was 31%, down from 35% on Friday. Also, effective fire counts in the region came down to 3,157 on Saturday from 4,056 a day earlier, as per SAFAR.

"Local wind speed in Delhi has started picking up from evening and is expected to further increase in the next two days. Because of this, the air quality is expected to improve to the 'very poor' category in the next two days. But it won't be a significant improvement," said Gufran Beig, founder project director, SAFAR.

He said that the air quality could turn "severe" again next week.

"Local wind speed is likely to be extremely calm on November 16 and 17, and if fire counts continue in the range of 3,000 like now, then the air quality may turn severe again," Mr. Beig

IN BRIEF



City reports 56 new virus infections, no deaths

NEW DELHI

The Capital reported no new COVID-19-related deaths over 24 hours and the total number of deaths stood at 25,093, according to a bulletin released by the Delhi Government. Fifty-six new cases were reported, taking the total cases to 14,40,388 The test positivity rate was at 0.10%.

Man arrested for fleeing with employer's ₹15 lakh

A 46-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly fleeing with ₹15 lakh of his employer, the police said on Saturday.

DCP (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said the accused has been identified as Vijay Kumar Mahto.

The police received a complaint on November 8 from a Civil Lines resident, Kushagra Aggarwal, who said he had asked his two employees - Vijay and Gau-

rav - to withdraw ₹30 lakh from his bank's home branch in Chandni Chowk for business purpose.

The two withdrew the money and put ₹15 lakh each in two separate bags. When the two reached the employer's house, Vijay asked Gaurav to wait outside the society as Mr. Aggarwal wasn't picking up the call.

"Vijay made an excuse to Gaurav and left the place only to decamp with the withdrawn cash of ₹15 lakh," Mr. Kalsi said.

Police bust prostitution racket in city, 3 arrested

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Crime Branch has busted a prostitution racket in the Capital and arrested two women who are foreign nationals.

DCP (Crime Branch) Monika Bhardwaj said a cab driver, identified as Puran Singh, 47, has also been arrested along with the two women. The police said they got a tip-off about a few foreigners overstaying in Delhi and indulging in prostitution. A trap was laid and

a few women were asked to be sent to a place in Rohini. While one police officer was deputed as a decoy, another was a shadow customer.

"Two girls came in a cab to the spot. They were both apprehended along with the cab driver," Ms Bhardwaj said.

During interrogation, the women aged 24 and 28 said they had come to India from Uzbekistan on tourist visa and were overstaying.

Further investigation is under way, the police said.

'Residents of Delhi's villages won't allow new liquor shop in locality'

They will meet CM to demand rollback of excise policy: BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Residents of Delhi's villages have openly opposed the new excise policy of the city Government and decided not to let any new liquor shops open in their localities, the BJP said on Saturday.

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said residents of these villages had also decided to meet Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over the issue and demand rollback of the excise policy.

Panchayat meeting

"A panchayat meeting was organised by villagers at Nand Chowk in Badarpur village where they questioned why the Delhi Government is opening new liquor shops instead of providing drinking water to residents. Women also participated in large

numbers. It was resolved that they would not allow liquor shops to open," Mr. Bidhuri said.

"The Government is not concerned that this will entangle the younger generation in the quagmire of drugs and put the safety of women in danger," he said.

Mr. Bidhuri said the women present in the panchayat also strongly opposed the policy.

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

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BRIDES WANTED

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

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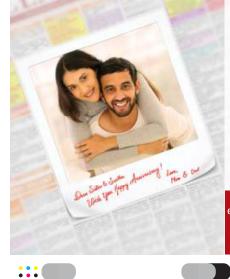
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Punjab sees lesser stubble fires, burnt area this year

VIKAS VASUDEVA

With paddy harvesting almost at its fag end in Punjab, the State has witnessed just a tad lesser stubble fire incidents this kharif season and the 'rice burnt area' has also seen a significant drop in comparison to the last year so far.

The data from Ludhianabased Punjab Remote Sensing Centre show the 'rice burnt area' was close to 10 lakh hectares till November

10, 2021, as against 15 lakh hectares in 2020 in the corresponding period, down by around five lakh hectares.

The Punjab Pollution Control Board data show that till November 13, as many as 62,863 cases of farm fire occurrence have been reported. Last year, during the same period there were 75,442 such incidents.

Sangrur district has seen the highest number of farm fire cases at 7,095, while Moga with 5,839 such cases

stands on the second spot. Ferozepur recorded as many as 5,592 cases, according to the PPCB. Paddy has been grown over 29.68 lakh hectares of land in Punjab this year."Burnt area under paddy in 2021 has been estimated to be 10.34 lakh hectare up till November 10, 2021, whereas the same during 2020 till November 10 was close to 15.21 lakh hectare," Krunesh Garg, member secretary of the PPCB, told The Hindu on Saturday.

Kerala braces for heavy showers today

People in mudslip and flood-prone areas to be shifted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With heavy rainfall likely to lash Kerala till Monday, the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) has directed district administrations to be on red alert readi-

District administrations have been asked to evacuate people residing in mudslip and flood-prone regions to safer locations. The India Me-



No break: Rainwater entered many houses in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

teorological Department has warned that Kerala and Mahe can expect isolated very hea-

vy rainfall till Monday. An orange alert (6 cm to 20 cm rain in 24 hours) has been is-

ram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki and Kasaragod on Sunday. These districts can expect isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall. The remaining districts are on yellow alert (6 cm-11 cm) for isolated heavy rainfall. Several central and northern districts are on yellow alert on Monday too. Localised flooding of roads, mudslips, waterlogging in low-lying areas, damage to roads and to vulnerable structures should be expected, the IMD said. Fishing has been banned till Sunday as strong winds are likely along the Ker-

weep, the Maldives and the southeast parts of the Arabian Sea. Rainfall has intensified over the State under the influence of westerlies. Strong surface winds persists over the southeast Arabian Sea, Kerala coast and the Lakshadweep-Maldives-Kanyakumari areas. This is likely to persist during the next two days, the IMD said. The KSDMA cited forecasts by various agencies, including the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, which predicted very heavy rainfall till Monday in parts of the

Congress wants SC-monitored investigation into Bitcoin scam

Party alleges massive cover-up by Bommai govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Alleging a massive cover-up in the multi-crore Bitcoin scam by the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Karnataka, the Congress on Saturday demanded a Supreme Court-monitored investigation into the issue with the setting up of a Special Investigation Team (SIT).

"Bitcoin Scam is big. But Bitcoin Scam Cover-up is much bigger. Because it has to cover up someone's fake big ego," former Congress president Rahul Gandhi

Congress general secretary for Karnataka, Randeep



questions to the Prime Minister and asked what the role of Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai was in the scam. Mr. Bommai was the State's Home Minister when the scam took place.

"Instead of conducting a fair investigation, the BJP government of Karnataka appears to be preoccupied

Scam Coverup'," Mr. Surjewala alleged. "This is not a money laundering crime alone, this is an international crime," he added.

Mr. Surjewala, along along with party colleague Gourav Vallabh, said that an alleged hacker, Sri Krishna, was arrested along with his associate Robin Khandelwal by the Karnataka Police on November 14, 2020 and was kept in police custody for over 100 days.

Despite the hacker making a voluntary statement before the Metropolitan Magistrate, Bengaluru, in December 2020 about his involvement in hacking and stealing from various foreign companies/Bitcoin exchanges, international agencies were not informed until April 24, 2021, Mr. Surjewala

Top leader Kishan da's arrest in Jharkhand a blow to Maoists

He was the second-in-command, underground for 30 years

SUMIT BHATTACHARIEE VISAKHAPATNAN

The arrest of Prashant Bose, alias Kishan da, by the Jharkhand police late on Thursday night, is a big blow to the banned CPI (Maoist), especially when the movement is shrinking fast in many States, including in its strongholds such as Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Bose, also known as Maneesh, Nirbhay and Kajal, and his wife Sheela Marandi were arrested at an undis-

closed place near Saraikela. The top Maoist leader, who carried a bounty of about ₹1 crore on his head, was underground for over three decades.

Key architect of merger

Bose, who hails from Kolkata, is not only a key member of the Maoist Central Committee and the Polit Bureau but is also the second-incommand to its general secretary Nambala Keshava Rao, alias Basavraj.

He was the foundingmember of the Maoist Communist Centre of India (MCCI), which merged with the Communist Party of In-



Prashant Bose and his wife Sheela Marandi. • FILE PHOTO

dia (Marxist - Leninist) People's War (People's War Group) of Kondapalli Seetharamaiah in September 2004, to form the CPI (Maoist).

Bose, along with Muppala Lakshmana Rao, alias Ganapathi, the former general secretary of the party, is considered one of the main architects of the merger.

Senior police and Intelligence officials had then termed the merger a "masterstroke," as the group not only expanded in terms of arms and manpower but also in terms of the area of command and reach. It had become one of the biggest extremist groups overnight in the South-East Asian region. The merger had streng-

thened the hold of Left Wing Extremism in central India, covering Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand. At the time of arrest, Bose was the head of the Eastern Regional Bureau that covered Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha. His wife is also a member of the Central Committee, and is the only woman in the highest decision-making body. While Bose is aged around 75, his wife is about 65, and sources say both were "very sick and weak at the time of arrest".

According to a theory doing the rounds, Bose, his wife, and a few well-wishers in the party, had negotiated the arrest due to his age and

Cong. demands judicial probe into woman teacher's murder

BJP leader questions role of the police in diluting case

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

The Opposition - the BJP and the Congress - on Saturday attacked the Naveen Patnaik Government by accusing it of weakening the probe into the murder of a woman teacher in Kalahandi district.

Addressing a press conference here, Bhakta Charan Das, former Union Minister and senior Congress leader, demanded probe by a sitting Orissa High Court judge in the murder case.

"The woman teacher was brutally murdered and was charred before being buried on the campus of a school. We suspect more people to be involved in the crime," Mr.



Bhakta Charan Das

Das said.

According to the police, the victim was strangulated to death by Gobinda Sahu, promoter of the school, who wanted to prevent her from disclosing his extramarital af-

"The incident took place on October 8. Minister of

were not retrieved," said the Congress leader. "Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja alleged the Minister along with the accused and the victim had gone to Raipur on September 18, 19 and 20. During that period,

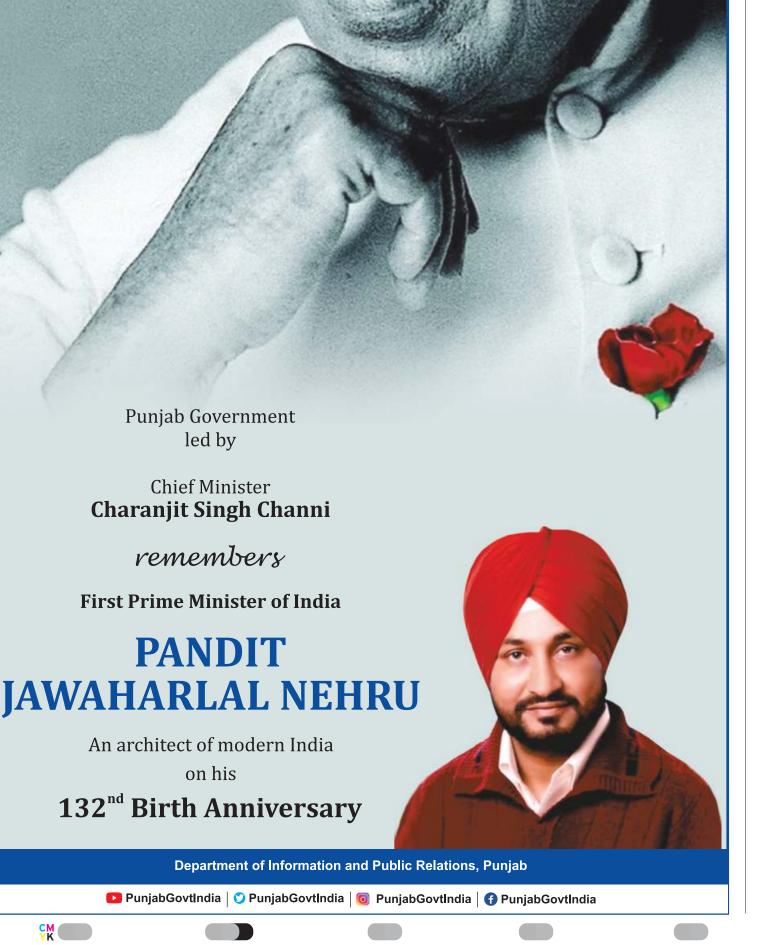
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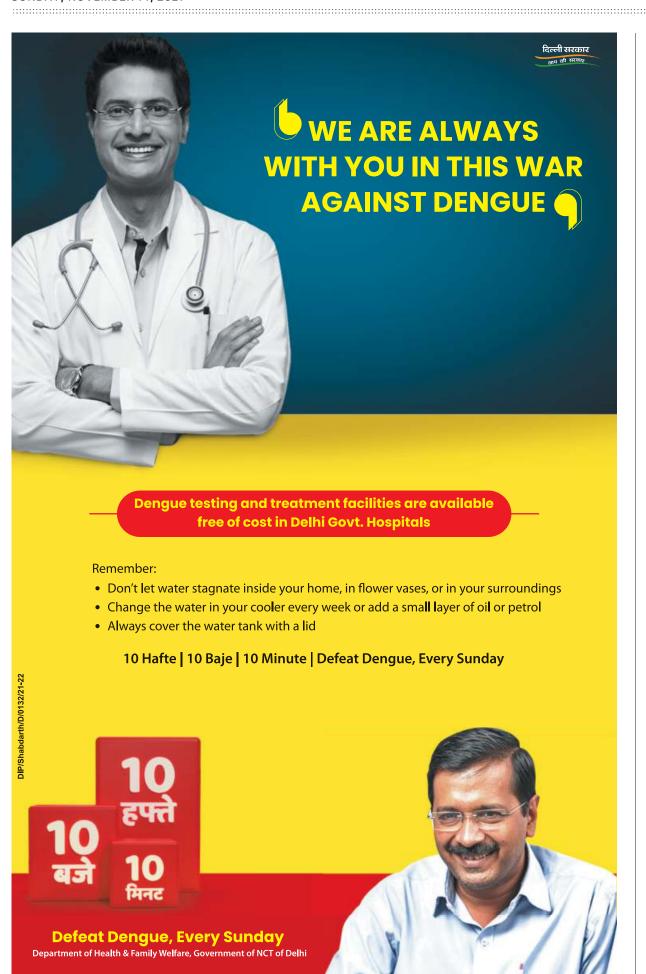
nister and his close aides

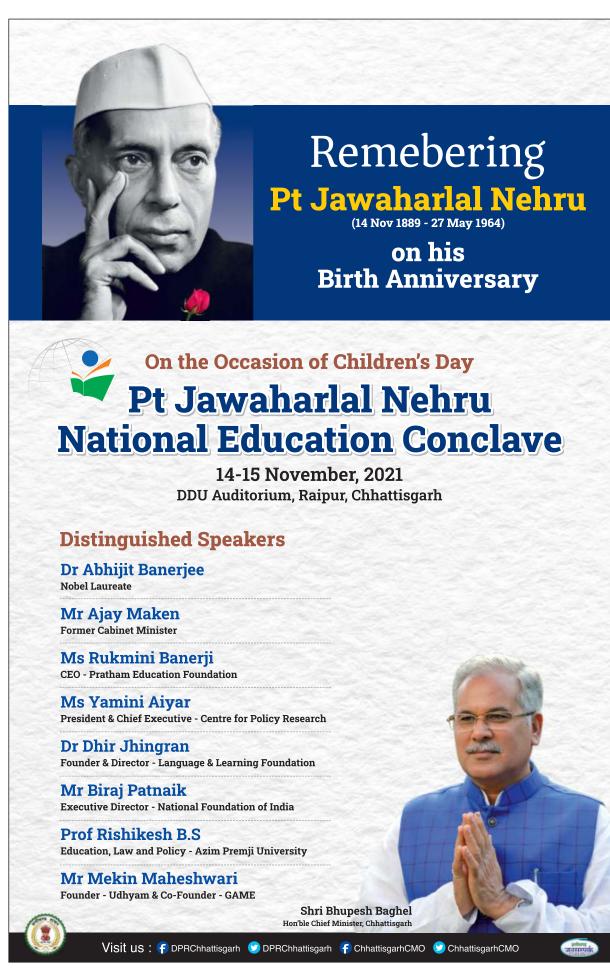
the Minister's presence could not be established," he said. Senior BJP leader Bijoy Mohapatra also questioned

the role of the police. "When the complaint was lodged on October 13, the police took three days to submit case diary in Bongomunda court," he said



THE HINDU DELINI
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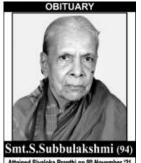
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21-09-2021 till the repayment of entire dues.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001.
E-Mail id: crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., having its Administrative Office at No.24-B. Gandhi Nagai Kumbakonam - 612 001 and one of the Branch Offices of City Union Bank Ltd, as mentioned below: Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) & (12), read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice. The borrowers below named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers below named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The borrowers below named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount as mentioned below and interest till the repayment of entire dues.

City Union Bank Ltd., No. F-120, Main Bazar, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi - 110092 I. Name of the Borrowers: No.1) Mr. Azhar, S/o. Mr. Salauddin, B-94, Near Main Market, New Seelampur, North East Delhi - 110053. No. 2) Mrs. Shumaila Naaz. W/o. Mr. Azhar. B 94. Near Main Market. New Seelampur. North East Delhi - 110053. Date of Demand Notice: 15-06-2021, Date of Possession: 10-11-2021, Amount Outstanding: Rs.38.60,280/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem

usand Two Hundred and Eighty Only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Mrs. Shumaila Naaz, W/o. Mr. Azhar)

Entire property bearing No.2837-38/3083 area admeasuring 44 Sq.yards, Ward No.VIII, Sita Ram Bazaar, Delhi - 110006. East : Other Property West: Shankar Gali, North: Other Property, South: Shushila Gali.

II. Name of the Borrowers: No.1) Ms. Babli, W/o. Shree Ram Mahoor at 09 3151, Siddarth Vihar Jojna, Ghaziabad - 201001 No.2) Mr. Shree Ram Mahoor, S/o. Manushuk Mahoor at E 886, Sector - 11, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad - 201009. Date of Demand Notice: 11-06-2021 followed by Paper Publication dated 29-07-2021. Date of Possession: 10-11-2021. Amount

Outstanding: Rs.22,45,960/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Forty Five Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 28-09-2021 till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Ms. Babli, W/o. Shree Ram Mahoor)

Unit No.002/Ground Floor/2 BHK/B Plot No.A-093, Pocket - A, Type - G, Khasra No.838, Shouryapuram, Shahpur, Bhameta, NH-24, Ghaziabad U.P. - 201002 Admeasuring 850 Sq.ft. Bounded as under East - Flat No.002 & Plot No.A-094, North - other Flat, South - Entry / Road.

III. Name of the Borrowers: No.1) Mrs. Sarita, W/o. Rajinder Prashad at WS-5B, Gali No.1, Sudampuri West, Babarpur, Near Mothe Dairy, Jafrabaj - Delhi - 110032. No.2) Mr. Rajinder Prashad, S/o. Marhipal at WS-5B, Gali No.1, Sudampuri West, Babarpur, Near Mother Dairy, Jafrabaj - Delhi - 110032. No.3) Mr. Gagan, S/o. Rajinder Prashad at WS-5B, Gali No.1, Sudampuri West, Babarpur, Near Mother Dairy, Jafrabaj - Delhi - 110032. No.4) Mr. Pankaj Gahlat, S/o. Rajinder Prashad at WS-5B, Gali No.1, Sudampuri West, Babarpur, Near Mother Dairy, Jafrabaj - Delhi - 110032.

<u>Date of Demand Notice:</u> 11-06-2021. <u>Date of Possession:</u> 10-11-2021. <u>Amount Outstanding:</u> Rs.21,87,529/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Nine Only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 28-09-2021 till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeen

mmovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Mrs. Sarita, W/o. Rajinder Prashad)

MIG Flat No.G-1, Admeasuring 500 Sq.ft. on Plot No.B-1/141 and Plot No.B-1/141 A, DLF Dilshad Ext.II, Village Brahmpura Urf, Bhopura, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, UP - 201005 Bounded as Under East - Road 30 ft. wide, West - Property No.B-1/142, North - Portion of Same Plot, South - Other's Property.

IV. Name of the Borrowers: No.1) Mrs. Shahida Suhail, W/o. Late Sohail Iqbal (In personal capacity as well as the only legal heir of Late. Mohd Umaer), at S-12, DLF 2nd Dilshad Extention, Sahibabad Ghaziabad, U.P. - 201005.

