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Uttar Pradesh soars high on India's Aviation Map World's Fourth Largest International Airport in Jewar, Noida



Historic step in line with Prime Minister's vision to create a future-ready aviation sector

For the first time. construction of an airport in India is being conceptualised with integrated multi-modal cargo hub, reduction in total cost and time for logistics

Local products and produce will become more competitive in international markets

The airport will serve crores of people in cities including Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Agra and Faridabad

Capacity to serve around 1.25 crore passengers a year

The only state in India to have five international airports

Uttar Pradesh to emerge as 'logistics gateway of northern India' on global logistics map

CM YK

Foundation Stone Laying



Noida International **Airport**

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

← In august presence of **←**

Yogi Adityanath

Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh

Keshav Prasad Maurya

Deputy Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh

Jyotiraditya M. Scindia

Minister, Civil Aviation Govt. of India

Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi'

Minister, Civil Aviation, Political Pension, Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Haj, **Uttar Pradesh**

Dr. Mahesh Sharma Gautam Buddha Nagar

Surendra Singh Nagar Rajya Sabha

Dhirendra Singh MLA **Jewar**

Date: 25 November, 2021 Time: 12:00 PM **Venue: Noida International** Airport Site, Jewar, **Gautam Buddha Nagar**

Watch the live telecast at **DD News** https://pmevents.ncog.gov.in **DD National/Uttar Pradesh**

UPGovtOfficial **M** CMOUttarpradesh CMOfficeUP

Investment of more than ₹ 5730 crores, construction on 3300 acres of land in the first phase

Creation of more than 1 lakh employment opportunities for youth

Film City, Medical Device Park, Apparel Park and Construction of Aligarh Node of Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor will boost investment prospects and provide special benefits to western Uttar Pradesh

> Plan to construct aerocity along with airport

Boost to hospitality and tourism sector

> Operations with net-zero emission

Digital technology-based operations

Development of airport along with surface transport centre for seamless connectivity integrated with road, rail and metro

Target to complete the project by 2024

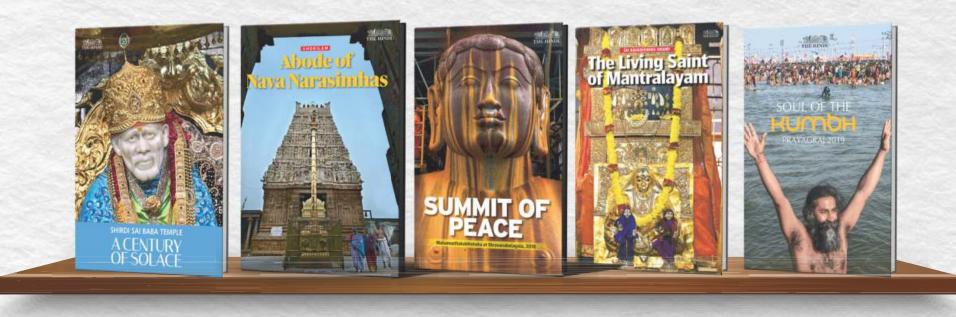
Soch Imaandaar, Kaam Dumdaar

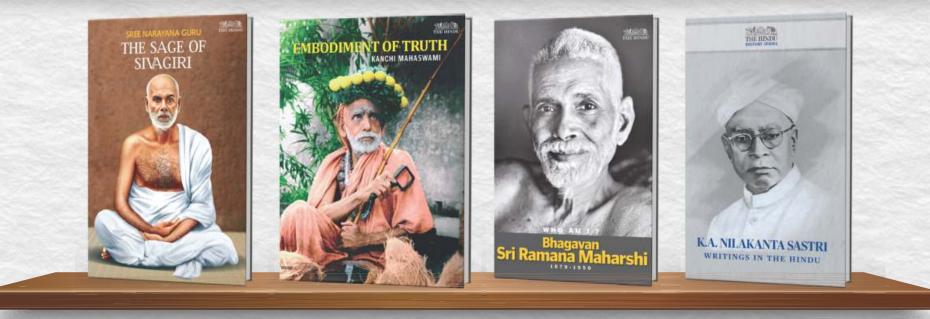
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Cong. leader Mukul Sangma, 11 Meghalaya **MLAs join Trinamool**



Do not disturb federal structure, West Bengal CM Mamata urges Modi



31 migrants dead as boat capsizes in **English Channel**

India takes on NZ in first Test at Kanpur from today page 13

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City schools, Govt. offices to reopen from Monday

NEW DELH Schools, colleges, libraries, and Government offices in Delhi, which were closed from November 13 due to high levels of air pollution. will restart from Monday, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Wednesday. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 2

Jewar town struggles to process new-found fame

GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR The nondescript town of Jewar, 100 km from Delhi, is set to find a place on the world map as Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday will lay the foundation stone of an international airport that would be the largest in Asia and the fourth largest in the world. The first phase is expected to be completed by 2024 when one runway would become operational. **STATES** ▶ PAGE 5

Vasundhara's trip creates a desert storm for BJP

The tour of former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje of six districts in southern Rajasthan has created ripples in the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party in the aftermath of the recent State Assembly byelection, in which the party suffered a humiliating defeat. **STATES** ▶ PAGE 4

Centre's free foodgrain scheme on till March

Union Cabinet also approves repeal of farm reform laws

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Acknowledging that poor families still need food security support in the middle of a recovering economy, the Centre has decided to extend its free ration scheme, Pradhan Mantri Garib Ka-Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), for another four months, until March 2022.

At its meeting on Wednesday, the Union Cabinet also gave its formal approval to repeal the three contentious farm reform laws in the winter session of Parliament, as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week.

"On [November] 19th, PM announced, and today, within five days, we have fulfilled all the formalities. In the upcoming winter session, the priority would be to take these Bills and repeal them at the earliest," Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told presspersons in a briefing on Cabinet decisions.

However, he evaded questions on the farmers' continued demand for a legal guarantee on minimum support prices for their crops, and declined to set any timeline on the PM's promise to set up a committee to make the MSP more effective and transparent, as well as to change

As the economy is getting back on track, the figures are looking much better. At the same time, Prime Minister wants to help those poor families who have gone through this COVID-19 pandemic, so that for the next four months, they should be helped and foodgrains given to them **ANURAG THAKUR** Information and Broadcasting Minister

crop patterns and promote zero-budget agriculture.

In its other major decision, the Cabinet approved the extension of the PMGKAY which provides more than 80 crore ration card holders with five kg each of rice or wheat a month free of cost, in addition to the five kg which they are eligible for on a subsidised basis under the National Food Security Act. Initially introduced in the first COVID-19 relief package from April 2020, the scheme has been extended thrice, but was scheduled to end in November. Earlier this month, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey had told presspersons that there was no proposal for extension as the economy was reviving.

"In the last more than 20 months, we have seen that the poor, even the middle class families have suffered, not here but globally as well. One of the ways to help the poor families was to give

them foodgrains," Mr. Tha-

kur said. "We still feel as the economy is getting back on track, the figures are looking much better. At the same time, Prime Minister wants to help those poor families who have gone through this CO-VID-19 pandemic, so that for the next four months, they should be helped and foodgrains should be given to them," the Minister added.

In the run-up to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, the State Government had announced a unilateral extension of the PMGKAY until March 2022.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

More hospital births, but limited gains in childhood nutrition: NFHS

Total Fertility Rate has dropped to 2.0, indicating just replacement level

JACOB KOSHY JAGRITI CHANDRA NEW DELHI

Births in institutional facilities, such as a hospital, improved by nearly eight percentage points but children who were either stunted or displayed signs of wasting only dropped by a maximum of three percentage points, shows a comparison of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5 and 4.

The complete results of the NFHS-5 were made public on Wednesday. The

Hunger watch

The nutritional status of children in India barely improved in 2019-20 from the levels in 2015-16, the National Family Health Survey-5 data show



Indicator	2019-20	2015-16	2005-06
Children under five who are stunted	35.5	38.4	48
Children under five who are wasted	19.3	21	19.8
Children under five who are underweight	32.1	35.8	42.5
Children aged six months to 59 months who are anaemic	67.1	58.6	69.4

NFHS-4 was released in 2014-15 and the latest, which captured population health indicators in 2017-19, was delayed due to the pandemic.

India has also officially hit a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of

2.0 that indicates a decrease from the 2.2 in the NFHS-4. According to the UN Population Division, a TFR of about 2.1 children per woman is called replacement-level fertility. If replacement level

affidavit filed by the Law Mi-

fertility is sustained over a sufficiently long period, each generation will exactly replace itself. The urban TFR is 1.6 and rural 2.1.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Will you ban convicts from polls, SC asks Govt.

Law Ministry rejected the idea in 2020

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre if it was "willing" to favour a lifetime ban on contesting polls for people convicted of offences, even as it flagged the high number of cases pending against lawmakers, especially in Uttar Pradesh. "Are you willing to ban pe-

ople who have been convicted of offences from contesting elections," Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, heading a Special Bench, orally asked Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, appearing for the Centre. Mr. Raju said he had just been assigned the case and would need time to consult and formulate a

But the Government, in an

nistry in the court in December 2020, had rejected the idea of a lifetime ban on convicted persons contesting elections or forming or becoming an office-bearer of a

specific "service conditions". "They are bound by their oath to serve citizens and country... They are bound by propriety, good conscience

political party. The Ministry

had reasoned that MPs and

MLAs were not bound by

and interest of the nation," the Ministry had argued.

The Centre attempted to buttress its case last year by citing a Constitution Bench decision in the Public Interest Foundation case of 2019 which said "though criminalisation of politics is a bitter manifest truth, which is a termite to the citadel of democracy, be that as it may, the court cannot make the law".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

+ Trade unions want labour codes repeal

DAMINI NATH

Over a year since Parliament passed four labour codes, the Centre is still in the process of notifying the rules to implement them and has not set a date for the roll-

their agitation this week against the codes in the wake of the Government's decision to repeal the three farm laws.

A senior functionary of the Union Labour and Employment Ministry said the Parliament. out. Trade unions, however, notification of rules was "in have planned to intensify process". The codes on wag-

es, social security, occupational safety and industrial relations were passed in 2019 and 2020.

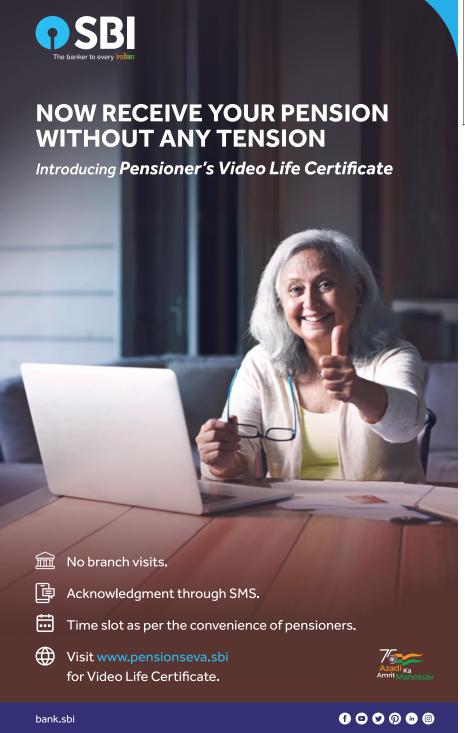
Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav is likely to make a statement in

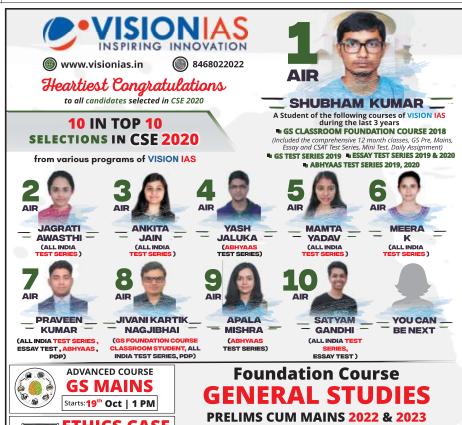
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Battle won



A reunion: Anupama S. Chandran and her partner Ajith Kumar leaving with their son from the family court in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday, a day after DNA test results confirmed that they are the biological parents of the baby. • S. MAHINSHA (REPORT ON PAGE 5)







Starts: 30th Oct | 1 PM 1 YEAR CURRENT AFFAIRS. GS MAINS 2021 in 60 Hours 12th Nov हिन्दी:16th Nov

13th Oct

DELHI LUCKNOW: 11th lan DELHI: 10th Dec, 9 AM CHANDIGARH: 18th Jar 25th Nov, 9 AM HYDERABAD: 8th Oct JAIPUR: 6th Oct

11th Jan, 5 PM

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2022 & 2023 DELHI: 28 सितंबर | 1 PM | 2023 फाउंडेशन कोर्स | 15 दिसंबर | JAIPUR: 28 जून | 4 PM | लाइव / ऑनलाइन एवं ऑफलाइन कवाएँ

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GS FOUNDATION COURSE 2023

Local militants feeling + the heat in Valley

Persisting unrest Of the 199 terrorists active in the Kashmir Valley, 110 are locals and 89 foreigners, as of November 2021



■ Till Nov. 23 of 2021, 148 militants were killed. Of them, 127 were locals and 21 foreigners

ley erupts: Security personnel after an encounter with militants in Srinagar on Wednesday. 🛮 PTI

militants were killed in 2020

A total of 195

In 2021, 97 terrorists

were newly recruited

■ In entire 2020, 178 persons joined terror

Of 148 killed till November 23 this vear, 127 were residents of Kashmir: CRPF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

More than 80% of the militants killed this year in Kashmir hailed from the Valley, according to Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

The CRPF is one of the largest Central forces deployed in the Valley for counter-terrorism operations, along with the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Army.

According to a CRPF official, till November 23, as many as 148 militants had been killed, of which 127 were residents and 21 foreigners. In 2020, the number of militants killed in the Vallev stood at 195.

199 militants active The official said 199 mili-

tants were active in the Vallev. "Out of the active militants, 110 are locals and 89 are foreigners," he added. Another official added

that of the active militants, 97 were recruited to the fold of various terror groups such as The Resistance Front (TRF) this year. The police say the TRF, which has claimed responsibility for the recent civilian kill-

ings in the Valley, is a front for the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

As many as 178 men joined the militants ranks in 2020, of which 121 were killed.

The number of such recruitment in 2019 was 117.

I&K has been under Central rule since June 2018. In August 2019, Parliament abrogated the special status given to J&K under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated the former State into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. The CRPF has deployed around 65,000 personnel in J&K.

The force has also enhanced the compensation to the next of kin of personnel killed in action. "The amount for those killed in action has been increased from ₹21.5 lakh to ₹35 lakh and for those who died of other reasons, it has been enhanced from ₹16.5 lakh to ₹25 lakh," the official said.

This compensation is provided from the risk fund and central welfare fund of the CRPF. While all CRPF personnel contribute ₹500 each to the risk fund, the contribution to the central welfare fund depends on the rank of the official.

CRPF has a strength of around 3 lakh personnel. This year, 11 CRPF personnel have been killed in action – three in J&K and eight in areas affected by Left Wing Extremism.

Educational institutions, Govt. offices to reopen on Monday

Decision taken following improvement in Delhi's air quality, says Minister

Schools, colleges, libraries and other educational institutions in the city, which have been closed since November 13 due to high levels of air pollution, will reopen on Monday, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Wednesday.

Truck entry ban on

Government offices, which were closed, will also reopen on Monday, he said. However, the ban on entry of trucks into the city will continue till December 3.

"Schools, colleges, and institutes will reopen on November 29. All Government offices will also reopen and the work-from-home directive will be lifted. But for this, it is advisable for all Govern-



Quick fix: Anti-smog gun being used to curb pollution at Delhi University on a smoggy Wednesday morning. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ment employees to use public transport to a great extent for the purpose of

commuting," Mr. Rai said. The Minister said that for the last three days, there have been improvements in Delhi's pollution levels and the decision was taken after a review meeting on Wednesday.

"Until now, trucks and other commercial vehicles, except essential service trucks, were banned from entering

Delhi. But today, we have decided that starting November 27, CNG and electric trucks will be allowed to enter. Other trucks will remain banned till December 3," he said.s

'Special booths at dark spots to prevent crimes against women'

Each station to have 3 inspectors to probe such cases: Asthana

STAFF REPORTER

Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana on Wednesday said that in a bid to step up women's security in the Capital, the force will set up special booths at dark spots and vulnerable areas in consultation with beat officers, traffic police and people. He also said that for the first time, each police station will have three inspectors exclusively to investigate crimes against women.

Addressing a press conference at the Indian Women's Press Corps office, Mr. Asthana said expeditious attention will be given if a woman or a child is in distress. "We have a crime against women cell in every police station and there is also the special unit for women and children that is working throughout the day."



Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana addressing a press conference in Delhi on Wednesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

The Commissioner said that the police have analysed the total rape cases recorded in Delhi this year and found out that "a friend or a family member was involved in 46% cases, neighbours were involved in 11% cases, relatives were involved in 14% cases, and other known persons, including live-in partners, were involved in 28% cases". The police, he said, have identified the dark spots where there is no mobile network and the areas that are vulnerable, and integrated facilitation booths will come up there. "It is an issue as sometimes there is no last-mile connectivity in some areas."

About no separate Indian Penal Code (IPC) Section to deal with the offence of snatching, Mr. Asthana said that in some States, Section 379 of the IPC, which relates to punishment for theft, has been amended. "I hope in future there is an amendment to the law which applies to Delhi too."

The farmers' protests at the Delhi borders, he said, have been and will be allowed to continue in a democratic manner as long as law and order is maintained.

Fill vacancies in Govt. hospitals, **HC asks Centre**

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre and the State Government to begin the process of recruitment of doctors and paramedical staff in Government-run hospitals in the Capital.

"You [authorities] start the recruitment process and appoint them. Show some speed. This is required," said a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh while hearing a plea which claimed that there is an acute shortage of doctors and paramedics in Government-run hospitals in the city. "It is not necessary that all vacancies should be filled [if] you are not getting suitable candidates. Start the process. You can't say that you will never start the process," the Bench

Court discharges 5 accused in riots case for lack of evidence

It comes down heavily on IO, orders inquiry into police probe

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has discharged five accused in a case related to vandalism during the north-east Delhi riots while noting that there was no sufficient evidence that has been presented by the police on the basis of which charges can be framed against

Additional Sessions Judge Virender Bhat, in his order dated November 22, stated that the material on record clearly indicates that a riotous incident in question has taken place wherein the shop as well as the house of the complainant was vandalised and looted.

"This court is not insensitive towards the mental agony and financial loss suffered by the complainant due to this incident. However, the sensitivity or the emotions alone are not the factors to be taken into consideration by the court while deciding the fate of any accused," the



Riot-hit Shiv Vihar in north-east Delhi. • FILE РНОТО

ASJ Bhat said that there should be sufficient and legally admissible evidence on the basis of which charges can be framed against any accused and the same is lacking in the present case. "The perusal of the chargesheet does not indicate whether or not there were any efforts made by the IO (Investigating Officer) to trace any other witness. It is not clear as to whether the IO chose not to find any other witness or whether no other person who had seen the incident came forward,"

While discharging the five accused for lack of sufficient evidence, the court also directed the DCP (North-East) to conduct an inquiry into the manner in which the investigation was conducted by the IO in the case to find out whether or not there had been any deliberate attempt to shield the offenders. It asked the DCP to submit a report on the next

date of hearing. According to the case records, the FIR pertains to an incident of rioting and vandalism of a medical shop on February 25 around 11.30 p.m. when a mob of around people, who were armed with rods, pipes and petrol bottles, raised slogans, came towards complainant Firoz Khan's shop in Sudamapuri and broke its shutter and the main gate and looted it. Mr. Khan was watching the incident from his roof all the while.

The court stated that there was only one witness,

15,000 flats up for grabs in DDA scheme

It has approved fixation of predetermined rates for allotment of land to traders

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) launched a special housing scheme for close to 15,000 flats across locations, including Dwarka, Narela, Rohini and Jasola. The flats are those which remained unsold in the DDA's previous housing schemes, a press note said on Wednesday. "The flats are being of-

Mr. Rai said that there are

colonies and areas such as

Nimri Colony, Gulabi Bagh,

Timarpur where a majority

of Delhi Government em-

plovees live and the Govern-

ment has decided to start

special - private CNG - bus-

es for these people to come

air quality index from before

reached those levels again.

The pollution levels had

been steadily rising after

Deepavali. Considering that,

multiple restrictions were

put in place, apart from the

routine processes," the Minis-

The Minister said that so

far, 1,221 construction sites

have been inspected and

work was stopped at 105 plac-

es due to violations of rules.

"If we look at the average

Delhi

to work

Deepavali,

ter said

fered at the old rates and the cost in relaxation of the costing policy of the DDA, which is updated every financial year based on the appreciation and depreciation of land price and building as the case may be. The allottees will be eligible for subsidy under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana if they avail of home loan from a bank or a financial institution," the



Low income group flats offered by the DDA at Narela in

statement said.

Apart from this, the DDA has approved the fixation of predetermined rates for the allotment of land to transport traders.

Each eligible transport trader will get a plot of 50

square metres with a floor area ratio of 250.

"As per the provision of the Master Plan of Delhi 2021, godowns of transport traders in the walled city and special areas are required to be shifted to the integrated freight complex at Holambi Kalan, Narela, where booking of goods and transport agencies offices are permitted activity," the release said.

The DDA has also made provisions to expedite the process of its upcoming "insitu" slum rehabilitation projects.

"The provisions include a condition in which the slum dwellers, who are eligible for rehabilitation, will lose their right to transit accommodation if they refuse to vacate the premises which are being redeveloped. If the eligible dwellers refuse to vacate the premises even after the sanctioning of the building plan, for the areas being redeveloped, then they will not be given the alternative accommodation after the redevelopment project is com-

Street vendors protest outside CM's residence

STAFF REPORTER

The National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) organised a protest outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's house on Monday over the "poor implementation" of the Street Vendors Act 2014.

NASVI president Arbind Singh said that vendors demanded proper functioning of the grievance redressal committees (GRC), which are autonomous constituted to look into the grievances of street

He added that the town vending committees, which oversee the survey of street vendors, "should be given complete powers +under the 2014 Act".

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER KASHMIR PHE DEPARTMENT SRINAGER KASHMIR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER e- NIT No. 77OF 2021-22, Dated: 20 -11-2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmirinvites e-tende om reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of all classes registered JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for District Anantnag Group-IV (16 No WSS Hilly Gravity) Part 1st for execution of the contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for District Anantnag Group-IV (16 No WSS Hilly Gravity) Part 1st for execution of the contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for District Anantnag Group-IV (16 No WSS Hilly Gravity) Part 1st for execution of the contractors at Provincial Research Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works", details of which are given below. The bidding process shall be completed online it wo 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 BOQ.

S. No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	document/ tender fee (In Rs)	Earnest money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	2	5	6	7	8	9
1	Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Anantnag district geographically different zone 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.	Work/ scheme wise details given in Section II of tender document	1000/-		180 Days	
	Group-IV (16 No WSS Hilly Gravity) Part 1st	100 Lacs to 300 Lacs		0.75		120

The tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Kashmir Jal Shakti (PHE) Department. The awarding authority is Distri Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

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 encouraging and facilitating the intending bidders for participation in the instant NIT to ensure wide participation across all the Districts.

1	Key/critical	Dates:
T	Publish Date	20-11-2021
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	20-11-2021
iii	Clarification start date	20-11-2021
iv	Bid submission start date	24-11-2021
v	Clarification end date	11-12-2021
vi	Pre-bid Meeting date	24-11-2021
vii	Document Download/sale end Date	15-12-2021
viii	Bid submission end date	15-12-2021
ix	Date and time of Bid opening	17-12-2021

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

. The Bids shall be deposited on the website http://jktenders.gov.ii

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

 The complete bidding process will be online http://jktenders.gov.ir 5. The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, Jal Shak

. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 6 & 7 of the tabl a. Bid Security to be pledged in fayour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti PHE Department, Bid Security will ha

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 da of submission of Bid. The Bid of bidders having bid security less than as specified above will be rejected. b. The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of DD /TR/e challan in favour of FA/CAC ashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape

CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 and other 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. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms ar conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website http://jktenders.gov.in 10. Queries by email if any should be made at kmrphed@gmail.com/phebijbehara230@gmail.com

DIPK-13330/21

Chief Engineer Kashmir, Jal Shakti, PHE Departmen

Gambhir receives death threat from 'ISIS Kashmir'

Police increase security at his residence

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

BJP's East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir has written to Delhi Police after he and his family allegedly received a death threat through email from "ISIS Kashmir" on Tuesday.