<u>Date of Demand Notice</u>: 21-06-2021 followed by Paper Publication dated 02-08-2021. <u>Date of Possession</u>: 10-11-2021. <u>Amount Outstanding</u>: Rs.19,41,167/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Forty One Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Seven Only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 12-10-2021 till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeen

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Mrs. Shahida Suhail, W/o. Late Sohail Iqbal
(In personal capacity as well as the only legal heir of Late. Mohd Umaer)

Flat Bearing No. S.T - 1, on Second Floor (Front Side) Admeasuring 750 Sq.ft. without Roof Rights, Constructed on Plot No.S-12, situated at DLF Bhopura, Pargana Loni, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. <u>Bounded</u> as Under, South - Enterance of the said Flat/Common Staircase/other flat No.ST-2 and St - 3 on backside in the same building, North - Road 30 ft. (below), West - Property No.S-13,

V. Name of the Borrowers: No.1) Mr. Amit Rao, S/o. Balaji Rao at No.934, Janta Flats, GTB Enclave, Nandnagari, Jhilmil, East Delhi, Delhi - 110095. No.2) Mrs. Maya Devi, D/o. Dori Lal at No.934, Janta Flats, GTB Enclave, Nandnagari, Jhilmil, East Delhi, Delhi - 110095. <u>Date of Demand Notice</u>: 18-06-2021 followed by Paper Publication dated 18-08-2021. <u>Date of Possession</u>: 10-11-2021. <u>Amount Outstanding</u>: Rs.14,70,822/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Seventy Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Two Only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 12-10-2021 till the repayment of entire dues.

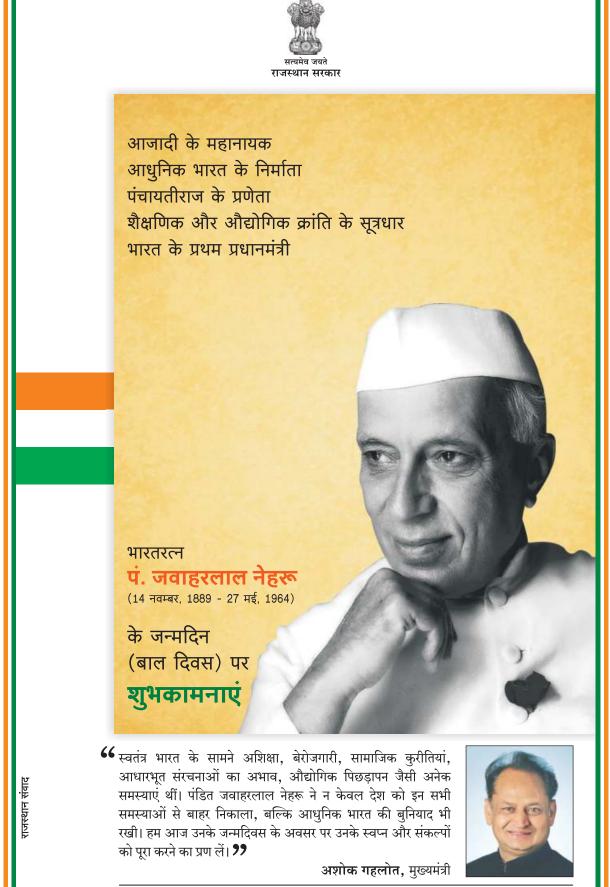
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redee

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Mr. Amit Rao, S/o. Balaji Rao)

Flat No.G-11, LIG, Ground Floor, without Roof Rights, Backside, on Plot No.B-1/73, DLF Dilshad Extension - 2, Village - Bhopura, Ghaziabac U.P.-201005. East - Plot No. B-1/74, West - Plot No.B-1/72, North - Plot No. B-1/53, South - 30 ft. wide Road.

Authorised Officer City Union Bank Ltd. : 10-11-2021

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: www.cityunionbank.com



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अधिशाषी अभियता (उत्तर) राज सवाद / सी / 21 / 8303



DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

(An undertaking of Government of NCT of Delhi) CIN: U40103DL2001SGC111529 Shakti Sadan, Kotla Road, New Delhi - 110002 Website: www.dtl.gov.in

Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half year ended 30th September, 2021

S.	Particulars	INR Lakhs							
No	1	3 months	6 months	6 months	Year ended				
		ended	ended	ended	31.03.2021				
		30.09.2021	30.09.2021	30.09.2021	(Audited)				
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(,				
1	Total income from operations	38,545.17	76,878.89	53,088.36	1,39,768.53				
2	Net profit / (loss) for the period	21,473.50	44,518.84	21,761.24	79,149.81				
	before tax								
	(before exceptional items)								
3	Net profit / (loss) for the period	21,473.50	44,518.84	21,761.24	79,149.81				
	before tax		·	,	·				
	(after exceptional items)								
4	Net profit / (loss) for the period	18,088.71	37,495.36	17,994.95	60,659.97				
	after tax		·	,	·				
	(after exceptional items)								
5	Total comprehensive income	18,207.25	37,613.91	17,921.40	60,897.05				
	for the period								
	comprising profit for the period								
	(after tax) and								
	other comprehensive income								
	(after tax)]								
6	Paid up equity share capital	3,95,100.00	3,95,100.00	3,95,100.00	3,95,100.00				
7	Reserves	54,764.36	54,764.36	(36,163.41)	17,150.43				
	(excluding revaluation reserve)			· ·					
8	Net worth	4,49,864.36	4,49,864.36	3,58,936.59	4,12,250.43				
9	Paid up debt capital / outstand-	33,698.73	33,698.73	65,024.08	42,024.08				
	ing debt								
10	Outstanding redeemable pref-	-	-	-	-				
	erence shares								
11	Debt equity ratio	0.07	0.07	0.18	0.10				
12	Earnings per share								
	(of INR10/- each)								
	(for continuing and discontin-								
	ued operations)								
	Basic & Diluted (INR)	0.46	0.95	0.45	1.54				
	Capital redemption reserve	-	-	_	-				
	Debenture redemption reserve	4,000.00	4,000.00	5,000.00	4,000.00				
	Debt service coverage ratio	5.97	6.28	2.95	2.95				
1 16	Interest service coverage ratio	34 69	42 28	12 55	22 27				

Notes forming part of Quarterly and Half yearly Financial Results for the period ended

- filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly and half yearly financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com) and the listed entity (www.dtl.gov.in).
- reviewed by Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors at their meeting held on 13th November, 2021. The Statutory Auditors appointed by the company have conducted a limited review of these financial results.
- d) No investor complaints were pending at the beginning of half year and no complaints were received during the said half year.

Date: 13.11.2021 Place : New Delhi **DIP/Shab**darth/0418/21-22

a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and half yearly financial results

b) The financial results for the quarterly and half year ended 30th September, 2021 have been

c) For the items referred in regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Bombay Stock Exchange and can be accessed on the URL (www.bseindia.com).

> By order of the Board of Directors For Delhi Transco Limited Dr. Sanjay Kumar Lal Director (Finance)



e-NIT No. 25 OF 2021-22 Dated: 09 -11-2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmir invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial Level and fixing of item rates for Kulgam district for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works", details of which are given below. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Bidding, tender fee, earnest money, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover '2nd' shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed

В	JQ.					
S. No		Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs)	Earnest money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Kulgam district for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. These works are broadly consisting of: - a. Construction of water supply schemes by way of filtration plants, pump houses, service reservoir, Overhead tanks, laying of distribution mains etc)	scheme wise details given in Section II of tender	1000/-		180 days	
	Group IV (HILL GRAVITY SCHEMES)	Above 100 lacs upto 300 lacs		0.75 Lacs		120 days

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) `he tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Kashmir Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.The awarding authori s District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Note: - In view of the fact, that this NIT for item rate contract has been framed for the first time in the Department, a helpdesk shall be established at the Direction office level as well as district level for the first time in the department, and beginning the stabilished to the Direction office level as well as district level for the department.

	ouraging and facilitating the intending bidders titicipation across all the Districts.	for participation in the instant NII to ensure wide
	Key/critic	al Dates:
1	Publish Date	10.11.2021
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	10.11.2021
iii	Clarification start date	10.11.2021
iv	Bid submission start date	10.11.2021
٧	Clarification end date	02.12.2021
vi	Pre-bid Meeting date	18.11.2021
vii	Document Download/sale end Date	02.12.2021
viii	Bid submission end date	02.12.2021
ix	Date and time of Bid opening	03.12.2021

- Bid documents can be assessed at and downloaded from the websites http://jktenders.gov.in
- The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, PHE Department through virtual/online mode.
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website http://jktenders.gov.in The complete bidding process will be online http://jktenders.gov.in
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, Ja Shakti (PHE) Department.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 6 & 7 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.
- a. Bid Security to be pledged in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti PHE Department. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall have to be valid for at least one year after last date of submission of Bid. The Bid of bidders having bid security less than as specified
- b. The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of DD /TR/e challan in favour of FA/CAC Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape R/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids. any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declare
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website http://iktenders.gov.in. 10. Queries by email if any should be made at kmrphed@gmail.com/xenphekgm@gmail.com No:CE/PHE/KMR/JSD/26388-99 Date: 09 -11-2021

Chief Engineer **DIPK-12467/21** Kashmir, Jal Shakti, PHE Departmen <u>NIB Code :-JOD2122A0097</u> <u>UBN:-JOD21</u> कार्य की अधिकतम अनुमानित लागत — 1037.92 लाख

Period of Contract

Accounts Officer

A ND-NDE

(Member Secretary)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR

Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032 - email:- kashflori@rediffmail.com GIST of e-TENDER NOTICE No. 31 of 2021

Dated:- 11/11/2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited from concerned dealers/Suppliers having GST registration for supply of Good Quality Garden Sweet Soil suitable for lawns as indicated in the detailed Tender Notice: -

1	Good quality Garden Sweet Soil for Public Gardens / Parks of District Srinagar (excluding Mughal Garden Nishat, Shalimar, Cheshmashahi, Parimahal & Green Park Harwan) Budgam, Ganderbal, Bandipora Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Baramulla & Kupwara	
	-NIT consisting of complete information, eligibility, criteria), set of terms and conditions of contract and other deta	•

from J&K e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in/www.dirflorikmr.in as per schedule of date given below:-Period of downloading of bidding documents 12/11/2021 from 01:00 PM to

30/11/2021 up to 02:00 PM 12/11/2021 from 03:00 PM 2. Bid submission Start Date Bid submission End date 30/11/2021 up to 02:00 PM

04/12/2021 at 02:00 PM 4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders In case of any eventuality, the online tender opening date will be considered on other Sd/

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun

DIPK-12529/21

Ref.No. 2164/आई1—02(xvi)/ITCO/यू0आर0आर0डी0ए0/21

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice (Second Call)
The General Manager (Project), BRIDCUL on behalf of URRDA Uttarakhand invites the item

rate bids in electronic tendering system (Second Call) for construction of Roads and Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Barkot (District-Uttarkashi) for 02 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to **Rs. 407.25 Lakh** including their maintenance for 5 year from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD of equivalent.* Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 16.11.2021 Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available

online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be

required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder s required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying The bidders are required to submit original affidavit correctness of information furnished with oid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with the Projects related to 'Garhwal Mandal at Office of BRIDCUL HQ Opp. Govt. ITI Majra, Niranjanpur, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun-248001" on a date not later than three working days after the opening of

echnical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No Physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 23.11.2021 01:00 PM.

or further details please log on to www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in **Chief Engineer** URRDA, Dehradun *Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidder must ge

registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract. Note:- For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2522941 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM. in any office days.

FROM PAGE ONE

Assam Rifles officer, family killed in Manipur

During Col. Tripati's tenure in Mizoram, the battalion has carried out major seizures of drugs and several successful operations to disrupt illegal smuggling including narcotics along the Mvanmar border and hinterland. "The battalion has also recovered several weapons and war-like stores which could have landed in the hands of anti-national elements thus avoiding major casualties," Assam Rifles

"The anti-drug campaign conducted by his battalion in January 2021 received laurels and the awareness created by him in the State won him praise from locals," the first officer cited above, who had also worked with him, said.

In May, the 46 Assam Rifles had received Unit Citation from Governor of Mizoram P.S. Sreedharan Pillai for their all-round performance during its employment across Saitual Mamit, Kolasib, Champhai and Aizawl districts from April 17 to May 28.

"The battalion has exhi-

bited excellent professionalism, dedication and compassion in guarding the Indo-Myanmar border and has also performed exceedingly well in assisting the local populace and has served the people of Mizoram through focused activities under civic action, student outreach and health campaigns especially during challenging times of CO-VID-19 pandemic," the citation read. While insurgency within the State has come down in recent years, insurgent groups find sanctuary across the border who resort to violence. Also with security forces conducting intelligence-based operations, IEDs and ambushes have emerged as the preferred way to mount attacks

Curbs in polluted Delhi after SC moots lockdown

Mr. Mehta acknowledged that "there was a possibility that the air would go from 'severe' to 'emergency' category. He said a meeting has been scheduled to decide the "emergency response".

"Schools have been opened now. Little children are out on the roads to reach their schools. You are exposing little children to pollution, pandemic and den-Justice Chandrachud, on Bench, addressed government.

The Delhi Government told the court that pollution markers are off the chart. The AQI has worsened by 471 points compared to just 84 points on October 30. PM10 is a whopping 593 to 87 last month. PM2.5 is 399 points to merely 34 last month.

"And you have opened up all the schools in Delhi, you have exposed their lives and lungs to grave pollutants... Schools are Delhi's jurisdiction..." Justice Chandrachud told senior advocate Rahul Mehra, appearing for Delhi.

on security forces.

Mr. Mehra compared the air to smoking 20 cigarettes a day even though "we are not smokers". He said stubble burning in neighbouring Punjab and Haryana was a major contributor to the pollution. Mr. Mehta also began his submissions by saying there was a "spurt of stubble burning from Punjab in the last six days".

"You first control Delhi... Are your [smog] towers working?" the CJI asked the Delhi Government. "Everybody blames farm-

ers. What about the ban on fire crackers? What has been happening for the past five or six days? What is the Delhi Police doing? This is an emergency situation, emergency measures have to be taken," Justice Surya Kant, also on the Bench, lashed

Kashmiris now share intel on terrorists: CDS

Stating that he does not know whether this is a message for terrorists by the locals or whether it is being played up by the intelligence agencies, Gen. Rawat said if it was the former "then I would say it is a good card being played". Gen. Rawat said it is a good card as we need to "put fear in the mind" of the terrorist.

Asked if that would amount to encouraging vigilantism and violating human rights, Gen. Rawat questioned, "How can killing a terrorist be a human rights violation? If there is a terrorist operating in your area, why should you not

Asked about the recent spate of civilian killings in Kashmir, Gen. Rawat said anyone carrying out a terror attack is being "eliminated or apprehended" within 48-72 hours.

Terrorists also realise they are getting caught and that's because locals are giving information about them,

Govt. under pressure to revisit 'travel bubble' policy

"The so-called bubbles, I don't really think are driven by COVID. Because we've heard of the desire on the part of the Indian Government to renegotiate their air service agreements. I think COVID is being used to mask a different issue," International Air Transport Association (IATA) President Willie Walsh said at a press conference in Geneva ear-

lier this month. The Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs did not respond to requests for a comment on the allegations. However, *The Hindu* spoke to a number of officials who accepted that the issue over air travel bubbles was growing, especially as more travellers seek to visit India from countries that used to fly directly to India, but

aren't at present.

European countries.

Switzerland, for example, had approached the government to restart direct flights of the Swiss International Airlines in February 2021, but no permissions have come through yet.

A Chennai-Zurich ticket could now cost a traveller a whopping ₹2.75 lakhs.

Flights from the U.S. and Canada can cost more than ₹1lakh one-way, while some European passengers have to break journey in two places to travel to India.

Turkish Airlines, one of the more popular airlines with more than 200 flights to 90 countries, has had no flights to India for 20 months, and the Polish airline LOT, that inaugurated its first flight in September 2019, has not been able to run flights since March 2020 despite several reminders from embassies.

This has particularly hit

Glasgow summit runs into extra time

'Adaptation fund' money from developed countries continues to be a sticking point

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ

NEW DELHI The 26th edition of the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) at Glasgow, Scotland, is yet to seal a final agreement, with talks extending into Saturday.

The meeting was formally scheduled to end on Friday (November 12) at 6 p.m. local time (GMT).

The Glasgow summit ends when an agreement, or more specifically a cover text of the agreement, issued by the COP Secretariat led by incumbent President Alok Sharma, is agreed upon by all members. That consensus has been elusive so far.

The latest version of the agreement is a draft issued at 8 a.m., local time, on Saturday. Later versions of the draft differ only subtly from previous versions, with a line dropped out, a word added in, a verb modified, but it is these changes that frame the future course of action that signatory countries undertake.

India intervened on Satur-



In discussion: John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, right, speaking with Alok Sharma, President of the COP26 summit, during a session in Glasgow on Saturday. •AP

day to state that it was not very happy with the existing text, especially on sections that suggested the phasing out of subsidies for coal. "I'm afraid consensus remains elusive...It is known that countries some achieved wealth and prosperity from fossil fuels....targeting any particular sector is uncalled for. Every country will achieve net zero as per their own circumstances. Developing countries

have a right to their fair share of the global carbon space," said Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav.

A key demand from several island nations and countries in the African Union has been the establishment of a "Glasgow Facility" that would provide money to countries already suffering from the impacts of climate change. This money would be part of an "adaptation fund" to be financed by developed countries. However, the latest text doesn't commit to any such facility and only promises regular "dialogues" and "technical assistance" for establishing such a facility.

The draft, however, "Urges developed country Parties to fully deliver on the USD 100 billion goal urgently and through to 2025 and emphasizes the importance of transparency in the implementa-

Developed countries had committed to providing \$100 billion annually by 2020. This was a clause enshrined in 2009 but none of it has actually made its way to developing countries and continues to be a major bone of contention.

India has said that it will take on ambitious targets of achieving net zero by 2070 or shifting quicker to renewable energy sources by 2030, only if money is forthcoming. The draft also exhorts developed countries to double collective adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025 and to scale up greenhouse gas emission cuts that ought to be announced latest by next year at COP27 in Egypt.

India has demanded one trillion dollars over the next decade from developed countries to adapt to and mitigate the challenges from global warming, and has made this a condition for delivering on climate commitments made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Disha Ravi blames Govt. officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Climate activist Disha Ravi has blamed lack of cooperation from Government officials for not getting her passport on time which ultimately made her miss the COP26 summit in Glasgow.

In a statement posted on social media, the activist has claimed that she did not get the Indian passport 88 days after sending in the application.

Disha Ravi, 22, was arrested in February this year by the Delhi Police from her Bengaluru residence after she shared documents online that supported rights of the farmers who have been protesting against the farm laws. The police had accused her of sedition and conspiracy. She subsequently got bail.

In a written statement. she said a Bengaluru police official refused to facilitate delivery of the passport and rebuked her mother for "raising a rebel".

Curfew in Maharashtra town

Successive days of bandh over attack in Tripura lead to violence in Amravati

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI

Curfew was imposed in Amravati town of the Vidarbha region in Maharashtra after violence broke out on the second successive day with a mob going on a rampage destroying private and public property.

On Friday, Muslim organisations called for a bandh in several cities of Maharashtra protesting against the incidents in Tripura where Muslims were allegedly targeted. The bandh turned violent in Malegaon, Nanded and Amravati cities as the mob threw stones and damaged private properties.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) gave a call for an Amravati bandh on Saturday in protest against the violence in the city. This bandh called by the BJP, however, turned violent with the mob throwing stones and damaging cars which led to a lathi-



Out of control: Youth with their faces covered seen at a street as the BJP's Amravati bandh turns violent on Saturday. •PTI

charge by the police authori-

State's Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil called for calm and patience, and appealed to the citizens not to believe rumours. "I have directed the police administration to ensure no untoward incident takes place in the State," he said. Leader of the Opposition

and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis said that Ministers

Modi on Saturday chaired a

meeting to consider the reg-

ulatory prospects for crypto-

currencies with the top brass

of the Reserve Bank of India

and the Ministries of Home

Affairs and Finance, where a

strong consensus was

reached to stop 'attempts to

mislead the youth through

over-promising & non-tran-

Noting that unregulated

crypto markets cannot be al-

lowed to become avenues

for money laundering and

terror financing, the PM and

other attendees concluded

that a close watch and pro-

active steps are necessary for

sparent advertising'.

in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government were making provocative speeches which had led to the unrest among the Muslim community. "The Muslims are being provoked on a false narrative of burning down of a mosque in Tripura. No such incident took place there. It was false propaganda and Muslims were asked to gather for a protest. Hindus were targeted which is

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), which holds the

Fadnavis said.

extremely dangerous," Mr.

Home portfolio in the State, condemned the violence and said the guilty will be punished. Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said that a conspiracy was being hatched in Maharashtra to incite riots. "Those who called for a bandh were involved in violence. Now they will say that law and order situation is under threat in the State and will meet the Governor," Mr. Raut said.

slammed the BIP, claiming the latter was creating communal tensions in Maharashtra to benefit in the coming Assembly polls. "When ED and CBI fails, the other way to destabilise the Government is to orchestrate riots. But we will not let this happen," said Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole.

Tensions in Agra over death of woman

Police say situation under control

ANUJ KUMAR

Agra turned tense late on Friday as two communities clashed over the mysterious death of a 22-year-old woman in an inter-faith marriage.

An FIR was registered against Fahim, his parents, brother, and sister under Sections 498A (husband or relative of the spouse of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) and 304B (dowry death) of the IPC, and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961.

Faheem, along with his father and brother, were arrested late on Saturday. SSP Sudhir Kumar Singh said an autopsy revealed that it was a case of "ante-mortem hanging".

The police have also lodged an FIR against unidentified men for indulging in rioting.

Local sources said stones were hurled, gunshots fired and slogans raised against a community by leaders of BJP's organisations.

A heavy police force was deployed to bring the situation under control.

A year ago, the victim named Varsha married Fahim, 25, who runs an automobile garage. On Friday, Faheem's family said Varsha ended her life by hanging. It led to tensions in the communally sensitive area.

The mother of the victim said, "If they [Fahim's family] could not look after her, they could have sent her back to us."

The victim's brother said his sister could not have ended her life and there was foul play.

(Suicide prevention helpline can be reached at 011-40769002)

FIR lodged in U.P. custodial death case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Four days after the death of 22-year-old Altaf in police custody in Kasganj, the Uttar Pradesh Police registered an FIR against unidentified policemen on murder charges. The FIR lodged on the complaint of the victim's father Chand Miyan said the police picked up his son for questioning on Monday.

"I followed him but I was sent back. The next has ended his life by hanging in the washroom of police station. It is not possible for a five-ft-tall man to hang from a two feet high water tap," Mr. Chand said.

Stop misleading ads on crypto: Govt.

PM chairs meet to consider the regulatory prospects for cryptocurrencies

Prime Minister Narendra

day, we were told that Altaf

the sector, senior Government sources said.

'There was consensus also that the steps taken in this field by the Government will be progressive and forward looking," a source said, stressing that the Government will continue to pro-actively engage with experts and other stakeholders.

"Since the issue cuts across individual countries' borders, it was felt that it will also require global partnerships and collective strategies," the source added.

The PM-steered meeting comes ahead of a Parliamentary committee hearing on Monday, November 15, with industry experts on the challenges and opportunities that cryptocurrencies throw

The Finance Ministry has been tight-lipped on the progress of a Cryptocurrency Bill which had been readied for the Union Cabinet's approval as far back as August, as per earlier statements by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The Bill is now expected to be tabled in the winter session of Parliament

that begins on November 29. On Friday, the Ministry's top brass shied away from queries about who would be held responsible if investors betting on crypto assets were to make heavy losses.

With advertisements for cryptocurrency exchanges and trading on their platforms proliferating across the country, particularly during the recent cricket events, the Government has been expected to bring in some regulatory framework to rein them in and ensure investors don't lose their savings. In the absence of a clear regulatory framework, even as several investors, especially the youth, have been betting on cryptocurrencies for seemingly easy returns, there's still uncertainty on the Government's treatment for the same.

While the Supreme Court has lifted the ban on trading of cryptocurrencies imposed by the central bank, the RBI continues to have concerns

U.S. lawmakers meet Modi ahead of S400 delivery

MEA statement avoids mention of Russian missile delivery system, focuses on regional concerns

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

Ahead of the expected yearend delivery of the sophisticated Russian S400 surfaceto-air missile defence system, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met a high-power U.S. Congressional delegation here on Saturday.

The Russian missile system will increase India's chances of coming under CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) but official statements issued after Saturday's meeting avoided mention of the matter.

A statement from the Ministry of External Affairs

(MEA) said the delegation led by Senator John Cornyn discussed issues related to the developments in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. "Prime Minister appre-

ciated the consistent support of the U.S. Congress in deepening the India-U.S. strategic partnership," stated a press release that was issued by the MEA after the meet-Following the meeting, Se-

nator Cornyn, who is the cofounder and co-Chair of the Senate caucus on India and Indian-Americans, said that both sides discussed "pandemic and supply chain stability."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the United States Congressional Delegation, in New Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

The meeting with Mr. Modi took place a day after External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar hosted the dele-

gation and discussed Afghanistan. Though official statements on both occasions chose to avoid mention of

three Republican Senators have already moved a Bill to exempt India from possible CAATSA sanctions for taking the delivery of the S400 missile system. The visiting Congressional

the Russian missile system,

delegation conveyed a positive outlook of India-U.S. relationship. "Prime Minister and the

visiting delegation noted the increasing convergence of strategic interests between the two strategic partners and expressed desire to further enhance cooperation with an aim to promote global peace and stability," MEA said.

'Arrested terror accused involved in June 12 attack'

DEVESH K. PANDEY

The National Investigation Agency suspects that the two alleged conduits of terror outfits, who were arrested in Jammu & Kashmir earlier this week, were involved in the killing of two policemen and as many civilians in Baramulla in

The two accused, Rashid Muzaffar Ganaie and Nasir Mir, are residents of Sopore in Baramulla where the civilians, Manzoor Ahmad Shalla and Bashir Ah mad, and constables Showkat Ahmad and Waseem Ahmad, were killed in indiscriminate firing on June

Several others were injured in the incident.

The policemen were deployed to ensure the CO-VID-19 standard operating protocol when the terrorists struck.

Preliminary findings in-

dicate that the accused were linked to those who carried out the attack. It is learnt that among

the assailants was a Pakistani national, for whom a hunt has been launched.

The National Investigation Agency has so far arrested 27 persons following the recent spate of killings by the terror outfits in J&K, as part of the conspiracy to thwart the Government's move to extend domicile status of various categories of people and to promote industrial development in the Union Territory.

Mid-term poll likely in Bihar: Chirag Paswan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan on Saturday said that midterm election was likely in Bihar and his party would be part of an alliance in the polls. Mr. Paswan further announced that his party would contest the coming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. He said Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his favourite officials were responsible for the recent hooch deaths in the State.

"Mid-term poll is likely to take place in Bihar and my party will be part of an alliance in that poll," Mr. Paswan told presspersons in Patna. However, he did not reveal whether his party would be part of the NDA or the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal-led grand alliance.

Likely to be RJD

Sources close to Mr. Paswan told The Hindu that his party had decided to contest the election in the State along with the grand alliance led by RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav. Asked about his party's performance in the recently held byelections, he said its candidates had come third similar to where his party stood in the 2020 Assembly election in the State. "And, keeping the results in view, my party has decided to contest the upcoming election in Bihar in alliance," he added.

Mr. Paswan declared that his party would contest the upcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab next year. "Proposal to contest Assembly polls in these two States had come from our party's State units which has been accepted by our party," said Mr. Paswan but refrained from revealing whether the LJP would contest the election in these States alone or in alliance with some regional parties.

On the controversial statement of actor Kangana Ranaut, Mr. Paswan said it was "condemnable and insulting to the brave martyrs of the country".

Trade route

20 Indian fishermen to be released by Pakistan today

This comes a little over a week after an Indian fisherman was killed in Pak. firing

MAHESH LANGA AHMEDABAD

A week after killing an Indian fisherman in a firing in the mid-sea by the Pakistan Marine Security Agency (PMSA) on November 6, Islamabad will release 20 fishermen lodged in Landhi jail in Karachi on Sunday and will hand them over to the Indian authorities the next day at the Wagah border.

The fishermen to be released are from Gir Somnath and Porbandar districts of Gujarat. Before the mid-sea firing incident on a fishing trawler Jal Pari, India had released 10 Pakistan fishermen jailed in Gujarat on November 2.

On November 6, the PMSA had in a rare act of allegedly chased and fired at Ial Pari, which had six fishermen aboard, while it was fishing at the Arabian Sea off Gujarat coast.

Shreedhar Chamre, a fishermen from Palghar in Maharashtra, was allegedly killed in the firing while Dilip Solanki, captain of the fishing boat was wounded. Six others on the boat were reportedly abducted and taken to Pakistan.

The fishermen to be released were apprehended by the PMSA for allegedly crossing over to the Pakistan side of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) at the Arabian Sea off Gujarat



Indian fishermen who were released by Pakistan at the Wagah

confirmed by India and they

must immediately be re-

leased and repatriated. The

20 fishermen are among the

Besides seeking the re-

lease of Indian fishermen,

activists and people associat-

ed with fisheries in Guiarat

have been demanding the re-

lease of around 1,200 boats

taken away by the PMSA

while also apprehending

The boats are lying an-

"Each boat is worth ₹50

lakh, totalling approximately

₹600 crore. The Indian Go-

vernment must work with

the authorities in Pakistan to

get the boats, which are me-

chanised trawlers used in

deep sea fishing, released

and handed them back to

their rightful owners," Mr.

With almost 1,680-km

Lodhari told The Hindu.

chored at the Karachi har-

fishermen also.

bour.

coast during deep sea fish-

They are being released after completion of their jail

"Even after the release of the fishermen, there are still around 600 fishermen, mostly from Gujarat and the Union Territories of Diu and Daman, who are languishing in jails in Pakistan," said Manish Lodhari, a prominent activist and chief of the Marine Fisheries Cooperative Society in Porbandar.

He and other activists working for the welfare of the fishermen demand that both countries must voluntarily release the fishermen lodged in each other's jail.

"There are 62 Pakistan fishermen in jail in Gujarat," said Jivan Jungi, another activist from Guiarat.

According to Mr. Jungi, the nationality of 376 of the 600 fishermen has been

among the largest fisheries producing States. There are around 25,000 boats registered for fishing and almost 2.5 million people directly and indirectly dependent on related activities. According to Mr. Lodhari,

long coastline, Gujarat is

an average 75-90 Indian boats are apprehended by Pakistan's national agency every year during fishing in the deep sea. Since 2003, only twice less than 100 boats were released by Pakistan – in 2014 and in 2017.

Both India and Pakistan have been engaged in detaining fishermen to the dispute over the alignment of the IMBL in the Arabian Sea.

From Pakistan side, it's national agency PMSA apprehends a few hundred fishermen along with their boats for allegedly crossing over to the other side of the notional maritime border while the Indian Coast Guard and other security agencies detain a few dozen Pakistani fishermen for allegedly crossing over to the Indian side of the IMBL.

The detained fishermen are then handed over to the local police who lodge them in jails while initiating proceedings against them for violating laws. They are periodically released and repatriated after completion of jail sentence and establishing of nationality.

Ahead of PM's trip, station gets Gond queen's name

M.P. Chief Minister announces renaming of Habibganj

ANUP DUTTA

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has set the stage for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the State by renaming the Habibganj railway station after Rani Kamlapati, an 18th century Gond

"I thank PM Modi for renaming Bhopal's Habibganj railway station after the tribal queen Rani Kamlapati. She was the pride of Gond society. She was the last Hindu queen of Bhopal," Mr. Chouhan tweeted in Hindi.

Two days ahead of Mr. Modi's scheduled inauguration of the modernised and redeveloped railway station at a cost of ₹100 crore under a public private partnership, the BIP Government wrote to the Union Home Ministry for renaming it.

Many believe Rani Kamlapati was the widow of Gond ruler Nizam Shah, chief of Ginnorgarh. They say the station was built in 1905 and was named Shahpur (one popular area in new Bhopal is known as Shahpura, named after the Shahpura

In 1979, when the Railways was looking for land for the expansion of the station, Habib Miya decided to give land free of cost and the station was named after

Mr. Modi's visit will take



Wiping out: The name board of the Habibganj railway station in Bhopal being changed on Saturday. • A.M. FARUQUI

place with a special focus on tribal people. The State Government has organised an Adivasi Gaurav Divas to mark the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda and has termed him Lord ahead of the PM's visit.

More than two lakh people from different tribes will participate in the programme and one crore tribals will be connected to it through webcast, say Government estimates.

Birth anniversary

"There are two contexts of the mahasammelan. First, it is being held on the birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda. It is a matter of pride for the State that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will address it," Mr. Chouhan said reviewing the preparations.

The Gond community is the largest tribal group in India with more than 1.2 crore

The community is largely

spread in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattsigarh and Jharkhand. And political parties take a lot of effort to win over the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe voters.

In the previous Assembly election, the BIP recorded its worst performance in a decade in reserved seats across Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

It won just two of the 28 reserved seats in Jharkhand in the 2019 Assembly election. In Chhattisgarh, it has three of the 29 seats reserved for the STs, and won 16 of the 47 reserved ST seats in Madhya Pradesh in the Assembly elections held in

Madhya Pradesh Food and Civil Supplies Minister Bisahulal Singh and a senior tribal leader admits that the BJP was thrown out of power because it was unable to retain the reserved seats. The sammelan is going to help the party, Mr. Bisahulal said.

Akhilesh uses inflation card to target BJP

Aeroplane rides were promised, but now people can't even afford a motorbike ride, says SP leader

OMAR RASHID LUCKNOW

"The BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) promised that the poor who wear hawai chappal (simple footwear) would be able to fly in *hawai jahaaz* (aeroplanes) but the Government made diesel and petrol so expensive that now people are unable to even move their motorcycles," Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav said on Saturday as he led a yatra from Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath's bastion

"What did you get, my poor brothers? The BJP people had shown you big dreams," Mr. Yadav said at a gathering in Kushinagar.

In a bid to expand his social base ahead of the 2022 Assembly election, Mr. Yaday accused the BJP of fuelling discrimination, "making castes fight", and snatching the rights given to people by B.R. Ambedkar.

Mr. Yadav tried to punch

holes in the welfare schemes promoted by the BJP through the question of inflation. Along with a hardline Hindutva pitch, the BJP in the U.P. has been trying to woo voters through ration and welfare schemes, he

Mr. Yadav said that while the Government had introduced cooking gas cylinders under the Ujjwala scheme, people were now finding it difficult to refill them due to high prices. Women were unable to refill the cylinders, said the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister referring to this segment. He also said farmers had

to stand in line for hours to purchase fertilizers. The BJP picked the pockets of the poor and filled the

coffers of industrialists, Mr. Mr. Yadav also said that Chief Minister Yogi Aditya-

nath had "made personal attacks on him and his father Mulayam Singh" because, when in power, he [Mr. Ahkilesh Yadav] had distributed laptops to youth, ambulance services to people, and Dial 100 emergency police ser-

In Gorakhpur, Mr. Yadav said no other Government had made so many false promises as he reminded farmers that the BJP had said their incomes would be doubled. "Your farms will be snatched," Mr. Yadav said, warning farmers against the three new farm laws.

Bengal Govt. to table resolution on BSF order

It will be tabled in House on Nov. 16

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The West Bengal Government will bring a resolution in the Assembly against the Centre's move to increase the territorial jurisdiction of the Border Security Force. State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Partha Chatterjee said that a resolution would be brought under Rule 185 of the procedures of conduct of business of the State Assembly.

"The resolution will be against the increase in territorial jurisdiction of the BSF from 15 km to 50 km," Mr. Chatterjee said. The resolution is likely to be brought in the House on November 16.

"Our view is that law and order is a State Subject and responsibility is guarding border and such developments will lead to conflict between Centre and State," the Minister added. Considering the strength of the Trinamool in the Assembly, the resolution can be easily passed.

The BJP MLAs are likely to be present in the State Assembly and oppose the resolution. "The Trinamool opposes anything which is in the interest of national security," BJP national vice president Dilip Ghosh said.

gal Services Authority. Dur-

ing the visit, Mr. Rajesh was

told that the tribal group had

been deprived of Govern-

ment incentives, including

free ration during the pan-

demic. As many as 18 chil-

dren who were born in the

Trinamool fields ex-Goa CM for Rajya Sabha September 29 and was later

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Saturday nominated former Goa Chief Minister Luizinho Faleiro as a Rajya Sabha candidate.

extremely "We are pleased to nominate @luizinhofaleiro to the Upper House of Parliament. We are confident that his efforts towards serving the nation shall be appreciated widely by our people!," the party tweeted from its official handle.

Election to the Rajya Sabha seat is scheduled for November 29. The seat fell vacant after Trinamool MP Arpita Ghosh tendered her resignation on September

Mr. Faleiro is likely to file his nomination next week. The former Congress leader joined the Trinamool on appointed vice-president of the party.

The nomination of the Goan leader comes at a time when the Trinamool is trying to extend its footprint in +the western coastal State.

Trinamool chairperson and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee visited Goa in October and held a series of public The Assembly poll in Goa

will be held in 2022 and the I'MC wants to project itself as an alternative to the BJP. Trinamool sources said

Mr. Faleiro is likely to contest the Assembly polls. The Trinamool has ruled out any pre-poll alliance in

the State. The party appointed Krishnanagar Lok Sabha MP Mahua Moitra as in-charge

Office of the Chairman, NEET PG Admission/Counseling Board - 2021 and Principal, Govt, Dental College, Subhash Nagar, Behind T.B. Hospital, Jaipu Phone: 0141 - 2280090

No. State PG Counseling Board/2021/60

NOTIFICATION

Rajasthan State Dental P.G. Seats (MDS) Allotments - 2021 [Mon-up round (extended) and residual seats filing, off-line]

notice no. V. 12025/154/2021-DE, dated 10.11.2021, Ministry of Health Family Welfare, Govt. of India, New Delhi regarding lowering of the qualifying cut-of ercentile for MDS course. The registration will remain open and the mon-up, round extended, off-line) allotment procedure and residual seats filling for various PG Dental course (MDS) for Rajasthan State registered candidates, will be carried o off-line as per the schedule given at the website.

NEET PG Admission/Counseling Board - 2021



E-Tender - Rate Contract Purchase of Prosthetics and Orthotics Materials: (1) Raw Materials (2) Lab Materials NIEPMD invites E-bids under two bid system 1. Technical Bid and 2 Financial Bid from competent & reputed manufacturers/suppliers of Prostheitcs and Orthotics Raw materials an ab materials. For detail of term and conditions please visit https://www.niepmd.tn.nic.in o

ttps://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app Date of Issue of Notice Inviting Tender Date of Availability of bids on e-Portal & NIEPMD Website

Last date and time for submission of Tender



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

No: AIIMS/BBSR/ENGG/ACR-2021/MOT/67/94 Dated: 11th Nov 2021 e-Tender Ref. No. - AIIMS/BBSR/ENGG/ACR-2021/MOT/NIT/16

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar invites e-Tender for "Modification of Cooling Coil of AHU for Controlling Humidity in MOT at AIIMS HOSPITAL, BBSR". Detailed description, terms & conditions and document for processing e-Tender along with last date o submission can be viewed and downloaded from e-Tender porta of AIIMS. Bhubaneswar website www.aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in

> Executive Engineer (AC&R) AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

'All communal parties can be compared to IS'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

Taking a jibe at Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said all the communal parties that intend to divide Hindus and Muslims can be compared to organisations like the Islamic State (IS).

"Communal political parties are not less than the IS because they both have killed people in the name of religion and communalism," the former Chief Minister said in Jammu.

The remarks come after Congress leader Azad

"factually wrong and an exaggeration", while commenting on Mr. Khurshid's comparison in his new book. Ms. Mufti also said the BJP

Annual rendezvous: Camel traders on their way to the Pushkar Fair in Ajmer on Saturday • PTI

and the RSS had hijacked Hinduism and Hindutva. "I think it's not about Hindutva or Hinduism. The real Sanatan Dharam doesn't teach communalism. It's the RSS, the Jan Sangh and the BJP which are communalising the situation by making people fight in the country."

She said that the real meaning of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is the whole world is one family.

Kattupaniya members were deprived of Government incentives before termed such comparisons E.M. MANOJ

Members of Kattupaniya, a nomadic tribal group that was rehabilitated from caves near the South Wayanad-Nilambur Forest Division in Kerala a few years ago, have enrolled for Aadhaar cards with the intervention of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

As many as 33 members of the vulnerable tribal group were rehabilitated from the Nilambur forest at Erattakkundu Colony near Attamala seven years ago. However, details of 20 members have not been entered in govern-



Nomadic tribal group gets Aadhaar

his photograph taken for Aadhaar enrolment. ment records vet.

District Sub Judge K. Rajesh, also the Secretary of DLSA, Wayanad, visited the

tribal hamlet a few weeks ago as part of the Pan India Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign of the National Le-

hamlet do not have birth certificates as their mothers were not admitted to hospitals for delivery. In the absence of birth certificates, Aadhaar cards could not be issued to them, Mr. Rajesh told The Hindu. Since members of Kattupaniya do not mingle with those outside their group, Aadhaar seeding could not be done for them.