In the letter, the MP said that he received the email on his official email ID at 9.32 p.m. on Tuesday. "This email states a death threat to me and my family. I therefore request you to look into the matter and make adequate security arrangements and lodge an FIR," it said.

DCP (Central) Shweta Chauhan said a complaint was received at Rajinder Nagar police station. "Mr. Gambhir alleged that an unknown person sent an email on November 23 on his



MP Gautam Gambhir

email ID regarding a threat to kill him and his family

The DCP said that the district police have increased his personal security and security at his residence in Rajinder Nagar. "The police are currently inquiring into the source of the com-



members," she said.

plaint," she said.

HC stays summons to Vijender Gupta in defamation case BJP leader had defamed me to gain political mileage: Gahlot the Indian Penal Code as the

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday stayed a trial court order issuing summons to BJP MLA Vijender Gupta in a criminal defamation complaint filed by Delhi Cabinet Minister Kailash Gahlot.

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri gave the direction on Mr. Gupta's plea challenging the summons issued to him for allegedly making defamatory statements on purported irregularities in the procurement of 1,000 low-floor buses by the Delhi Transport Corporation.

The High Court will hear the case again on March 4 next year.

Mr. Gupta was summoned as an accused by the trial



court on October 11 on the Delhi Transport Minister's complaint. The trial court had said there was prima facie enough evidence to summon Mr. Gupta as an accused for the alleged offence of defamation.

Senior lawyer Ajay Burman, appearing for Mr. Gupta, argued that his client was covered under the exceptions to defamation under

statements were made in discharge of public service as a Leader of the Opposition. Senior advocate Manish

Vashisht, appearing for Mr. Gahlot, stated that Mr. Gupta's tweets were "absolutely scandalous" and made in the absence of any "conclusive finding by any judicial body".

In his complaint before the trial court, Mr. Gahlot has alleged that Mr Gupta "intentionally and for malafide purposes" defamed him and tarnished his reputation to gain political mileage. He claimed that Mr. Gupta levelled "defamatory, scandalous, mischievous, false and scurrilous allegations" verbally as well as in writing.

First train with Ayodhya pilgrims to leave city on Dec. 3

Velankanni Church included in Delhi Government's free pilgrimage scheme for senior citizens: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The first train carrying citizens on a Delhi Governmentsponsored pilgrimage to Ayodhya will depart from the Capital on December 3, bookings for which are now open, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced here on Wednesday.

He also said that the Government had decided to include Velankanni Church in Tamil Nadu in the list of pilgrimage sites so that Christian devotees can also avail of free pilgrimage as per their

"There used to be 12 listed routes to where the people could avail of the free pilgrimage under the scheme. The shrines included Puri, Dwarka, Haridwar, Rishi-



kesh, Rameshwaram, Shirdi and Aimer Sharif among other holy sites. Now, Ayodhya has been added to the list as well," Mr. Kejriwal told a digital briefing.

"One can choose any site of their preference out of these for the pilgrimage. Senior citizens of Delhi can take benefit of this scheme. Addi-

tionally, every senior citizen can take along an attendant with them on the pilgrimage. Till now, over 36,000 people have been on pilgrimage," he also said. The 'Mukhyamantri Tirth

Yatra Yojna' was approved by the Delhi Cabinet on January 9, 2018. The scheme provides Government assistance to the residents of Delhi, in specific persons belonging to the economically weaker section of society.

Facilities for pilgrims

The scheme aims at helping the elderly go on a pilgrimage once in a lifetime. The entire expense of leaving from home until return, which includes travelling by air-conditioned trains, proper AC hotel stays, meals, local

the Delhi Government. An insurance cover of ₹1 lakh is also provided. Any citizen from the Capi-

tal who is aged 60 years or more can avail of the scheme after acquiring a certificate from their local MLA. Now, the 13th route of the four-day long Delhi-Ayodhya-Delhi tirth yatra is on offer. Eligible people willing to visit Ayodhya can register by visiting the Delhi Government e-district portal.

Accommodating all

The Chief Minister sought to assure citizens that they must not worry that they would be left out if there were too many applications. If there were more people than the capacity of the train, then the Go-

travel and more, is borne by vernment would put another train on the route.

"If there are still more applicants, then we will put in a third train. The train may leave after a week, but will take everyone. Therefore, everyone should apply for the darshan of Shri Ram Lalla. I genuinely want as many people as possible to visit Ayodhya," he said.

"Christian brothers demanded that a place of their pilgrimage be included in this list. Today, I want to give some good news to them also. Many Christians wish to go to Velankanni Church. We are going to include Velankanni Church in the list of pilgrimage sites very soon and you will also be able to go on pilgrimage as per your wish," he added.

M ND-NDE

Timings **DELHI** THURSDAY, NOV. 25 RISE 06:52 SET 17:25

 □ RISE 22:18 SET 11:41 FRIDAY, NOV. 26 RISE 06:53 SET 17:25

RISE 23:17 SET 12:20 SATURDAY, NOV. 27 RISE 06:53 SET 17:25

RISE 00:00 SET 12:56

Delhi Weather Delhi City Safdarjang **Delhi Palam Today**

27°C A dry weatherto continue. Morning will be slight cold with Shallow fog. Day will be comfortable. Pollution level will be severe

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 27°C The weather wil be comfortable with severe pollution level. A very cool morning with shallow fog and mist turns comfortable day. © Copyright Skymet Weather 2019 All rights reserved

Tomato prices soar: officials to act against hoarders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Imran Hussain on Wednesday expressed concern over the sudden surge in the prices of tomatoes in Delhi and directed that teams from the market intelligence unit be deputed to ascertain the reason.

Over the past few days, the price of tomatoes has reached ₹100 per kg in many markets of the city, with traders attributing the rise to heavy unseasonal rains across the country and a surge in fuel prices.

Mr. Hussain asked officials to take action against any instances of hoarding or black marketing. "The Delhi Government is keeping a close watch on the price trends of essential commodities," he said.

While spotlight's on Delhi, smaller northern towns often fare worse

Agra, Firozabad, Vrindavan had higher pollution levels than national capital after Deepavali; experts call for focus on areas beyond NCR too

NIKHIL M BABU NEW DELHI

An analysis of air quality data by The Hindu shows that Agra, Firozabad, and Vrindavan were more polluted than Delhi during the week after Deepavali. However, during this period, the media attention and actions were concentrated more on Delhi and While Delhi was among

the top 10 most polluted cities for three out of seven days, Agra, Firozabad, and Vrindavan were part of the list for four days, as per the air quality index (AQI) data of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Also, the average daily AQI of these three places is more than that of the national Capital.

On some days, other non-NCR districts such as Kaithal and Kanpur made it to the top 10 list and were more polluted than Delhi. Interestingly, Delhi was never among the top five polluted cities in the country during this week.

The Supreme Court ordered actions have also been mainly for the Delhi-NCR, **CHOKING CITIES AIR QUALITY INDEX** Vrindavan Firozabad Delhi Agra Nov. 5 462 Nov. 6 **390** 437 Nov. 7 435 443 412 428 Nov. 8 475 486 390 Nov. 9 454 472 404 489 Nov. 10 400 383 373 372 Nov. 11 458 415 437 411 Average 438.14 429.86 414.87

which is monitored by the different actions kick in as Commission for Air Quality per levels of air pollution. Management (CAQM) in NCR But no such plan exists for and Adjoining Areas. For instance, despite the high pollution, schools were not closed or construction activ-

areas beyond the NCR. Most polluted From November 5-11, the avities were not banned in Agra, Firozabad or Vrindavan after Deepavali, officials

erage daily AQI of Delhi was 414.8, while Vrindavan's was 438.14, Agra's 429.85, and Firozabad's 437.6. On November 9, Delhi was not part of the top 10 polluted places, and there were four non-NCR districts in the top 10 and Firozabad was the most polluted place in the country. Similarly, on November 10, Agra was the most polluted place in the country.

Delhi has 39 air quality monitoring stations, while Agra has six and Vrindavan and Firozabad have only one each. "It is not that we are not giving attention to these cities. These three cities are also part of the 132 cities which are covered by the NCAP (National Clean Air Programme)," a CPCB official said.

About smaller cities witnessing higher pollution compared to Delhi, the official said that though meteorological conditions of Delhi and these places are similar, local factors could be behind the higher AQI.

Attention needed

Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director of Centre for Science and Environment, a research and advocacy NGO, said that during winter, the natural ventilation of the entire Indo Gangetic Plains (IGP), which stretches from Punjab and touches the boundaries of West Bengal, is constrained and pollutants get trapped. This is due to a drop in temperature, wind speed and the height

up to which pollutants can be dispersed in the atmosph-

"A big chunk of the IGP is affected by stubble burning also. Because of these factors, several cities and subregions that are outside the NCR, but within the IGP, are more polluted than even Delhi during winter. But the annual average pollution of these places could be lower than Delhi," Ms. Roychowdhury said.

"Delhi gets an undue importance as initial cases on air pollution were filed about the Delhi-NCR in the Supreme Court. Because of the court orders, the region got focus," she added.

But Ms. Roychowdhury said that the Government should pay more attention to the entire IGP for pollution mitigation, as the entire region is more vulnerable to high pollution. "The NCAP is for 132 cities. The Government should implement NCAP at district and State levels and take into consideration rural areas too, instead of just focusing on cities," she said.

City's air quality falls to 'very poor' category

Local weather to determine AQI: SAFAR

STAFF REPORTER

The air quality in the city deteriorated to the "very poor" category on Wednesday from the "poor" level a day earlier. It is likely to remain in the same category for the next two days, according to the authorities. "Local surface winds are

relatively low for the next three days, which reduce dispersion of pollutants, leading to deterioration of air quality. But air quality is likely to be within the 'very poor' category for the next two days," said Government-run monitoring agency SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research) in a statement.

But on Saturday, local surface winds are likely to pick up speed, resulting in improvement of air quality



Seagulls flying over the Yamuna on a smoggy Wednesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

within the "very poor" category. SAFAR said that with the onset of winter conditions, local weather is likely to be the dominating factor in determining air quality from now.

The air quality index of Delhi was 361 on Wednesday, up from 290 on Tuesday, as per the Central Pollution Control Board's 4 p.m.bulletin, which is the average of the past 24 hours.

Keep your promises made to Delhiites first, BJP tells CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The BJP State Mahila Morcha on Wednesday staged a demonstration outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, accusing him of making false promises during his tours to poll-bound States when he has not fulfilled even a single promise made to Delhiites.

The demonstration was led by Pradesh Morcha president Yogita Singh.

"While Mr. Kejriwal is talking about giving ₹1,000 each month to women of Punjab and Uttarakhand, he should fulfil this in Delhi first. He had earlier talked about giving unemployment allowance to the youth but thousands of them are still waiting for that," Ms. Singh said.

However, on November

13, these actions were taken

in Delhi after the Supreme

Court pulled up the State

and Central Governments

earlier that day. Also, Delhi

and the NCR have a Graded

(GRAP), according to which,

Response Action

"The CM, who talked about women's safety and welfare, had promised CCTV cameras in DTC buses, but the fact is these buses are in a bad shape. If he talks about honour and respect for women, why is there not a single woman minister in his cabinet?" she asked.

BJP selling TB hospital land at low price: AAP

Civic body forced to lease properties: BJP

STAFF REPORTER

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday said that the BJP-governed North Delhi Municipal Corporation was selling land under the Rajendra Babu Pulmonary Institute worth crores of rupees at a low price.

Referring to the North Delhi civic body Standing Committee meeting agenda of November 24, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bha-

radwaj said, "When Delhi is always falling short of land for hospitals, the North Delhi corporation is auctioning 6,556 square metres of land under the Rajendra Babu Institute, which is a major TB hospital in the city."

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said the North Delhi civic body was passing through an "extreme financial crisis" and was forced to long lease its properties to raise funds.



 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





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Gehlot asks Ministers to visit districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot instructed his Cabinet colleagues to visit the districts, whose charge they are holding, for at least two days every month to review the progress of schemes and redress people's grievances. Mr. Gehlot said this would be a significant step towards providing good governance at the grassroots.

He said the Ministers should hold public hearings at the district headquarters, get feedback on implementation of schemes and interact with the elected representatives.

Sushma

following.

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Fax No. 011-24368639

DP/1181/RD/2021

HPPWD Department

Job Name of Work

62/00 to 67/00)

E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Annual Maintenance Plan for the

year 2021-22 for Old NH-22 to

Parwanoo road in Km. 62/200 to

67/200. (SH:- Providing and laying

renewal coat by providing 30mm

thick Bituminous Concrete

hermoplastic edge line in Km

and laying renewal coat by

providing 30mm thick Bituminous

Concrete, thermoplastic edge line

road in Km. 0/00 to 27/465. (SH:-

Repair to Pot Holes an

Maintance of WBM by Patch work

NabonDisttSolan (HP) (SH:- C/C

building portion including wate

C/O link road from

JamraraKaniivaraButavala to

Joharji road Km. 0/00 to 6/00.

(SH:-P/L soling work G-I in Km.

to 2/300. (SH:- C/O 900mm dia

HPC with both side Wing Wall at

Rds. 0/630, 1/165, 1/345, and

0/00 to 2/00)Under SCSP.

1/570)Under MNP.

can use the same in this tender.

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cost of tender Document

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Key dates.

in Km. 1/500 to 3/500)

in Km. 0/00 to 9/00)

supply &Sanitary etc.

Repair of Chandi to Ghyan road in Km. 0/00 to 6/00. (SH:- Providing

R/R Damages on JohariiMallah 18,25,555/-

C/O Health Sub-Centre building at 23,85000/-

C/O Link road Jabli to Rajpur 0/00 7,22,760/-

Vasundhara trip creates a desert storm for BJP

Divide between rival factions set to deepen in Rajasthan

MOHAMMED IQBAL

Former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje's tour of six districts in southern Rajasthan, mainly in the Mewar region, has created ripples in the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party in the aftermath of the recent State Assembly byelection, in which the partv suffered a humiliating defeat. The visit is set to deepen the divide between rival factions in the State unit.

Ms. Raje, also party national vice-president, is paying obeisance at some prominent temples in the region

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tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs

(i) The tender Document shall be uploaded online in 2 cover : Cover1: shall contain Scanned copies of all" Technical Document/Eligibility information".

(ii) Cover 2: shall contain" BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer fo

Submit the receipt of online payment towards the cost of bid document and (b) Receipt

of online payment bid security/Earnest Money and other Technical Document in O/o

Date Sr. No.2 on tender opening date, failing which the bid will be declared Non

Bid Opening Details:-The bid shall be opened on dated 07.12.2021 at 11.00 AM is the office Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division KasauliHP, by the authorised officer. In their interest the tender are advised to be present along with original

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date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working

The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less that

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall

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Month

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Gautam Singh

Age-3 yrs. 6 moths) since 05.11.2021 at 1:00 pm. from her house from the

area of P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide

DD No. 72A, dated 07.11.2021 has been registered at

P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped female is as under: Age: 25 years, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium,

Wearing: Green colour suit, black colour salwar and sandal in feet. The description of the Gautam Singh is as under: Age: 3 years 6 moths, Height: 2', Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue colour T-shirt.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing female and her son but no clue has come

to light so far. Any person having any information or clue

about this missing female and her son kindly inform to the

Himachal Pradesh

Public Works Department

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Paying respects: Vasundhara Raje paying obeisance at the Sanwalia Seth temple in Chittorgarh. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of strength this year in the

shape of a religious or perso-

nal visit. Upset on being side-

lined within the party, Ms.

Raje went on a two-day "pil-

grimage" to the Lord Krish-

na Circuit in Bharatpur in

March and made a high-pro-

file visit to Jodhpur in Octob-

er to offer condolences to

Union Minister Gajendra

and visiting the families of the departed party leaders to offer her condolences during the four-day visit. Though she has declared that her tour is "religious" in nature, it is being seen here as a strategy to assert her dominance in the BJP.

This is the third occasion of Ms. Raje going on a show

Singh Shekhawat on his mother's death and to the family of the departed Congress leader Mahipal Maderna.

On Wednesday, she arrived in Udaipur to a tumultuous welcome by the party workers and leaders opposed to Mewar region's seniormost leader Gulab Chand Kataria, including former Speaker Shantilal Chaplot and former Vallabhnagar MLA Randhir Singh Bhindar, who fought the recent bypolls as a rebel. Ms. Raje inaugurated a "Suhani Sardi" (pleasant winter) campaign of a voluntary group.

The BJP leadership is yet to come to terms with the rout faced in the byelections at Udaipur.

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Give compensation for dead farmers: JJP leader

Memorial can win back their confidence, says Digvijay Chautala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Jannayak Janta Party general secretary Digvijay Chautala on Wednesday demanded that the Union Government must announce suitable compensation for the families of those farmers who died during the agitation against the three farm laws and also construct a memorial for them.

Party foundation day

Mr. Chautala was in Gurugram to address separate meetings of party workers in the district as part of the preparations for the proposed Jan Sarokar Diwas rally in Ihajjar on December 9 to mark the third anniversary of the JJP's foundation

Speaking to media persons, Mr. Chautala said he had been raising this issue

Digvijay Chautala seeks an early resolution to the farmers' issue.

for long and the Government would have to make a decision sooner or later. "Those in power can move forward only with the support of the masses. The laws have been repealed and this is the right opportunity. The announcement for the memorial and the compensation be made so we can win back their confidence," said

Mr. Chautala.

Seeking an early resolution, Mr. Chautala said the earlier the matter was resolved, the better it would be. He added that the prolonged delay to settle the stalemate over the three farm laws had caused loss to the ruling dispensation politically and the nation as well. Earlier addressing the

party workers, Mr. Chautala emphasised that the JJP was constantly working to deliver on the promises made during the elections. He said that 75% reservation for youth in private sectors was a historic move, besides 50% reservation for women in Panchayat elections.

The party's national president Ajay Singh Chautala visited the rally's venue two days ago and gave directions to the party's office-bearers and workers.

Shortage of drug hits thalassaemia patients

AFSHAN YASMEEN

Yousra Iram, 27, a Bengaluru-based audit and research officer living with thalassaemia, is worried as she is unable to get her lifesaving iron chelation injection Desferal 500 mg from her usual suppliers.

Desferal is widely used to remove excess iron from the body that accumulates as a result of frequent blood transfusion. If not taken regularly, the excess iron will damage vital organs.

Although Ms. Iram was taking the drug thrice a week earlier, her doctor has now advised her to take it daily. "But we have not been able to get this injection for the last 18 days," said her father Syed Shameel Ahmed.

"We have been contacting the Delhi and Mumbai thalassaemia societies and NGOs for help. But the situation is the same across the country," said Gagandeep Singh Chandok, president, Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Society of Bengaluru.

"The non-availability of this drug is a disaster for patients who are dependent on it. Morbidities and fatalities can occur," said Mr. Chandok.

Proceedings to buy Jaya's residence quashed India is not a land of pharaohs to

immortalise the dead, says HC MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.

CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Wednesday quashed the proceedings initiated by the previous AIADMK Government to acquire former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa's bungalow, Veda Nilayam, at Poes Garden in Chennai for converting it into a memorial. It observed that India of today is not a land of pharaohs or emperors to erect monuments to immortalise the

dead. Justice N. Seshasayee wrote, "India of today is not the Raj of the yesteryear for its administrators to bask in a fallacy that the wealth of the State is the wealth of the ruler. No, it is the wealth of the ruled – the People. It is time that the governments get accustomed to this constitutional reality." He said the acquisition would serve no public purpose.

He delivered the verdict while allowing the petitions filed by Jayalalithaa's nephew J. Deepak and niece J. Deepa through their counsel S.L. Sudarsanam and K.V. Sundararajan. The judge concurred with the State that it was empowered to acquire private property for any purpose of its choice but



The acquisition of Veda Nilayam will serve no public purpose, said the judge.

stressed that such a purpose should be useful to the pu-

Posing a question whether acquisition for a memorial would involve a public purpose, he said: "The answer can be a 'Yes' and a 'No'. Generically it can be, but individually it need not be." He said the need for a memorial could not be dictated by professional achievements, political populism, an image carefully groomed by cultivated charisma and electoral victories. Referring to the State having relied on a 1969 Supreme Court judgment related to a memorial for Mahatma Gandhi in Ahmeda bad, he asked: "By relying upon this verdict, has not the Government acknowledged that the benchmark for establishing a memorial can be justified only if the life and contribution of the person for whom the memorial is proposed approximates

the life of Gandhiji and those

of his ilk?"

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No. Capt/5561/2021-M2(MTL) 24.11.2021
Cover System e-Tender No. 098/21-22/Mtl are invited from reputed paper dealers / suppliers mills for the supply of 70 gsm 86 cm Reel Paper through online e-tender id 2021_CAPT_455905_1. bue date and time of tender / bid submission (online) 27.11.2021 upto 11.00 AM. For detailed information log on the website:

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that I, Rajender Kumar Jain S/o Kharaiti Lal Jain R/o Flat No. 1428. Sector-C, Pocket - 1, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi -110070, allotee of Flat No. 1428. Third Floor, Sector-C, Pocket -1, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, vide Fie No. 125(3169)83/SFS/VKII Dated: 26/10/89, have applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original documents i.e. DDA Demand Letter and NOC for Water & Electricity of the abovesaid flat have been Water & Electricity, of the abovesaid flat have been lost. An FIR has been lodged to this effect.An lost. An FIR has been lodged to this effect.Amy person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/ohone no. 9818388712 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) H or Director (H-P). 1, D Block, 3^{et} Floor,Vikas Sadan INA, New Delhi.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION MALEGAON

ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE NO 23 FOR 2021-2022 [1st Call]

Online E Tenders in B-1 form for the following work invited by Executive Engineer P.W.

Division Malegaon Ravalgaon road Malegaon Camp Tal Malegaon Dist Nashik Phone No

02554-251912 for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State from Capable and

eligible Government of Maharashtra P.W.Deptt. Registered (Registered

Contractors in appropriate Class for works blow 150.00 Lakhs)

Unregistered Contractor or International Contactor whose Sub

Company or Branch Located in India, and also completes terms and

conditions mentioned in tender document can participate in the tender

Proclamation Requiring Attendance

of Defendant (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) In the Court of Ld. Prashant Kumar Additional District Judge-01 (Central Room No. 123, Tis Hazari Court Delh

Case No-CS/267/2019

Suman Garg Vs. Jain Traders

(1) M/S Jain Trader (Through its proprietors : Sh. Mahavir Prasad OFF: 4003-A, NAYA BAZAR,

DELHI-110006. R/O: B-76. NEW GUPTA COLONY. Whereas you are intentionally evadin

service of summon it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 15.01.2022 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and Given under my hand and the seal of

Addl, District & Sessional Judge-01 Central Delhi

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 45 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Normal, Face: Long, **Wearing**: Red colour T-Shirt and Mehandi Colour Lower, who was found dead at Footpath near Pagal Baba Mandir Chandni

Chowk in the jurisdiction of PS: Kotwali. In this regard a case DD No. 26A dt. 08.11.2021 has been lodged at P. S. Kotwali, Delhi

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform the undersigned

on the following address or telephone nos.

DP/1729/N/2021(UIDB)

Sd/- SHO P. S: Kotwali Delhi Tel. No. 011-23977100

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICA



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male, Age: 28-30 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'5", Injury Mark: Head separated from body, was wearing Red T-Shirt and Black Lower, was found dead at

DD No. 10A, dated 21.11.2021, has been lodged

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on

P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi

Kasauli Division HPPWD Kasaul On behalf of the Governor of HP HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

process. Tender Notice and Tender Documents are also available on our website https://mahatenders.gov.in. Right of Rejection of E-Tender / Cancellation of E-Tenders reserved by the Executive Engineer, P. W. Division, Malegaon. Conditional Tender will not be E-Tender Notice including Total 5 (Five) works below 250.00 Lakh. Details of mentioned. E- Tender Notice available on below websites

1) www.mahapwd.com 2) https://mahatenders.gov.ir

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Tender Document Sale Start and End Date Time	24/11/2021 From 11:05 Hrs	То	08/12/2021 Upto 17:00 Hrs						
Note									

1. E-Tender Fee [non refundable] and Earnest Money will be accepted online only.

2. All eligible/ intrested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal https://mahatenders.gov.in before down loading tender documents and participate in e- tendering

3. Post Qualification Crieteria is applicable for above works

4. Registration is mandatory for works below 150.00 Lakh. (Registered Contractors in appropriate Class. Registered with Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department

Please Note this to all Registered / Unregistered Contractors DGIPR/2021/2022/2823

Sd/-**Executive Engineer Public Works Division, Malegaon**

M.SUBRAMANIAM (79), Retired Junior Engineer - Composing, The Hindu Chennai. Passed away on 24.11.2021

011-43579797

Online log on to www.thehinduads.com

FORTNIGHT



Electric Pole No. 15-19/21 Up Line, near Sultanpuri Fatak, Delhi. In this regard a

at P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi.

the following address or telephone nos. SHO

DP/390/Rly/2021 Ph.: 011-28711697, 8750871308



KCR returns from Delhi without meeting PM

to Hyderabad on Wednesday New Delhi to find a solution to the stalemate in procurement of paddy by the Centre. He, however, could

Kerala fishermen families to get aid of ₹3,000 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cabinet on Wednesday ordered ex gratia assistance of ₹3,000 each to 1,59,481 seafaring fishermen families who lost 26 working days in inclement weather. The Cabinet allocated ₹47.84 Distress Relief Fund. Heavy rough seas had impeded during October-November.