Insurance partner:

Knowledge partner:

Hindustan Institute of

Technology & Science

Bookstore partner:

Higginbothams

of India

Life Insurance Corporation

Of disappearing women and theatre of the senses

the other hand, a tendency

to whitewash them and pre-

sent them to the public as

perfect goddesses or war-

riors, who did not feel like

festival titled "This is my sto-

ry", filmmaker Sudha Konga-

ra discussed the portrayal of

women in cinema with Can-

care Foundation founder

"I don't like them to be

Chitra Mahesh.

In another session of the

women of flesh and blood.

The Hindu Lit for Life discusses the depictions of women in literature and films and the immersive theatre experience

STAFF REPORTER

All the writings and sources of evidence were often lost or obfuscated easily when it came to women in history, author and historian Ira Mukhoty said on Saturday.

In a conversation with Pankaja Srinivasan, senior journalist, on the second day of The Hindu Lit for Life 2021 organised virtually, Professor Mukhoty said it was quite hard to find sources for her book on the women of the Mughal empire, Daughters of the Sun, though she was dealing with the well-documented period of late 16th century to early 18th century.

Highlighting that the idea of her latest book, Song of Draupadi - A Novel, was to look at the Mahabharatha through the lens of the women characters, she said it was her search for good Indian role models from history or mythology for her daughters that led her to writing the book.

Professor Mukhoty said there was a strange dichotomy in the country's attitude

While on the one hand, limp or unidimensional," Ms. there were women in history Kongara said. and mythology who did all "Even in a male-centric sorts of things, there was, on film like Soorarai Pottru (in-

spired by the life of Captain G.R. Gopinath, who founded Air Deccan) the female character stands out. Gopinath's wife Bhargavi herself is an example of a strong woman. She ensured that there was food on the table till her husband's dream venture took off. It angers me when women are shown as a flitting butterfly," she said.

Anuradha Kapur, founder member of Vivadi and former director of the National School of Drama, and Deepan Sivaraman, director, scenographer, and founder of Oxygen Theatre Company, discussed the evolving nature of theatre in a session titled 'Sense Smell Touch: Collaboration in Theatre Making.'

"Sensorial theatre needs a different kind of spectatorial intervention and positioning. You cannot have a complete sensorial experience if you sit in only one place and watch throughout," Mr. Siva-



Wrong depiction: Sudha Kongara says it angers her when women are shown in films as a flitting butterfly. ■ PICHUMANI K

'Lit for Life seeks to build bridges across social divides'

Support for free speech is festival's aim: *The Hindu* Editor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Hindu Lit for Life is a very important part of the group's portfolio brand events that are designed to engage with the readers beyond the printed word, L.V. Navaneeth, Chief Executive Officer, The Hindu Group Publishing Private Ltd., said in his opening address on the second day of the 10th edition of the The Hindu Lit for Life 2021.

"Some of the areas are integral to our ethos. I do hope the conversations around ideas and with authors at this year's edition engage our readers, offer them plenty of thoughts worth thinking about and inspire them to expand both the depth and width of what they read," he said.

In his special address, Suresh Nambath, Editor, The Hindu, said the newspaper's support for the principle of freedom of speech had rethe festival's cornerstone.

"The newspaper began the Literary Review in 1990. This was the only supplement devoted to books and literature brought out by a daily. From this was born the idea of a literature festival to commemorate the 20th



L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, THG Publishing Private Ltd., says Lit for Life will engage readers. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

anniversary of The Hindu's Literary Review in 2010," he recalled.

From a single session over an evening, the festival grew to a three-day event that reflects the spirit of creativity and strength of the written word and to investigate the issues of the time, Mr. Nambath said. The effort is to build bridges across political and social divides and create conversations to further debate, he noted.

Pandemic lessons

At a discussion on "Lessons of pandemic", participants felt the delay in recognising the threat of SARS-CoV-2 virus spread, not strengthening primary care, low availability of testing kits, poor understanding of the unorganised sector workers, led to preventable deaths. Gagandeep Kang, Professor of Microbiology, and Laboratory Director, The Wellcome Trust Research Laboratory, Division of Gastrointestinal Sciences, Christian Medical College, Vellore, said India had not prepared for the goal of isolating the infected.

Srinath Reddy, President of the Public Health Foundation of India, felt the focus should have been on containing the virus spread when it was still an urban phenomenon.

While reports from China were alarming, India was relaxed, instead of recognising the war-like situation, said Arun Kumar, Malcolm Adiseshaiah Chair professor at the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi. Kamini Mahadevan, former consultant editor of Penguin group, moderated the discussion.

On wildlife conservation and Gandhi's legacy

'Anthropomorphic descriptions deny animals their nature'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

"We associate wildness in animals as a bad thing, because they are not tamed," said Neha Sinha, conservation biologist and author of Wild and Wilful, to a question on the title of her book. She and wildlife biologist and conservationist Sanjay

Gubbi were in conversation with author and historian Mahesh Rangarajan at the session 'In the wqild:

conversations about conservation' on day two of The Hindu Lit for Life 2021. "We use the word wilful in a similar connotation... I

wanted to give this term a positive connotation," Ms. Sinha said. "...we have man-eating leopards, rogue monkeys, angry tuskers... It is an image that is seen as animals being murderers. I wanted to say that they are wilful, they are outside the bounds of human society. But that may not

necessarily be a bad thing." Dr. Gubbi spoke about the leopard being a "much more elastic species" when asked if the human-tiger interface was different when compared to the



I would call the leopard species the poster boy of India's

conservation success stories

human-leopard interface. "I would call it the poster boy of India's conservation success stories," said Mr. Gubbi, whose latest book Leopard Dairies - The Rosette in India is based on studying the animal up close for years.

Reclaiming Gandhi A few minutes into his

session "Reclaiming Gandhi", Subodh Kerkar played an audio clipping. It went: 'Lab dab, lab dab...' The sound was of Gandhiji's heartbeat, that Kerkar, a doctor and artist based in Goa, had recreated from Gandhi's ECG report which he found at the National Gandhi Museum, Delhi.

It set the tone for the session, one that was filled with anecdotes from Gandhiji's life, capsules of his teachings, sharing of photos of art works done by Kerkar and other artists, and views by personalities such as Albert Einstein and Nelson Mandela on how Gandhiji inspired them.

"Mahatma Gandhi is a huge contribution to the world," Mr. Kerkar said. "He gave a new method of opposing injustice. His teachings can help deepen democracy, diminish violence, and create a just and humane society."

He spoke about how Gandhiji continues to be relevant: "I was getting agitated seeing what was happening in my country; the polarisation based on religion, curtailing of freedom of expression, putting innocent people in prison...I was getting worked up," he said. "Gandhian studies helped me calm down."

Healing minds, and believing in hope

'COVID affected bodies, mental health'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In coping with COVID-19, we talk of the second and imminent third wave, but there is also a fourth wave, said veteran child psychiatrist Shekhar Seshadri - that of mental health issues brought on by the pandemic.

On its second day, The Hindu Lit for Life's penultimate session focused on mental health. Dr. Seshadri, along with

Director of National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) Pratima Murthy, and Director of the Centre for Mental Health Law & Policy, Indian Law Society, Soumitra Pathare, were in conversation with behavioural neurologist and neuropsychiatrist Ennapadam Krishnamoorthy.

Exploring mental health in COVID-19 times, Dr. Pathare pointed out that the pandemic had strained an already strained system.

"Middle class India discovered mental health during the pandemic," he said.

It is an odd situation when awareness for mental health has increased while accessibility to it has decreased, he added.

The speakers dissected the causes of anxiety, with Dr. Murthy talking about



Shekhar Seshadri

domestic violence and subabuse stance de-addiction.

This much-needed sobering session was followed by a hopeful one – Lit for Life's final discussion was between philosopher, the Venerable Tenzin Priyadarshi, and N. Ravi, Chairman of Kasturi & Sons Ltd. and publisher of The Hindu Group of Newspapers.

They discussed Priyadarshi's book, Running Toward Mystery, an account of his journey to becoming a monk – part personal, part philosophical reflections.

The President of The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics + and Transformative Values at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ran away from home as a 10-year-old, willing to renounce the traditional world, and ended up at a Buddhist monastery.

Ladakhi leaders announce stir to press for statehood

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Accusing the BJP-led Central Government of being nonserious towards the issues and concerns of the people of Ladakh, prominent leaders from the Union Territory on Saturday announced a mass agitation to press for their four main demands. These include full statehood constitutional safe-

guards for the region, one more Lok Sabha seat and two Rajya Sabha seats besides a special recruitment drive for the local youth to fill up over 10,000 vacancies in Ladakh.

The Leh-based apex body of the People's Movement for 6th Schedule and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) jointly called for a general strike on December 6.

SUDOKU

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★公公公								

extended till

turday extended the Crime assistant police inspector of Mumbai Police, till Noextortion cases Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh.

Crime Branch on November 1.

The case refers to an extortion call made to builder-cum-hotelier Bimal Agarwal between January



Finance Ministry releases ₹8,453.92 crore on the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has released an amount of ₹8,453.92 crore as health sector grant for rural and urban local bodies of 19 States. including Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar and Chhattisgarh, according to a release issued by the Union Government on Saturday.

The grants have been released as per the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.

The commission, in its report for the period from



These grants will plug critical gaps at the primary healthcare level. • THE HINDU

2021-22 to 2025-26, had recommended a total grant of ₹4,27,911 crore to local governments. The grants re-

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

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Not surprisingly, the Kor-

KANTABANJI (ODISHA)

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compartments.

commended by the commission inter alia include health grants of ₹70,051 crore. Of this amount, ₹43,928 crore has been recommended for rural local bodies and ₹26,123 crore for urban local bodies.

These grants are meant to strengthen healthcare systems and plug critical gaps at the primary healthcare le-

The commission has also identified interventions that will directly lead to strengthening the primary health infrastructure and facilities in both rural and urban areas and earmarked grants for each intervention. These interventions in-

clude support for diagnostic infrastructure to the primary healthcare facilities in rural areas (₹16,377 crore), blocklevel public health units in rural areas (₹5,279 crore), construction of buildings at sub centres, PHCs, CHCs in rural areas (₹7,167 crore), among others.

health grants recommended to be released in the financial year 2021-22 total ₹13,192 crore and includes ₹8,273 crore for rural and ₹4,919 crore for urban local bodies.

The release said that the

"Rural and urban local bo-

dies can play a key role in the delivery of primary healthcare services, especially at the 'cutting-edge' level and help in achieving the objective of universal healthcare. Strengthening the local governments in terms of resources, health infrastructure and capacity building can enable them to play a catalytic role in epidemics and pandemics too," said the re-

Health grants to the remaining nine States will be released after proposals are received from them through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

bail in cruise drugs case

Woman gets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The alleged seizure of narcotic drugs from Nupur Satija, an accused in the drugs-on-cruise case, was "illegal" as it was not conducted by an authorised woman officer, a special NDPS Act court has said while granting her bail.

The Narcotics Control Bureau had arrested 20 persons including actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan after raiding a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast on October 2. The detailed order became available on Saturday.

From Balangir, the 'bonded bricks' of economic revival Vaze's custody November 15 After the pandemic, migration from Odisha's poverty-stricken western districts has picked up pace

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A magistrate court on Sa-Branch custody of Sachin Vaze, who is a dismissed vember 15 in connection against him and former

Sachin Vaze is currently lodged at Mumbai's Taloja Central Jail and was taken into custody by Mumbai

2020 and March 2021.



to other States to work in brick kilns. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

at a non-junction station. Adept at making lakhs of

Balangir who form the unbricks in a matter of few weeks, these workers are heading to the major cities of southern India for a liveliba-Visakhapatnam Link Exhood as the promised Mapress stops at Kantabanji for hatma Gandhi National Ru-10 minutes – its longest halt ral Employment Scheme

(MGNREGS) payments get delayed and the expected paddy harvest has fallen short after an erratic mon-

Resuming annual migration after a gap of four years, 45-year-old Yudhisthir Tandi with five other family mem-

bers from Karlabahali village of Balangir is among the many on the Link Express.

A 17-year-old college-going daughter and 15-year-old son, who would have appeared for his matriculation examination this year, have joined Mr. Tandi and his wife on the journey. The youngest member of the labour team was Surekha, a Class 4 student, whose service would be required to help in cooking and babysitting at the brick kiln.

So what drove the Tandi family to migrate enmasse? "The paddy harvest from

my one acre land turned out to be below par due to harsh weather condition. I have a large family to look after and earned under MGNREGS was not enough.

We are migrating after receiving wage advance of ₹35,000 per person," said Mr. Tandi.

Distress migration

About 75,000 families from poverty-stricken western Odisha districts migrate annually to work in brick kilns. Due to acute poverty, these workers take advance wages - a form of 'debt bondage' which ties them to the kilns and the abysmal work conditions.

"The underlying reason behind people opting for heartless employment year after year is poverty and lack of meaningful employment back home," said Umi Daniel, head of the migration unit of Aide et Action, an NGO.

Five anti-coup protesters killed in Sudan

Tens of thousands take part in demonstrations across the country as the military tightens grip

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KHARTOUM

Sudanese security forces killed at least five demonstrators on Saturday in a crackdown on anti-coup protests, medics said, after the military tightened its grip by forming a new ruling

The pro-democracy protests come nearly three weeks after top General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan ousted the government, detained the civilian leadership and declared emergency.

The independent Central Committee for Sudanese doctors said five protesters were killed in Saturday's rallies, two in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman and three in east Khartoum.

Four were shot dead, while one died from "suffocation by tear gas", the medics said. A "large number of people" were also wounded



Growing resentment: Pro-democracy protesters participating in a rally in Khartoum on Saturday. •AP

by live rounds "of the putschist military council", they

Security forces stormed one hospital in Omdurman and "detained several of the people wounded" there,

The latest deaths brings to 20 the number of people killed in anti-coup protests since the military takeover on October 25, according to the medics.

Gunshots were heard and tear gas fired as security forces tried to break the protests, witnesses said. "No, no to military rule", "Civilian (rule) is the people's choice",

protesters shouted. The U.S. vereign Council that excludes the country's main civilian bloc.

The move sparked international condemnation and on Saturday demonstrators shouted: "Down with the entire council".

The protests occurred despite the heavy presence of military, police and paramilitary forces in Khartoum, where bridges connecting the capital to neighbouring cities were sealed off. The security forces also blocked roads leading to the Army headquarters, the site of a 2019 mass sit-in that prompted the Generals to oust long-President Omar time al-Bashir.

Minister Information Hamza Baloul, who was briefly detained in the military takeover, took part in Saturday's protests in Khartoum. Demonstrations were also organised elsewhere around the world.

West, not Belarus, root cause of migrant crisis, says Putin

Russian President points to wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

REUTERS

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that Western countries, rather than Belarus, were ultimately responsible for a migrant crisis on the Belarus-Poland border, pointing to wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Russia is a key ally of Belarus, which the European Union has accused of mounting a "hybrid attack" by flying in thousands of migrants, mainly from West Asia, and pushing them to try to cross illegally into Poland.

As the EU prepares to impose new sanctions on Minsk, Mr. Putin told Russian state television he thought Belarus was not to blame for the crisis. "Let's not forget where these crises with migrants came from ... Is Belarus a pioneer in these



problems? No, the reasons were created by Western and European countries themselves," Mr. Putin said.

Referring to conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Mr. Putin noted that Iraqi Kurds and Afghans were among the migrants at the Belaru-

"Belarus has nothing to do with it ... the fact they've

come via Belarus is unsurprising because Belarus ... has visa-free entry for the countries of origin," Mr. Putin said.

'Ideas of humanity'

He accused Polish forces on the border with Belarus of beating migrants, firing rounds above their heads and turning on lights and sirens at night near the migrants.

This doesn't really tie in well with the ideas of humanity that supposedly underpin all the policies of our Western neighbours," he

Mr. Putin said he hoped Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and German Chancellor Angela Merkel would discuss the crisis, saying the migrants mainly wanted to go to Germany.

Turkey jails wife of Kurdish politician over medical report

The sentencing just looks so political, says EU rapporteur

The wife of prominent jailed Kurdish Opposition figure Selahattin Demirtas has been sentenced in Turkey to two-and-a-half years in jail after being found to have provided inaccurate information over a date in a medical report, her lawyers said.

Lawyers for Basak Demirtas, 44, said she was sentenced by a court over an incorrect date on a medical report issued by a doctor in the southeastern province of Diyarbakir in 2015, which she passed to her employer

while taking sick leave. Her husband Selahattin Demirtas, the former pro-Kurdish party leader and one of Turkey's best-known politicians, has been in jail for nearly five years on terrorism-related charges that he

'Worrying state'

The European Parliament's Turkey rapporteur, Nacho Sanchez Amor, said her sentencing seemed "political".

Mr. Amor wrote on Twitter that "2.5 years of prison for a mere clerical error concerning a medical record is appalling and seems beyond common sense. It just looks so political. It gives the measure of the worrying state of Turkish judiciary".

To appeal ruling Ms. Demirtas is free pending

appeal of her conviction, which could take more than a year to finalise.

There was an error on the records that could have been corrected by examining the appointment book of the local healthcare centre, Ms. Demirtas's lawyers said, adding that they will appeal the ruling.

Duterte's daughter to run for Philippines Vice-President

Outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte also flags plans to contest the vice-presidency in 2022

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Embassy in Khartoum con-

demned the use of force by

security forces, saying in a

statement it "deeply regrets

the loss of life and injuries of

dozens of Sudanese citizens

demonstrating today for

freedom and democracy".

'Down with the council'

Tens of thousands rallied na-

tionwide, with protests tak-

ing place in several cities, in-

cluding Port Sudan and in

the Darfur region, witnesses

said. "The military should

not have anything to do with

politics, they should safe-

guard the constitution which

Burhan himself has turned

Any hopes the demonstra-

tors had that the military

would back down were

dashed on Thursday, when

General Burhan named him-

self head of a new ruling So-

said protester

Abdelrahman in

against,"

Ahmed

Khartoum.

Philippines "First Daughter" Sara Duterte on Saturday entered the vice-presidential race for the 2022 elections. in a surprise move that could boost the chances of presidential hopeful Ferdinand Marcos Jr winning the country's highest office.

Outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte, who is constitutionally barred from seeking a second term, also flagged plans to contest the vice-presidency – triggering chaotic scenes at the Commission on Elections office handling last- minute changes to candidacies ahead of a Novem-

The elder Duterte "will



Reaching out: Sara Duterte, left, talking to a constituent in Davao city, on the southern island of Mindanao. • AFP

file his certificate of candidacy for the vice-presidency on Monday, that's what he said," presidential communications chief Martin Andanar told local broadcaster

But he added: "I would like to believe that that is the plan for now. We don't know if this will be the same plan by tomorrow or by Monday."

Ms. Sara, 43, had been widely expected to seek the presidency in a bid to succeed her father, and potentially protect him from crimicharges

Philippines and International Criminal Court investigators probing his deadly drug

Her tilt for the country's second-highest office was immediately endorsed by the party of Mr. Marcos Jr, the son and namesake of the former dictator, to be his running mate in the poll.

"This is to confirm that Mayor Inday Sara Duterte through her representative, has filed her Certificate of Candidacy for Vice-President under Lakas-CMD (parher spokeswoman Christina Garcia Frasco said on Facebook, confirming the Commission on Elections' announcement.

For months, Ms. Sara had

insisted she wanted to serve another term as Davao City Mayor in the family's southern bailiwick - the position her father held before he was elected President in 2016 despite leading in surveys of voter preferences for the next President. Speculation about her

plans intensified this week after she suddenly withdrew from the mayoral contest. She also quit her regional party and joined Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, the national political party of her close ally and former President Gloria Arrovo. In the Philippines, the

President and the Vice-President are elected separately.

ELSEWHERE



Spears' guardianship

A judge on Friday terminated the guardianship that has controlled pop star Britney Spears' life for the past 13 years, handing back her freedom along with control of a multi-million- dollar estate. The ruling, greeted with raucous cheers by Spears' fans outside the downtown courthouse, ends a conservatorship long overseen by her father, and which the "Toxic" singer has described as abusive. "Best day ever... praise the Lord.. can I get an Amen," wrote Spears on Instagram, using the hashtag "#FreedBritney." "Effective today... the conservatorship of the person and estate of Britney Jean Spears is hereby terminated. And that is the order of the court," said judge Brenda Penny. AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

A small carpeted room

serves as a makeshift jail for

12 "criminals" who are await-

ing Taliban justice, caught in

the legal system which the Is-

lamists are building at the heart of their new Afghan

None of the prisoners be-

ing held on the ground floor

of the Taliban headquarters

in Panjwai district in south-

ern Afghanistan have yet

seen the local judge, who is

busy in another area. Until

he arrives, the Taliban fight-

ers of the unit in Kandahar

province – left to their own

whims and understanding of

KANDAHAR

U.S. raps Eritrea's military over conflict in Ethiopia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The United States on Friday slapped new sanctions on Eritrea over the deadly conflict in neighbouring Ethiopia, which it warned was at danger of "implosion" without a negotiated settlement.

Ahead of a three-nation trip to Africa next week, Secretary of State Antony Blinken also threatened to impose sanctions against the Ethiopian Government and rebels unless they move forward on talks.

Failure to reach a settlement "would lead to the implosion of Ethiopia and spill over into other countries in the region, and that would be disastrous for the Ethiopian people and also for countries in the region", Mr. Blinken told reporters.

'The other path is to halt all of the military actions that are currently underway, sit down to negotiate a real ceasefire to make sure

that humanitarian assistance can get in to all of the regions where people are in

need," he said.

The U.S. has condemned both the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, a one-time ally and Nobel Peace Prize winner, over a year of bloodshed that has left hundreds of thousands in famine-like conditions. But measures imposed on Friday over the conflict instead focused on Eritrea. "Eritrean forces have operated throughout Ethiopia during the conflict and have been responsible for massacres, looting and sexual assaults," a Treasury

Department statement said. The sanctions targeted the Eritrean Defense Force and President Isaias Afwerki's political party, the People's Front for Democracy and Justice, as well as other players in the authoritarian

Journalist killed in Kabul bomb blast

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

A well-known Afghan journalist was killed and at least four other people injured on Saturday when a suspected bomb destroyed a minibus near a Taliban checkpoint in Kabul, a media watchdog and officials

The incident happened in Dasht-e Barchi, a Kabul suburb dominated by members of the mostly Shia Hazara community, who for years have been the target of violence by the Islamic State (IS) group.

"Unfortunately we lost another reporter," the Afghan Journalists Center tweeted hours after the blast, saying Hamid Seighani, who worked for the Ariana television network, had died in the blast.

His wife, also a journalist, posted "I lost Hamid" on her Facebook page.

A GREETING TO REMEMBER



Be it a birthday, an anniversary, an academic accomplishment or even a promotion. Now you can surprise your loved ones by wishing them on

CLASSIFIEDS

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE Smt. SUBBIAH ANNAPURNAM, Wife

SUBBIAH ANNAPURNAM



of Shri Munnirpallam Sivasubramania Pillai Subbiah, left for her heavenly abode (Vaikunth) on 14th November, 2017 at New Delhi at the age of 79 years. Not a single moment passes wnen you are not missed by us. You wil always live in our hearts guiding and blessing us. You will always be deeply remembered by us for your strenuous efforts in building a strong family.

You continue to be a source of inspiration and strength. **FONDLY REMEMBERED BY**

Shri M.S. Subbiah & Family

Executive Engineer

Road Construction Department

Road Division, Gumla

GOUB.com

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, ROAD **DIVISION, GUMLA**

e-Procurement Notice(3rd Call)
e-Tender Reference No. RCD/GUMLA/784 Date :- 12.11.2021 Name of the work Reconstruction of Siai Thana to Sisai Ghaghra Road via Si sai Market (Total Length - 4.483 km) 2. Estimated Cost (Rs.) Rs.11,78,96,235.00(Eleven crore seventy eight lacs ninety six thousand two hundred thirty five) Only. 3. Time of Completion 06 Months 4. Last date/Time for receipt 09.12.2021 of bids Up to 12:00 Noon 5. Date of Publication of 18.11.2021 Tender on website From 10:30 A.M. 17.12.2021 Opening Date of Tender 12.30 PM Name & address of office Executive Engineer, Road Construction Inviting tender Department, Road Division, Gumla. 06524-222097 Contact no. of e-Procurement officer Helpline number of e-0651-2401010 Procurement cell 1. Tender amount can be increased or decreased 2. Details can be seen on website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

EVER HEARD OF OUNG WORLD

PR 256861 Road (21-22)_D

Let your little ones READ their crackling answers on www.youngworldclub.com

the group's interpretation of Islamic law – represent the justice at the centre of their entirety of the justice sysideology, and have "made tem. "They will keep me the courts a means of conhere until I can pay back the quering power", said Adam Bazco, a researcher who person I owe money to," said Haj Baran, a 41-year-old busiconducted a field investiga-



Justice delayed as Taliban build legal system

nessman arrested three days earlier for an outstanding

After a nearly 20-year insurgency, the Taliban took power in Afghanistan in August by force. But they long ago placed their version of tic", Mr. Bazco said.

system from 2010 to 2016. From 2004 on, in areas

the Taliban controlled, "people were turning to them because of growing discontent with the interference of Western groups in their land disputes and a judicial system that appeared increasingly corrupt and nepotis-

In the context of war, he explained, the severity of the

Taliban punishments was welcomed by some. They were known for their harshness - but also their impartiality, speed and predictability. Three months after the Taliban seized power, however, they are still struggling to implement that system across the country.

In some cases since the takeover, the Taliban judges wary of losing support have tried to avoid being too harsh. Afghanistan's masters say they are seeking international respectability. "If someone takes it upon himself to kill a person, even if it is one of our men, it is a crime and we will bring him before the courts and he will have to face the law," Government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said after three guests were recently killed at a wedding by Taliban fighters over a dispute about music.

Eggshell planets

A small subset of extrasolar planets are likely to have thin crusts, a new modelling study published in the Journal of Geophysical Research finds. Since these eggshell planets are unlikely to show plate tectonics, such worlds are unlikely to be habitable, the study surmises. At least three such worlds may have been



Industrious microbes Microbes may have been

behind the first stages of coal creation, finds a study published in Science, Studving methoxyl groups in coal samples, researchers showed that organic material eventually becomes coal through the action of anaerobic microbes that consumed the methoxyl groups, transformed the coal and made methane.



Clue in a diamond

A greenish, octahedral-shaped diamond that was found decades ago at the Orapa diamond mine in Botswana contained small black specks that turned out to be a mineral identified in nature for the first time. This discovery was reported in Science, and the mineral, named Davemaoite, cannot exist on Earth's surface, but plays a major role in heat flow deep inside the Earth.



Orbiting two suns

Planets that orbit a pair of stars are called circumbinary stars. Though such objects were thought to be confined to science fiction, using NASA's KEPLER and TESS missions data, astronomers have detected 14 such systems so far. Difficult to detect, a 2020 paper in The Astronomical Journal came up with a method. This has been validated with the same group using the method to find the first such planet in TESS data.

Was it really a black hole that the EHT imaged in 2019?

The debate among physicists takes off over alternative possibilities such as naked singularities into the realms of time travel and loops of time

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

In 2019, astronomers of the Event Horizon Telescope captured the first ever image of a supermassive black hole (M87*) which was located at the centre of a galaxy Messier 87 (M87). This black hole is calculated to be 6.5 billion times the Sun's mass and is 55 million light years away from the Earth. The discovery set the world of astronomy on fire and also found a mention in the "popular information" section of the announcement of the Nobel Prize in physics for 2020.

Now, a paper published in The European Physical Journal C brings in an alternative explanation for the compact object that was imaged by the Event Horizon Telescope. The authors say it (M87*) is not necessarily a black hole but could even be a "naked singularity with a gravitomagnetic monopole."

When stars much more massive than the Sun reach the end of their lives, they collapse under their own gravity, and the product of this collapse, most astronomers believe is a black hole. A black hole has two parts: At its core is a singularity - a point that is infinitely dense, as all the remnant mass of the star is compressed into this point. Then there is the event horizon an imaginary surface surrounding the singularity, and the gravity of the object is such that once anything enters this surface, it is trapped forever. Not even light can escape the pull of the singularity once it crosses the event horizon. That is why, we cannot see the singularity at the heart of a black hole but only see points outside the event horizon.

Troublesome sibling

In many scenarios of stellar collapse, the event horizon does not form, and the singularity is exposed to the outside, without any event horizon shielding it. Pankaj S. Joshi, a specialist in general theory of relativity and cosmology, calls this "naked singularity" a "troublesome sibling" of a black hole in an article by him in Scientific American. If this weird object should exist, observers can, in principle, see the bare, or "naked" singularity as it is called. While many physicists object because of some seriously problematic issues associated with the solutions, these nevertheless

More complex than a black hole

■ In 2019, Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) group captured the first ever image of a supermassive black hole at the centre of the M87 galaxy

■ However, there are also other possibilities for the state of the compact object at the centre of M87

exist, puzzling researchers,

perhaps embarrassing them.

Prof. Joshi is the Founding

Director of International

Center for Cosmology and

Advisor, Charusat University,

Anand, in Gujarat, and is not

involved in the work under

In the above paper, Chan-

drachur Chakraborty, from

the Department of Physics,

Indian Institute of Science,

Bengaluru, and Kavli Insti-

tute of Astronomy and Astro-

physics, Peking University,

Beijing, China, and his col-

laborators show that M87³

could be either a black hole

or a naked singularity and

each of these possibilities

could be plain or coupled

with what is called a gravito-

discussion.

A new paper puts forth the idea that the object need not be a black hole, but it could be a "naked singularity with a gravitomagnetic

monopole" ■ These possibiltimes allow closed timelike loop

solutions. In these spacetimes, the past and the future can merge giving rise to unphysical possibilities

The debate follows, whether to use Occam's razor and discard these possibilities and handle them with care

magnetic monopole. In all,

that leaves four possibilities

Monopoles and gravity

In the nineteenth century,

James Clerk Maxwell unified

electricity and magnetism as

one combined phenome-

non, showing that light is an

electromagnetic wave. But

there is an asymmetry bet-

ween electricity and magne-

tism. While positive and ne-

gative electric charges can be

found to exist independent-

ly, the poles of a magnet are

always found in pairs, north

and south bound together.

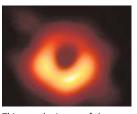
Dr Chakraborty draws upon

an analogy between gravita-

tional force and electromag-

netism to explain that in

in principle.



This was the image of the compact object at he heart of the Messier 87 galaxy taken by the Event Horizon Telescope, interpreted as the shadow of a spinning black hole • REUTERS

1963, Newman, Tamburino and Unti (NUT) proposed a theoretical concept called a "gravito-magnetic charge" also called a gravitomagnetic monopole.

"We have shown that M87* could be a black hole (with or without gravitomagnetic monopole) or a naked singularity (with or without gravitomagnetic monopole) ... The Event Horizon Telescope collaboration mapped it to a black hole only and did also not consider that it might contain a gravitomagnetic monopole," says Dr Chakraborty.

But this is where a difficult situation arises. When vou allow the NUT-like solutions, there is a possibility of "closed timelike loops." These are regions in parameter space of spacetime in which the past merges with the future allowing many bizarre situations. Hence, this solution comes in for strong criticism from physicists. "The Kerr and the

Schwarzschild solutions of

Einstein's equations [namely black holes with spin and having an event horizon] are considered appropriate for astrophysical describing black holes, like the one that has been recently imaged in M87. However, the Kerr-NUT solutions describing gravitomagnetic monopoles are not regarded in the same way," says Joseph Samuel, a physicist from Bengaluru-based International Centre of Theoretical Sciences, who has worked in General theory of Relativity and Cosmology. "These solutions suffer from a pathology known as closed timelike curves. In such spacetimes, time is a periodic variable [that is, everything repeats after a period of time]. One can travel into the past and create logical contradictions by killing off one's ancestors," Prof. Samuel

Prof. Joshi has this to say. "Some important solutions to Einstein equations do admit closed timelike curves. Despite this, the solutions have been studied because they have some other useful or important or interesting features. So, you have to take them in that spirit. This is why the so-called wormhole solutions that also admit closed timelike curves are very much under study today."

Another approach

There is another approach. Why discard the entire solution? Only those regions of parameter space that give rise to the closed timelike loops could be thrown away. This is suggested by Prof. Joshi. "Not all solutions of Einstein equations have closed time like curves, but some have... If you do not like closed time like curves then you have to discard away these solutions. It is as simple as that. That is the status of the theory right now," he says, clarifying that not all naked singularity solutions have closed timelike curves. many of them do respect causality.

Thus, an old debate resurfaces with this paper: to throw out these solutions or keep them and handle them

Zika virus outbreaks, an opportunity to improve healthcare in India

The lab capacity for COVID-19, developed in the last 18 months, needs to be optimally used to conduct testing for other emerging infections

CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA

Viruses are ubiquitous, most are innocuous and some, such as SARS CoV-2, turn out to be pernicious. Zika virus, first detected in rhesus monkeys in the Zika forest in Uganda in 1947 and then identified in humans after a few years, appears to be repositioning itself. For the first 60 years after detection, only 14 human cases had been reported, from Asia and Tropical Africa. The first ever outbreak of Zika virus was reported in 2007 in the island of Yap (a federated state in Micronesia) in the Pacific. Zika virus received global attention with the start of a major outbreak in Brazil in March 2015, which tries in Central and South America and the Caribbean. The outbreak was associated with higher incidences of microcephaly (a condition which results in a small brain in the fetus) as well as the in-

creased neurological symp-

toms such as Guillain-Barré

syndrome and neuropathies

in adults and children infect-

ed with the virus. On Febru-

break was designated a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) by the World Health Organization (a classification a step before a disease is declared as pandemic). Between 2015 and 2017, nearly 550,000 suspected and 175,000 confirmed Zika virus cases were reported, which included nearly 2,700 cases of microcephaly in Brazil alone. The outbreak had subsided by mid-2017; however, by late 2019, the Zika virus has been reported from at least 87 countries across the world.

ary 1, 2016, Zika virus out-

The earliest evidence of Zika virus in India is in 1952-1953. The prevalence studies conducted by the National in different parts of India, had detected the antibodies against the Zika virus from

Zika in India

The first two outbreaks of Zika virus infections in India were reported in 2017. This included three human cases from Ahmedabad, Gujarat (January-February,

giri district of Tamil Nadu (July 2017). There were two more outbreaks in 2018 from Madhya Pradesh (130 cases) and Rajasthan (159 cases). In 2021, at least three Zika virus outbreaks have been reported. In Kerala (at least 89 cases) and then in Maharashtra (Around 12 cases), both in July, and most recently from Uttar Pradesh in October-November, 2021 (nearly 110 confirmed cases till now).

and one case from Krishna-

Zika virus is primarily a mosquito-borne illness, transmitted by the Aedes mosquitoes (which transmit chikungunya and dengue). However, Zika virus is transmitted from infected mother to fetus during pregnancy, through blood and other botion as well as sexual contact. Most people do not develop any symptoms; however, a few may develop fever, rashes, redness in eve. muscle and joint pain, headache, and generalised fa-

It is a mild illness for all age groups except for the pregnant women, whose fetus may develop congenital



Routes of infection: Though primarily mosquito-borne, Zika virus is transmitted from infected mother to fetus during pregnancy, through blood and other body floods and organ translation as well as sexual contact. • GETTY IMAGES

malformation, especially abnormal brain development, microcephaly and other reneurological

The symptoms are very siillnesses. Infection is suspected if there is ongoing Zika virus transmission in the area, travel history or contact history with a confirmed case. The laboratory confirmation is done from blood or urine samples.

There is no licensed vaccine to prevent disease and no specific treatment available. People are advised to

take rest, eat well and drink plenty of fluids.

Need to step up

The current reports of Zika virus outbreaks are not a cern for citizens in India. However, knowing that the vector for Zika virus, the Aedes mosquito is present in all States of India, there is a need for stepping up preventive and public health measures. India should use the recent disease outbreaks as an opportunity to strengthen the disease surveillance system and health data re-

tems in the country. The labcapacity COVID-19, developed in the last 18 months, needs to be optimally used to conduct testing for other emerging infections. One of the key considera-

cording and reporting sys-

tions is that the outbreak which had started in Brazil in 2015 was caused by a new variant of Zika virus, termed American lineage. Though originated from South Asian lineage, it has crucial mutation S139N, attributed to higher incidences of microcephaly and other neurological conditions. All previous outbreaks in India have been due to South-East Asian lineage and no case of microcephaly has country. However, there is a need for a systematic surveillance of evolutionary trends in Zika virus, which can be built upon newly developed genetic sequencing capacity

for SARS CoV2. Considering most Indian states have reported Zika virus for the first time, there is a need for enhanced surveillance and equipping labora-

ka virus. In areas where cases are reported, active case findings and surveillance and mosquito control measures (elimination of breeding sites and the public awareness campaigns, especially for specially for pregnant women should be prioritised. It is also the time to ensure coordinated actions between the State government and municipal corporation to develop joint \perp action plans against vector borne diseases and share responsibilities for public health actions.

tories with testing kits for Zi-

The emergence and reemergence of viral diseases is partly unavoidable. However, with a stronger public health system, application gy and use of data, their impact can be minimised.

(Chandrakant Lahariya, a physician-epidemiologist, is a vaccines and health systems specialist. His forthcoming book 'The Lighthouse of Peeragarhi: What We Need, To Prevent Diseases And Protect Health' is scheduled for release in

Fighting mosquito-borne diseases: work in progress

More tools are available to prevent some diseases caused by mosquitoes



D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Mosquito-borne diseases have been a scourge for thousands of years, with huge armies defeated, and economies shattered. We were therefore relieved to read reports announcing an effective malaria vaccine, following clinical trials in Burkina Faso conducted by the University of Oxford, the Serum Institute of India and others. This West African country has a long and hot season followed by monsoon rains, when mosquitoes emerge in huge swarms. The R21 vaccine has shown an efficacy of 77%, and targets the 'circumsporozite' protein (CSP) of the malarial parasite, Plasmodium falciparum. The sporozite stage of this parasite secretes CSP. Mosquito bites transfer the CSP and sporozites into the human bloodstream, and the CSP nudges the parasite towards the liver, where it enters liver

cells, matures and proliferates. The release of mature merozites marks the onset of the symptoms of malaria.

Efficient vaccines The WHO has just cleared another vaccine, called Mosquirix, from Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK) of the U.K. With the involvement of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the vaccine has been tested in Kenya, Malawi and Ghana on over 800,000 children and shows an efficiency of over 50% in the first year, but dropping as time progresses. The Global Vaccine Alliance (GAVI) is planning to purchase the vaccine for countries that request it. (See a report by Apoorva Mandavilli published in New York Times). Bharat Biotech of Hyderabad has entered into a deal with GSK to develop this vaccine in India, with a



Innovative method: One way to fight dengue involves infecting the Aedes mosquito with a bacterium. ■GETTY IMAGES

dedicated facility Bhubaneswar.

Another rapidly spreading disease is dengue. It is spread by Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, which happily grow in small stagnant pools of water, such as in discarded tyres. Four serotypes of the dengue virus are found. Serotypes make vaccine development difficult, as a different vaccine is needed against each serotype. A vaccine against dengue, DENG-VAXIA, from Sanofi Pasteur, is approved in several countries and shows efficacies ranging from 42% to 78% against the four serotypes of the virus.

Fighting dengue In India, Zydus Cadilla has

been developing a DNA Vacat cine against dengue. Dr. Easwaran Sreekumar at the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram has modelled a consensus of the four serotypes, which is the basis for Zydus Cadilla's DNA vaccine, using a platform that the company successfully developed for their COVID-19 vaccine.

Using parasites

Other innovative methods to fight dengue have been in the pipeline. One particularly interesting strategy involves a bacterium, Wolbachia pipientis, an intracellular parasite commonly found in many insects, but not in the dengue-carrying mosquito. When introduced into this mosquito's cells, this parasite healthcare and mosquito competes successfully against other parasites such as the viruses that cause dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever and Zika.

Aedes mosquitoes, doped with Wolbachia in the laboratory, are released in localities where the disease is prevalent. They quickly spread the bacterium to native Aedes mosquitoes, and the incidence of new dengue cases starts to decline. In a controlled release study in Djakarta, researchers from the Gadjah Mada University placed clusters of Aedes mosquito eggs infected with Wolbachia in 12 localities of the city in December 2017 (9 other localities served as controls - no Wolbachia released). By the time the study was halted in March 2020 due to the pandemic, the 12 localities registered 77% fewer cases of Dengue fever compared to the control localities. The intensity of the fever was less, too, with an 86% drop in hospitalisations

Prevention of disease

Another way of preventing, rather than curing, mosquito-borne diseases is to accurately predict the next outbreak, and focus your

machinery control accordingly. Both mosquitoes and the

Plasmodium parasite need warm, moist weather to flourish. Using data continuously gathered by environmental satellites such as the NOAA-19, scientists at ICMR's National Institute of Malaria Research have built elaborate models that correlate monthly rainfall data and data on annual state-wise incidence of dengue and malaria with the El-Nino Southern Oscillation, which influences global atmospheric circulation. The result is an early warning tool that forecasts the start of an outbreak and the dynamics of its progression, along with estimates of the likely number of cases. Therefore, health authorities can begin cautionary measures, several weeks in advance, to minimise the impact of an outbreak. This information is currently available for Indian States. Refining it to the district level should be the next step.

(This article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani who works in molecular modelling, sushilchandani@gmail.com)

dbala@lvpei.org

their reproductive



Spurts of growth

Did land plants evolve gradually and continuously?