Anupama reunited with child

Family court in Thiruvananthapuram dismisses adoption proceedings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The baby who was given in pre-adoption foster care to a couple in Andhra Pradesh was reunited with its biological mother here on Wednesday following a court order.

On a day marked by high drama, the Family Court, Thiruvananthapuram, ordered the release of the baby to its biological mother after "dropping and summarily dismissing" the adoption proceedings. Family Court judge K. Biju Menon had advanced the proceedings in the case and passed the order by evening considering the plea of the State.

The case was originally scheduled to be considered on November 30.

The infant boy, who was brought to the chamber of the judge, was handed over to Anupama S. Chandran after her identification records were verified. The judge is-



Happy ending: Anupama and her partner Ajith with their child leaving the family court on Wednesday. ■ S. MAHINSHA

sued the order, considering a suggestion from public prosecutor P.P. Hakkim that the child shall be handed over to its mother through the

In its order, the judge noted that the adoption proceedings were initiated in the case on the premise that the "child was abandoned and his biological parents could not be found".

council had produced a copy of the Certificate of Recognition for Adoption issued under Rule 23 (2) of the Adoption Regulations, 2017.

The certificate is valid from March 12, 2019 to March 11, 2024, the court noted.

Earlier, the Child Welfare Committee had recalled and cancelled the Legally Free for Adoption certificate it had issued for the baby.

The "finding was arrived at on the basis of the DNA test, which confirmed that Anupama S. Chandran and B. Ajith Kumar are the biological mother and father of the child," the court noted.

The mother contended that the child was entrusted to her parents for temporary custody.

However, it was later found that they handed over the baby to the Child Welfare Committee for adoption, the court noted.

Jagan urges Centre to provide ₹1,000 crore as interim relief

Amit Shah urged to send Central team to assess flood losses

STAFF REPORTER

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to immediately release ₹1,000 crore as interim relief to provide assistance to the affected families in the floodbattered Rayalaseema re-

Mr. Jagan requested Mr. Shah to depute an inter-Ministerial Central team to assess the damage and loss caused by heavy rains. Forty persons, including an SDRF constable died, and 25 persons were still missing.

In a letter to Mr. Shah, Mr. Jagan said heavy rains triggered by depression formed on November 18 over Bay of Bengal caused extensive damage to the four

Jewar town struggles to process new-found fame



Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

Rayalaseema districts. In a single day, 20 cm rain was recorded at Peddamandyam mandal in Chittoor district, followed by 19.3 cm rain at Galiveedu mandal of YSR Kadapa district. Heavy rains lashed Tirupati, Tirumala, Nellore, Madanapalli and Rajampet, causing in-

undation in many areas. Seventeen NDRF/SDRF teams were pressed into service. About 1,402 villages in 196 mandals and four towns were affected.

As part of relief operations, 324 relief camps accommodating 69,616 persons were set up.

Stating that many reservoirs were filled to the brim. the Chief Minister said that Annamaya reservoir in Kadapa district breached and a railway track between Nandaleru and Hastavaram

was damaged. In Nellore district, river Swarnamukhi was in spate causing inundation of many villages in Kovvur and Nellore mandals.

The loss to crops and damage to infrastructure was estimated at ₹6,054.29 crore, said the Chief Minister, giving a detailed break up of losses caused to crops.

ACB searches houses, offices of 15 Karnataka Govt. officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Over 500 Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) personnel

The raids were conducted close on the heels of an ongoing massive operation at

300 ACB personnel.

This the culmination of investigations into officers' assets over many months.

was searching the offices and residential properties of Rajashekar, a physiotherapist at the Government Hospital in Yelahanka; Mayanna M., first division assistant in Major Roads and Infrastructure Department of BBMP; L.C. Nagaraj, KAS officer in Sakala Mission; and G.V. Giri, employee, Yeshwantpur,

PM Modi to lay foundation stone of airport today

The judge sidestepped the

various allegations raised by

the biological mother as he

felt that those aspects were

not necessary for the pro-

The court noted that the

issue whether the Kerala

State Council for Child Wel-

fare, which gave the baby in

foster care, has a valid li-

cence for adoption does not

"linger any more" as the

ceedings at hand.

ANUJ KUMAR

The nondescript town of Jewar, 100 km from Delhi, is set to find a place on the world map as Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday will lay the foundation stone of an international airport that would be the largest in Asia and the fourth largest in the world. The first phase, built on 1,334 hectares, is expected to be completed by 2024 when one runway would become operational.

However, for Hansraj, a resident of Rohi village, the immediate concern is what will he do with his eight cows if

he decides to resettle in Jewar Bangar, a township being developed by the Uttar Pradesh Government for around 3,000 families of six villages whose land has been acquired under the Land Acquisition Act. "How will I tend to them in the 50 square metre plot that I would get," asked Hansraj who tills one bigha of land. He is among around 500 of 9,000 farmers yet to accept the compensation deposited in the treasury by the Government.

There are others. Like Pramod Kumar from Dayanatpur village, who has 20 bighas of land and feels that farmers were cheated by the Government when the land use was changed from rural to urban to cut down on the compensation. "The officials



Map of Rohi village. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

haven't followed the provisions of the Act properly. Being in a rural area, we deserve compensation four times the circle rate, but by changing the land use, the Government has given us on-

ly twice the circle rate. Our petition is pending in the Allahabad High Court and we expect the PM to take note of our demand," he said.

He argued that they have been given compensation at the rate of ₹2,300 per square metre while the circle rate at Pari Chowk in Greater Noida is ₹50,000 per square metre. "If we have been declared urban, we should get the rates prevailing in the neighbouring urban areas. That's why we approached the court," he added.

Ravinder Kumar from Rohi agreed with Pramod but he has taken the compensation and the plot. "I have received ₹2.5 crore for 12 bigh-I am building three-storey house in the township but I could have got more," he said.

Neeraj Kumar from Rohera village has also chosen to wait. "I have heard officials are targeting those who didn't accept the offer earlier. They ask for a cut in our money lying with the tribunal," he alleged.

A senior official said as per the Act, the permission of 70% of farmers was necessary. "In the beginning, only four farmers agreed but when the CM agreed to give ₹500 per sq. m. over the rate the farmers were entitled to, more than 72% agreed," he

Jewar MLA Dhirendra Singh said the BJP was known for "ushering in development" and on Thursday the region would "celebrate the PM's visit as a festival."

BBMP employees are also under

the scanner

working in teams launched simultaneous search operations at 68 locations across Karnataka on Wednesday targeting 15 Government officials in various departments as part of a probe into alleged disproportionate as-

the headquarters and other



found in a pipeline in a Government official's house.

offices of the Bangalore De-

velopment Authority (BDA) Both the houses and offices of 15 Government officials

Jal Shakti, Public Health Engineering, Department.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1e- NIT No;-CE/PHE/KMR/JSD/18 OF 2021-22, Dated: 06-11-2021 For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmir invites enders from reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of all classes registered

JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincia level and fixing of item rates for Shopian 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 consistin

Work/

scheme wise detai**l**s

'he tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Kashmir Jal Shakti (PHE) Department. The awarding authority is Distri al Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Andee: - In view of the fact, that this NIT for item rate contract has been framed for the first time in the Department, helpdesk shall be established at the Direction office level as well as district level for encouraging and facilitating the ntending bidders for participation in the instant NIT to ensure wide participation across all the Districts.

Key/critical Dates:

The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, Jal Shak

Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 6 & 7 of the ta

a. Bid Security to be pledged in fayour 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 dat of submission of Bid. The Bid of bidders having bid security less than as specified above will be rejected.

b. The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of DD /TR/e challan in favour of FA/CAC

The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 and other

The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids. If an bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms an

conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website http://jktenders.gov.in. 10. Queries by email if any should be made at kmrphed@gmail.com/phecejmu@gmail.com

TRIPURA RENEWABLE ENERGY

DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (Department of Power, Government of Tripura) Vigyan Bhawan, Pandit Nehru Complex,

Gorkhabasti, Agartala, Tripura Tele-fax: 0381-2325900, 2326139

email-tredaagartala@gmail.com URL: www.treda.nic.in

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

On behalf of Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency (TREDA), Joint Director, TREDA invites e-tender for the work of design, manufacture, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of Solar PV Power Plants on turn-key basis vide DNIe-T No.F. 6(291)/TREDA/NCES/2021/Pt.-I /2701, dated 23/11/2021.

The tender papers may be downloaded from e-procurement portal http:// tripuratenders.gov.in and the deadline for submission of online e-bid is 15/12/2021 upto 3:30 PM.

Bid documents can be assessed at and downloaded from the websites http://jktenders.gov.ir The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, PHE Depar

1000/-

Cover '2nd' shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ

Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Shopian District for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. These works are broadly consisting of:

Construction of water supply schemes by

way of filtration plants, pump houses, service reservoir, Overhead tanks, laying of distribution mains.

Retrofitting of electro- mechanical equipment's at various Water Supply Schemes

osition of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The Bids shall be deposited on the website http://jktenders.gov.ii The complete bidding process will be online http://jktenders.gov.in

Drilling of production tube well. SITC of pumping units along with associated electro-mechanical works for

Group IV

Document Download/sale start Date

ation end date Pre-bid Meeting date

ix Date and time of Bid opening

(PHE) Department.

DIPK-13285/21

and shall be payable at Srinagar

after opening of financial cover.

Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department

PNIe-T No.F. 6(291)/TREDA/NCES/2021/Pt.-I/2702

Document Download/sale end Date

harnessing of tube well.

Publish Date

Clarification start date Bid submission start date

ment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Shopian district for Execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works.

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

Tender Notice No.

Dy. Chief Engineer (C), Central Railway Betul @ Ajni, Chhunabhatti Road, Ajni Nagpur invites e-tenders from repute contractors. **Name of Work**: Earthwork in Formation, Construction of Minor Bridges, 1/12.2m PSC Slab Bridge for LHS, Retaining / Toe Wall, Side Drains, etc. between Km.932.9 to Km. 939.4 & Km. 948.9 to Km. 950.3 in connection with Itarsi-Nagpur 3rd Line. Approx. Cost: ₹ 11.96 Crore. Completion Period: 12 Months including monsoon. Validity of Offer: 60 days from date of opening of the tender. Earnest Money: Tenderer should submit the Bid Security Declaration in lieu of Bid Security, Cos of Tender: Nil. Date & Time of Submission & Opening of Tender: Up to 15.00 hrs. on 14/12/2021 and will be opened after 15.15 hrs. Details on Railway website www.ireps.gov.in For any additional information / clarification

RailMadad Helpline 139

India's National Newspaper

Dy. CE(C) BZU/02 of 2021

contact on above address on any working day between 10.00 hrs. to 18.00 hrs. Contact No. 7219612253, 7219612266(M).

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Chief Engineer Kashmir, Jal Shakti, PHE Departmen ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED REGD. OFFICE: Sri Sai Towers, Door No: 10-152/1, 4th & 5th Floor, Ashoknagar, Beside Siris Company, Bandar Road, Kanuru, Vijayawada - 520 007. SHORT TENDER NOTICE

> Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., invites tender for appointment of Manufacturers for Supply of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) to the rice mills for fortification of Custom Milled Rice. For registration, interested FRKs Manufacturers from all over India shall visit https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in or www.apscscl.in to view and download tended documents at free of cost. The details and procedure for obtaining Digital Signature Certificate:

up to **1.00 PM of 06.12.2021** and the tentative date of e-Reverse be on **08.12.2021**, **11.00 AM**. Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR



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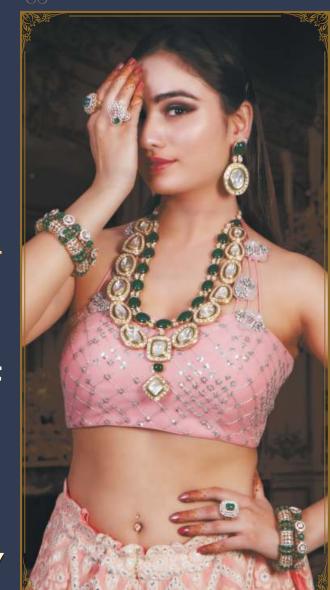
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CM YK

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao returned after his four-day visit to

not meet the Prime Minister

crore from the Chief Minister's rain, strong wind, thunder and fishermen from venturing out



and their relatives in Mangaluru, Bengaluru and Mandya, among other districts, were searched by teams led by eight SPs, 100 officers and

In Bengaluru, the ACB

Bid Validity

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12.11.2021

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29-11-2021

Joint Director

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VISIT

EMPANELMENT OF MANUFACTURERS THROUGH e-REVERSE AUCTION ON AP e-PROCUREMENT PLATFORM FOR SUPPLY OF FORTIFIED RICE KERNELS (FRKs) WITH THREE (3) MICRO NUTRIENTS (IRON, FOLIC ACID AND VITAMIN B12) IN 20KGS BAG TO RICE MILLS FOR FORTIFICATION OF CUSTOM MILLED RICE TO BE

are mentioned in website https://lender.apeprocurement.gov.in or contact the help desk o procurement portal, Phone numbers: 08645-246370/71/72/73/74. ast date for online registration and completion of Formalities for the e-Reverse auction shall b



POCSO shocker

HC ruling ignores specific provision defining aggravated form of sexual offence

The recent Allahabad High Court verdict that a penetrative sexual assault on a 10-year-old boy by an offender did not amount to an aggravated form of the crime appears to be per incuriam, that is, a ruling handed down without due regard to the law and facts. The offence that was proven in the trial, and endorsed without demur by the High Court, involved the child being made to perform an oral sexual act. The Court agrees that it was a "penetrative sexual assault" as defined by the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, as the accused had put his member into the victim's mouth. However, it did not amount to "aggravated penetrative sexual assault", a crime punishable with a minimum prison term of 10 years that can go up to life, Justice Anil Kumar Ojha has said. Instead, it was punishable under Section 4 of POCSO, which prescribes a minimum seven years. Accordingly, he reduced the trial court sentence of 10 years in jail to seven years. The High Court is palpably in error, as it failed to note that a sexual offence takes the character of an aggravated form of the same offence in certain circumstances under POCSO. The main circumstances involving aggravation given in Section 5 are where the offender is a police officer, a member of the armed forces, a public servant or someone on the staff of a jail, remand home, hospital, educational or religious institution, or any place of custody or care and protection.

However, these are not the only circumstances. Where the crime involves a group of offenders, or is done repeatedly, or when it pertains to the use of deadly weapons or causes grievous harm or injury, or leads to physical or mental incapacitation, pregnancy, or disease, it is also an aggravated form of the offence. Significantly, Section 5(m) adds "whoever commits penetrative sexual assault on a child below 12 years" to this list. The High Court seems to have missed either this legal provision while reducing the sentence, or the fact that the child was about 10 years old when the offence took place. The fact that the convicted person will stay in jail for seven years will not obviate the deleterious effect of the ruling – that a particular act, amounting to a penetrative sexual act, does not attract the punishment prescribed for its aggravated form - will have on lower courts trying similar cases. It is a matter of coincidence that this ruling came from the Allahabad High Court on the same day as the Supreme Court's judgment underscoring the importance of not diluting the gravity of an offence against a child by ignoring the plain meaning of POCSO's provisions. The verdict in Sonu Kushwaha vs State of U.P. is a fit case for review, as it seems to be based on an error of law.

Virus rages in Europe

Vaccines alone will not be able to break the transmission chain and end the pandemic

Tith the staggering increase in daily fresh coronavirus cases and deaths in much of Europe, last March, become the pandemic epicentre. The resurgence in daily new cases which began in early October and restricted to three countries has since spread and is driven by the Delta variant. The continent reported nearly two million new cases last week, the highest since the pandemic began; more than half of the global COVID-19 deaths this month were in Europe. In Austria. the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, and Norway, the daily cases are the highest since the pandemic began; Romania and Ukraine reported record high numbers a few weeks ago. With hospitals fast filling up, WHO predicts that there would be extreme stress on hospital beds and intensive care units in many European countries between now and March next year. While the vaccination rates in most countries in western Europe are higher – Ireland leads the table with over 90% adults being fully vaccinated in early September – the vaccination levels are relatively lower in eastern Europe. With France setting an example, many countries are now making it difficult for the unvaccinated to freely travel or enter certain public or even workplaces, in an attempt to increase vaccine uptake. And in a first, Austria made vaccination mandatory starting February next year and went into a national lockdown for three weeks from November 22. Austria has managed to fully vaccinate about 65% of its eligible population, which is one of the lowest rates in western Europe.

While most of the new daily cases reported are among the unvaccinated, breakthrough infections and hospitalisations are being reported in the fully vaccinated too. However, the deaths have predominantly been among the unvaccinated. Even while WHO has called for a moratorium on booster doses till this year-end so vaccines become available to developing countries, its Europe office has endorsed administering booster doses as a "priority" to the most vulnerable populations based on growing evidence of a decline in protection against infection and mild disease among the fully vaccinated. As evidence has shown, vaccines alone will be insufficient to break the transmission chain. Unfortunately, most western countries focused primarily on increasing vaccination coverage while foregoing simple yet highly effective non-pharmaceutical interventions such as universal mask wearing, physical distancing and improved ventilation in confined spaces. A study, which is yet to be peer-reviewed, predicts 0.9 million more hospitalisations and 0.3 million additional deaths in 19 European countries where people have been neither infected nor vaccinated. WHO predicts 0.7 million more deaths by March 2022 in Europe and central Asia. Compliance with public health measures can indeed avoid needless infections and deaths.

Battered and bruised, repealed and withdrawn

The shaping of the different trajectories of the farm laws and Andhra's 'three capitals' plan is revealing



K. CHANDRU

The announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 19, on the withdrawal of the three farm laws and his urging "all agitating farmers to go back to their families and villages and let's make a new beginning", did not raise eyebrows in the country. There were compulsions, both internal and external, for the Bharatiya Janata Party to do so notwithstanding the fact that the laws were under legal scrutiny by the Supreme Court of India. The forthcoming elections to the Uttar Pradesh and Punjab Assemblies may have also been a factor in shaping the Prime Minister's decision.

A long battle

After Parliament hurriedly passed the three enactments, to bring in 'reforms' in the agriculture sector, the volley of protests began. Swarms of farmers along with their tractors converged along the borders of Delhi marking the beginning of an over year long battle. Surprisingly, many State legislatures have passed resolutions opposing the three farm laws. When someone questioned the authority of the legislatures to pass such resolutions, it was correctly negatived by the Supreme Court.

When cases were filed in the Supreme Court, it not only granted a limited stay of the implementation of the laws but also appointed an expert committee to submit a report on these pieces of legislation. The Court also raised the question whether it was proper for the protesters to continue with their agitation even when the Court was seized of the matter. Another question was also raised over how long the agitating farmers would occupy the roads and that there must be a limit for such sit-ins.

The Modi Government did not wait for any verdict from the Court but took the pragmatic position to withdraw the farm laws in view of the "large-scale misconceptions" among the people. However, the

farmers have indicated that they will still continue to protest until the repeal law is passed in the winter session of Parliament. In a democracy, ultimately, sovereignty vests with the people and elected Parliamentarians have only a limited brief of legislating on the subjects allotted to Parliament. On the other hand, there is nothing in the law to prevent those aggrieved from lobbying against such laws which according to them is harmful, even though, significantly, the higher courts have the power to scrutinise any law made and to determine whether they are inconsistent with the fundamental rights enshrined in Part III of the Constitution. Many a time the delay in determination also makes the aggrieved impatient by taking the matter to the streets.

Plan for a capital

But the announcement of the withdrawal of the farm laws was not surprising when compared to the announcement of withdrawal of the Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020 and the A.P. Capital Region Development Authority Repeal Act, 2020 by the Y.S.R. Congress Party (YSRCP) Government led by its Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. After the election of his party, the YSRCP, to form the government, he decided to dismantle the only capital of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravathi; he also decided on its trifurcation: Amaravathi (legislative), Kurnool (judicial) and Visakhapatnam (executive). This new law was passed when the YSRCP won 151 seats in the 175-member Andhra Pradesh Assembly in 2019. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) which became the first ruling party of the newly formed Andhra Pradesh State was reduced to 23 seats.

N. Chandrababu Naidu who led the TDP after the bifurcation of the undivided Andhra Pradesh State into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh decided to locate the new capital at Amaravathi which is situated between Vijayawada and Guntur and inaugurated the interim secretariat there. To locate and develop the infrastructure of the capital, the TDP Government acquired an estimated 33,000 acres from farmers while also pro-



acres, leading to large-scale protests from the farmers of the region. Notwithstanding this, the TDP Government proceeded with the construction of the capital, allotting plots to judges of the High Court for their residences. The High Court also approved the plan submitted to create judicial infrastructure for locating the new High Court and other subordinate courts at Amaravathi.

The twists and turns

Taking advantage of the farmers' unrest, the successor Y.S. Jagmohan Reddy Government began a campaign to have three different capitals, even enacting a law. An inquiry into the land purchase and allotments was ordered. Controversy arose when a case was registered against a former Andhra Pradesh Advocate General and the family members of a Supreme Court judge alleging that there had been insider trading. On a petition filed by the former Advocate General, the Andhra Pradesh High Court issued a gag order on the press from reporting on the first information report filed by the Anti Corruption Bureau. The gag order was stayed by the Supreme Court of India on a petition filed by the Andhra Pradesh Government. Subsequently, several developments took place in the Andhra Pradesh High Court. Justice D.V.S.S. Somayajulu stayed the SIT probe ordered against the land scam pursuant to a decision taken by a cabinet sub-committee.

There were several shocking developments subsequent to the probe being ordered against the Amaravathi land deal. A Division Bench of Justice M. Satyanarayana Murthy and Justice Lalitha Kanneganti J.J. ordered an inquiry into a telephonic conversation allegedly about a plot against the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh and another sitting judge of the Supreme Court. The inquiry was to be headed by a retired Supreme Court

verify the authenticity of the conversation. It is interesting that Justice Raveendran has been appointed by the Chief Justice of India, Justice N.V. Ramana, to supervise the three-member expert committee that will go into the Pegasus snooping case.

It was more shocking when a division Bench of Justices Rakesh Kumar and J. Umadevi while hearing a habeas corpus petition (on a request on behalf of the Advocate General for a short adjournment. passed an order dated October 1, 2020) which said: "On the next date, learned senior counsel appearing on behalf of the State may come prepared to assist the Court as to whether in the circumstances, which are prevailing in the state of Andhra Pradesh, the Court can record a finding that there is Constitutional breakdown in the State or not". It is unheard of for a court to make a mention about bringing President's Rule in a case between the state and an indivi-

It was under these circumstances that the Chief Minister, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, wrote a letter dated October 11, 2020 to the then Chief Justice of India for an inquiry into the role of the Supreme Court judge, who, according to him, was involved in a scam. However, no such in-house enquiry was ordered. However, the letter by the Chief Minister was released to the press by the personal adviser to the Chief Minister.