The evolution of land plants has been marked by an increase in the complexity of reproductive structures. A recent study has revealed land plants did not evolve gradually over hundreds of millions of years. Instead, they underwent two major bursts of diversification 250 million years apart. The first occurred early in plant history, giving rise to the development of seeds, and the second took place during the diversification of flowering plants, according to a Stanford University release.

The Stanford research uses a simple metric to classify plant complexity based on the arrangement and number of basic parts in

structures. The latest study (Science) has shed light on those changes.

The researchers

analysed the temporal

pattern of the increase in the complexity of reproductive structures by studying fossil and extant land plants across the entire paleontological record. They found that reproductive complexity increased in two widely separated pulses that coincides with key developments in reproductive biology: the origin of seeds in the very late Devonian and the origin of flowering plants in the mid-Cretaceous almost

250 million years later.

The second burst of complexity was more dramatic than the first, emphasising the unique nature of flowering plants, according to Andrew Leslie, one of authors of the paper from Stanford. That period gave rise to plants like the passionflower, which can have 20 different types of parts, more than twice the number found in non-flowering plants.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in



Widening the base: The RBI said the scheme would help broaden the investor base and provide retail investors with more access to government securities.

Gilts for all

How will the new scheme allow small investors to buy or sell government securities? Why were the three different ombudsman schemes repealed?

K. BHARAT KUMAR

The story so far: The RBI had in February announced proposals for the Retail Direct Scheme for investors in government securities and the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme. The schemes were unveiled by the Prime Minister on November 12.

What is the Retail Direct Scheme?

■ Under the Retail Direct Scheme, small investors can now buy or sell government securities (G-Secs), or bonds, directly without having to go through an intermediary like a mutual fund. It is similar to placing funds in debt instruments such as fixed deposits in banks. However, the same tax rules apply to income from G-Secs. But, with the Government being the borrower, there is a sovereign guarantee for the funds and hence zero risk of default. Also, government securities may offer better interest rates than bank fixed deposits, depending on prevailing interest rate trends. For example, the latest yield on the benchmark 10-year government securities is 6.366%. India's largest lender, State Bank of India, offers 5.4% on deposits of less than ₹2 crore for a tenure of five to 10 years.

How can individuals access G-Sec offerings?

■ Investors wishing to open a Retail Direct Gilt account directly with the RBI can do so through an online portal set up for the purpose of the scheme. Once the account is activated with the aid of a password sent to the user's

Since the government is the borrower, there is a sovereign guarantee for the funds. Government securities may offer better interest rates than bank fixed deposits

mobile phone, investors will be permitted to buy securities either in the primary market or in the secondary market. The minimum amount for a bid is ₹10,000 and in multiples of ₹10,000 thereafter. Payments may be made through Net banking or the UPI platform. Retail participants would be bidding for the securities under the

"non-competitive segment of primary auctions of Government Securities and Treasury Bills", the RBI said in a November 12 notification.

Why was it necessary to introduce this scheme?

■ The RBI said the scheme would help "broaden the investor base and provide retail investors with enhanced access to the government securities market – both primary and secondary." It said the scheme was a "major structural reform placing India among select few countries which have similar facilities". This scheme, among others, would "facilitate smooth completion of the Government borrowing programme in 2021-22".

The Government intends to borrow up to ₹12 lakh crore this year ending March 31, 2022. The significant spike in borrowing – that is expected to spur infrastructure and social funding – follows a steep decline in the economy last fiscal. The Union Government, hence, wishes to broaden the base of investors signing up for bond purchases. The added benefit of the Government accessing retail investors could be the freeing up of room for companies to mop up funds from institutional investors; funds that may otherwise have been cornered by the government to fund its expenses.

Why is the RBI setting up an Integrated Ombudsman?

■ Prior to the introduction of this scheme, the RBI had three different ombudsman schemes to aid dispute resolution with respect to banks, NBFCs, and non-bank pre-paid payment issuers (PPIs). They were operated by the RBI through 22 ombudsman offices. With the introduction of the integrated scheme, the earlier ones stand repealed. When the regulator unveiled the proposal for an Integrated Ombudsman in February, it said it wished to make dispute resolution more "simpler, efficient and responsive". Hence the proposal to integrate the three ombudsman schemes and introduce the centralised processing of grievances. This, it said, was intended to make the process of redress of grievances easier "by enabling customers to register their complaints under the integrated scheme, with one centralised reference point". The RBI would appoint the Ombudsman and a Deputy Ombudsman for three years. Complaints may be made either physically to the Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre or the RBI's offices; or electronically through the regulator's complaint management system (https://cms.rbi.org.in/).

What about grievances pending adjudication?

■ Though the three earlier schemes have been repealed, the RBI clarified that the adjudication of pending complaints, appeals and execution of the awards passed "shall continue to be governed by the provisions of the respective Ombudsman Schemes and instructions of the Reserve Bank issued thereunder".

Will India be sanctioned for S-400 purchase?

What will be the impact if the U.S. goes ahead with punitive measures? How will the Russian missile defence shield help India tackle threats from China and Pakistan?

SUHASINI HAIDAR

The story so far: India is preparing for a visit from Russian President Vladimir Putin for an annual bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in early December, but it is the arrival of the \$5.4-billion Russian long-range surface-to-air missile defence shield "S-400", also expected next month, that is likely to generate more international headlines. The United States Government has made it clear that the delivery of the five S-400 systems is considered a "significant transaction" under its Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) of 2017, which could trigger sanctions against Indian officials and the Government.

What kind of sanctions?

■ The CAATSA is designed to ensure that no country is able to increase military engagement with Iran, North Korea and Russia without facing deterrent punitive action from the U.S. The sanctions are unilateral, and not part of any United Nations decision, and therefore no country is bound to accept them. The law that was pushed through by Democrat Congress representatives was signed by President Donald Trump under some protest, as he was keen at the time on improving relations with Russia, and was hoping to broker a deal between the Koreas as well. Section 231 says the President shall impose no fewer than five different sanctions on any Government that enters into a significant defence or intelligence deal with the Russian Government. Section 235 lists 12 options, including stopping credit lines from U.S. and international banks such as the IMF, blocking sales of licensed goods and technology, banning banks, manufacturers and suppliers, property transactions and even financial and visa sanctions on specific officials (https://bit.ly/3wFWLTr). However, the law empowers the President to waive sanctions or delay them if he/she certifies that the deal is not a threat to the U.S. and allies, that waiver of sanctions is in the U.S.'s "vital national security interests" or that the country being sanctioned promises to reduce its future dependence on the "adversary country".

Has the U.S. used CAATSA before for S-400 sales?

■ The U.S. has already placed sanctions on China and Turkey for purchase of the S-400. In 2018, the State Department said it, along with the Department of the Treasury, would impose sanctions on the People's Liberation Army's Equipment Development Department, and in particular its Director, Li Shangfu, for the purchase of the S-400 system-related equipment and Sukhoi-35 combat aircraft from Russian defence exporter Rosoboronexport. The sanctions included denial of export licences, ban on foreign exchange transactions, blocking of all property and interests in property within the U.S. jurisdiction and a visa ban (https://bit.ly/3qwSGzJ). In 2020, the U.S. sanctioned its NATO partner Turkey, which it had warned about CAATSA sanctions for years, besides cancelling a deal to sell Ankara F-35 jets. The sanctions on Turkey's main defence procurement agency, SSB, also included a ban on licences and loans, and blocking of credit and visas to SSB president Ismail Demir and other officials. While U.S. officials hope the sanctions and the promise of a sale of F-16 jets would stave off Turkish President Recep Erdogan's plans to deploy S-400, a deadlock continues (https://bit.ly/3gLyP9f).

Which way is the Biden administration leaning on India?

■ The Biden administration has not given any firm indication on where it leans on India's case yet. Last month, during a visit to Delhi, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman said the U.S. had made it clear that the S-400 is "dangerous and not in anybody's security interest", but left the determination on sanctions after India takes delivery of the missiles to President Biden himself (https://bit.ly/30oR6Fq). In subsequent weeks, Congress representatives, including the Chairman of the powerful House of Representatives Foreign Affairs



Standing firm: India has not backed down in the face of U.S. opposition, and is scheduled to receive the first S-400 deliveries in December. Two IAF teams were trained on the system in Russia this year. • GETTY IMAGES

Committee (HFAC), Gregory Meeks, a Democrat, as well as several Republicans have called upon the Biden administration to consider a special waiver for India, given India's importance as a defence partner, and as a strategic partner on U.S. concerns over China and in the Quad. "Taking a long view, the potential of our long-term strategic partnership with India, and its positive impact on our own security interests, certainly outweighs any kind of benefit from sanctioning India because of its purchase of the S-400," Mr. Meeks told *The Hindu* (https://bit.ly/3Dfp2mj).

On the other hand, in April 2021, ahead of U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin's visit to Delhi, Chairman of the

The CAATSA is designed to ensure that no country is able to increase military engagement with Iran, North Korea and Russia without facing deterrent punitive action from the U.S.

Senate Foreign Relations
Committee Bob Menendez
(also a Democrat) had urged
Mr. Austin to raise the S-400
issue with Indian officials,
and make it clear that the
purchase would lead to
sanctions. "If India chooses
to go forward with its
purchase of the S-400, that
act will clearly constitute a
significant, and therefore
sanctionable, transaction
with the Russian defense
sector under Section 231 of

CAATSA. It will also limit India's ability to work with the U.S. on development and procurement of sensitive military technology," Mr. Menendez wrote in his letter (https://bit.ly/3kB4iOV).

Saudi Arabia has also reportedly negotiated with Russia for the S-400, and some experts in the U.S. feel that giving a waiver to India would be the wrong signal for others seeking to go ahead with similar deals. New Delhi may receive a clearer picture on which way the U.S. will go when External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh are due to meet their American counterparts in the next few weeks in Washington.

What is India's position?

■ India has not backed down in the face of U.S. opposition thus far, however, and is scheduled to receive

the first S-400 deliveries in December. In preparation for the induction, two teams of technicians from the Indian Air Force were trained on the system by the manufacturer, Almaz Antey, in Russia this year. After signing the deal in October 2018, during Mr. Putin's last visit to Delhi, India and Russia had protected the advance payments from triggering U.S. sanctions by ensuring a rupee-rouble transfer. In response to questions about Ms. Sherman's tough remarks on the S-400, the Ministry of External Affairs conceded that the issue was "under discussion" between India and the U.S. for some time. "It was raised, and we have discussed it and explained our perspective. And discussions on this are ongoing," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in a non-committal response in

Why is the S-400 deal so important to India?

■ Senior Indian officials have held firm that S-400 is very important for India's national security considerations, especially as it faces new threats from China, Pakistan and Afghanistan, calling it a "game changer". The system will also offset the air defence capability gaps due to the IAF's dwindling fighter squadron strength. Integrating the S-400 into the national air defence architecture will be much easier as India has a large number of legacy Russian air defence systems, a major reason India did not consider the U.S. air defence systems as a viable alternative. For both political as well as operational reasons, the deal is at a point of no return. When asked about the threat of U.S. sanctions, the outgoing Indian Ambassador to Russia, D.B. Venkatesh Varma, told *The Hindu* that India "will do what we have to do and is necessary for India to preserve and protect its national security interests". In addition, buying the S-400 is a way for the Narendra Modi Government to assert its 'strategic autonomy'. This stated principle of Indian foreign policy wavered under pressure from the Trump administration, when India agreed to stop buying Iranian oil over the threat of sanctions in 2019, a move that caused India both financial and reputational damage. Not giving in to the U.S.'s unilateral sanctions over the S-400 would be one way to restore some of that.

(With inputs from Dinakar Peri)

Will MPLADS be changed for post-pandemic needs?

With the scheme back in force, will Centre heed MPs' call to alter norms to buy smartphones, laptops for poor students?

SOBHANA K. NAIR

The story so far: Under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, every MP is entitled to ₹5 crore a year, adding up to ₹3,950 crore for the 790 members. The fund is to be utilised for "creation of durable community assets and for provision of basic facilities, including community infrastructure, based on locally felt needs". This money does not directly go to the account of the MPs. They can only recommend works. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the district authorities to sanction, execute and complete the works within the stipulated period. More money is released only on receipt of the completion certificate. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation monitors the scheme.

When was the scheme started?

■ It was launched during the Narasimha Rao Government in 1993 with the grant of ₹50 lakh a year to each MP. This sum was increased to ₹1 crore during 1994-95. The third revision to ₹2 crore happened in 1997-98. The United Progressive Alliance Government in 2011-12 raised the annual entitlement to ₹5 crore. There have been regular demands from MPs across party lines to increase the amount further.

How does it work?

■ Each Lok Sabha member has to designate a district as the nodal district. The District Magistrate is responsible for handling the funds and monitoring the projects sanctioned under the scheme. A Lok Sabha member can recommend works in his constituency alone, while a Rajya Sabha member can use the funds for works anywhere in a State.

In case of a natural calamity, the MPs from non-affected areas in both Houses of Parliament can recommend works estimated at a maximum of ₹25 lakh a year in disaster-hit places.



For assets and jobs: The Government has said the scheme continues to be beneficial to the creation of durable community assets and jobs across the country.

What are the controversies?

■ The scheme was first challenged in 1999 by Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party chief Bhim Singh and an NGO, Common Cause. They alleged that in the absence of any guidelines, the funds were misused by MPs. In 2005, a sting operation showed some MPs allegedly demanding money from contractors to award work for projects under the scheme. The exposé led to the expulsion of members from both Houses. In 2006, the scheme made the headlines because of the allegations that a Trust run by the family of the then Election Commissioner, Navin Chawla, got funds under the scheme. Finally, on May 6, 2010, the scheme's constitutional validity was upheld. The Supreme Court said in its judgment that mere allegations that the funds were prone to misuse could not be the ground for scrapping the scheme. However, it suggested improvements to the scheme.

When was the scheme suspended?

■ On April 6, 2020, the scheme was suspended for two years. The Government argued that it needed every last

penny to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. The scheme's budget of ₹7,900 crore for two years was to be subsumed under the Consolidated Fund of India. This move was severely criticised by the Opposition MPs, who said the State Governments had already been cash-strapped, and they were in a dire need of the funds under the scheme. Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor argued that the scheme was the only means for an MP to direct development resources to his constituency. "Now the money will be allocated by the Centre and will follow the priorities and preferences of New Delhi, rather than reflect 543 sets of local needs," he wrote on Twitter.

When and why was it restored?

■ Last Wednesday, the Union Cabinet brought back the scheme, almost six months before its expected restoration. According to a statement from the Government, the country is on the road to economic recovery, and the scheme continues to be beneficial to the creation of durable community assets, the fulfilment of the aspirations of the locally felt needs of the community, the skill development and creation of jobs across the country, thus helping to achieve the objective of Atamnirbhar Bharat. For 2021-22, it is only a partial restoration, since instead of ₹5 crore for each MP, the sum will only be ₹2 crore.

What are the changes expected?

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced a significant change in the policy decisions. The Government may refine the scheme to suit the post-pandemic world. Currently, the funds are only to be spent on "durable assets", but many MPs have demanded that the guidelines be altered for the funds to be spent on smartphones and laptops for poor students to ensure that they did not miss out on online education in future as they did during the pandemic. This issue was also raised at a meeting of the Rajya Sabha Standing Committee on MPLADS on Friday.

A ND-NDE

ILLUSTRATION: R.RAJESH

Paving the way for the next helmsman

The latest plenum leaves Xi Jinping in a dominant position ahead of next year's 20th National Congress, when he will complete 10 years at the helm and mark the start of his third term

In Focus

■ In 1945, Mao passed a resolution that heralded a turn away from Stalin's influence and established what the party calls "Mao Zedong Thought" as its leading ideology

■ In 1981, Deng passed a resolution that marked another sharp turn – away from Maoism and a personality cult to the reform era and faster growth

■ The 2021 resolution urges members to "resolutely uphold" Xi's "core position in the party' and to "ensure that all party

ANANTH KRISHNAN

n November 11, China's Communist Party, after a four-day behind-closed-doors meeting of its Central Committee called its sixth plenum, passed what it called a "Resolution on the Major Achievements and Historical Experience of the Party over the Past Century".

As unexciting as a wordy resolution of a "plenum" may sound, few things have mattered more in the history of Chinese politics over the past few decades. Indeed, it was a resolution from another plenum in 1978 that set China on the course of economic reforms after the chaos of the Maoist years, and ushweered in an extraordinary period of growth.

How history may remember the CPC's latest plenum is an altogether different question. This was only the third such "historical resolution" passed by the party in its 100-year history.

The previous two resolutions had significant ramifications on the direction of China's politics. In 1945, Mao Zedong passed a resolution that heralded a turn away from Stalin's influence and established what the party calls "Mao Zedong Thought" as its leading political ideology. In 1981, Deng Xiaoping passed a resolution that marked another sharp turn – away from Maoism and a personality cult to the reform

Those resolutions certainly left very different legacies. One led to three decades of Maoist chaos, from the Great Leap Forward (1958-1962) to the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) that led to millions of deaths. The other launched China's growth story and propelled it towards becoming the world's second-largest economy.

They both did, however, have one thing in common they established the unchallenged dominance of a single leader who would have the power to dramatically alter the course of his country.

Important plenums A plenum is essentially a

gathering of the more than 300 members of the party's Central Committee. It usually takes place in secrecy and behind closed doors. A plenum usually lasts for three to five days, and little is known about what transpires during the meeting. The meetings usually take place in the Jingxi Hotel in west Beijing, although occasionally, as was the case this week, they are convened in the sprawling Great Hall of the People, the Parliament building that sits on the western side of Tiananmen

Square. The meetings roughly take place once a year. The party chooses a new Central Committee every five years at its National Congress, and each The past historical resolutions established the

unchallenged dominance of a single leader, who would have the power to dramatically alter the course of the country

Central Committee holds seven plenums during its term, focusing on a particular theme. Historically, the third plenum has dealt with the economy, while the sixth plenum has focused on matters of politics and ideology.

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A plenum often cited as the most significant in China's history is the third plenum of the 11th Central Committee that was held in Beijing from December 18 to December 22, 1978. The plenum marked the start of the "reform and opening up" era and the return of Deng Xiaoping, who had been

among many officials purged by Mao during the Cultural

An equally important plenum was held three years later. The 11th Central Committee's sixth plenum, convened in Beijing between June 27 and 29, 1981, passed the party's first resolution on history since 1945. What was called a "Resolution on certain questions in the history of our party since the founding of the People's Republic of China" criticised the Cultural Revolution, acknowledged Mao's mistakes, and brought an end to rule by personality cult.

Rewriting the past

This week's resolution on history, the first such resolution in 40 years, differs sharply in its portrayal of the party's 100-year history as an unalloyed triumph. The full text of the resolution has not been made public, but a lengthy communique that runs into 5,000 words did not mention either the Great Leap Forward or Cultural Revolution. It celebrated the party's 100-year history, saying that under its leadership "the Chinese people had stood up and the time in which the Chinese nation could be bullied and abused

by others was gone". It hailed the legacies of Mao and Deng, with the two former leaders receiving seven and five mentions respectively. Deng's two successors, Jiang Zemin and Hu received Iintao mentions.

The communique devoted considerable space to the current leader, Mr. Xi, whose name was mentioned 17 times. It referred to "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era", his ideology, as "embodying the best of the Chinese culture and ethos in our times and representing a new breakthrough in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context"

It made several mentions of the need for party members to "resolutely uphold" Mr. Xi's "core position in the party" and to "ensure that all party members act in unison".

Controlling the future The significance of plenums and resolutions goes beyond historical narrative. For Mao and Deng, the resolutions on history that they passed heralded significant changes in their country's future. And in the days leading up to the sixth plenum, party historians were comparing the latest plenum to those that had altered the course of China's history.

Han Qingxiang, a professor at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, told official media that China's "national rejuvenation is marked by four critical milestones". These were the party's founding in 1921, Mao's establishing of the People's Republic of China in 1949, Deng's decision to launch the reform and opening up in 1978, and the 18th National Congress in 2012. That was the congress that brought

Power, and the struggle to hold on to it, is ultimately what past plenums have been driven by. Indeed, even the latest resolution on history is more about the future than it is about the past.

The latest plenum leaves Mr. Xi in a dominant position ahead of next year's 20th National Congress, when he will complete 10 years at the helm and mark the start of his third five year term. This is why it repeatedly emphasises Mr. Xi's "core position" and the duty of every party member to protect it and support the idea of a "unified centralised leadership".

In the coming months ahead, this message will filter through its rank and file, and ultimately find its way to textbooks in schools and colleges.

The message, reading between the lines, is plain and simple: Mr. Xi is here to stay. In that sense, 2021 is not very different from 1945 and 1981. What is less clear, however, is how it will be remembered 40 years into the future.