Things did not end with a complaint made to the highest judicial authority. The next day, the same division Bench while entertaining another case observed: "Even some occupying high positions and Constitutional posts are not restraining themselves in committing the same mistake... due to the result of [a] larger conspiracy, the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] is required to take appropriate action against such culprits irrespective of the post and position. It goes without saying that the CBI immediately after taking up investigation may take steps so that all the defamatory posts available on social media, i.e., private respondents, may [be] struck down and may also take steps to block such users in accordance

with law." The Chief Minister's woes conti-

nued. The new Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh, Prashant Kumar Mishra, and Justices Satyanarayana Murthy and Somayajulu, constituting the full Bench, held a fresh hearing of the batch of writ petitions that challenged the Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020 and Capital Region Development Authority Repeal Act, 2020. The Government of Andhra Pradesh filed a recusal petition asking Justices Satyanarayana Murthy and Somayajulu to withdraw from the full Bench hearing as they were admittedly recipients of a housing plot at Amaravathi allotted to them. When this issue was raised before the court, the Chief Justice presiding over the Bench refused the recusal, and when asked for an order on this issue, said that orders would be passed along with the main case. In normal course, when even allegations of apparent bias on the part of the presiding officers are raised, appropriate orders will be pronounced then and there as such matters go to the root of the issue.

A 'strategy'

Even while the arguments are in progress, the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy Government came up with the withdrawal of the two pieces of legislation with a reservation to introduce an appropriate Bill at a later date. It is not clear whether the Government was giving in to the pressure mounted by the Opposition TDP or that it did not want to face litigation at this juncture becoming adverse. In any event, the withdrawal proposal followed from the developments the Government faced vis-à-vis the judiciary. The Government had not given up the proposed trifurcation of the capital and locating them in three regions. This may be litigation strategy normally adopted by litigants expecting changes in the judicial spectrum.

The withdrawal of the legislations by two governments has a different background but what is worrisome is the circumstances surrounding the State government's decision that has no parallel in the judicial history of India.

Justice K. Chandru is a retired judge of the

Pointers that India is witnessing a K-shaped recovery

The economic ravages of the pandemic have had an uneven impact and taxation policies continue to be regressive



ANAND SRINIVASAN & SASHWATH SWAMINATHAN

There has been great chatter about a V-shaped recovery for quite a while, ever since the first lockdown following the novel coronavirus pandemic. A Vshaped recovery is characterised by quick and effective recovery in measures of economic performance after an acute decline in the economy. There is undeniably some type of recovery, but one can hardly label it V-shaped. The economic ravages of the pandemic have had an uneven impact on different socio-economic groups. The recovery we see today is more K-shaped than V-shaped, with various groups and industries recovering much more rapidly than their counterparts.

Signs from industry Government taxation policies continue to be regressive, with increased indirect taxes and lower direct taxes placing greater tax incidence on the destitute. The effects of this K-shaped recovery can be observed through the growth and consumption in specific in-

Two-wheelers represent the

economic situation of the lower and middle-class groups and Inand middie-class groups and india's small businesses. A report by analytical company CRISIL indicates that in the year 2021, twowheeler sales are set to decline by 3%-6% year-over-year. This is on top of a lower base in the year 2020 already affected by the pandemic. The actual decline of twowheeler sales from pre-pandemic times on account of the base effect must be much more significant. The sales of two-wheelers are the second-lowest it has been in seven years. It is imperative to note that entry-level models are the ones most affected under the category of two-wheelers. The festival season was said to rectify this phenomenon, but it had been unable to. On the other hand, premium cars and premium motorcycles have been resistant to the pandemic

Impact of taxation

Moreover, the usurious taxation policy of the Government, which insists on maintaining indirect taxes on fuel and consumer products while lowering corporate taxes, paints a picture explaining these figures. The Government had recently raised taxes on textile products from 5% to 12%. While inflation soars, the incomes of the middle and lower-middle-class have at best remained constant. There is tremendous pressure on the financial stability of these households, which seemingly face a

sustained loss in disposable income. Besides, the figures representing those who are employed

only partially explain this phenomenon.

On jobs, NREGA Over five million or 50 lakh people lost their jobs in October, according to a Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) report. Many of those who lost their jobs during this period are likely economically insecure and abstain from non-essential purchases. This, paired with the astronomically high food and fuel prices, delivers a deadly blow pushing fami-

lies to poverty. Additionally, it is prudent to look at Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) figures as it acts as a proxy for the informal sector, which employs a large portion of Indians. In the year 2021-2022, the Government of India had cut its budget allocation towards MGNREGA by 34%. There is a greater demand now for MGNREGA

The lower Budget allocation accounts for the inability to compensate workers in time and fairly. A portion of the Budget this year is spent on paying the liabilities for the previous financial year. Those looking for MGNREGA work cannot afford to be unpaid for such long durations. This again ties back to placing upward pressure on unemployment figures.

Stimulus and growth

Therefore, there seems to be no surprise that the consumption of two-wheelers and other such products has taken a significant hit. The U.S. and European economies have stimulated the economy bottom-up through unemployment cheques and social welfare schemes. The economist, John Maynard Keynes, popularised the concept of the money multiplier and the relationship between government stimulus and economic growth. It fundamentally makes great sense to prioritise those who are more likely to spend (the middle and lower-middle-class) rather than those who have a greater propensity to save. The velocity of money which sustained a significant shock from pandemic lockdowns needs to be kickstarted. Furthermore, the inflation of asset prices over the recovery period helps determine the nature of this

recovery. The recovery in the stock market and other such financial assets

jobs than in the pre-COVID-19 era. over the past year has been phenomenai. However, it is essential to understand that this does not necessarily reflect the economy's condition as observed previously. Less than 5% of India invest in equities, which means that less than 5% of India directly benefited from said recovery. The lower middle class, which does not invest in such assets for many reasons, has no guard against inflation. Their only hedge against inflation is their income which makes for a poor one.

Think welfare schemes

Therefore, as discussed before, their financial situation is worsened due to the rising prices of essential goods. Moreover, the disproportional benefit of the asset price inflation favouring the upper-middle-class further displays the inherent K-shape of the recovery. It is crucial that the Government addresses this phenomenon and works towards aiding the middle and lower-middle class. Social welfare schemes must be given greater importance to assist households to get through this period. A seemingly viable solution is for the Government to increase progressive (direct) taxes and reduce regressive (indirect) taxes to ease the financial pressure on lower-income households.

Anand Srinivasan is a consultant. Sashwath Swaminathan is a research

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

A mother's fight

The case of Anupama S. Chandran of Kerala and her son has been riveting (Inside pages, "DNA tests confirm Kerala woman's claims on baby", November 24). It is also a commentary on the adoption system in India. What shattered me the most is the plight of the foster parents who legally followed every procedure only to have the baby taken back. Though this case has a political angle, which may

make it a special one, it could discourage people from adopting children. We need to have better standard operating procedures and checks that ultimately encourage adoption without trauma. VINEESHA BADABHAGNI

■ The case has shaken the foundations of the political, social and cultural spectrum that Kerala is. The valiant fight by the young mother

will have an impact on Kerala's society. N. RAJASEKHARAN,

Parliamentary steps The article, "Go back to

committees' is the farm laws lesson", (Editorial page, November 22), implying that the Centre has wantonly swerved from its stand, either referring the Farm Bills to the Standing Committee or a Joint Selection Committee, as

ought to have happened, should be viewed in the proper perspective it deserves. Two pertinent questions which need plausible answers from the Centre are: the reason for not referring the contentious farm Bills in question to the Standing Committee, which has been the regular practice, in existence so far. Is this not shrouded in

mystery? The second is why the farmers were not taken into

confidence prior to the ordinance. MANI NATARAAJAN,

Kodaikanal besieged

The hordes of tourists flooding Kodaikanal is nothing short of wanton destruction of this fragile ecosystem. Local people are bewildered and ask if this is revenge tourism! It is truly debilitating anyway you look at it. Driving is impossible

with traffic snarls, road rage

part. This is not in the interest of tourists, residents, and eventually the hill station itself. Mounds of garbage and an unbearable stench herald the dawn. During the pandemic, the e-pass system worked most effectively. It is the only practical solution to a nightmare now.

and gridlock for the most

M.E. AVARI, Kodaikanal



A food crisis of the government's own making

Sri Lanka's decision to ban imports on chemical fertilizers was not backed by scientific evidence



R.S. DHARMAKEERTHI

There is consensus in the scientific community that organic agriculture could reduce crop yield. Quoting three global meta-data analysis, Meemkem and Qaim (2018) pointed out that on average, the yield reduction in organic agricultural systems could be 19-25%, depending on the crop and agro-climatic region. To switch to 100% organic agriculture, a country must have robust scientific evidence and a meticulously planned methodology along with targeted actions. Otherwise, it will plunge into a food crisis, if food security cannot be achieved by other means.

Organic mania

In May, Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa ordered a halt to importing chemical fertilizers to turn the island nation's agriculture sector fully organic. By that time, the Yala cropping season (May to August) had already started and farmers were using the agro-chemicals available in the market. However, no additional agro-chemicals were to be released in the market. The government stated that if there is any yield loss as a consequence of this decision, the affected farmers would be compensated for it. It is unclear how the government was planning to separate yield loss related to lack of agro-chemicals from yield loss due to natural causes, farmers' attitudes, and so on.

It is apparent now that when the Sri Lankan government took this policy decision, it had neither solid scientific information nor a clear action plan. It had taken half-baked advice from some opportunists who regularly state in public that only organic and traditional agriculture is safe to the environment and human beings. Not only did the government seem to believe that there would be little or no yield loss from agriculture that is only organic; it also seemed to think that all plant nutrients could be organically produced in the country by October 2021. If the organic agricultural production system is that simple and straightforward, why is

to Sri Lankan waters and is sailing

around still looking for an opportun-

ity to reach the shores of Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, farmers started get-

ting angry as there were no fertilizers

to start cultivation. They began to

protest, demanding fertilizers to be

provided in all major agricultural

areas and setting aside preliminary

land preparation practices. They did

not want to start commercial cultiva-

tion without any assurance from the

government on the availability of the

Then, the government was ad-

vised to purchase a liquid nano-N fer-

tilizer from the Indian Farmer Fertil-

izer Corporative Limited (IFFCO),

which, some said, is organic and

100% efficient. However, according

to the IFFCO website, this liquid fer-

tilizer is actually nano-urea and

hence cannot be used in organic agri-

culture as it is chemical in nature. Gi-

ven the urgency of the situation, the

government ordered 3.1 million litres

of nano-urea, which has only 4% N,

from IFFCO. The first quantity was

air-lifted into Sri Lanka and distribut-

ed as Nano-Raja among paddy farm-

ers. Farmers were advised to apply

2.5 L of Nano-Raja as a foliar spray.

Scientists are sceptical about the

efficacy of this fertilizer as there has

been heavy rainfall in Sri Lanka over

the last few weeks. Nonetheless,

even in India, there is limited large-

scale evidence on the effectiveness of

this product. Not much is known

about the health concerns that might

arise on long-term exposure to nano-

particles. Moreover, 2.5 L of Nano-

Raja provides only 100g of N when at

required fertilizers.

A farmer works at a paddy field in Dekatana, Sri Lanka. • REUTERS

that globally, only 1.5% of farmland is organic? Sri Lanka has been almost entirely reliant on its own rice production since the mid-2000s. Could it not have maintained this?

Unsurprisingly, even when the Maha season officially started on October 15, the country was well short of the required quantities of organic fertilizers. As the most critical plant nutrient for higher yields in Sri Lanka is nitrogen (N), the authorities have estimated that for this Maha season, about 0.1 million tonnes of N is required for some major crops including paddy and tea. This is equivalent to about 15 million tonnes of compost. The country produced only around 3 million tonnes of compost by the end of August 2021.

Realising that the required quantities of organic fertilizers cannot be produced within five months, the government attempted in September to import solid organic fertilizers. According to the Plant Protection Act, No. 35 of 1999, no organic substance that has harmful organisms can be imported into the country. Moreover, Sri Lanka Standards (SLSI 1704) require all imported solid organic fertilizer to be devoid of any microorganism. A tender to supply about 0.1 million tonnes of solid organic fertilizer was offered to a Chinese fertilizer company. It was later revealed that two samples provided by this company did not pass the quality standards. This message was conveyed by the authorities to the company. However, due to reasons unknown, the first load of that solid organic fertilizer is said to have come

dy crop. The farmers will at most get an additional 5-10kg of N through locally available compost. The quality of these composts, mostly produced using municipal solid wastes, cannot be guaranteed either, as there is no quality control mechanism in place.

least 50kg of N is needed for the pad-

Now, even over a month after the season started, only about 25-40% of farmers have started paddy cultivation in Sri Lanka. The distributed quantities of N fertilizers have not been adequate to achieve the expected yield target of the farmers (4-6 tonnes per hectare). Therefore, reduction in national paddy production is an inevitability. The same would be true for other crop sectors as well. Therefore, the government must do something within a very short period of time to provide sufficient quantities of N fertilizer, at least to paddy farmers and tea-growers. Failure to do so will reduce foreign exchange earnings from tea, increase food prices, create food shortage and lead to food imports. The government will have to import food from other countries - food that is produced using agro-chemicals because of the higher price of organic food. This would be ironical as food without agro-chemicals was one of the major policy objectives of the ban on

the import of agro-chemicals. The overarching policy document of the government titled 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor' promises to provide the nation with safe food and food security. However, the illadvised policy of banning agrochemicals, which was based on inadequate scientific evidence and false belief, hit the Sri Lankan agriculture and plantation crop sectors like a cyclone. With a crippling economy thanks to COVID-19, this was uncalled for. On November 24, the Sri Lankan government announced that it would partially lift the ban on chemical fertilizers and permit the private sector to import these fertilizers. However, considerable damage has already been done, with farmers claiming that their crop production has declined, food prices rising, and a food crisis looming.

R.S. Dharmakeerthi is Professor in Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

A unified regulatory framework

As there is competition between telcos and Internet companies, regulatory parity between them is required



It is evident that the success of Internet firms and telcos goes hand in hand. However, the ownership of approximately 18% of Jio by Facebook and Google provides a hint that new dynamics are on the horizon - with the evolution of 5G technologies, we are seeing the growth of an integrated sphere of cooperation as well as competition between telcos and Internet companies on account of substitute services, and competition in complementary value networks.

Asymmetric regulatory stance

The growth in over-the-top (OTT) messaging services provided by Internet firms has been accompanied by significant reductions in the revenues of text messaging services provided by telcos. For instance, the quarterly SMS volume in the U.K. has declined by half to 10 billion by 2021 in the past five years. Similarly, the growth of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services offered by OTT service providers is also a threat to telcos.

Complementary value networks or 'Walled Gardens' comprise a bouquet of services provided by network operators, handset manufacturers, platform vendors, and content providers. An example is the one created by Apple with exclusive wholesale agreements with AT&T Wireless in the early 2000s for its iPhones. By subsidising the iPhone with long tenure contractual agreements, and creating a proprietary app store, Apple created a walled garden. Recently in India, RJio has forged arrangements with Google for JioPhone Next to create an ecosystem of handsets, connectivity and applications. These walled gardens often have a "platform captain" (i.e. Apple, RJio) which provides coordinating mechanisms, rules, key products, intellectual property and financial capital. Platform captains generally derive business benefit from their pole position. Hence, members of a walled garden may aspire for the position of captain. This brings a new element of competition into the telcos-Internet companies' relationship.

Despite the fact that services can be substituted and despite increasing competitive pressures within walled gardens, there is an asymmetric regulatory stance with respect to telcos and Internet companies. Some of this stems from fundamental differences in the nature of business such as the jurisdic-

tional nature of operation and technology used. However, the asymmetry partly reflects a certain world view with regard to the regulation of competition across telcos and

Net neutrality regulation

An example is net neutrality regulation. When net neutrality was conceptualised in the early 2000s, it was meant to stem the significant market power of telcos, which provide an essential service. A dominant telco can hinder competition in a downstream market by a vertical merger with content and application providers. Net neutrality regulation that prohibits discriminatory treatment of Internet companies – either with respect to pricing or traffic management – in a sense eliminates any incentive for vertical integration. Net neutrality regulation can also be explained as a way of preventing telcos from extracting all their revenues from Internet companies. This possibility arises because such firms have no choice but to make themselves available via all telecom service providers. On the other hand, subscribers restrict themselves to one service provider.

However, over the past decade, the Internet has evolved to a point where many Internet companies also provide an essential service and enjoy significant market power. For instance, web search, a market dominated by Google, is often the starting point for navigating the World Wide Web. Without search neutrality, search results may be manipulated to favour certain firms. This concern becomes heightened in the presence of vertical integration between the search engine company and downstream companies. Hence, net neutrality principles need to be applied to Internet companies as well.

Beyond net neutrality, just as it is mandatory for telcos to provide "equal access" for interconnecting with other telcos' networks, social media networks, instant messengers, and indeed any Internet service that exhibits critical mass dynamics needs to be governed by interconnection regulation.

In sum, there is an element of competition between telcos and Internet companies in the context of overlapping services and walled gardens. Hence, there is a need for a measure of regulatory parity between the two. In the U.S. and in India, while the sector regulator makes rules for telcos, the competition regulator oversees the behaviour of the Internet firms. It is time for a unified regulatory framework. A semblance of this convergence is visible in the European Union. India too needs an integrated perspective.

Rohit Prasad and V. Sridhar are Professors at MDI Gurgaon and IIIT Bangalore, respectively

STATE OF PLAY

Task cut out for Congress in Kerala

The reorganisation process may offer no silver bullet, but it can give the party a sense of direction

Some members of the Congress's old guard in Kerala are up in arms against the ongoing reorganisation of the party in the State. The drubbing the party received in the Assembly elections this year forced a leadership change which did not go down well with senior leaders such as former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and former Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Ramesh Chennithala. The new Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, K. Sudhakaran, and the Leader of the Opposition, V.D. Satheesan, came under fire from leader V.M. ran for not consulting veteran leaders 'adequately' while finalising the list of district Congress presidents. During this turbulence, disciplinary action was initiated against leaders who made disparaging public state-

Reorganisation efforts

ments against the selection.

When the party went to the polls, its weaknesses included its unwieldy, top-heavy structure. The shake-up saw a nearly 500-member State Committee give way to a 'manageable' 56member body. The new leadership is now gearing up to select district committee members – not more than 51 in bigger districts and up to 31 in smaller ones – by mid-December.

That the KPCC reshuffle has almost rendered the 21-member political affairs committee (PAC) appointed by the All-India Congress Committee in 2016 redundant or relegated it to an advisory role has riled senior leaders who want the PAC to be in the saddle. That, however, would be counterproductive given that there could be run-ins with the new State committee.

To rebuild the party at the grassroots, the Congress is now mobilising unit committees below the booth level. The plan is to have at least one lakh such committees. A structured programme to train volunteers is already being implemented at various levels, with the thrust on "the organisational history, secular tradition anandan.s@thehindu.co.in

and democratic outlook". Also on the cards is a 'political school', to be set up first in Thiruvananthapuram, to strengthen the ideological base and political vision of leaders.

Winning back support

The Congress's commitment to secularism was called into question when the party proposed to bring legislation criminalising women's entry into Sabarimala. A rethink in the party about that campaign is apparent considering the Congress's refusal to fall for a similar communally charged propaganda by the BJP against restaurants serving 'halal' food and citing 'halal' markings on a few parcels of jaggery purchased by Sabarimala temple authorities in 2019 to prepare aravana prasadam.

Another big task for the party's State leadership is to win back the communities that have drifted away. It was the rising prominence of the Muslim League in

the 2011 Chandy government that created bad blood within the Congressled UDF and gave heartburn to the strongest faction of the Kerala Congress, influential among the Catholic Christians.

With the Kerala Congress (Mani) now aligned with the Left and sections of the church trying to curry favour with the BJP, it is an uphill task for the Congress to regain the trust of

large sections of Christian voters. Meanwhile, the most vexing question is whether the organisational reshuffle is just another desultory exercise considering that the organisational elections are set to take place in a year or so. Detractors of the reshuffle point to the ongoing membership drive, slated to end on March 31, 2022, if not extended. There would be a freeze on nomination of party officials once the drive is over and elections are declared. Should the party wait until then to set its house in order is a million-dollar question. The present reorganisation process may offer no silver bullet, but it can give the party a sense of direction.

DATA POINT

How learning patterns changed in the last one year

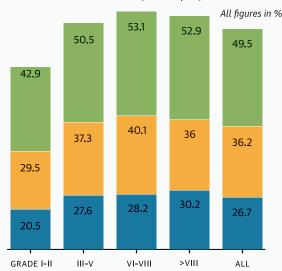
In September-October 2021, more than 18 months since India went into a COVID-19-induced lockdown for the first time, learning remained inaccessible to most schoolchildren. Among children whose schools had not yet reopened, about 60% had not received any learning materials, according to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER). Even among those schoolchildren who did receive learning materials, the education level of their parents played a vital role in their own education. The lower the education level of the parents, the smaller the share of students who had received learning materials. In 2021, more students picked up online learning, while the usage of traditional and broadcast methods remained mostly unchanged. However, the significant rise in schoolchildren taking online classes was driven by those whose parents had high or medium education levels. By The Hindu Data Team

■ STILL OUT OF REACH | The table lists the % of children who had received learning materials or activities from schools that were yet to reopen. In 2020, only 35.6% of children received learning materials. In 2021, the share has

only slightly improved to 39.8% All figures in 9											
Grade		2020		2021							
	Govt.	Pvt.	Total	Govt.	Pvt.	Total					
I-II	27.9	35.8	30.8	31.5	39.4	33.5					
III-V	33.7	40.4	35.8	39.2	46.9	41					
VI-VIII	35.4	42.7	37.4	41.1	50.7	43					
>VIII	34.8	43.4	37.3	36.4	53.9	40.6					
All	33.5	40.6	35.6	37.6	46.9	39.8					

The share of students of Grade >VIII in private schools who received learning materials increased by 10.5% points compared to students in government schools which saw a rise of 1.6%

■ PARENTAL EDUCATION | Among children whose parents were educated up to Grade V (low level, ___), only 26.7% had received materials. The share rose to 49.5% among children whose parents had completed at least Grade IX (high,) while it was 36.2% for others (medium, ---)



DISPARITY IN **ONLINE CLASSES** Among children whose parents were educated up to Grade V (low level), only 9.3% had been educated through online classes in 2021 when the survey was conducted

2020 Low 9.3 Medium 16.8 8.9 20 35 High The share rose to 35% among children whose parents had

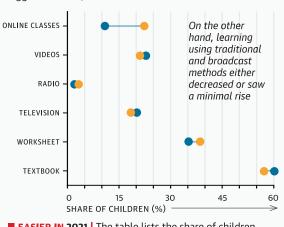
In %

completed at least Grade IX (high)



ge: Joshna Kumar, 12, studies from the notes provided by her teachers on WhatsApp, at the Delhi-Noida

■ SWITCHING TO ONLINE | The chart plots the type of materials used for learning by children in 2020 () and 2021(•). Learning through live online classes saw the biggest increase, from 11% in 2020 to 22.4% in 2021



■ EASIER IN 2021 | The table lists the share of children who were enagaged in online activities such as listening to recorded classes or playing games

	. , , , ,	111 %
GRADE	% children who did online activities	Of those % who found it easier to do than 2020
1-11	16.7	49.3
III-V	22.6	49.3
VI-VIII	25.7	50.2
>VIII	30.5	53.1
All	24.2	50.7

About one-fourth of students did online activities and among them, half said they found it easier to do these activities in 2021 compared to 2020

The Man Trindu. FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 25, 1971

U.S. feels Pindi charge exaggerated

Washington, Nov. 24: On the basis of reports from its own Intelligence channels the U.S. is understood to have concluded that regular units of the Indian Army have moved into East Bengal during the last 48 hours. Official sources here admit that Pakistani allegations that a full-scale attack by 12 or more Indian divisions is a gross exaggeration. Their estimate rather is that two or three Indian brigades have moved into East Bengal in Jesore sector to support a Mukti Bahini offensive. These officials are therefore not accepting Indian denials of absolute non-involvement in the fighting that has flared up in East Bengal. The U.S. assessment therefore is that while the present situation is far short of war, the prospect of such a conflict is now much nearer. Washington is therefore watching the situation to see how it develops before adopting any particular course of action. This is evident from the fact that neither the State Department nor the White House has until now called in either the Indian or Pakistani envoys here to express their concern – calls to the two countries to cool have so far only emanated from press spokesmen of the U.S. Government.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 25, 1921

Blacker than black-hole

"Humanity" writes: The Press Communique issued to-day states that the Mopilla prisoners were sent "in a luggage van similar to that in which such prisoners have been regularly conveyed hitherto, without any ill effect whatsoever." It would be very interesting in this connection to consider the information conveyed to us by your Calicut correspondent under date 22nd November 1921. In the absence of any more precise details regarding the dimensions of the van, let me take the figures furnished by him. The cubic space that has been allowed according to this report, for 127 (the Government's figures is 100 only E.D.H.) stalwart, healthy, human beings is found to be 1215 cubic feet (18-9-71/2 feet), thus allowing each individual a space of about 91/2 cubic feet. The comparison of this space, as liberally allowed by the powers that be, to those unfortunate brethren, with the dimensions of a 3rd class 8 seater compartment of the S.I.R. Boat Mail would help anyone to appreciate the sufferings these poor prisoners would have been subject to and would make one wonder, how even a single individual could have survived even an hour of the journey.

Centre's free foodgrain scheme on till March

Several other State Governments and political parties demanded an extension by the Centre, although Food Ministry officials said no direct request had been received, and Mr. Pandey insisted that the decision had not been taken with U.P. alone in mind.

This fifth phase of the scheme, from December 2021 to March 2022 will entail an estimated subsidy of ₹53,345 crore, with a total outgo of 163 lakh tonnes of grain, according to an offi-

most 600 lakh tonnes of grain allocated to States, at a subsidy cost of about ₹2.07 lakh crore. Mr. Pandey said that despite the higher outgo due to PMGKAY, the FCI's foodgrain reserves currently stand at a record 616 lakh tonnes and are expected to increase to 942 lakh tonnes by June 2022 following rabi season procurement, stretching FCI's storage capacities to their maximum

cial statement. The first four

phases have already seen al-

More hospital births, indicates NFHS-5

"This is a significant feat for the country's family-planning programme, which does not include coercive policies. These findings bust the population-explosion myth and show that India must steer away from coercive measures of population control. While the increase in the use of modern contraceptive methods is heartening, an increase in female sterilisation coupled with continued stagnation in male sterilisation uptake shows that the onus of family planning still lies with women," the Population Founof India, non-governmental organisation, said in a statement.

An overall survey of the major differences between the NFHS-5 and NFHS-4 suggests that the use of contraceptives has improved from 53.5% to 66.7% and institutional births increased from 78.9% to 88.6%. The proportion of children (12-23 months) who were fully vac-

cinated improved from 62%-76% and children under six months who were exclusively breastfed also showed a sharp improvement from 54.9% to 63.7%.

Though the gains in childhood nutrition were minimal, women and men (15-49) who had a below normal body mass index (BMI) each dropped roughly four percentage points.

Those overweight (or had a higher BMI than ideal) increased by around 4 percentage points. Abnormal BMIs are linked to an increase in obesity and other non-communicable diseases

India's battle with anaemia also appears to have faltered. The proportion of anaemic children (6-59 months) increased from 58% to 67%. Women aged 15-49 who were anaemic increased from 53% to 57% and men of the same age increased from 29% to 31% between both editions of the NFHS.

+ Trade unions want labour codes repeal

Speaking to The Hindu on October 28, Mr. Yadav said that 90% of the States had drafted their rules and that the Centre would complete the process at the "approoriate time". Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on November 19 that the three agriculture laws would be repealed led to renewed calls from trade unions for repeal of the labour codes too.

Amarjeet Kaur, general secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress, said the joint platform of 10 Central trade unionsmeet the leaders of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha to plan their course of action.

"We will intensify our protests to demand the re peal of the labour codes. The Government is only looking at elections. For the labour codes, they have failed to get the support of States and have the compulsion of the upcoming Assembly polls so they keep postponing the roll-out,"

case, the court said States

across the country have a

large number of criminal

cases pending against form-

er and sitting legislators, and

poll-bound Uttar Pradesh

ber of cases...the largest is in

your State," Chief Justice Ra-

mana addressed the counsel

appearing for the Allahabad

Court said there were more

than 1,300 criminal cases in

Uttar Pradesh against legis-

lators. Sixty-three Special

Courts have been constitut-

constituted for this purpose

[the trial of criminal cases

against former and sitting

MPs/MLAs] exclusively?"

the CJI asked the lawyer. Jus-

tice Surya Kant, on the Spe-

cial Bench, said the total

pendency of such cases in

the State was 1,374. "You

have not established a single

court exclusively for this

Justice Kant said existing

courts have been "labelled"

Special Courts.."Is it your in-

tention to drag on these cas-

es?" Chief Justice Ramana

asked. Over 4400 criminal

trials involving MPs and

MLAs have been pending

trial for several decades.

purpose," he said.

"Are these Special Courts

ed to hear these cases

The lawyer for the High

High Court.

"There are a large num-

may host the "largest".

Will you ban convicts from polls, SC asks Govt.

The Government had maintained that disqualification under the Representation of the People Act of 1951 for the period of prison sentence and six years thereafter was enough for legislators.

In a separate case, the apex court said States have a large number of criminal cases pending against former and sitting legislators, and poll-bound Uttar Pradesh may host the "largest".

But the Centre's stand in 2020 contradicts that of the Election Commission of India (ECI). In 2017, the top poll body had endorsed the call for a lifetime ban in the apex court. It had argued that such a move would "champion the cause of decriminalisation of politics". The ECI had then agreed in the Supreme Court that a ban would be in the spirit of fundamental rights of the Constitution, including the

right to equality. The petitioner, advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, urged the need for a level playing field. He said if a convicted person cannot be a government clerk, the same rule should apply to a politician."A person who cannot be a government clerk, can be a Minister," Mr. Upadhyay submitted.

Meanwhile, in a separate

'Militant behind school killings dead'

TRF 'commander', among 3 killed in Srinagar, had masterminded shooting of principal, teacher: police

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR In an operation by the police, three "militants" were killed in a busy market in an uptown area of Rambagh in Srinagar on Wednesday evening.

The police identified the dead as The Resistance Front "commander" Mehran Yaseen Shalla from Iamalatta here, Manzoor Ahmad Mir and Arafat Ahmad Sheikh from Pulwama.

According to the police, Shalla was behind the killing of Meeran Ali Sheikh, sub-inspector Arshad Ahmad, school principal Supinder Kour and teacher Deepak Chand in Srinagar.

Police ambush Witnesses said policemen,

many in plainclothes, had

Encounter site: Policemen inspecting a spot after three militants were killed in a shoot-out in Srinagar on Wednesday. • NISSAR AHMAD laid an ambush on the busy Lal Chowk-Rambagh route

Rambagh. Women were seen crying and raising slogans on the roadside, as the street was splashed with blood.

"A small team from the Srinagar police signalled a suspected Santro car to stop. However, the terrorists start-

while trying to flee under the cover of fire. The fire was, however, effectively retaliated," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said. He added that three mili-

ed firing indiscriminately,

tants were killed in the operation.

Several cases

Prior to joining the terror ranks, several cases regarding involvement in stonethrowing incidents were also registered against Shalla, the police said.

Sheikh was involved in the killing of a non-local labourer in the Litter area of Pulwama, they added.

The police said they recovered incriminating material, including arms and ammunition, from them, but did not provide details.

'Claims against former Minister only hearsay'

No first-hand information: Param Bir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh told a judicial commission that the allegations of corruption he made against former Home Minister of Maharashtra Anil Deshmukh were based on "hearsay".

Advocate Abhinav Chandrachud, on behalf of Mr. Singh, told a one-member committee of retired Justice K.U. Chandiwal that Mr. Singh did not have anything further to share in the matter. Mr. Singh, who has been

granted protection from arrest by the Supreme Court after a lower court declared him a "proclaimed offender", on Wednesday said he was in Chandigarh and would visit Mumbai soon.

Mr. Chandrachud on Tuesday said he would file an affidavit in a week and "it will say nothing more than what has already been said, which is that the information given to Mr. Singh was provided by some officers".

"He [Mr. Singh] has no

stantial change. It appears to

be getting serious again.. You

will have to take measures

for another three days," the

Chief Justice told the Govern-

The court clarified it had

no intention to dispose of

the case or stop monitoring

the pollution graph. If neces-

sary, it would hear the case

"almost every day", the

Iustice Chandrachud criti-

cised how the Government

waited for pollution to take a

turn for the worse before

scurrying to kick in pollution

The court urged the Go-

vernment to continue with

anti-pollution measures for

another three days. It listed

Bench underscored.

control measures.

ment.



Param Bir Singh

first-hand information of what transpired," the lawyer said.

He added that the information provided by Mr Singh, in that sense, was hearsay. "Even if he were to step into the witness box it would have no value in law because it would be what someone else told him. Therefore, he has nothing to depose.'

Two bailable warrants have been issued against Mr. Singh by the Chandiwal Commission. The commission was appointed on March 30 by the Maharashtra Government to inquire into the allegations made by Mr. Singh in a letter he wrote to the Chief Minister.





Pak. allows transportation of aid to Afghanistan ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Wednesday said it has formally informed India about its decision to allow the transportation of an Indian humanitarian shipment of 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat and life saving drugs to Afghanistan through its territory on an "exceptional basis for humanitarian purposes". Prime Minister Imran Khan made the announcement on

HC rejects Tejpal's plea for in-camera hearing

Monday. PTI

The Bombay High Court in Goa on Wednesday rejected a plea filed by former journalist Tarun Tejpal seeking in-camera hearing of a petition filed by the Goa Government challenging his acquittal in the 2013 rape case. A Division Bench was hearing an application filed by Mr. Tejpal citing the CrPC and an order passed by the High Court giving guidelines to cover cases of sexual harassment.

Retired SC judge must probe Amravati riots: BJP

The rioting that erupted in Malegaon, Amravati and should be investigated by a retired Supreme Court judge said BJP Maharashtra unit president Chandrakant Patil, while demanding that the State Government drop all charges against BJP activists arrested in connection with the violence

I-T Dept. detects ₹400 crore undisclosed income

The Income-Tax Department

NEW DELHI

has detected undisclosed income to the tune of about ₹400 crore during searches on two real estate groups based in and around Delhi. They are engaged in the construction of commercial and residential projects. On preliminary analysis of the data seized during the operation, the agency has found that these groups were receiving part of the consideration in cash against the sale of flats and the cash was not being recorded in the books of accounts.

'India first responder in Indian Ocean Region'

Rainath highlights unique position

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Time and again India has proved itself to be "first responder" in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), De-Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday while stating that the CO-VID-19 pandemic has reaffirmed the "centrality of multilateralism" in our interconnected world not only for matters of international security but also disaster management.

"India's unique position in the IOR, complemented by a capability of our armed forces, enables us to contribute significantly in Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) situations," said Mr. Singh while virtually inaugurating the 5th World Congress on Disaster Management.

"India has been regularly conducting exercises to deepen the HADR co-operation and coordination among our neighbours and friendly countries with a focus on sharing expertise and building capabilities," he said.

In this context, he re-

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The credit for loosening the

smog's choke on Delhi in the

past few days largely goes to

the wind, an "'act of God",

but the wind may die by the

end of the day to leave the

Capital again at the mercy of

pollution, Chief Justice of In-

dia N.V. Ramana told the Go-

the wind," the Chief Justice

Ramana addressed Solicitor-

General Tushar Mehta, for

the Centre. "It is what we

call in law an 'act of God,"

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

The Solicitor-General said

the ban on construction and

demolition activities had not

been extended in the Capi-

"We are saved because of

vernment on Wednesday.

NEW DELHI

ferred to some of the HADR missions in the IOR undertaken by India in recent years, including Operation Rahat in Yemen in 2015, cyclone in Sri Lanka in 2016; quake in Indonesia in 2019; Cyclone Idai in Mozambique and flooding and landslips in Madagascar in January

and opened fire upon the

men travelling in a car near

Challenging landscape Stating that we live in a challenging geo-political landscape where countries have to face, traditional and nontraditional threats including natural calamities which include pandemics like CO-VID-19, which has wreaked havoc in the last two years, Mr. Singh said, "We must look at cooperating more closely to strengthen international architecture for building structures to prevent and manage future dis-

He said benefits of cuttechnologies ting-edge emerging in the fields of space, communication, bioengineering, bio-medics and Artificial Intelligence should be shared with all.

appears before court SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Pragya Thakur

MUMBAI

Pragya Singh Thakur, the BJP MP from Bhopal and accused in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast that killed six and injured 101, appeared before the special Investigation National Agency (NIA) Court on Wednesday.

She told special judge P.R. Sitre that she had to be admitted to the Kokilalben Hospital. The court replied that she should be present when required. Ms. Thakur had also appeared before the same judge on January 4 after being given a "last chance" to come before the court. Then too, Ms. Thakur

had sought an exemption from physical appearance citing medical and security On June 7, 2019, Ms. Thakur had told the court that

she did not know anything about the blast. She was granted bail by the Bombay High Court on April 25, 2017 after the court held "prima facie, no

case was made out against

her".

SC reimposes Delhi construction ban

Court slams Govt. for delayed response, says measures should be ready

Webinar on career in business analytics

Series organised by The Hindu

STAFF REPORTER

A webinar on MBA/M.Sc. in analytics with work permit in 'U.S., Canada and Europe' will be held as a part of *The Hindu* EducationPlus Study Abroad Series presented by INSOFE at 6.30 p.m. on November 27.

INSOFE is a Data Science Education institute with world class research and consulting experience. It offers global masters programmes in data science and business analytics to students from diverse education disciplines. The webinar series, organised by The Hindu, aims to help graduates find the right career pathway.

Venkatesh Sunkad, Dean, Business Programs, IN-SOFE; Suzy Siegle, Provost and Executive Vice President, Professor of Management, Walsh College, U.S.A.; Maud Le Bars, South Asia Manager, Rennes

INS@FE MBA/MSC IN ANALYTICS WITH WORK PERMIT IN US, CANADA & EUROPE

and Robin Ritchie, Associate Dean, Professional Graduate Programs and Associate Professor, Marketing, Carleton University, Canada will speak as a part of the The discussion will be

School of Business, France;

moderated by Yashasvini Rajeshwar, Founder and CEO, AuxoHub.

To register for the webinar, visit: https:// bit.ly/INSE-DIT or scan QR Code





M ND-NDE

'Bangladesh pact example of mutual respect'

'Certain' countries are trying to alter status quo by force, says Naravane

Gasping for air: Anti-smog gun being used against air

tal. But the ban would be re-

imposed if the situation wor-

ban in Delhi-NCR as an inte-

rim measure. The court ne-

vertheless allowed non-pol-

luting activities related to

The court reimposed the

sened, he said.

pollution in New Delhi on Wednesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

DINAKAR PERI NEW DELHI

noted.

The historic land boundary agreement between India and Bangladesh has set a unique example on resolving border disputes through mutual negotiations at a time when "certain" countries are trying to alter the status quo by force, said Army chief General Manoj Naravane on Wednesday without naming

His comments come in the backdrop of continuing negotiations between India and China for disengagement and de-escalation towards ending the ongoing stand-off in eastern Ladakh.



Speaking at a seminar on 'India-Bangladesh: 50 years of friendship' organised by the Centre for Land Warfare Studies, Bangladesh High Commissioner Muhammad Imran noted that water shar-

ing was an "emotive issue" in Bangladesh and called for attention on resolving the outstanding issues. "The historic land boun-

construction like plumbing

and interior decoration to

continue. The Bench direct-

ed that funds collected as la-

bour cess for the welfare of

construction workers should

be paid for their subsistence.

"I think there is no sub-

dary agreement between our nations has set a unique example on how to resolve border disputes through mutual negotiations and a constructive outlook. This at a time when certain countries are trying to alter the status quo by force, bypassing traditional norms and protocols and with complete disregard to the territorial integrity of others," Gen. Na-

ravane said. "Such agreements as that between ours epitomises the three 'Ms' - Mutual respect, [mutual] trust and [mutual] commitment to the rulesbased order.'

India and Bangladesh have resolved both the land and maritime boundary issues by mutual agreement.

This year marks the diamond jubilee of the 1971 war and also 50 years of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Observing that there were issues in the bilateral relationship in the past, Mr. Imran said that under the present Government of Sheikh Hasina the relationship bet-"special ween the countries had made progress.

Assam employees to get leave to meet parents headed by Chief Minister Hi-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Assam Government has decided to grant its employees leave for four days on New Year to meet their parents or in-laws.

Employees whose parents or in-laws are not alive will not be entitled for this headquarters leave" from January 6-9, 2022, the State Cabinet on Wednesday. The Cabinet meeting was

manta Biswa Sarma decided

held for the first time in western Assam's Bongaigaon. Ministers, IAS and IPS officers posted in the State can also avail this leave but field workers, including police officers up to the rank of Superintendent of Police, cannot.

Constitution Day: Morcha plans big

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The BJP's SC Morcha will organise 20 big programmes covering nearly 150 Assembly segments in Uttar Pradesh, apart from several programmes in other States, to mark 'Constitution Day' from November 26 to December 6 (considered the death anniversary or 'Maha Parinirvan Diwas' of Constitution framer Dr. B.R. Ambedkar).

Sharing the details of the programmes, Lal Singh Arya, BJP's SC Morcha president, said starting on November 26, the day the Constitution was adopted by India, 'Samvidhan Gaurav Yatras' will be organised by the party workers across the country in all These districts. programmes will conclude on December 6.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP's headquarters in New Delhi, Mr. Arya said all district units of the party would organise programmes on Constitution Day in their respective offices. All these programmes will start by bowing in front of Constitution and B.R. Ambedkar, who drafted the Constitution, he said.

Asked about grammes organised in Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Arya said 20 big programmes had been planned in the State. Many of these will be addressed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Di-Sharma. programmes will span over 20 districts covering nearly 150 Assembly segments. Sources said special emphasis on these programmes will be on Dalit icon Ambedkar. His largesize portraits will be used in the public rallies.

Don't disturb federalism: Mamata to PM

In meeting with Modi, West Bengal CM demands rollback of the expanded jurisdiction of BSF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Centre must not disturb the federal structure, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee reportedly told Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday at a meeting in Delhi, flagging the expansion of the BSF's jurisdiction in the border States. Ms. Banerjee has been demanding that the amendment to the BSF Act be withdrawn immediately. The Union Home Ministry,

in a notification on October 11, amended the BSF Act of 1968 expanding its jurisdiction from 15 km to 50 km in border States. Though the BSF does not have policing powers, it can apprehend a suspect and conduct "preliminary questioning". The seized consignment or suspect has to be handed over to the local police within 24

West Bengal has a 2,216km border with Bangladesh, and the ruling Trinamool Congress contends that the extension of jurisdiction will



State interests: Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in New Delhi on Wednesday. • PTI

effectively bring nearly onethird of the State's territory under BSF control. Of the 23 districts in the State, nearly 10 will be affected. This would have an impact on 21 of the 42 Lok Sabha constituencies, which can have larger political implications.

Ms. Banerjee said she told the PM that if the law and order was solely a State subject and if this equilibrium was changed, then it would lead

to an obvious confrontation. "Our country has an established federal structure. We are not against the BSF, I respect all agencies. But law and order is a State subject. Giving more powers will lead to a confrontation," Ms. Banerjee told presspersons. She referred to incidents of recent encounters that the BSF has had in the State. "If

you need more power to

man the borders, then you

should ask for the State Government's help. But do not unnecessarily disturb the federal structure. This issue must be debated and the law must be withdrawn," she said.

Ms. Banerjee said she had invited the PM to inaugurate the Global Business Summit in West Bengal next year. She urged him to clear ₹96,000 crore in dues that the Centre

The Trinamool is trying to expand its footprint across the country and making a serious effort to dislodge the Congress from the position of the lead Opposition party. Asked if she will be meeting any other Opposition leaders, Ms. Banerjee said her Delhi visit was specifically to meet the Prime Minister.

No meet with Sonia

She snapped at reporters when asked why she was not meeting Congress president Sonia Gandhi, whose 10 Janpath house used to be a regular stop for her during every Delhi visit. "Why should I meet Sonia every time? It is not constitutionally mandat-

She said she had raised the issue of violence in Tripura where Trinamool workers were allegedly assaulted by BJP workers. On the Uttar Pradesh election, she said: "If Trinamool can help defeat the BJP in U.P., we will go... If Akhilesh [Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav] wants our help we will give."

12 Congress MLAs join Trinamool in Meghalaya

Former CM Mukul Sangma among them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Senior Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Meghalaya Assembly, Mukul Sangma, along with 11 other Congress legislators are said to have joined the All India Trinamool Congress late on Wednesday evening.

There was, however, no formal announcement by the MLAs as they are likely to hold a press conference in Meghalaya's capital Shillong on Thursday.

Trinamool Congress sources, however, confirmed the development. Mr. Sangma, along with his colleagues, submitted a joint letter to Speaker Metbah Lyngdoh, a source confirmed to The Hindu.

Principal Opposition

With this development, the Trinamool Congress will be the principal Opposition party in the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly even though it had not won any

seat in the 2018 Assembly

election in the State. The Congress that so far had 17 legislators will now

be reduced to only five

Among those who are said to have joined the Trinamool, eight MLAs, including former Chief Minister Mr. Sangma, are from the Garo Hills, while the remaining four legislators are

from the Khasi Jaintia Hills.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi had met Mr. Sangma and State Congress chief Vincent Pala in the first week of October in Delhi to resolve their differences. But the meeting clearly failed to prevent the former Chief Minister from switching over to the Trinamool.

In the 60-member Meghalaya Assembly, the National People's Party (NPP)-led coalition is in government.

The NPP is a part of the National Democratic Alliance in the Centre as well as an ally of the BJP in

On the draw



SIT defends investigation into 2002 Godhra riots cases

It calls allegations of a 'larger conspiracy' baseless

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Wednesday in the Supreme Court defended its investigation into the Godhra riots cases of 2002. Appearing before a Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said the SIT, which was appointed by the apex court, did a "thorough" job in probing the riots.

Mr. Rohatgi said the allegations of a "larger conspira-

cy" behind the riots was baseless. The role of every accused was looked into by the SIT. Accusations of "collaboration" by it were reckless, Mr. Rohatgi submitted. "There is no material to conclude that there was any other conspiracy than the cases that are being tried," the se-

He said several cases had been re-opened and investigated again. Chargesheets were filed.

nior advocate argued.

The senior lawyer said no

FIR had been registered on the basis of Ms. Jafri's complaint of a larger conspiracy.

In an earlier hearing, the apex court had observed that its September 12, 2011 order, had merely directed the SIT to "look into" the material brought forth by Ms. Jafri and file a final report before the magistrate court concerned in Gujarat.

Following the apex court order in 2011, the SIT had gone on to file a closure report in February 2012.

Congress, BSP **MLAs** join BJP in U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rebel Congress MLA from Rae Bareli Aditi Singh and BSP MLA from Azamgarh Vandana Singh joined the ruling BJP in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday.

UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi is the sitting MP from the Rae Bareli Lok Sabha constituency while SP president Akhilesh Yaday is the MP from Azam-Ms. Singh, after joining

the BJP, said she was inspired by the work of Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath.

MSP law required to tide over farm crisis: AIKS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh's farmers face higher losses in comparison to their counterparts in Kerala, Punjab and even Jharkhand, due to the current regime of patchy procurement at minimum support prices which are not comprehensive, according to the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS).

Problem remains

Farm unions are continuing their agitation calling for the ruling BJP to be voted out in Uttar Pradesh's upcoming Assembly election, arguing that while the repeal of farm laws will prevent future catastrophe, a new law guaranteeing comprehensive MSP rates for all farmers is need-



A banner at the site of protest at Singhu.

ed to deal with the current agrarian crisis.

"This struggle was never just about the repeal of the three black laws. The main problem is yet to be solved," Ashok Dhawale, president of the Communist Party of India-affiliated AIKS, said on Wednesday, explaining why protesters are not going home yet.

As part of the unions' Mission-Uttar Pradesh campaign, the AIKS claimed that the prevailing market price of paddy in Uttar Pradesh was just ₹1,100 a quintal, lower than the ₹1,960 per quintal rate set by the Centre

Across the country, only 8.6% of agricultural households cultivating paddy were able to sell their crop to a Government agency at the set MSP rate, the AIKS noted.

Several other major Uttar Pradesh crops do not benefit from the MSP regime at all, including potatoes, pulses

Cong. notice to Amarinder wife Preneet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Congress on Wednes day issued a show-cause notice to its Patiala MP Preneet Kaur, wife of the former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, seeking an explanation for her "antiparty activities".

Issuing the notice to Ms. Kaur, Congress leader Harish Choudhary, in-charge of party's Punjab affairs, wrote, "For the last many days, we are continuously receiving reports from Congress workers, MLAs, leaders from Patiala and the media about your antiparty activities."