VARUN GANDHI

The rebel within

'The BJP's Gandhi' is increasingly raising criticism of the party line in public

NISTULA HEBBAR

or many years, BJP MP → Varun Gandhi was, for most of India, a bewildered-looking child clad in white on the sidelines of a series of tragic family funerals that dogged the Gandhis in the 1980s. After that, he was the man who was arrested, at the height of an election campaign in 2009, for alleged hate speech (subsequently acquitted in court).

A few years on, he has, in defiance of party discipline, spoken out for farmer groups protesting against the three farm laws passed by Parliament last year, and called out efforts by a film actor to denigrate India's freedom struggle.

From being the BJP's 'Gandhi' to opposing the party line on the farmers protest and the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, Mr. Gandhi has defied easy categorisation throughout his life, but there is a definite trajectory to his evolution from a politician who was accused of hate speech to a political moderate within the BJP.

Born in New Delhi in March 1980, he lost his father when he was just three months old. With his mother, former Union Minister Maneka Gandhi, estranged from the larger Gandhi family, he remained out of the Congress fold. Political ambition, however, ran deep in him. Even before he was 25 (the legal age when one can contest polls), Mr. Gandhi joined the Atal Bihari Vaj-



payee-led BJP in 2004. For a party that decried dynastic politics, the pride it took in recruiting a member of the Gandhi family was one of the paradoxes of Indian politics. As one BJP parliamentarian told this reporter once, "After all, we may own a (M.F.) Husain painting, but Varun Gandhi owns a Husain of himself (a painting of Varun as a child with his mother Maneka Gandhi)!" Both the BJP and Mr. Gandhi, according to many, seemed aware of this distinction.

First election

All that was put to test in the 2009 general election, when Mr. Gandhi contested, for the first time, from Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh. By all accounts, it was a difficult election but Mr. Gandhi won with a handsome margin. He did, however, create headlines for all the wrong reasons for allegedly indulging in hate speech at a public rally and was later arrested

and acquitted in that case. That cast a pall on the young leader, but it was something he worked hard to overcome, he later told this reporter. During his incarceration in Pilibhit's District Jail, he befriended two Catholic nuns from Kerala who used to visit inmates as part of social work. He asked them to pray for his release. And once out of jail, he financed

their trip to the Vatican. His subsequent political rhetoric has steered clear of communal bias, and he has written much on the rural economy and spent generously from his local area development fund as an MP.

Mr. Gandhi has, however, repeatedly chafed under the yoke of party discipline. As general secretary of the BJP in charge of West Bengal in 2013, he contradicted the party line by stating that public rallies attended by then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi in the State were not as well attended as claimed. The ascendancy of

Mr. Modi, both in the BJP and Indian politics, has been a development that forced many politicians to rethink their strategy for upward mobility. For Mr. Gandhi, too, the case has been the same.

He had already moved to a politically moderate position, after 2009, and was ready, by 2016, to target the chief ministerial position in Uttar Pradesh. Posters of Varun Gandhi as the future leader of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh sprang up overnight just as the party was to hold its National Executive meet in the then Allahabad in 2016, a year before the Assembly election. The party did not view these kindly and Mr. Gandhi's attempts to push for a position came a cropper.

Uneasy stand-off

In the latest round in the stand-off with the BJP, Mr. Gandhi was dropped from the national executive of the party and his mother was not included in the Council of Ministers in 2019. His views on the Lakhimpur Kheri incident were seen as an open call to chart his own path. As of now, neither the BJP nor Mr. Gandhi is willing to say more than what is already out in the public domain. The question that arises from all of this is whether Feroze Varun Gandhi, one of the inheritors of the Nehru-Gandhi legacy who turned into 'the BJP's Gandhi', is now ready to be his own version of a "Gandhi".

DANIEL ORTEGA

From revolution to oligarchy

Nicaraguan President 'won' a fourth term in an election that lacks legitimacy

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

f one were to emerge in 2021 out of a time capsule ▲ hidden in 1979 and were to meet Daniel Ortega, the person would scarcely believe that he is the same man 42 years later. Mr. Ortega got "re-elected" as President of Nicaragua in the elections held on November 7 that were widely discredited as a "sham" exercise. Several opposition candidates were arrested prior to the polls and were unable to campaign or contest the elections. International observers were not allowed to monitor the vote and even the official turnout figure –65% – has not been accepted as credible by pollwatchers, who claimed that the actual voting percentage was barely 18.5%

There are barely any traces of similarity between the man who was re-elected for the fourth time as President and is ruling the country with an authoritarian fist and the face of the Sandinista revolution that overthrew the Somoza dictatorship in 1979. Then, Mr. Ortega was one of the leaders of a collective in charge of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), the opposition group which included armed guerrillas fighting the U.S.-supported Anastasio Somoza's regime.

After Somoza's rule was overthrown, Mr. Ortega became a member of the fiveperson 'Junta of National Reconstruction' that ruled the country and soon became the face of the government



as it embarked upon a programme of social and economic reforms based on a mixed economy model.

Later in the 1980s, the Sandinistas had to wage another civil war against rebels, mostly drawn from the Somoza regime, called the "Contras", who were supported by the U.S. The Sandinistas were returned to power in 1984 but Mr. Ortega lost in the 1990 elections to the National Opposition Union in a peaceful transi-

Party of reconciliation

Mr. Ortega then spent several years in the opposition before returning to power in 2007; by this time the FSLN led by him had moved away from orthodox leftist policies and had rebranded itself as a party committed to "reconciliation" with the conservative sections of Nicaraguan society. Soon, Mr. Ortega had managed to overturn the constitutionally mandated term limits and

was re-elected to power in 2016, but prior to the elections, the FSLN had already delegitimised the political opposition and removed it from the legislature. By now, Nicaragua had transitioned into to a "hegemonic electoral autocracy" (as a paper by Martí i Puig et al in 2020 termed it).

Far from a collective leadership which included exrevolutionaries and democratic-minded popular civil society figures (that the 1979-1990 arrangement entailed), Nicaragua, under Mr. Ortega, resembled caudillo-style personalised rule that reverted to patronage to sustain its popularity.

This was made possible by ample funding from other allies in the region – Venezuela, in particular. But once Venezuela experienced its own economic crisis and the aid dried, Mr. Ortega's regime embraced austerity. This led to severe protests in 2018, but they were brutally put down with

the help of paramilitary

groups and armed police. Since then, Mr. Ortega's regime has transitioned further into a new oligarchy that is not too dissimilar from the Somoza regime that terrorised and controlled Nicaragua for four decades from the 1930s. Nicaragua's economy has suffered since 2017 - The Ecoreported that nomist political unrest hurt business confidence and tourism, leading to a shrinking of the GDP by a seventh, and formal jobs falling by a fifth before the pandemic struck.

Mr. Ortega's family is firmly in control of institutions such as the media. His wife and the country's Vice President, Rosario Murillo acts as the regime's spokesperson and his immediate family has captured the media airwaves in a vice-like grip as a Reuters investigation revealed that many media companies had been

bought by them. The Organization of American States condemned the November 7 elections as being "not free, fair, or transparent" and that they "lack democratic legitimacy". The Joe Biden administration in the U.S. has plans to announce new sanctions against the regime. The rising discontent and fissures within the ruling FSLN and growing disenchantment with the Ortega-Murrillo dynastic rule from the poor in Nicaragua suggest that it will not be easy for Mr. Ortega to weather the growing storm.

Real estate sector seeing several positive signs: Sundaram Home

Stable prices, low interest rates, persistent demand bode well for industry: MD

K. BHARAT KUMAR

The real estate sector is witnessing several positive signs that bode well for the industry's outlook, said Sundaram Home Finance (SHF) MD D. Lakshminarayanan.

"Prices [of housing] have largely remained stable in the last 18 months," he said. "There is enough inventory to buy. Builders are offering incentives and amenities. Interest rate is at its lowest. Some governments are also offering sops on Stamp Duty. All these are sending out a message to the buyer that on all counts, this is the best time to buy," he pointed out.

SHF had seen an acrossthe-board recovery since mid-June that had been 'swift and strong', Mr. Lakshminarayanan said.



Concrete sign: A key indicator for financiers about the quality of recovery was the pace of construction. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

"For the four months ended October, we registered disbursements of ₹850 crore, the kind of growth numbers going back to the pre-pandemic levels. That is encouraging," he said. "The recovery has been much more than what we had experienced at the end of the first wave of the pandemic

last year," he added.

'Enduring demand'

Homebuying interest had lasted beyond what could be put down to pent-up demand after the second wave receded, he said.

"Between June and July, when there was euphoria about home buying, we thought those that had put off their purchase plans in April and May because of the second wave were now coming back and that this was pent-up demand playing out. But the subsequent months have shown that there is real demand with the market rebounding with some vengeance. Every succeeding month since July has been up compared to the previous month. First off the block has been the salaried class - those who were look-

Lead indicators for financiers signalling the quality of recovery were the pace of construction, the drop in unsold inventories and the number of new project unveilings in the recent past. "Labour remains available in good numbers," he added.

ing to buy their first home."

Puravankara's sales bookings rose 20% in Q2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Realty firm Puravankara Ltd.'s sales bookings grew by 20% to ₹597 crore during the second quarter of the fiscal on higher volumes and price realisation.

Sales realisation rose by 11% to ₹6,556 per sq.ft., from ₹5,898 per sq.ft.

In volume terms, sales bookings increased by 8% to 0.91 million sq.ft. during the July-September quarter, from 0.84 million sq.ft. in the year-earlier period.

During the first six months of the current fiscal, sales bookings rose 2% to ₹910 crore, from ₹893 crore in the corresponding half-yearly period of the previous year.

Sales volume dipped to 1.33 million square feet, from 1.53 million square feet, but price realisation increased 17% to ₹6,845, from ₹5,839 per sq.ft.

changed with COVID: IBM

INTERVIEW | KAMAL SINGHANI

'For long, the focus was on short-term value extraction'

Contours of consulting

MINI TEJASWI

In the context of Big Blue's recent rebranding of its global professional services business, Global Business Services, as IBM Consulting, Kamal Singhani, Country Managing Partner, IBM Consulting, India/South Asia said the consulting industry was witnessing unprecedented demand as clients were increasingly looking for a trusted partner to help them navigate to the future. Edited excerpts:

What is the rationale behind the recent rebranding of Global Business Services as IBM Consulting?

■ Business transformation is accelerating for organisations in every industry as they seek to emerge stronger from recent disruptions. They are now pursuing digital across every aspect of their operations and embedding technologies like hybrid cloud, AI, security, etc., to be leaders and become future ready.

IBM Consulting is a response to this unique market opportunity and it further strengthens our positioning as a strategic business partner for clients. The move also represents a renewed investment in business consulting. as a front door to the partnership with IBM, in all capacities. IBM Consulting offers increased clarity and visibility for clients, drives adoption of AI and helps them modernise and manage their applications in a hybrid cloud environment.

IBM has always been in the consulting business... what has changed now with the rebranding?

■ In IBM Consulting, we are unique as we collaborate with clients on holistic, interconnected solutions. We

lead projects through the lens of empathy and openness. In other words, we multiply business results by accelerating together. With deep expertise in many industries, we offer strategy, experience, technology, and operations services to many global companies. Also, we believe in the power of technology, responsibly used to help people, partners and the planet.

What does this change mean for India, a critical geography for IBM, in terms

of market opportunities? ■ India plays a significant role in IBM's growth and talent strategy. We work directly with several Indian brands such as Parle, State Bank of India, Amul, IOCL and others, to apply hybrid cloud and AI technology to help them achieve digital transformation.

What organisational rejig and people redeployments are expected in India as part of this change? ■ We're simplifying our

brand architecture - strategy, experience, technology, and operations – to make our range of capabilities easier for clients to navigate. As part of this, we now have IBM Strategy Consulting, IBM Experience Consulting, IBM Technology Consulting IBM Consulting.

What are the company's

this new positioning? ■ With the unveiling of the new brand, we have expanded hiring at double-digits

people scale-up plans with

across our global delivery network, including 55,000 fully cloud-trained consultants. Some 70% of these professionals have deep industry expertise. We are adding delivery resources across regions and practices, including people with technical skills in Red Hat. We are looking to attract the best and the brightest talent.

How will this repositioning help IBM to increase its share of the consulting pie?

■ With IBM Consulting, we are looking to redefine consulting with multiple approaches such as IBM Garage, a unique method that acts as an end-to-end model for digital transformation for clients, and Dynamic Delivery that accelerates outcomes with modern methods and tools. IBM Consulting's growth will also come from being part of IBM, and leveraging the differentiators including the scientific advantage our clients gain from having access to IBM Research and IBM technologies (hybrid cloud platform and AI

Have the contours of consulting got redefined over the years with its scope changing dramatically?

software).

■ Consulting is a unique profession; it is shaped by clients and their evolving needs. The contours of consulting have changed drastically with COVID.

Business leaders now need to transform processes and systems across their organisations with outcomes delivered along the entire lifecycle of a project.

NALCO Q2 net surges 7-fold to ₹748 cr. on strong metal sales

Total income from operations rose 51% to ₹3,592 crore

STAFF REPORTER

The National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) reported a more than sevenfold jump in second-quarter net profit at ₹748 crore, from ₹107 crore a year earlier.

"This is one of the strongest performances in a decade, with net profit soaring to ₹1,095 crore at the halfyearly stage," the company said in a statement. Profit in the first half of the last fiscal year was ₹124 crore. Total income from opera-

tions rose 51% to ₹3,592 crore in the three months ended September, from ₹2,375 crore in the second quarter of 2020-21.

"I compliment the em-



ployees... for coming back strongly in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic, to deliver strong growth in profits and production," said CMD Sridhar Patra.

NALCO logged higher production in the second quarter on all fronts - bauxite, alumina hydrate and aluminium cast metal.

"During the second quarter, the company achieved bauxite production of 18.88 lakh tonnes, alumina hydrate production of 5.30 lakh tonnes and metal production of 1.14 lakh tonnes, compared to 17.04 lakh tonnes, 4.87 lakh tonnes and 1.06 lakh tonnes, respectively," the company said.

The state-owned firm also clocked strong growth in metal sales. Aluminium sales rose to 1.26 lakh metric tonnes (MT), from 0.91 lakh MT in "the preceding quarter," it added.

"The total alumina sales during the second quarter registered strong growth of 11% with achievement of 3.18 lakh MT," it said.

Cotton output pegged at 362 lakh bales this year

Textile mills may seek 322 lakh bales

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Cotton production during the current season (October 2021 to September 2022) is projected to reach 362.18 lakh bales, according to the provisional estimates of the Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption. The committee decided

at its meeting on Saturday that with opening stock of 73.20 lakh bales and import of 10.50 lakh bales, the total availability this season was likely to be 445.88 lakh bales as against 485.66 bales the previous season. The demand from textile mills, including small-scale units, is estimated at 322 lakh bales, and exports pegged at 45 lakh bales. Exports in the 2020-2021 season were al-



most 73 lakh bales.

Observing that the cotton position was expected to be comfortable this season, Southern India Mills' Association Chairman Ravi Sam suggested that textile mills should wait for bulk arrivals to pick up and not rush into

On Saturday, a candy of the Shankar-6 variety of cotton was priced at ₹66,200.

Kane on fire for England

Italy rues missed chance against Switzerland



Acrobatic: Harry Kane's scissor kick completed his hat-trick and England's fifth against Albania. ■ REUTERS

WC QUALIFYING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Harry Kane scored a first half hat-trick as England romped towards the 2022 World Cup with a 5-0 thrashing of Albania, but Italy still has work to do to reach Qatar after a 1-1 draw with Switzerland.

England still needs a point to mathematically qualify when it visits San Marino on Monday, but boasts a three-point lead and six-goal advantage on goal difference over Poland, which sealed at least a playoff place with a over 10-man 4-1 win

Andorra. The Three Lions can look ahead to Qatar with confidence as they bounced back to form at Wembley in style with all the goals coming before half-time.

thumping header from Reece James' free-kick.

dan Henderson's cross from close range before turning provider for Henderson to calmly slot home his first international goal on home England was rampant in

the first 45 minutes as Kane thrashed home his second from a narrow angle before completing his fourth international hat-trick in spectacular fashion with a scissor kick from Phil Foden's

Narrow advantage

European champion Italy maintained a narrow advantage over Switzerland at the top of Group C, but missed a glorious late chance to virtually secure qualification when Jorginho blazed a penalty over the bar.

has now missed six spotkicks for club and country since the start of last season.

ing start in Rome when Silvan Widmer's thunderous Kane headed home Jorstrike flew into the top corner.

> minutes before half-time thanks to a well-worked setpiece that was headed in by Giovanni Di Lorenzo. Italy holds a two-goal ad-

vantage over the Swiss on goal difference heading into Sunday's final games. The results: Group C: Northern Ireland 1 (Satkus 18-oq) bt Lithuania O; Italy 1 (Di Lorenzo

36) drew with Switzerland 1

(Widmer 11) Group F: Moldova O lost to Scotland 2 (Patterson 38, Adams 65); Denmark 3 (Skov Olsen 18, Bruun Larsen 63, Maehle 90+3) bt Faroe Islands 1 (Olsen 89); Austria 4 (Arnautovic 51-pen, Schaub 62, 72,

Group I: Andorra 1 (Vales 45) lost to Poland 4 (Lewandowski 5, 73, Jozwiak 11, Milik 45+2); Hungary 4 (Szoboszlai 6, 83, Gazdag 22, Vecsei 88) bt San Marino O; England 5 (Maguire 9, Kane 18, 33, 45+2 Henderson

Argentina inches closer to punching its ticket to Qatar

Di Maria's winner does the trick against Uruguay

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Angel Di Maria's goal on Friday put Argentina on the verge of qualifying for next year's World Cup in Qatar as Lionel Messi was on the bench for the 1-0 win away to Uruguay.

Messi was only called upon by coach Lionel Scaloni to play the final quarter of an hour as he made his comeback from knee and hamstring issues that saw him miss Paris Saint-Germain's last two matches.

Di Maria's sublime early finish at the Campeon del Siglo stadium in Montevideo was the difference between the sides in a match dominated by Uruguay.

Kev encounter

The result means Argentina which is unbeaten in 26 matches – will qualify for the World Cup finals if it beats Brazil on Tuesday and any one of Colombia, Chile or Uruguay fails to win.

"This team has great courage and when you don't play well, you still have to win," said Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez.

"Winning today was a huge step. We deserve it because we work very hard."

The defeat left Uruguay in a World Cup play-off spot, behind Colombia and Chile in the final two automatic qualification position on goal difference.

The result: Uruguay O lost to Argentina 1 (Di Maria 7).



Hearty celebration: Angel Di Maria's sublimely taken strike was enough for Argentina to beat Uruguay. ■GETTY IMAGES

Anett Kontaveit secures a spot in the round of four

Garbine Muguruza bounces back after losing the first set to beat Barbora Krejcikova

WTA FINALS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

her winning streak to 12 matches by beating Karolina Pliskova 6-4 6-0 to secure a spot in the semifinals at the WTA Finals.

now has won 28 of her last 30 matches, including her title run at Ostrava. Prior to that, she had a 19-13 record for the year.

"I've really been enjoying being on court, just having a good time. I think that's been the main thing why I've been doing so well. I do feel like I can take on everyone," Kontaveit said on Friday.

Soaring

Kontaveit, who soared from No. 30 in the rankings into the top 10 since she started working with Dimitry Tursunov at the Cincinnati Masters, clinched a spot in the

"I think each win towards

place in the semifinals. • AP

taveit said.

good advice from my new coach as well. I think he's

Spirited fightback: Garbine Muguruza defeated Barbora Krejcikova to keep her hopes alive for a

brought some good, new "I've been taking some

energy to the team." In the late match on Fri-

lied to beat Barbora Krejcikova 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, to remain in contention for the title.

To qualify for the semifinals for the second time in her career, the Spaniard (1-1) needs a win on Sunday against Kontaveit (2-0) and a victory over Pliskova (1-1).

Quick first set

The second-seeded Krejcikova broke Muguruza's serve in the fifth and seventh games to take the first set in just 36 minutes. But Muguruza bounced back and broke Krejcikova in the fourth game to take a 3-1 lead and added a break in the eighth.

favourite after winning titles in Monterrey in 2018 and 2019, had a break in the third game of the third set and held on for the win. The results (round-robin):

Muguruza, who is a local

Anett Kontaveit bt Karolina Pliskova 6-4. 6-0: Garbine Muguruza bt Barbora Krejcikova 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Harry Maguire put a difficult start to the season at club level behind him as the Manchester United captain opened the floodgates with a

The Chelsea midfielder

The visitors got off to a fly-

The Azzurri levelled nine

Sabitzer 84) bt Israel 2 (Bitton 33, Peretz 59).

28) bt Albania O.