In the notice, the Congress asked Ms. Kaur to explain her stand on the issue within seven days "otherwise the party will be forced to take necessary disciplinary action".

COAL - 92 / 2021-22, dt. 15.11.2021 Movement and handling of coal by rail-cum-sea route from the various collieries of Mahanadi coalfields Ltd through the load port of Paradip for the Thermal Stations of TANGEDCO



The 30th Convocation of Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, MP will be held in the month of December 2021. All Graduate, Post Graduate, Ph.D., D.Sc. and D.Litt. candidates (Regular) are requested to register themselves online for the award of Degree in the Convocation at University Website www.dhsgsu.ac.in_or dhsgu.mponline.gov.in from 20 November 2021 to 05 December 2021. Details can be seen on University Web Portal (www.dhsgsu.ac.in).

Controller of Examinations (I/c)

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072. India

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of Assistant Professor. Detailed advertisement, application form, API Score Excel Sheet can be downloaded from www.isec.ac.in. The last date for receiving applications is December 24, 2021 by 5.00 p.m.

S. Ashok Rao, Registrar

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE / CORRIGENDUM-B No: SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-09(B)/21-22 Road work @ SPP area" (T/C-21-042, Est. cost ₹60.42 Lakhs); "Misc civil works @ SPROB" (T/C-21-043, Est. cost

₹24.20 Lakhs). Sale period extended up to 06.12.2021. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग संभाग-भरतपुर

क्रमांकः ए.सी.ई./बी.टी.पी/निविदा/2021-22/डी-1685

निविदा सूचना संख्याः 12/2021-22

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से जिला करौली में सीआरआइएफ के अन्तर्गत कुल नं. 02 सड़कों का सुदृढ़ीकरण एवं नवीनीकरण कार्यों के निर्माण एवं की दोष निवारण अवधि, के लिये उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

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

NIB Code PWD2122A2187 UBN is: PWD2122WLOB10772 UBN is: PWD2122WLOB10773 (मेघराम मीना)

अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF **ENGINEER PHED REGION I JODHPUR** Tele-0291-2651750, E-Mail: rj_acejo@nic.in

DIPR/C/11765/2021

No ACE/Region I/Ju/Ar. Pali/2021-22/6954-62 Notice Inviting Bid (NIT No. 36/2021-22) Bids for following works are invited from interested bidders up to 6.00 pm of S. NIT No. No. Work Description Estimated Unique Bid Cost (Rs. (UBN) Execution of 9 Nos. RWSS (26 villages) of Sub Division Marwar Junction WLOB09205

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http:// eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in of the state and PHED de-

ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER DIPR/C/11769/2021 PHED REGION (I) JODHPUR

KERALA STATE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM, VIKASBHAVAN P.O. THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-33.

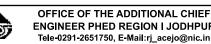
Tender No. KSSTM A2/1829/21

Tender ID No. 2021 KSSTM 455484 **E-TENDER NOTICE** E-Tenders under single cover system are invited by the Director, Kerala State Science & Technology Museum from reputed Supply

of actual working and cut section models in automobile industry. PAC - Rs. 15,00,000/- (INR). EMD - Rs. 15,000/- (INR). Last date of submission of E-Tender: 8/12/2021, 3 PM. Date & time of opening of Tender: 10/12/2021, 3 PM.

Price of bid documents: Rs. 1500/- + 18% GST (Rs. 1770) For further details visit www.kstmuseum.com Kerala govt e-tender portal

RO/01969/d3/2021/I&PRD **DIRECTOR**



ENGINEER PHED REGION I JODHPUR Tele-0291-2651750, E-Mail:rj_acejo@nic.in No.ACE/Region I/Ju/Ar. Pali/2021-22/7325-32

Notice Inviting Bid (NIT No.38-41/2021-22) Bids for following works are invited from interested bidders up to 6.00 pm of

S.	NIT No.	Work	Estimated	Unique
No.		Description	Cost (Rs. In	
			Lacs)	(UBN)
1	38/	WORK OF CONVERSION OF P&T TO PIPED	264.18	PHE2122
	2021-22	WATER SUPPLY SCHEME BORIMADA		WSOB
		MAYLAGUDA BLOCK MARWAR JUNCTION,		09545
		DISTRICT PALI UNDER JJM INCLUDING O		
		AND M FOR FIVE YEARS		
2	39/	WORK OF CONVERSION OF P&T TO PIPED	324.01	PHE2122
	2021-22	WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES OF VILLLAGES		WSOB
		GUDA CHATURA-BHAGORA ASAN		09547
		JODHWAN, BLOCK MARWAR JUNCTION,		
		DISTRICT PALI UNDER JJM INCLUDING O		
		AND M FOR FIVE YEARS		
3	40/	WORK OF CONVERSION OF JJY TO PIPED	540.06	PHE2122
	2021-22			WSOB
		VOPARI-NIMBLIMANDA, BLOCK MARWAR		09548
		JUNCTION, DISTRICT PALI UNDER JJM		
		INCLDING O AND M FOR FIVE YEARS		
4	41/	WORK OF CONVERSION OF REGIONAL	401.17	PHE2122
	2021-22	WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES KARWADA,		WSRC
		BLOCK MARWAR JUNCTION, DISTRICT PALI		09549
	1	UNDER JJM INCLUDING O AND M FOR FIVE		

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc

(SAVE WATER- SAVE LIFE) (VINOD BHARTI) ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER PHED REGION (I) JODHPUR DIPR/C/11813/2021

3 lakh COVID victims in Gujarat: Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of the 2022 Assembly election in Gujarat, the Congress on Wednesday launched a campaign that challenges the "Gujarat Model". The party alleged that three lakh people died of COVID-19 in the State and demanded ₹4 lakh as compensation for kin of

Termed the "Congress Nyay Campaign", the short video has former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi assuring people that his party will make sure the kin of the victims receive compensation. He also urged people to register themselves on www.4lakhdenahoga.com. He said the Government had acknowledged only 10,000 deaths.

the victims.



In nostalgia trip, RJD leader drives first vehicle he owned

AMARNATH TEWARY

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad on Wednesday drove a jeep, his first vehicle, down memory lane and later inaugurated a 11foot 'lantern' (the party's symbol) at the party's headquarters in Patna. Mr. Prasad also praised his heir apparent and younger son Tejashwi Yadav for steering the party to a great height.

"After several years, l drove my first vehicle. In this world everyone is a driver in some way or another. May the vehicle of love, harmony, equality, prosperity, peace, patience, justice and happiness in everyone's life keep running with joy by



his first vehicle, in Patna on Wednesday. • PTI "I used to drive this vehitaking everyone along," cle with the then Chief Mi-

tweeted Mr. Prasad in Hindi along with the video of him driving the jeep.

while sitting beside me kept Clad in a white vest and telling me that I drive fast dhoti, Mr. Prasad, 73, looked and well. It was his way to tell me to drive slowly," Mr. composed while driving the vehicle. Prasad recalled with a smile.



nister Karpoori Thakur who

provide FHTCs and associated work ear defect liability Period. (SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE) (Vinod Bharti)

Private vaccine stocks near expiry date

Experts call for administering COVID-19 booster dose to frontline workers and those at higher risk

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN NEW DELHI

Private hospitals in States such as Gujarat and Jharkhand could face wastage of COVID-19 vaccines as stocks approach the expiry date, Girdhar Gyani, director-general of the Association of Healthcare Providers (India),

By the association's survey, such a situation can arise as early as December if a mechanism to remedy this is not immediately put in

"This is happening in the private healthcare sector. We are getting news from other parts of the country also about vaccine stocks nearing expiry date. The Union Health Ministry has given us this understanding that they may export the excess stock to prevent waste. We have approached the Ministry ask-



Virus shield: Health workers during a door-to-door vaccination drive in Siliguri, West Bengal. • AFP

ing it to direct manufacturers to take back the excess stock and also look into making booster dose available for healthcare workers who were vaccinated early this year," Mr. Gyani said.

According to the Health Ministry, the States and the Union Territories have more than 21.65 crore balance and

unutilised vaccine doses. Earlier, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation had agreed to extend Covaxin's shelf life to 12 months from the manufacturing date.

The existing shelf life is nine months, which is same as that of Covishield. The creased from six to nine

Millions of doses

Harsh Mahajan, president, NATHEALTH, a healthcare body which raises issues on access and quality of healthcare, said it was presumed that there was unused stock of between five and 10 million doses in the private sec-

This stock would possibly

start expiring from January or February 2022. Dr. Mahajan added that in case the expert committee of the Government decided that a booster dose was necessary, then this stock could be used for boosters for healthcare and frontline workers and those who were at higher risk. "The objective should be to minimise wastage of this precious resource," he

Bishnu Panigrahi, group head, Medical Strategy and Operations, Fortis Healthcare, said that while his hospital continued to administer vaccines across all its centres in India, the daily footfall was low. "So looking at this, we are ordering in a prudent manner, so that we are never overstocked. We are reviewing our vaccine stocks on a regular basis. We are also actively reaching out to people to take their second dose," he said

Stating that it was important to coordinate the production, storage, cold chain and distribution of vaccines, Rajeev Jayadevan, member, national, Indian Medical Association task force on coronavirus and deputy medical director of Sunrise Hospitals, Kochi, said any imbalance in this process could lead to

Centre raises concern over fall in COVID-19 testing rates

Health Ministry writes to 13 States and Union Territories

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday expressed concern over declining weekly COVID-19 testing rates in Nagaland, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Kerala, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Ladakh, and directed the 13 States and Union Territories to rectify the "worrying trend".

The Ministry, in a letter, noted that in the absence of sustained levels of sufficient testing, it was difficult to determine the true extent of the spread of the infection.

With many countries witnessing surges in COVID-19 cases despite high levels of vaccination, there was a



A health worker collecting swabs in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

need for continued vigil, given the unpredictable and contagious nature of the disease, it said. "Hence, all efforts must be implemented to preserve the gains made so far and to prevent deterioration of COVID scenario across the country," the letter said.

According to data released by the Ministry, Naga-

land reported 342 average daily tests in the week ending November 22. This is in stark contrast to the 1,250 average daily tests conducted in the period August 23-29. The Ministry further said that worrying trends with regards to tests, tests per million, positivity rate and higher dependence on rapid antigen tests had been observed in various districts of the State.

"Also, with the onset of winter and increased pollution in some States, prevalence of ILI/SARI and respiratory distress symptoms should be closely monitored, with tests conducted regularly for timely monitoring and clustering of cases for early hotspot identifica-

Normal international flights very soon: Govt.

Restrictions on the number of flights have led to fares soaring, say airlines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

International flights are likely to be normalised before 2021-end, Rajiv Bansal, Secretary, Civil Aviation Ministry, said on Wednesday.

India banned scheduled international flights from March 22, 2020. Over the past 18 months, however, it has entered into "air bubble" arrangements with 31 countries under which a limited number of flights are permitted with several restrictions.

Scheduled international flights are likely to resume "very soon" and "by the end of this year", Mr. Bansal told reporters. Several airlines,



Out of reach: Only a limited number of flights are available under the 'air bubble' arrangement with 31 countries. • AP

embassies, tour operators and travel agents have appealed to the Government to allow pre-COVID capacity as restrictions on the number of flights under "air bubbles" have led to fares soaring. For example, as per the agreement with Dubai, its airlines Emirates and flydubai are allowed only 4,800 seats per day, or 33,600 seats per week, whereas they were allowed 65,200 flights per week before the pandemic under the bilateral air service agreement. As a result, airlines say, the capacity has come down to half on the India-Dubai route leading to doubling of fares to ₹40,000-₹45,000.

As different Ministries sit down to chalk out a strategy to reopen flights, the key focus will be on ensuring safety of health. "I am all for regaining our space in the civil aviation arena and making a hub in India and for more wide-bodied aircraft. We will get there but bear with me and trust me, I am on your side. We will work together but in a safe environment," Mr. Bansal said.

(With inputs from PTI)

Railways to resume cooked food service on premium trains

Zonal Railways directed to verify the catering charges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With things gradually returning to pre-pandemic normalcy, the Indian Railways has decided to restore catering services with cooked food on premium trains such as Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto, Vande Bharat, Tejas and Gatiman.

As per the order issued by the Railway Board on December 23, the Zonal Railways will verify the catering charges to be realised based on services being provided and the applicable rate list and feed the same in the PRS software for enabling booking or opting out of catering services, from advanced reservation period (ARP) date, at the time of booking of

For PNRs already booked, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will intimate the Zo-Railway concerned about the exact date from which onboard catering services with cooked food will be resumed on a particular train for the journeys falling within the ARP. The order added that the Zonal Railways on getting such intimation will enable the option of booking meal or opting out of catering services for the journey dates starting from the commencement of catering service in the PRS.

The Board also directed the IRCTC to inform passengers who have already booked e-tickets through SMS and email regarding resumption of cooked food

6 firms apply for nod for PMO project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Six construction firms, including three majors that have been awarded other Central Vista projects, have applied for pre-qualification for the construction of the new "executive enclave" that will include the Prime Minister's Office, according to Central Public Works Department (CPWD) sources Wednesday.

The CPWD had invited

pre-qualification bids for the ₹1,171 crore project on November 9, with Wednesday being the day for opening bids. A senior CPWD official said Tata Projects, Shapoorji Pallonji & Company and Larsen and Toubro, which have already won the contracts for the new Parliament, Central Vista Avenue redevelopment and three buildings of the Common Central Serespectively, cretariat, were among the firms that applied. The official said NCC Ltd., PSP Projects and Ahluwalia Contracts were the other firms that applied. Once the pre-qualification process was complete, the qualified firms would be asked to submit financial bids.

The project would include construction of a PMO, a conference facility, the Cabinet Secretariat and the National Security Council Secretariat on a plot located near South Block. The CPWD had said the executive enclave would be "designed to improve potency and functioning through carefully planned formation of different departments with supporting facilities".

UAE seeks exemption from air bubble

Envoy cites Dubai expo rush, says passenger footfall will double if curbs are lifted

Kolkata police summon **OSD to Tripura CM**

IN BRIEF

The Kolkata Metropolitan Police have registered a case against Sanjay Mishra, Officer on Special Duty to Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb. He has been asked to appear before the investigating officer on Thursday.

Man held on terror charges to be moved to AIIMS

The family of research scholar Atig-ur-Rehman, one of those arrested in Mathura on terror charges while going to Hathras following the gang rape and murder of a Dalit girl last year, said on Wednesday that he was being admitted to the AIIMS in New Delhi for treatment of a cardiac



rates has asked India to reconsider its restricted "air travel bubble" arrangement started during the pandemic, and to make a special exception for it during the expo that runs until March 31, Ambassador Ahmed Al-Banna said here on Wednesday.

"If you try and book a flight from any airport in India to the UAE – Dubai, Abu Dhabi or Sharjah – it is close to impossible to find a seat easily. We are working on that and we hope to finalise something with the Indian authorities," Mr. Al-Banna told reporters during a briefing on the expo which falls within the UAE's "Golden Ju-



Ahmed Al-Banna

"We have asked the Government to exempt us from those restrictions during the expo but are yet to receive any green light."

He said at present the UAE national carriers – Emirates and Etihad – were travelling at only 30% of their capacity, and the number of passengers travelling "would double" if India lifted the "bubble" restrictions. This would also help those trying to visit the expo that began on October 1, which, officials said, received about 41 lakh visits,

including about 3.9 lakh visits to the India Pavilion.

Iaishankar visit

The problem over flight capacity is also likely to figure in the bilateral conversations as External Affairs Minister S. laishankar is expected to travel to Abu Dhabi next week to address the "Indian Ocean Region" Conference on December 4-6.

This will be Mr. Jaishankar's second visit in two months, after he visited the expo and met the UAE leadership on November 13-14. Speaking about the newly launched India-Israel-UAE-U.S. quadrilateral at the time, Mr. Jaishankar said there would be an in-person ministerial meeting of what is being called the "West Asian Quad" in the next few weeks.

To questions on the new

Quad, Mr. Al-Banna said the 'Quadrant" is not a strategic collaboration. "We have emphasised that the Quadrant is an economic arrangement between the four countries. I read articles that said this was about ... creating a second NATO ... that doesn't make any sense. This will concentrate on business and economic collaborations."

He said preparations were under way on teams that would work on the various issues identified for cooperation, to be followed by a ministerial meeting.

Mr. Al-Banna also said he hoped that the India-UAE negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) would be concluded in the next few months, possibly even before March 2022, which would give a fillip to bilateral trade, investment and travel.

Tension brewing on Assam-Arunachal border

Dispute with Meghalaya to be resolved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Assam has moved closer to resolving its decades-old boundary dispute with Meghalaya, but tension has been brewing on its Arunachal Pradesh frontier.

Miscreants allegedly fired at Assam forest officials on November 23 in the Ronga Reserve Forest of the State's Lakhimpur district. The spot is near the Arunachal Pradesh border.

On November 20, a team of Assam forest officials was detained by allegedly illegal settlers from Arunachal Pradesh in the forest. They were later rescued by the Assam police.

The Lakhimpur district police officials said a joint operation was on with their Arunachal Pradesh counterparts to apprehend the miscreants. The firing coincided with

the visit of the members of the border committees of Assam and Meghalaya to various areas of difference along the inter-State boundary. These areas included Hawla, Lyngkhung, Jimbrigaon, Boklapara and Patgaon villages on the border of Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya) and Kamrup (Assam) districts. Things have not been

quiet on Assam's border with Mizoram too. Forest officials in southern Assam's Hailakandi district have flagged a 3.5-km road being built by Mizoram inside a reserve forest in Assam despite the Centre's advisory against construction in disputed areas along the inter-State boundary.

TH CROSSWORD+ 13411

13 American soldiers entering welcome treaty (9)



Type your answers in our online grids! @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

Display keystrokes of genius.



15 Chase people (4)

16 Story of son succeeding king in musical composition (4) 17 A sacred book with heavyweight describing India's struggle (9)

21 In the US, say red party captures a state (8)

22 Icons of Italy playing games (6) 24 Swamps in planet earth trapping Hydrogen and Sulphur (10)

26 Scolding eschewing capital punishment (6) 27 Army so responsibly protects city (6)

1 Knight backs Arthur, perhaps taking a chance (7)

2 Mufflers essentially in fashion (5)

3 Cry from demand by divorcee? (7)

5 Fall from a bus tour many take regularly (6) **6** Perpetual tax saved by current worker (9)

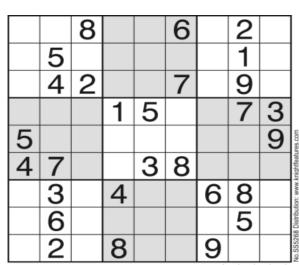
7 Jack only got shellfish (7) 8 Area for shooting thin gun (7,6)

14 Lost great player during finale (9)

18 Craving voyeurs finally entertained by XXX (7)

19 Several obey unexpectedly, thus supervise ably (7) 20 A long line distributing volume of liquid (6)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13410 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★公公

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В	R	Α	z	О	Ξ		т	0	Α	Ν	۵	F	R	0	7	3	6	5	2	Ω	1	1	a
С		Н		Τ		Q		Х		Е		R		Е		J	U	J	_	0	7		9
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FAITH

Bhakti in Kali Yuga

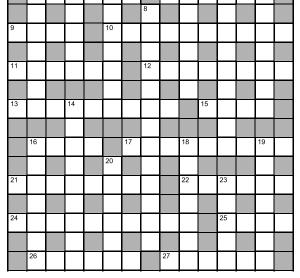
In the depiction of Krishna avatar in the Bhagavata Purana, many people get the chance to move with Him closely and experience His presence. They are attracted to Him and express their devotion in their individual ways. Among them Uddhava, a kinsman and great devotee of Krishna, is described as one who is also most dear to the Lord. At the end of His avatar, when Krishna has to depart, Uddhava is unable to bear the thought of being separated from Him and voices his many concerns to the Lord, pointed out Sri Dushyanth Sridhar in a discourse.

The Supreme Lord, the embodiment of Sat-chit-ananda. is beyond form and name; yet He came down to earth in human form for the sake of His devotees.

Now, without Krishna's protection what would be the fate of people in Kali Yuga when cruelty is sure to hold full sway, asks Uddhava. Krishna should not leave the earth, for even good people shall feel the adverse influences of Kali Yuga. In the Bhagavata Mahatmya, it is held that the Lord started to think deeply on what Uddhava said and then decided to assimilate all His powers and essence into the text Bhagavata Purana. Krishna tells Uddhava that one who has intense love for Him and constantly remembers Him with love and devotion is sure to get liberated from samsara. He can attain wha-

Bhakti helps to initiate the thoughts of the Lord in people and by listening to the purana or by reading it one gradually begins to feel the presence of the Lord in the text. The purana gives mental strength to people in Kali Yuga to overcome the power of Maya that distorts one's understanding of Truth. It removes the sins of people and helps them to win over the passions of lust and anger.

M ND-NDE



ACROSS

1 Commotion from one held-up in court? (6) 9 Emperor shoots arrogant guards (4)

4 Rain storms crossing in the morning around harbour (6)

10 Say crab cactus, near rocks (10)

12 Reverend airing sticky stuff with kid in scheduled hour (4,4)

11 "Harischandra" initially screened from machine projecting movie

16 Chant following saint with a Church organ (7)

23 German car with zero sound (5)

Chinese firms eye Afghanistan's lithium

With Taliban nod, companies have begun 'inspections' of possible projects to tap lithium deposits

A number of Chinese companies have already begun "onsite inspections" of possible projects to tap lithium deposits in Afghanistan, having received the green light to do so from the Taliban regime, according to a report in the Chinese state media on Wednesday.

Lithium is one of many resources in Afghanistan present in large deposits but as yet untapped, largely because of years of political instability and the lack of infrastructure. A Chinese company secured the rights to mine one of the world's biggest copper reserves in Afghanistan at Aynak more than a decade ago, but has not yet begun work on extraction.

While Chinese firms are aware of the risks and pitfalls, they have not wasted time scouting out potential deposits of lithium, a valuable resource for a range of industries from electric cars to



Untapped market: Taliban members atop military vehicles in Kabul earlier this month. ■ REUTERS

energy storage systems.

A report on Wednesday in the Communist Party-run newspaper Global Times, citing Chinese businessmen, said, "Representatives of several Chinese companies have arrived in Afghanistan on special visas and are conducting on-site inspections of potential lithium projects, while others have made contacts about such projects."

The visas were obtained from Afghan authorities "after coordination between the China Arab Economic

and Trade Promotion Committee in Kabul and Afghanistan's Mining Ministry" with "representatives of five Chinese companies" arriving in early November "to conduct on-site inspections", Yu Minghui, who heads the trade promotion committee, told the newspaper.

Besides the five companies present in Afghanistan, another "at least 20" stateowned and private firms had made inquiries about lithium projects, the committee said. Mr. Yu said company representatives were "most concerned about basic guarantees of security and social order in Afghanistan", but also "praised the Afghan Taliban's friendliness toward

Chinese investors". The Taliban Government has said it would welcome Chinese investment and support President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, and was also open to extending the China-Pakistan Econom-Mr. Wang "expressed Chiic Corridor (CPEC)

Security situation

Afghanistan.

The security situation, not to mention a dire economic crisis including food shortages, are among the many challenges. Chinese media reported that on Saturday, a train carrying 1,000 tonnes of humanitarian aid was sent to Afghanistan from China's western Xinjiang region. "The problem is to ensure safety," Zhou Shijian, former vice president of the China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals and Chemicals Importers and Exporters, told the newspaper. "If safety is not guaranteed, the gain will not be worth the

Last month, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with acting Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar in Doha, who assured Beijing that "a friendly policy towards China" was "a firm choice" by the Taliban.

na's willingness to continue to provide humanitarian aid to Afghanistan within its capacity and work with the international community to help Afghanistan alleviate temporary difficulties and realise economic reconstruction as well as independent development", the Chinese Foreign Ministry said then. Mr. Wang in September had announced China would "urgently provide 200 million yuan [\$30.96 million] worth of grains, winter supplies, vaccines, and medicines to Afghanistan" as well as 3 million vaccines.

31 migrants dead after boat capsizes

REUTERS

At least 31 people died on Wednesday after their dinghy capsized while crossing the English Channel from France to Britain, in the worst disaster on record involving migrants in the waters separating the countries.

More migrants left France's northern shores than usual to take advantage of calm sea conditions on Wednesday, according to fishermen.

One fisherman called the rescue services after seeing an empty dinghy and people floating motionless nearby.

Franck Dhersin, deputy head of regional transport and mayor of Teteghem on the northern French coast, said the death toll had reached 31 and that two people were still missing.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he was "shocked and appalled" by the deaths.

German parties reach deal for coalition Govt.

Agreement to end Angela Merkel's era

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three German parties have reached a deal to form a new Government that will end the era of longtime Chancellor Angela Merkel, according to Olaf Scholz, who is poised to replace her.

Mr. Scholz, of the centreleft Social Democrats, said he expects that members of the parties would give their blessing to the deal in the next 10 days. At a press conference, Mr.

Scholz and other leaders gave some indications of how the coalition would govern. Among the first measures agreed: compulsory COVID-19 vaccinations in places where particularly vulnerable people are cared for, with the option of expanding that rule.

This comes as Germany is seeing a surge in cases, and the political transition has somewhat hampered the country's response. Mr. Scholz also stressed the im-



Olaf Scholz

portance of a sovereign Europe, friendship France and partnership with the United States as key cornerstones of the Government's foreign policy - continuing a long post-war tra-

The new Government would not seek "the lowest common denominator, but the politics of big impacts", Mr. Scholz promised.

The Social Democrats have been negotiating with the Greens and the pro-business Free Democrats since narrowly winning a national election on September 26.

Erdogan hosts Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince

Visit seeks to repair tense relations

ASSOCIATED PRESS ANKARA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is hosting Dhabi's powerful Crown Prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, on Wednesday, as Turkey and the United Arab Emirates seek to repair their tense relations and increase economic cooperation.

The visit by the Crown Prince, seen as the de facto leader and the force behind the UAE's foreign policy posture, is his first official trip to Turkey since 2012, and the highest-level visit by

an Emirati official since relations hit a low. His brother who is the UAE National Security Adviser, Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, visited Turkey in August as the first step toward mending ties. The fallout between Ankara and Abu Dhabi reverberated across Asia, resulting in a proxy conflict in Libya as well as tensions in the Gulf and in the eastern Mediterranean. Tensions also played out on social media, with jabs and taunts by officials, statealigned accounts and Go-

Sri Lanka Cabinet clears China's role in terminal project

Island nation ropes in Chinese firm for second phase

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Sri Lanka has decided to rope in China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) to construct the second phase of the Colombo Port's East Container Terminal (ECT), which was earlier to be developed jointly by Sri Lanka, India and Japan, until Colombo reneged on a 2019 trilateral agreement.

In a Cabinet decision taken on Tuesday, Colombo approved the development



Boosting ties: Colombo Port's East Container Terminal.

in stages, to be "totally operated" by the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

Prominent Sri Lankan firm Access Engineering and CHEC have won the bid to construct the facility, the Deformation said in a state-

CHEC, a subsidiary of the state-owned China Communications Construction Company, is already involved in strategic infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka, including City coming up near Galle Face - the capital's iconic seafront – and a four-lane elevated highway connecting Colombo's suburbs, with a near-\$1-billion investment. The terms of the highway deal allow the state-run Chinese firm to own and run the highway for 15 years before transferring ownership to Sri

With the ECT development project now, China's role in Sri Lanka's ports – China Merchants Port Holdings Company already holds majority stakes at the southern Hambantota Port as well as the Colombo International Container Terminal at the

the \$1-billion Colombo Port — Colombo Port — has further increased.

> **Limited to civil works** CHEC's role at the ECT appears limited to civil works, according to sources familiar with the tendering process. The Ministry of Port and Shipping, in its invitation for international bids, said only firms with a domestic majority ownership – over 51% of the state held by Sri Lankan nationals – were eligible to participate. The ECT's development would require construction of an additional 700-metre-long quay wall and infrastructure around it, that was earlier estimated to cost at least \$700 million.

While India and Japan had earlier agreed to bring in the investment, involving India's Adani Group, the Rajapaksa administration in February scrapped the deal signed by the former Sirisena-Wickremesinghe Government with New Delhi, citing resistance from port worker unions, and the Adani Group's refusal to agree to the terms set by Sri Lanka. India and Japan were quick to express their displeasure. Within weeks, Sri Lanka offered the West Container Terminal development project at the same port to the Adani Group, with no known tendering process, in what Colombo called "a compromise"

Haffkine

U.S. President invites Taiwan to online meet on democracy

China says it 'firmly opposes' inclusion of island

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

U.S. President Joe Biden has invited Taiwan to a virtual summit on democracy alongside more than 100 countries – a move that sparked indignation from China, which is not on the list.

Taiwan thanked Mr. Biden for the invitation and said the gathering would be a rare opportunity for the self-ruled democracy to burnish its credentials on the world stage. "Through this summit, Taiwan can share its democratic success story," Presidential Office spokesperson Xavier Chang told

China said it "firmly opposed" the inclusion of an island it regards as "an inalienable part of Chinese territory". Beijing claims self-ruled Taiwan as part of its territory to be retaken one day, by force if necessarv. The global conference was a campaign pledge by the U.S. President, who has placed the struggle between democracies and "autocratic Governments" at the heart of his foreign policy. The 'Summit for Democracy' will take place online on December 9 and 10 ahead of an in-person meeting at its second edi-

tion next year. The meeting was long advertised, but the guest list – published Tuesday on the U.S. State Department's website - will be closely scrutinised. The U.S.'s main rivals,

IN BRIEF



Joe Biden

China and Russia, are not on it.

The invitation is a major coup for Taipei at a time when Beijing is ramping up its campaign to keep Taiwan locked out of international bodies. Only 15 countries officially recognise Taipei over Beijing, although many nations maintain de facto diplomatic relations with the island. The U.S. does not recognise Taiwan as an independent country, but it holds it up as a rare model of progressive democracy in Asia and maintains it as a crucial regional ally. It opposes any change to Taiwan's status by force. China balks at any use of the word "Taiwan" or diplomatic gestures that might lend a sense of international legitimacy to the island. Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said it would be represented at the summit by its de facto U.S. Ambassador Bi-khim Hsiao and Digital Minister Audery Tang, who is one of the world's few openly transgender national politicians.

Andersson becomes

first woman Prime

Minister of Sweden

Sweden's Parliament elected Finance Mi-

nister Magdalena Andersson as the coun-

try's first woman Prime Minister on Wed-

nesday, hours after she clinched a

last-minute deal that gave her victory by

er of the Social Democrats earlier this

month, reached a deal with the Left Party

late on Tuesday to raise pensions in ex-

change for its backing in Wednesday's

The 54-year-old, who took over as lead-

the slimmest of possible margins.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

vote in Parliament.

: 30.11.2021 to 16.12.2021 Up to 5.45 PM Tender Schedule Available Date : 17.12.2021 at 3.30 PM

Total No. of Works

Tender System Total Approximate Value of Works

Pre Qualification Tender (Two cover system) : Rs. 9658.00 Lakh For further details and tender documents visit the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in and

: 1 (One)

Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C & M) Circle, Madurai



Short Re-E-tender No.: TNCSC/21-22/ ET-35 Online electronic tender for " PURCHASE OF 400 LAKH NUMBERS OF FORTIFIED RBD PALMOLEIN OIL 1 LITRE POUCHES (910 gms) Complete e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/tncsc and also available in

www.tenders.tn.gov.in The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of

For Registration and further details contact MSTC LIMITED, Phone: 25222842 / 25251910 / 25261005 e-Mail: mstcsro@mstcindia.co.in ast Date for Online Submission: upto 11.00 A.M on 03.12.2021.

MANAGING DIRECTOR தந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாத

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU Department of Prisons and Correctional Services No.35800/IC.2/2021 **Tender Notification** Dated:20.11.2021 1. For details, visit www.tenders.tn.gov.in 2. Tender are invited by the Director General of Police / Director General of Prison and Correctional Services, Chennai - 8 for the supply of raw materials and other miscellaneous articles required for prison industries for the year 2022-2023. 3. The Tender documents can be downloaded at free of cost in the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in from 25.11.2021 to 4. Last date and Time for downloading and submission of Tender Documents i. Last Date and time for downloading of Tender Documents 23.12.2021 upto 05.00 P.M. 24.12.2021 upto 03.00 P.M. ii. Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents iii. Last Date and Time opening of Tender Documents 24.12.2021 upto 04.00 P.M. 5. Other details are available in Tender Documents Director General of Police / Director General of Prison and Correctional Services DIPR/3512/Tender/2021 சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B), NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR E-mail: seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com

Bid Identification No.S.E.E.C (R&B) 10/2021-22

No. 2422 / Date 23.11.21

The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for E.I. works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in: https://tendersorissa.gov.in. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 5.00 P.M. of 30.11.2021 to 5:00 P.M. of 15.12.2021. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at 11:30 A.M. of 16.12.2021 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR. OIPR-34006/11/0010/2122



HAFFKINE BIO-PHARMACEUTICAL **CORPORATION LTD.**

(Govt.of Maharashtra Undertaking) Acharya Donde Marg, Parel, Mumbai-400012, Maharashtra, India

Phone No.022-24129320-22, 022-24150628 Email:- gad@vaccinehaffkine.com

VACANCY

An UN accredited Govt, of Maharashtra Undertaking Company is engaged in the manufacturing of life saving their Parel unit

- 1	OI.140.	Ivallie of 1 ost	NO. OI Vacancies
ſ	1.	Manager (Quality Assurance)	01
ſ	2.	Manager (Quality Control Biological)	01
ſ	3.	Manager (Marketing)	01
ſ	4.	Manager (Accounts)	01
	5.	Plant Engineer	01

For detailed information such as Educational Qualifications, Age, Experience, last date of submission of application, general terms and conditions etc. is available on the "Circular" page on company's website i.e. www.vaccinehaffkine.com/circular, Recruitment on above posts will be on permanent basis.

Application should be submitted in hard copy by post/by hand along with relevant documents within 25 days of this advertisement on following address. The Managing Director

Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd Acharya Donde Marg, Parel, Mumbai - 400 012 DGIPR/2021/2022/ 2855

Managing Director Material Manager Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd Acharya Donde Marg, Parel, Mumbai- 400 012

Sd/-



ı		Name of work	Estimated Contract	Earnest Money	render processing	Date of Release of	Last date /time
	No		Value (ECV)/ Amount	(EMD) (Rs.)	Fee Non	Tender / Tender Id.	of receipt of
			put to tender		Refundable (Rs.)		tender
		Consultancy sevices for the work of construction of DSTP in Bajittpur Thakran Village including providing and laying sewer lines in Pooth Khurd & Bajitpur GOC (Part) at Bawana AC.	Lump Sum	4,00,400/-	1500/-	23-11-2021/ 2021_DJB_211455_1	24.12.2021 upto 3.00 P.M
		Consultancy sevices for construction of DSTP at Salahpur Majra Village including providing and laying sewer lines in Pooth Khurd & Salahpur GOC (Part) at Bawana AC.	Lump Sum	3,46,250/-	1000/-	23-11-2021/ 2021_DJB_211455_1	24.12.2021 upto 3.00 P.M
		Consultancy for the work of construction of Decentralized Sewerage Treatment Plant at Khera Khurd alongwith providing and laying sewer lines in Nayabans GOC (Part) in Narela AC.	Lump Sum	1,55,150/-	1000/-	23-11-2021/ 2021_DJB_211455_1	24.12.2021 upto 3.00 P.M
	Furth	ner details in this regard can be seen at http	s://govtprocurement.de	hi.gov.in.			

ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER)

dvt. No. J.S.V. 648 (2021-22)

Executive Engineer (C) DR-III

DELHI JAL BOARD OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(C) DR-XIV

SPS NAJAFGARH: NEW DELHI-110043. Email:- eecdrxiv@gmail.com <u> "STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"</u>

NIT NO.	Name of work	Amount put to	Earnest	Tender Fee(Non	Last date/time for t
		tender	Money	Refundable)	download through
			(in Rs.)	(in Rs.)	curement solution
NIT NO.	Providing/laying/jointing internal and peripheral	Rs.	NIL	Rs. 1500/-	27.12.2021
03/EE(C)	sewer line in Kair GOC under the command of	193380864/-	(declara-		up to 03:00 PM.
DR-XIV	kair STP.		tion form to		
	Tender Id		be filled)		
	2021_DJB_211475_1				
NIT NO.	Providing/laying/jointing internal and peripheral	Rs.	NIL	Rs. 1500/-	27.12.2021
04/EE(C)	sewer line in Goyla Vihar GOC.	525634012/-	(declara-		up to 03:00 PM.
DR-XIV	Tender Id		tion form to		
	2021_DJB_211501_1		be filled)		
NIT NO.	Providing/laying/jointing internal and peripheral	Rs.	NIL	Rs. 1500/-	27.12.2021
05/EE(C)	sewer line in Kanganheri GOC.	285596208/-	(declara-		up to 03:00 PM.
DR-XIV	Tender Id		tion form to		
	2021 DJB 211502 1		be filled)		

Further details in this regard can be seen at (https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in) ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 650 (2021-22)

Ex. Eng. (C) Dr XIV

chemical fertilizers and permit the private sector to import it to allow the nation's farmers to purchase it from the open market, Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage said. PTI

Sri Lanka partially lifts

chemical fertilizers ban

Sri Lanka has decided to

partially lift the ban on

согомво



MARKET WATCH **24-11-2021** % **CHANGE** -0.55 US Dollar. 46,613

Brent oil	82.09	1.1
NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints	3157.00	28.5
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto	3407.10	27.7
Bajaj Finserv	17408.70.	40.6
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel	758.90	0.0
BPCL	403.35	5.7
Britannia Ind	3623.35	38.8
Cipla	893.45	17.1
Coal India	159.10	2.9
Divis Lab	4682.70	80.6
Dr Reddys Lab	4598.05	33.9
Eicher Motors	2536.95	62.2
Grasim Ind	1746.95	36.4
HCL Tech	1119.45	6.8
HDFC	2883.55	22.9
HDFC Bank	1518.05	2.5
HDFC Life	687.20	-8.2
Hero MotoCorp	2621.05	11.1
Hindalco	452.10	1.9
Hind Unilever	2374.75	19.4
ICICI Bank	760.20	8.3
IndusInd Bank	970.40	-10.9
Infosys	1696.00	-40.9
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T		

IVI & IVI	893.20	ŏ
Maruti Suzuki	7669.45	-184.
Nestle India Ltd	. 19086.90	94.6
NTPC	135.35	1.8
ONGC	153.45	6.7
PowerGrid Corp	203.30	1.4
Reliance Ind	2351.40	34.4
SBI Life	1163.75	10.
State Bank	493.15	0.:
Shree Cement	26883.75	143
Sun Pharma	778.95	6.
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.	798.95	22.0
Tata Motors	488.65	6.
Tata Steel	1178.50	13.
TCS	3443.30	20.9

-11.85

2375.85

EXCHANGE RAT	ΓES				
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 24					
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL			
US Dollar	74.20	74.52			
Euro	83.18.	83.54			
British Pound	99.10.	99.53			
Japanese Yen (100)	64.46	64.76			
Chinese Yuan	11.61	11.67			
Swiss Franc	79.26.	79.60			
Singapore Dollar	54.25	54.50			
Canadian Dollar	58.47	58.72			
Malaysian Ringitt	17.62	17.70			
Australian Dollar	53.52	53.76			



Cybersecurity firm Inspira to raise ₹300 cr.

Cybersecurity firm Inspira Enterprise India is planning to raise fresh capital of ₹300 crore through an IPO to pursue geographical expansion. The company is planning to expand footprint across European, West Asian, and South Asian countries.

JM Financial unveils Bondskart.com

CHENNAI JM Financial Products Ltd., the NBFC arm of JM Financial Group, announced the unveiling of Bondskart.com, a digital investment platform for ease of investment in an extensive array of debt securities. "There is no entry or exit fee for the investors. The minimum investment is ₹2 lakh," said Ajay Manglunia, MD and Head. Institutional Fixed Income.

Centre's cryptocurrency ban plan said to spur heavy selling

Traders said several exchanges were facing deposit and withdrawal challenges

Plans by the government for a new bill that would bar most private cryptocurrencies has triggered heavy selling in the country's digital currency markets, as investors look to exit positions despite the losses, said traders and investors.

The government will allow only certain cryptocurrencies to promote the underlying technology and its uses, according to a legislative agenda for the winter session of Parliament set to start this month.

The bill, if passed, would effectively ban Indian citizens from transacting in



In the shadows: Industry estimates peg the number of investors in cryptocurrencies at 15-20 million. • AFP

most cryptocurrencies.

The dollar-linked stable coin tether (USDT) slumped 25% to almost ₹60 on Wednesday after news of the bill, according to Naimish Sanghvi, a cryptocurrency inves-

A second crypto investor said the value of his portfolio had fallen to about ₹22,000 from ₹34,000 on Tuesday as a result of the heavy selling.

"I am contemplating sell-

ing because the future is so who asked not to be named.

Several exchanges were facing deposit and withdrawal challenges due to the high volume of selling, said cryptocurrency traders.

WazirX, one of India's largest cryptocurrency exchanges, said earlier on its Twitter account that it was investigating reports that users were facing delays on its app and website. It later said the issue had been resolved.

There are an estimated 15-20 million cryptocurrency investors in India, with total crypto holdings of about ₹400 billion, according to industry estimates.

'Survey suggests 71% have low or no trust in cryptocurrency'

'It must be taxed like a digital asset held abroad'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

About 71% Indians have low or zero trust in cryptocurrencies, according to a recent survey by LocalCircles. The survey added that 54% do not want the government to legalise cryptocurrencies but want them taxed on par with digital assets held abroad.

The community social network said the survey results were based on 56,000 citizen responses from 342 districts of India, received over the past 15 days.

The Centre plans to introduce a Bill to regulate cryptocurrency and ban all private cryptocurrencies in the winter session of Parliament

The findings show that the Central **Bank Digital** Currency is seen as more trustworthy that begins on November 29.

The bill also seeks to create a facilitative framework for creation of an official digital currency to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). As per the survey, families

of 87% of the respondents do not have anyone trading or investing in cryptocurrencies and 54% do not want the government to legalise cryptocurrencies but tax them like a digital asset held abroad. "About 26% say they should be legalised and then taxed in India," LocalCircles

said in a release. "The study also finds that 51% of the respondents support India rolling out its own digital currency which is managed by the RBI while 26% are against the same. This indicates that the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) would be a more trustworthy investment," it added.

"LocalCircles will be sharing the findings of this study with the senior leadership of Government of India, the RBI leadership and all Members of Parliament such that public feedback on cryptocurrencies can be given the due consideration as laws related to it are finalised," said Sachin Taparia, founder, LocalCircles.

'RBI must aid growth by staying accommodative'

Reversal risks faster revival: Assocham

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should continue with an accommodative interest rate stance as long as necessary to sustain and further push the pace of economic growth, Assocham said on Wednesday. While concerns over in-

flation, especially in the Wholesale Price Index, needed to be addressed, measures other than reversal of the accommodative stance should be encouraged, it added. "The RBI and its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) have done a commendable job to retain the present policy rates. However, central banks in some of the developed economies are mov-



ing towards tapering the accommodative policies.

"We are sure and as we have been maintaining that the RBI would not follow this template and continue with the low interest rates," the industry body said in a statement. "Any reversal of the accommodative interest rate stance may dampen faster revival in investment." Assocham added.

IL&FS resolves ₹757-cr. debt with IPTF sale

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

IL&FS Group said it had completed the sale of 71.84% stake in IL&FS Terminals FZC (IPTF) to VTTI Terminal I BV. "Sale of IPTF has successfully resolved IL&FS Group debt outstanding to the tune of ₹757.79 crore through this transaction," IL&FS said. IL&FS's stake in Prime Terminals FZC was held through IL&FS Maritime Infrastructure Company Ltd. (IMICL).

The sale has also enabled release of corporate guarantee of \$110 million issued by IMICL. Key lenders to the firm, including SBI, had debt outstanding of more than \$80 million which has been fully repaid, IL&FS said.

'Airports to attract ₹90,000 cr. in investments over five years'

Airport count to rise to 220, from 136 currently: Bansal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The airports sector is expected to see an investment of ₹90,000 crore in a fiveyear period, with almost ₹68,000 crore coming from the private players, a senior official said on Wednesday.

The civil aviation sector, which was battered by the COVID-19 pandemic that had also resulted in the suspension of domestic and international flight services, is slowly on the recovery path and the daily domestic air traffic is nearing the pre-CO-VID level of 4 lakh.

Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal said investments totalling ₹90,000 crore would be made for air



ports over the five-year period which started 2020-21.

'Private sector to invest' Of the total amount, about ₹20,000-₹22,000 would be invested by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), while the remaining amount of about ₹68,000 crore would be from the private sector, he said. The government expects

to have 220 operational airports, including heliports over five years. Currently, there are 136 operational airports in the country, and many aerodromes are in the works. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the new airport at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday.

A new airport at Mopa in Goa is expected to be ready next year, and an aerodrome is also coming up at Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra. Besides, expansion work

has been taken up at the airports in Delhi, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

NITI Aayog for full-stack digital banks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Government think-tank NI-TI Aayog on Wednesday proposed setting up of fullstack 'digital banks', which would principally rely on the Internet and other proximate channels to offer their services and not physical branches, to mitigate the financial deepening challenges being faced in the country.

"In other words, these entities will issue deposits, make loans and offer the full suite of services that the Banking Regulation Act empowers them to. As the name suggests, however, DBs will principally rely on the Internet and other proximate channels to offer their services," it said in a discussion paper.

Music Tribe bets big on India's tech talent

Sets up centre in Bengaluru, to deploy 100 engineers for toning up software

MINI TEJASWI

Betting big on the tech prowess of India, Music Tribe, a global player in the audio-visual industry, has set up an innovation centre in Bengaluru to develop embedded software, applications and mobility solutions for next generation music production systems like synthesizers, mixers and other audiovisual products.

"This new innovation centre in India is in line with our digital obsession and the initial aim is to deploy over 100 engineers here over the coming quarters," said founder and CEO Uli Behringer.

"The new innovation centre will collaborate with



Uli Behringer

the company's other such facilities in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Italy, U.K., U.S. and China," said G. Krishna Kumar, VP and centre head at Music Tribe India. "The India team will strengthen Music Tribe's software capabilities around embedded software, cloud and digital technologies in- and TC Helicon. cluding AI, ML and edge computing," he added.

Music Tribe also has audio-visual product manufacturing facilities in China, Malaysia and Thailand and is likely to set up a manufacturing facility in India as well at a later point.

Music Tribe designs and sells a wide range of audiovisual products including mixers, synthesizers, amplifiers, signal processors, microphones, hi-fi speakers and headphones.

Other than products under the Behringer brand, the company also owns brands such as Midas, Klark Teknik, Lab Gruppen, Tannoy, Aston Microphones, TC Electronic

The \$12-billion audio-visual product industry is currently dominated by companies such as Harman, Yamaha, Cisco, Crestron, Logitech, Roland, Bosch and Music Tribe. Americas account for 40%, while Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) and Asia Pacific hold 30% market share each.

Thin market

India currently has only a thin slice of 2-3%, in the sector. However, the country is expected to witness a steady growth in the use of audio-visual products/systems and the consumption of musical and audio-visual content was on the rise, said Music Tribe.

HYDERABAD: Trainer Pesi Shroff's

queen filly Miracle (P.S. Chouhan up) made it six-in-a-row by win-

ning the Golconda 1000 Guineas

the first Classic of the Hyderabad

Winter races here on Wednesday (Nov. 24). The winner is owned by

Mr Mehernosh H. Deboo & Mrs

Auzita M. Deboo. Miracle was

comfortably kept fourth by Chouhan till the bend and there-

after this classic daughter of Multidimensional-Khalila cruised

into the lead to win the race by a

1. DONEGAL PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 2-y-o only (Cat. II): HAPPY GO LUCKY (Ashad As-

bar) 1, N R I Superpower (Akshay Kumar) 2, Essential (D.S. Deora) 3

and AYR (Nikhil Naidu) 4. Not run: Lafayette. 2, 4-3/4 and 1/2.

'Transitional' digital tax pact struck with U.S.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India and the U.S. have agreed to a transitional ap proach on the equalisation levy or digital tax on ecommerce supplies beginning April 1, the Finance Ministry Wednesday.

"India and the United States have agreed that the same terms shall apply between the United States and India with respect to India's charge of 2% equalisation levy on e-commerce supply of services and the United States' trade action regarding the said equalisation levy," the Ministry said in a statement.

to open on November 30

Star Health public offer

Price band fixed at ₹870-900 a share

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd.'s ₹7,249 crore IPO will open on November 30. The Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed insurer aims to raise funds to help improve its capital base and maintain solvency levels.