GUADALAJARA (MEXICO) Anett Kontaveit stretched

The 25-year-old Estonian

tournament's final four.

the end of the year just gave me more confidence," Kon-

day, Garbine Muguruza ral-

Trans-Tasman gladiators set to joust for instant cricket's biggest prize

New Zealand has forged an impressive campaign on the back of a strong, varied bowling attack; Australia, yet to find its absolute best, has the weapons to win the big moments

ICC T20 WC

AMOL KARHADKAR

Not many would have predicted 28 days and 44 matches ago that the trans-Tasman rivalry would set the Ring of Fire alight one final time in the bid to crown a new T20 World champion.

New Zealand has forged such a strong campaign that you would think it is the favourite in Sunday's title clash. But Australia has earned a reputation, over the years, of knowing how to win the big moments. When it enters the knockout phase of a competition, you take it seriously.

At the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, teams chasing have won more than those forced to bat first. Earlier in the tournament, dew played a major role. However, as the weather has changed, there is less and less dew, but somehow the trend has remained intact.

The two semifinals are cases in point. Despite pursuing stiff targets, New Zealand and Australia got home with an over to spare against quality bowling attacks.

It can be argued that England did not have sufficient specialist death-bowling options and that Shaheen Shah Afridi, while lethal with the swinging white ball, is a bit of a novice at the death, but this ignores the quality of batting that got the teams across the

Daryl Mitchell, being used as an opener in this tournament, looked like he could not get the ball away, or into the gaps, early in his innings, but he backed himself, took the game deep and then powered his team to victory with a great flourish.

For Australia, Matthew Wade was the most unlikely hero. Aaron Finch was nailed in front before he could have a say, and David Warner, who was the powerhouse of the innings, went – without nicking the ball – before he could seal specialist who could make the most of the PowerPlay overs, was now in an unfamiliar role, attempting to be a finisher. And when he was called upon to deliver, he stood tall.

For New Zealand, the strength has to be the variety and efficacy of its bowling line-up. Trent Boult bowls left-arm seam with early swing, Tim Southee is the cutter expert, Adam Milne brings pace and fire, Mitchell Santner bowls un-hittable slow left-arm and Ish Sodhi's leg-breaks are genuine wicket-taking options.

On top of that, James Neesham can bowl a hard length, banging the ball into the pitch, giving Kane Williamson the luxury of using his bowlers however he chooses.

Australia appears to be a top-heavy batting line-up, with Finch and Warner being the building blocks. Glenn Maxwell is yet to play the kind of innings that has become his signature. Adam Zampa has given Finch control, but Mitchell Starc has not yet produced one of those bursts he's known for.

Australia has reached the final despite not playing its best cricket. If the moving parts click into place and come together in the final, it may just be too good for New

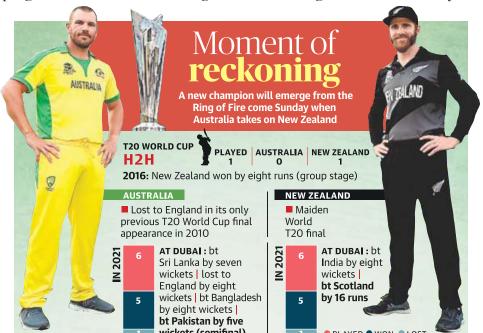
THE FINAL



DUBAI, 7.30 P.M. IST

H2H IN T20Is Played: 14 New Zealand Australia (last five matches, latest **AUSTRALIA** W U U W

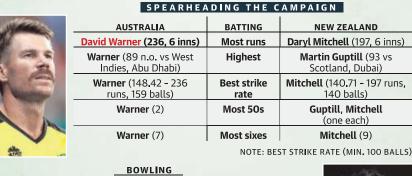
NEW ZEALAND



ONE IN A DOZEN AT THE RING OF FIRE									
		M	TEAMS BATTING FIRST WON	TEAMS BATTING SECOND WON					
	In 2021	12	1	11					
	Day	3	1	2					
	Night	9	0	9					

■ New Zealand is the **only side to** defend a total (vs Scotland) in Dubai Australia's 177 for five against Pakistan at the venue is the highest successful chase in this edition

■ No team has lost while chasing in a night game in Dubai



Adam Zampa (12, 6 inns) Most wickets Trent Boult (11, 6 inns) **Zampa** (5/19 vs **Boult** (3/17 vs Best bowling Afghanistan, Abu Dhabi) Bangladesh, Dubai Zampa (10.91 - 23 overs, Boult (14.09 - 23.4 overs, **Best average** wickets, 131 runs runs conceded) Zampa (5.69 - 23 overs, Tim Southee (5.75 - 24 Best economy 131 runs conceded) overs, 138 runs conceded) rate Mitchell Starc Most dot balls NOTE: BEST AVERAGE, BEST ECONOMY RATE (MIN. 10 OVERS)



2007: India bt

Pakistan by 2012: West Indies bt five runs Sri Lanka by 36 runs 2009: Pakistan bt 2014: Sri Lanka bt India Sri Lanka by by six wickets eight wickets 2016: West Indies bt 2010: England bt

THE STORY IN T20 WORLD CUP FINALS SO FAR

We came here with a clear plan to win the tournament: Finch

Aussie captain insists team hasn't 'defied expectations', eyes elusive ICC T20 World Cup crown

AMOL KARHADKAR

Aaron Finch, Australia's captain, hoped his team could set the record straight and win its first ICC Men's Twenty20 World Cup.

"It's one that's eluded us in the past, and the fact that we are here in the final gives us the best opportunity to rectify that. I think it will be a great game against New Zealand," he said on Saturday. "They are a great side and they have been in all the finals over the last six years."

Finch recalled how his team had bounced back in the tournament after a crushing defeat against England. "The spirit among the team is a big positive. Obviously we came here, a lot of people had written us off from the start and that's been really impressive the way we have gone about our business," said Finch.

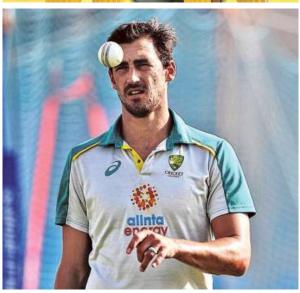
Prepared really well

"Everyone has prepared really well. Everyone has had a really defining match or match-defining performance at some point. The guys are really up and about for tomorrow.'

Finch insisted that his team came to the United Arab Emirates expecting to do well. "It hasn't defied expectation. We came here with a really clear plan to win the tournament, and we still feel as though we have got the squad to do that."

Finch also revealed that he, and his team, were aware of the history between the two teams. "Both teams have got a great history in cricket – well, not just cricket, but as neighbours,





It's go-time: Smith, top left, and Starc, bottom, will be eager to fire in the final the way Wade did in the semifinal

so to speak, Down Under. It's a great relationship. We play quite a bit against New Zealand now and we always have great battles regardless of the format," said Finch.

"It's bloody exciting to be

land. They are a great team and led superbly by Kane Williamson. So it's just one of those things that both teams seem to have found their way into each other's path along the way in some

WTC-T20 World Cup double would be 'some achievement', says captain Williamson





Let's rock: Guptill, Mitchell and Sodhi will hope to come to the party for the Kiwis on Sunday. •AFP

Says team not getting ahead of itself with thoughts of winning second title in 2021

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson was excited to be pitted against neighbour Australia in Sunday's ICC

Australia by seven wickets

Men's T20 World Cup final. "When you play each other [frequently], both teams get a reasonable look at one another.

"So probably not too many advantages to either side except that we do play each other and have done so recently on a number of occasions and had some really good contests," Williamson said on Saturday.

"It's great that obviously we are playing our neighbour on the other side of the world in a World Cup final. A

Having been crowned the World Test champion in June, New Zealand is on the

both teams."

verge of achieving an ICC double. "It would be some achievement. But where it stands at the moment is there is a game of cricket to play, and for us, it's focusing on that and focusing on our cricket and looking to go out there and implement those things that are important to

really exciting prospect for

us," Williamson said. "That is very much where

we are at the moment. But these sorts of events are always, you know, [the] focus I suppose on the calendar, and there is a really exciting opportunity to be here now. Looking forward to the match tomorrow."

Big loss

Despite admitting Devon Conway's absence, with the wicketkeeper-batter hurting his hand after being dismissed in the semifinal, will be a "big loss", Williamson hoped the reworked combination -

with Tim Seifert set to replace Conway – would deliver in the final.

"The loss of Devon is a big one. He has been a big part of all formats for us, and a disappointing and really freak thing to happen," Williamson

Focus on the task

Dronacharya Award - Regu-

hakrishnan Nair (athletics),

Pritam Siwach (hockey), Jai

Prakash Nautiyal (para shoot-

(₹10 Lakh): Lekha K.C. (box-

Davinder Singh Garcha (hock-

ing), Abhijit Kunte (chess),

ey), Vikas Kumar (kabaddi)

Sandhya Gurung (boxing),

ing) and S. Raman (table

Dhyan Chand Award

(₹10 Lakh each): Rad-

"But for us, it's keeping our focus on the task, and all the players really excited with the opportunity tomorrow to go out and try to improve and adjust to a different opposition and a different ve-

Neeraj Chopra leads star cast at National Sports Awards presentation

Para-athletes feted like never before; Sajjan, Devinder Garcha get the loudest cheers; Krishna unable to attend function after his mother passes away

RAKESH RAO

Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra led the star cast at the National Sports Awards presentation ceremony but para-athletes stole the show at the Durbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhawan on Saturday.

Neeraj was among the 12 recipients of the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award from the President Ram Nath Kovind The award carries a medallion, a certificate and ₹25 lakh.

Each time the name of a para-athlete was announced, the large gathering that included Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, cheered loudly.

Khel Ratna recipient Krishna Nagar, gold medallist in para badminton in the Tokyo Paralympics this year, could not attend the

function. He rushed back home on Friday night on receiving





A day to cherish: Manpreet, Avani Lekhara, Dhawan, Lovlina, Sreejesh and Mithali receive their awards from President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

the news of the passing away of his mother.

The loudest cheers were reserved for Sajjan Singh (wrestling) and Davinder

Singh Garcha, a member of the 1980 Olympic hockey gold winning team, when their names were announced to receive the

Dhyan Chand award. Each year, the ceremony

honours the winners the Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award, Dhyan

Chand Award, Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar and the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy receive the honour.

Ratna Award (₹25 lakh): Neeraj Chopra (athletics) Ravi Kumar (wrestling), Lovlina Borgohain (boxing), P.R. Sreejesh (hockey), Avani Lekhara and Manish Narwal (para shooting), Sumit Antil (para athletics). Pramod Bhagat and Krishna Nagar

(para badminton), Mithali Raj (cricket), Sunil Chhetri (football) and Manpreet Singh (hockey). Arjuna Award (₹15 lakh): Simranjit Kaur (boxing), Shikhar Dhawan (cricket)

Arpinder Singh (athletics), Bhavani Devi (fencing), Monika (hockey), Vandana Katariya (hockey), Sandeep Narwal (kabaddi), Himani Uttam Parab (mallakhamb), Abhishek Verma (shooting) Ankita Raina (tennis), Deepal Punia (wrestling), Dilpreet Singh, Harman Preet Singh, Rupinder Pal Singh, Surender Kumar, Amit Rohidas Birendra Lakra. Sumit, Nilakanta

time achievement for coaches (₹15 lakh): T.P. Ouseph (athletics), Sarkar Talwar (cricket), Sarpal Singh (hockey), Ashan Kumar (kabaddi) and Tapan Kumar Panigrahi (swimming)

Sharma, Hardik Singh, Vivek

Sagar Prasad, Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Shamsher

Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay,

Varun Kumar and Simranjeet

Singh (all hockey), Yogesh

Kathuniya, Nishad Kumar,

Praveen Kumar and Sharad

Kumar (para athletics), Su-

hash Yathiraj (para badmin-

ton) Singhraj Adhana (para

(para table tennis), Harvin-

der Singh (para archery).

shooting), Bhavina Patel

Dronacharya Award life-

and Sajjan Singh (wrestling). Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar: Identification and nurturing of budding and young talent - Manav Rach-

na Educational Institution. **Encouragement to** ports through Corpo**ibility** - Indian Oil

Corporation. Maulana Abul **(₹15 lakh):** Punjab

University (Chandigarh)



TV PICKS

Men's T20 World Cup: (final): Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. European WC 2022 Qualifiers: Sony Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.; Sony

fiers: Sony Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.; Sony Ten 1, 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Monday) F1: Brazillian GP: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Curry nets 40 in Warriors' win

SAN FRANCISCO:
Stephen Curry connected on nine 3-pointers and scored
40 points on Friday night as the Golden State Warriors completed a

franchise-record-tying, eight-game home-stand with a 119-93 blowout win over the Chicago Bulls.

The results: Warriors 119 bt Bulls 93; Nuggets 105 bt Hawks 96; Timberwolves 107 bt Lakers 83; Hornets 104 bt Knicks 96; Celtics 122 bt Bucks 113 (OT); Cavaliers 98 bt Pistons 78; Suns 119 bt Grizzlies 94; Nets 120 bt Pelicans 112; Trail Blazers 104 bt Rockets 92; Thunder 105 bt Kings 103; Mavericks 123 bt Spurs 109. REUTERS

Maiden gold for Pritam

WRESTLING

SPORTS BUREAU
NANDINI NAGAR (UP)

Railways' wrestler Pritam emerged as an unexpected hero as he claimed his maiden gold medal in the competitive 74kg freestyle weight category at the National wrestling championships here on Saturday.

Pritam, a 25-year-old Rohtak, defeated from World junior championships bronze medallist Yash Tushir 11-0 in the summit clash to win by technical superiority. Yash had defeated veteran World championships bronze medallist Narsingh Yadav, who earlier edged past experienced former Asian champion Amit Dhankar, in the semifinals.

"My preparation was good. I am delighted to win my first gold medal after a bronze (in 74kg) and a silver (in 79kg). I won all my bouts on technical superiority. That gives me a lot of confidence," said Pritam.

Gourav Baliyan, another World junior bronze medallist, beat Asian silver medallist Jitender Kinha, who made a comeback after a knee surgery, 5-3 to take the



Pritam. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

79kg crown.

Services bagged the freestyle team championship.

The medallists: Freestyle: Men: 57kg: Gold: Aman (Har), Silver: Abhishek (Del), Bronze: Harvinder Singh (SSCB), Abba Saheb (RSPB).

65kg: Gold: Rohit (SSCB), **Silver:** Sharvan (SSCB), **Bronze:** Pradeep (RSPB), Manoj Kumar (UP).

74kg: Gold: Pritam (RSPB), Silver: Yash Tushir (Del), Bronze: Preet Singh (Chd), Narsingh Yadav (Mah).
79kg: Gold: Gourav Baliyan

(RSPB), Silver: Jitender Kinha (RSPB), Bronze: Pradeep (SSCB), Vinod Kumar (SSCB). 92kg: Gold: Vicky (SSCB), Silver: Monu (Del), Bronze: Jony (HP), Pruthviraj Patil (SSCB). 125kg: Gold: Shivraj (Mah), Silver: Mohit (Har), Bronze: Satinder (SSCB). Dinesh (Har).

Manish takes on Sekulic in final

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Second seed Manish Sureshkumar beat former national champion Dalwinder Singh 6-2, 6-3 to make the final of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament at the Indore Tennis Club on Saturday.

In the final, Manish will play Philip Sekulic of Australia, who stopped the fine run of 19-year-old Dev Javia with a 6-2, 6-2 victory in the semifinals.

In the doubles final, second seeds Anirudh Chandrasekar and Nitin Kumar Sinha beat the top seeds Niki Poonacha and Vishnu Vardhan 6-4, -4.

It was the fourth doubles title in the professional circuit for the 23-year-old Anirudh, and maiden title in his second final for the 22-year-old Nitin.

The results: Semifinals: Philip Sekulic (Aus) bt Dev Javia 6-2, 6-2; Manish Sureshkumar bt Dalwinder Singh 6-2,

Doubles: Final: Anirudh Chandrasekar & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Niki Poonacha & Vishnu Vardhan 6-4, 6-4.

relicans 112; Trail Blazers 104 tt Rockets 92; Thunder 105 tt Kings 103; Mavericks 123 list Jitender Kinha, who made a comeback after a wer: Mohit (Har), Bronze: Sa-Sinha

Ashwa Bravo should score in feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer M. Srinivas Reddy's Ashwa Bravo, who is in fine fettle, should score over his rivals in the H.P. Mistry Memorial Cup, the chief event of Sunday's

DEMOCRACY PLATE (DIV.I) (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2.15: 1. Angel Tesoro (8) A.A. Vikrant 61, 2. Once More (10) R.S. Jodha 61, 3. Shaquille (5) Gaurav Singh 61, 4. Star Racer (1) R. Ajinkya 59, 5. Tomorrows Dreams (3) C.S. Jodha 58.5, 6. Aerial Combat (II) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 7. Lifetime (4) Khurshad Alam 56.5, 8. Alluri's Pride (2) Aneel 54, 9. Sugar An Spice (6) G. Naresh 53.5, 10. Art In Motion (9) N.B. Kuldeep 52.5 and 11. Sacred Lamp (7) B. Nikhil 52.

3. ANGEL TESORO

2 CH. V. LAKSHMI PRASAD RAO
'SIRDESAI' SIRCILLA MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), rated 40
to 65 (Cat. II) – 2.45: 1. City Of
Wisdom (2) Kiran Naidu 60, 2.

Mirana (3) Gaurav Singh 60, 3. Kesariya Balam (8) Ashad Asbar 57, 4. Mark My Word (1) Nakhat Singh 57, 5. Knotty Dancer (---), 6. Summer Night (5) C.S. Jodha 56.5, 7. Lamha (9) Akshay Kumar 56, 8. Painted Apache (4) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 9. Crazy Horse (6) A.A. Vikrant 55.5, 10. Ashwa Raudee (7) Ajit Singh 55 and 11. Lockhart (10) P. Gaddam 53.

1. SUMMER NIGHT, 2. MIRANA, 3.

DEMOCRACY PLATE (DIV.II) 3 (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 3.15: 1. Flying Jet (8) Santosh Raj 61, 2. Mind Reader (1) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Intense Approach (4) C.S. Jodha 59, 4. Bloom Buddy (5) Rohit Kumar 58.5, 5. City Of Blossom (9) Kiran Naidu 58.5, 6. Curcumin (7) R. Ajinkya 56.5, 7. Dunkirk (3) Surya Prakash 54.5, 8. Aibak (II) Aneel 53.5, 9. Gusty Note (6) Akshay Kumar 53.5, 10. California Beauty (2) G. Naresh 52 and 11. Sea Wolf (10) B. Nikhil 50.

1. INTENSE APPROACH, 2. FLYING

JET, 3. MIND READER

4 4-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.45: 1. Xfinity (1) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Menilly (5) C.S. Jodha 58.5, 3. Incredulous (7) A.A. Vikrant 57.5, 4. Full Volume (10) S.S. Tanwar 56, 5. Trump Star (8) Kiran Naidu 54.5, 6. Four One Four (9) Afroz Khan 54, 7. Amyra (2) Nikhil Naidu 53.5, 8. Beauty On Parade (3) G. Naresh 53.5, 9. Mystery (12) Ajeeth Kumar 53.5, 10. Blissful (6) Nakhat Singh 52, 11. Different (11) Md. Ismail 52 and 12. N R I Magic (4) B. Nikhil 51.5.

1. XFINITY, 2. MENILLY, 3. AMYRA

TH.P. MISTRY MEMORIAL CUP
(1,200m), rated 80 and above
(Cat. I) — 4.15: 1. Kildare (7) C.S.
Jodha 63, 2. Corfe Castle (6) Nikhil
Naidu 62.5, 3. Victory Parade (8)
A.A. Vikrant 59.5, 4. Smashing
Blue (5) Akshay Kumar 53.5, 5.
Ashwa Bravo (3) Ashad Asbar
52.5, 6. Premier Action (4) Afroz
Khan 52, 7. Galloping Gangster (2)
Santosh Raj 51.5 and 8. Havelock

Cruise (1) G. Naresh 51.5.

1. ASHWA BRAVO, 2. CORI
CASTLE, 3. KILDARE

GRECOMMENDER PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 4.45: 1. Cheltenham (7) Nikhil Naidu 60, 2. Moringa (5) Nakhat Singh 58.5, 3. Zamazenta (11) Kuldeep 58.5, 4. Rhythm Selection (9) Ajeeth Kumar 58, 5. Top Diamond (13) Akshay Kumar 58, 6. Wallop And Gallop (10) Deepak Singh 57.5, 7. Campania (1) Surya Prakash 57, 8. Linewiler (14) R. Ajinkya 56.5, 9. Dream Station (3) Gaurav Singh 55.5, 10. Blickfang (2) Afroz Khan 55, 11. Count Of Savoy (4) C.S. Jodha 54.5, 12. Top In Class (12) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 13. Mireya (6) G. Naresh 53.5 and 14. Philanthropist

(8) N.B. Kuldeep 53.

1. TOP DIAMOND, 2. COUNT OF SAVOY, 3. MORINGA
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Mini Jackpot: 3, 4, 5 & 6.
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A ND-I