The shares will be listed on stock exchanges by December 10. The price band for the offer has been fixed at ₹870-900 per equity share.

Bids can be made for a minimum of 16 equity shares and in multiples of 16 thereafter, company officials said. The offer com-

prises fresh issue of shares for ₹2,000 crore and an offer for sale of 5.83 crore shares by shareholders such as Safecrop Investments India - which is selling 3.06 crore shares - Konark Trust, MMPL Trust, Apis Growth 6, Mio IV Star, University of Notre Dame Du Lac, Mio Star, ROC Capital, Venkatasamy Jagannathan, Sai Satish and Berjis Minoo

About 75% of the issue is earmarked for qualified institutional buyers, 15% for non-institutional investors and 10% for retail investors. Shares worth ₹100 crore are reserved for employees.

Salazaar for Ashoka Chakra Cup

been well prepared, is expected to score in the Ashoka Chakra Cup (1,800m), the main event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Nov. 25). False rails will be announced on the race day.

BENGALURU: Salazaar, who has

1 NARMADA PLATE (DIV. III), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 1-30 p.m.: 1. Altamonte (9) Salman Khan 60, 2. Rightly Noble (8) Vishal Bunde 60. 3. Baroness (5) Angad 59, 4. Lady Nectar (6) H.M. Akshay 59, 5. Lifeisamiracle (10) Lishay 50, 50, 14 Jan. (10) L.A. Rozario 59, 6. Altair (2) Saddam H. 58.5, 7. He's The One (7) Chandrashekar 58, 8. Iron Fist (4) J.H. Arul 58, 9. Prerana (1) Secret (3) Tousif Khan 57 and 11 Fierce Fighter (11) Ikram Ahmed

1. RIGHTLY NOBLE, 2. BARONESS. 3. PRERANA

2 (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only (Terms), 2-00: 1. Force Assault (4) R.N. Darshan 57, 2. Fun And Laughter (9) Antony Raj 57, 3. Limited Edition (1) Anjar Alam 57, 4. Turkoman (5) Ranjeet Singh 57, 5. Analect (2) Dhanu Singh 55.5, 6. Eternal Blaze (7) C.S. Jodha 55.5, 7. Mystic Moun tain (3) Akshav Kumar 55.5, 8 Secret Of Life (10) Arshad 55.5, 9.

and 10. Super Ruffain (6) R. Pradeep 55.5. 1. SPECTACULAR,

2. ETERNAL BLAZE, 3. ANALECT

3 (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30: 1. San Bernardino (10) P. Siddaraju 60, 2. Sir Jersey (6) H.M. Akshay 60, 3. Max Mueller (8) S. Saqlain 59, 4. Ozark (4) Shreyas Singh 59, 5, Rainbow Rising (3) L.A. Rozario 59, 6. Silverita (7) J.H. Arul 59, 7. Aerospeed (1) Saddam H 58.5, 8. Estella (9) Vishal Bunde 58.5, 9. Glorious Logan (11) Angad 58.5, 10. Top News (2) Tousif Khan 58 and 11. Eco Friendly (5) Chandrashekar 57. 1. SIR JERSEY,

3. SILVERITA

4 COUNT FLEET PLATE (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only (Terms), 3-00: 1. Chiraag (6) P. Mani 57, 2. Gunmaster (9) Anjar Alam 57, 3. Lauterbrunnen (7) Vishal Bunde 57, 4. Matera (4) Ak shay Kumar 57, 5. Sunshine Prince (2) Antony Raj 57, 6. Tactical Command (10) R.N. Darshan 57. 7. The Adviser (3) P. Sai Kumar 57, 8. The Inheritor (12) Arvind Kumar 57, 9. Thousand Words (1) Arshad 57, 10. Demeter (11) Dhanu Singh 55.5, 11. Domina (5) R. Marshall 55.5 and 12. Star

Of The Hills (8) Kiran Rai 55.5. 1. MATERA, 2. DEMETER,

3. TACTICAL COMMAND

5 CHATRAPATHI TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 3-30: 1. Green Channel (1) Darshan 60.5, 2. Lake Tahoe (4) S. John 60.5, 3. Peluche (6) Vinod Shinde 60.5. 4. Electra (2) Akshay Kumar 59, 5. Starry Wind (7) Vishal Bunde 58, 6. Indian Pharaoh (9) R. Marshall 57, 7. Speedster (8) S. Shareef 56, 8. First Impression (5) Antony Rai 55.5 and 9. Crack Of Dawn (3) Ranieet Singh 53.

2. FIRST IMPRESSION, 3. GREEN CHANNEL

6 (1,800m) 3-y-0 & over O (1,800m) 3-y-o & over (Terms), 4-00: Lagarde (1) Akshay Kumar 63.5, 2. Salazaar (2) S. John 60.5, 3. Point To Prove (3) Antony Raj 57, 4. Automatic (4) S. Shareef 56 and 5. Sovereign Legend (5) A. 1. SALAZAAR

2. SOVEREIGN LEGEND

7 DABBE FALLS PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 4v-o & over, 4-30: 1. Katana (3) Akshay Kumar 61, 2. Christopher Wren (10) Antony Rai 56, 3. Striking Memory (2) S.

Saqlain 56, 4. Ombudsman (5) Darshan 55, 5. Amazing Blaze (7) A. Sandesh 54.5, 6. Almanach (8) J.H. Arul 54, 7. Tyto Alba (9) Rajesh Kumar 53.5, 8. Gazebo Talk (6) S. Shareef 51, 9. Cinco De Mayo (1) Dhanu singh 50.5 and 10. Impelling Power (4) Nazerul 50.

2. AMAZING BLAZE, 3. CHRISTOPHER WREN

NARMADA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-00: 1. Nostradamus (8) H.M. Akshay 62.5, 2. Immaculate (2) L.A. Rozario 61, 3. Striking Support (4) Likith Appu 61, 4. Jersey Legend (9) Saddam H 60.5, 5. Tenali (3) Shreyas Singh 60, 6. Comeonson (6) S. Saqlain 59.5, 7. Commandpost (II) Angad 59.5, 8. Galactical (7) J.H. Arul 59.5, 9. Lightning Charlie (5) Vishal Bunde 59.5, 10. Lucky Chance (1) Tousif Khan 59.5 and 11. Stunning Beauty (10) Chandrashekar 58. 1. LIGHTNING CHARLIE, 2. NOSTRADAMUS,

3. GALACTICAL Days best: MATERA Double: SPECTACULAR - LAKE TAHOE Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Treble (i): 3, 4, & 5, (ii): 6, 7 &

1m, 16.10s. ₹21 (w), 14, 14 and 10 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 42, SHW: 10 and 17, FP; 86, Q: 46, Tanala: 288. Favourite: Happy Go Lucky. Owners: Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta & M/s. Mukteshwar Racing LLP. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy. PLATE 2. HIMAYAT SAGAR PLATE (1,800m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): MORINGA (Chouhan) 1, In Con-

comfortable margin.

tenion (C.S. Jodha) 2, Nightmare (Abhay Singh) 3 and Gurbaaz (Md. Ismail) 4. 2, Hd and 2. 1m, 56.62s. ₹53 (w), 17, 13 and 33 (p). SHP: 48, THP: 72, SHW: 15 and 20, FP: 146. Q: 44, Tanala: 791. Favourite: In Contention. Owners: Mr. Cham-paklal Zaveri, Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri rep. Zaveri Stud Farm Private



Miracle obliges in Golconda 1000 Guineas

Rewarding success: Miracle's trainer P. Shroff, left, receiving the Golconda 1000 Guineas trophy from HRC Steward C.S. Suresh, as N.V.R. Narasimha Reddy, K. Bhupal Reddy and Hari Kishen Gupta look on. • NAGARA GOPAL

Limited, Miss Harsha N Desai & Miss Niti N Desai. Trainer: L.V.R.

3. CABARET PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o

& upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): STAR BABE (Abhay Singh) 1, Royal Grace (Akshay Kumar) 2, Star Dancer (Kiran Naidu) 3 and Castlerock (Md. Ismail) 4, 1/2, 1-1/2 and 2-3/4. 1m, 28.22s. ₹171 (w), 27, 15 and 17 (p). SHP: 43, THP: 37, SHW: 37 and 23, FP: 1,168, Q: 543, Tanala: 4.789. Favourite: Multimoment. Owner: Mr. Ch Naga Nancharayya. Trainer: R.H.

4. MEDAK PLATE (DIV. I) (1.600m). rated up to 25 (Cat. III): LIGHT-NING FAIRY (Akshay Kumar) 1, Геат Player (Nakhat Singh) 2, Inception (Ajit Singh) 3 and Astronaut (Khurshad Alam) 4. 3-1/4, 1-1/2 and 1. 1m, 43.83s. ₹19 (w), 14, 23 and 107 (p). SHP: 44, THP: 331, SHW: 10 and 50, FP; 78, Q: 71, Tanala: 2,328. Favourite: Light-Owners: Mr. T. Rakesh Reddy, Mr.

V. Narendar Reddy, Mr. Syed Abul Hasan Razvi, Mr. Guja Srikanth Reddy & Mr. N.V. Rohin Kumar. Trainer: Anant Vatsalya

CHOUHAN) 1, Own Voice (Excellent Art-Sweeping Success) (Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Ruling Goddess (Excellent Art-Miss Mystique) (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Soloist (Top Class-Allee Bleue) (Ashad Asbar) 4. Not run: New Look. 4-3/4, 1-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 40.66s. ₹10 (w), 11,38 and 13 (p). SHP: 127, THP: 34, SHW: 12 and 93, FP: 149, Q: 128, Tanala: 415. Favourite: Miracle. Owners: Mr. Mehernosh H. Deboo & Mrs. Auzita M. Deboo. Trainer: 6. MEDAK PLATE (DIV. II) (1,600m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III): ICE BERRY (Gaurav Singh) 1, Wot's Up Jay (Koushik) 2, Queen Blossom (Rohit Kumar) 3 and Royal

5. GOLCONDA 1000 GUINEAS (GR.

2) (1,600M), (TERMS) FILLIES, 3-Y-O ONLY: MIRACLE (MULTIDI-

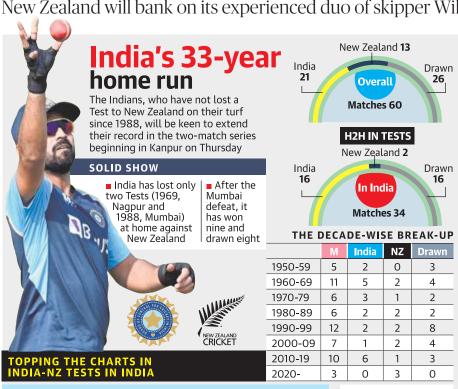
MENSIONAL-KHALILA)

Pal (Abhay Singh) 4. 2, 2 and 1. 1m, 43.83s. ₹57 (w), 16, 25 and 20 (p). SHP: 64, THP: 53, SHW: 33 and 45, FP: 705, Q: 333, Tanala: 3,955. Favourite: Royal Pal. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh. NOTE: Golden Amaris (Kuldeep Singh up) reared up in the stalls and fell down, dislodging her rider, and did not participate Jackpot: 70% ₹6,413 (45 tkts.) and 30%: 612 (202 tkts.).

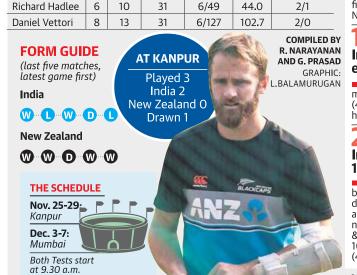
Treble: (i) 3,755 (15 tkts.), (ii) 170 Mini Jackpot: 2,741 (36 tkts.).

Spinners hold the key as India begins its Test journey under Dravid

New Zealand will bank on its experienced duo of skipper Williamson and Taylor to show the way in these conditions against Ashwin, Jadeja and Axar



FOR INDIA								
BATTING	М	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	50s/100s		
Rahul Dravid	8	14	893	222	63.78	1/4		
BOWLING	М	Inns	Wkts	BBI	SR	5WI/10WM		
R. Ashwin	5	10	45	7/59	31.4	6/3		
FOR NEW ZEALAND								
BATTING	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	50s/100s		
Bert Sutcliffe	9	16	885	230 n.o.	68.07	3/3		
BOWLING	М	Inns	Wkts	BBI	SR	5WI/10WM		
Richard Hadlee	6	10	31	6/49	44.0	2/1		
Daniel Vettori	8	13	31	6/127	102.7	2/0		



AT KANPUR 1976

Drawn ■ Viswanath made both his visits count (68 & 103 n.o.) while skipper Bedi scored the only half-century of his Test career.

Captain Turner struck a century in the first innings for New Zealand

1999 India won by eight wickets

Riding on Kumble's match-haul of 10/134 (4/67 & 6/67), the hosts cruised home

India won by **197** runs It proved a memorable 500th Test for In-

dia, thanks to Jadeja's all-round effort (42 n.o. & 5/73, 50 n.o. & 1/58) and Ashwin's 10-wicket match-haul (4/93 & 6/132) SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

NZ IN INDIA RAKESH RAO

With a new coach, a stand-in captain and another home series waiting to be won, a depleted India still looks ready to whip out a familiar result as the first Test gets underway here from Thursday.

Moreover, given the conditions at the Green Park Stadium here and spin-resources in the squad, coach Rahul Dravid may not be required to bring in much of his cricketing acumen to stump the opposition on his debut".

Leading the squad which is without some of the regulars, Ajinkya Rahane is confident he has the ammunition needed to take out New Zealand, the reigning World Test champion.

Pitch looks dry

Although not a rank-turner, the pitch here appears dry and good enough for the spin trio of R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel to get into the act early. In short, the longevity of this Test depends entirely on how New Zealand bats.

Last time a Test was played here, involving these teams in 2016, Ashwin took 10 wickets and Man-of-the-Match Jadeja six, to go with his unbeaten 50. The match did go into the fifth day, which India won by 197 runs.

For the first Test to be competitive, skipper Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor will have to show the way to play spin. The duo, after playing an important part in the World Test Championship final at Lord's, will be keen to repeat the dose to the Indian spinners, despite the occasion and the conditions being vastly different

A similar sentiment runs in the Indian dressing room, too. Having blanked New Zealand in the three-match T20I series after losing the key World T20 league match to the Kiwis, the host is raring to inflict a 2-0 whitewash in Tests to avenge the loss suffered in the WTC final.

Looking to do one better than last time in the on-going WTC, India has no reason to provide batter-friendly pitches in the series. Similarly, New Zealand is not known to alter its home advantages in any format.

After all, India and New Zealand thrive in home conditions. In the past 10 seasons, if one considers only the decisive Tests played in these countries, New Zealand won 43 out of 48 and India 47 from 51.

Given that spinners will call the shots, it remains to be seen which two new-ball bowlers among Ishant Shar-Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav and Prasidh Krishna will be considered.

The absence of K.L. Rahul means Shubman Gill and Mayank Agarwal will open, and Shreyas Iyer makes his Test debut. Regulars like

"I am sure throughout the

series the spin component

will be a definite factor. It

will be no different here at

Kanpur. We played here in

2016 but things have

changed a little bit."

give a peek into the

These words from

skipper Kane Williamson

RAKESH RAO

We know the challenge

is big, says Williamson

Ajinkya, Cheteshwar Pujara and comeback-man Wriddhiman Saha, along with the five bowlers, complete the playing XI.

New Zealand not only faces concerns regarding playing quality spinners on these pitches, but also how its slower bowlers bowl to the Indian batters.

Left-arm spinners Mitchell Santner and Ajaz Patel appear certainties along with pacemen Tim Southee and Kyle Jamieson. Four-Test old off-spinner William Somerville could well be the third spin option.

The teams (from):

India: Ajinkya Rahane (Captain), Cheteshwar Pujara (vice-captain), Mayank Agarwal, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), K.S. Bharat (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Axar Patel, Jayant Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna.

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (Captain), Tom Blundell (wk), Tom Latham, Ross Taylor, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, William Somerville. Tim Southee Will Young, Neil Wagner and Kyle Jamieson

Match starts at 9.30 a.m.

mindset of the New

spinners – R. Ashwin,

Zealand batters against the

potent threat of the Indian

Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel

"The guys have been

trying to prepare as well as

forward to the challenge,"

they can and looking

Williamson said.

and Jayant Yadav – in the

Shreyas set to make Test debut, confirms Rahane

Stand-in skipper says the absence of K.L. Rahul is a big blow



The wait is over: Shreyas, seen with India coach Rahul Dravid, is likely to get his Test cap on Thursday. • AFP

RAKESH RAO KANPUR

Finally, the wait is over for Shreyas Iyer. The Mumbai player will make his Test debut against New Zealand here on Thursday.

First added to the Test squad in March 2017 as cover for Virat Kohli on the eve of the fourth Test against Australia, Shreyas went on to make his ODI debut (against New Zealand) and T20I debut (against Sri Lanka) later that year.

As a result, after 22 ODIs and 32 T20Is, Shreyas gets to play Test cricket. Having made a mark with some tall scores consistently in the domestic circuit, Shreyas averages 52.18 in First Class cricket (4592 runs in 54 matches).

Interestingly, in his last First Class match, Shreyas played for Rest of India against Vidarbha in the Irani Cup in February 2019.

Confirming the Test debut for Shreyas, stand-in

skipper Ajinkya Rahane did not rule out another debutant in Thursday's playing XI. This leaves a ray of hope for his Mumbai teammate Suryakumar Yadav.

Rahane described the absence of opener K.L. Rahul as a "big blow."

"He did really well in England. Obviously, we will miss him. But, we have guys who can do that job (of an opener).'

Like Cheteshwar Pujara on Tuesday, Rahane, too, chose to downplay his inconsistency in getting big scores since that match-winning century in Melbourne

"My job is to contribute for the team and contribution doesn't mean you score a hundred every game. A 30, 40, 70 at a crucial moment are also important contributions," he said, before strangely adding: "I have never thought where I am going. What happens in the future is not of concern to me."

India-A makes cautious reply

BLOEMFONTEIN

chasing South Africa-A's mammoth 509 for seven declared, on the second day of the first 'Test' on Wednesday.

Captain Priyank Panchal at close. India still trails by

Opener Prithvi Shaw (48, 45b, 9x4) was looking ominous before he was dismissed in the 14th over.

added 166 before declaring

The scores:

45 batting).

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India-A was 125 for one

and Abhimanyu Easwaran were batting on 45 and 27 384 in the four-day match.

Earlier, South Africa-A

its first innings at 509 for

South Africa-A 509/7 decl. in 135.3 overs (Pieter Malan 163, Tony de Zorzi 117) vs India-A 125/1 in 33 overs (Prithvi Shaw 48, Priyank Panchal

Sindhu rallies to advance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

P.V. Sindhu showed great determination to outwit her opponent in the women's singles opening round, while B. Sai Praneeth and K. Srikanth also advanced to the men's singles second round of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 event here on Wednesday.

After a slow start, Sindhu engineered a turnaround to register a 17-21, 21-17, 21-17 win over Aya Ohori.

Other results (first round): Men: B. Sai Praneeth bt Toma Junior Popov (Fra) 21-19, 21-18; K. Srikanth bt H.S. Prannoy 21-15, 19-21, 21-12.

Women: Doubles: Gabriela Stoeva & Stefani Stoeva (Bul) bt N. Sikki Reddy & Ashwini Ponnappa 29-27, 21-18.

Mixed doubles: Kyohei Yamashita & Naru Shinoya (Jpn) bt Sikki & Dhruv Kapila 21-7, 21-12: Takuro Hoki & Nami Matsuyama (Jpn) bt Ashwini & B. Sumeeth Reddy 22-24, 21-12, 21-19.



WI IN SRI LANKA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sri Lanka needs just four wickets to win the first Test against West Indies in Galle after setting the all-but-impossible target of 348 on Wednes day's penultimate day of play. West Indies had made just

52 before bad light forced an early end after the hosts' spin trio made quick work of the top order. The sensational collapse saw the tourists lose four

wickets in 15 balls for just four Ramesh Mendis was the pick of the bowlers finishing with four for 17. The off-spin-

trick as he trapped Kyle Mayers leg before. Lasith Embuldeniya accounted for Jermaine Black-

ner had the makings of a hat-

wood and Roston Chase. There was little hope for



Bamboozled: Jason Holder, much like his teammates. had no answer to Ramesh Mendis. • AFP

West Indies at 18 for six and all signs were that the game was going to end on the fourth

Then Nkrumah Bonner (18) and da Silva (15) batted for just

over 45 minutes to hang in be-

fore the umpires called bad light.

Sri Lanka declared its second innings on 191 for four after a 123-run stand by Angelo Mathews and Dimuth Karunaratne in just 150 deliveries. Skipper Karunaratne, who had posted 147 in the first innings, narrowly missed twin centuries with 83, including nine fours.

West Indies was 230 all out in the first innings.

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka - 1st innings: 386.

West Indies - 1st innings:

Kraigg Brathwaite c Nissanka b Mendis 41, Jermaine Blackwood lbw b Embuldeniya 20, Nkrumah Bonner c Dhananjaya b Jayawickrama 1, Shai Hope* c Fernando b Mendis 10, Roston Chase c Fernando b Mendis 2. Jomel Warrican c Chandimal b Karunaratne b Dhananjaya 45, Jason Holder c Chameera b Jayawickrama 36, Joshua da Silva (not out) 15, Rahkeem Cornwall c Mendis b Lakmal 39, Shannon Gabriel lbw b Jayawickrama 2; Extras (b-8, lb-5, nb-2, w-3): 18; Total (in 85.5 overs): 230.

Fall of wickets: 1-46, 2-51, 3-80, 4-83, 5-86, 6-100, 7-163, 8-175, 9-224

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 6-1-10-1, Chameera 8-0-14-0, Embuldeniya 32-11-67-1, Jayawickrama 19.5-6-40-4, Mendis 17-1-75-3, Dhananjaya 3-0-11-1. Sri Lanka - 2nd innings:

Pathum Nissanka c Hope b Cornwall 3, Dimuth Karunaratne c Blackwood b Cornwall 83. Oshada Fernando lbw b

(not out) 69, Dhananjaya de Silva c & b Warrican 1, Dinesh Chandimal (not out) 10; Extras (b-8, lb-2, nb-1): 11; Total (for four wkts. decl. in 40.5 overs):

Warrican 14, Angelo Mathews

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-39, 3-162, 4-163.

West Indies bowling: Cornwall Chase 6-1-28-0, Warrican 9-1-42-2, Gabriel 4-0-23-0, Brathwaite 1-0-9-0.

West Indies - 2nd innings: Brathwaite lbw b Mendis O, Blackwood c Mathews b Embuldeniya 9, Bonner (batting) 18, Hope b Mendis 3, Chase b Embuldeniya 1, Mayers lbw b Mendis 2, Holder b Mendis 0, Joshua (batting) 15; Extras (lb-4): 4; Total (for six wkts. in 25.3 overs): 52.

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-11, 3-14, 4-15, 5-18, 6-18. Sri Lanka bowling: Embulden-

iya 10-3-18-2, Mendis 11-1-17-4, Jayawickrama Dhananjaya 0.3-0-5-0.

*Hope replaced Solozano as a concussion substitute during Sri Lanka's first innings.



Mahmudullah retires

DHAKA Bangladesh's Mahmudullah Riyad announced his retirement from Test cricket on Wednesday after a 12-year career. The 35-year-old played his last Test against Zimbabwe in Harare in July this year with Bangladesh recording a

Vaughan dropped by BBC

220-run win. AFP

SALFORD (ENGLAND) Former England cricket captain Michael Vaughan was dropped by the BBC because of his involvement in the racism controversy enveloping Yorkshire. Vaughan has denied the allegations and said his reputation has been "trashed unfairly," calling it "the worst

thing I have ever experienced.'

er through Corentin Sellier's

field goal in the final quarter.

twice in the closing minutes

and performed the three-

peat, it wasn't enough to de-

Pool A: Belgium 5 (Roman Du-

vekot 7 & 45, Nelson Onana 24,

Arno van Dessel 55. Rik van

Cleynenbreugel 58) bt South

Africa 1 (Jacques van Tonder

15+); Malaysia 2 (Kamarulza-

Though Sanjay struck

Javi on a high, sinks BFC

ISL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

splendid double from Ja-Avi Hernandez and a fine individual effort from Aridai Suarez handed Odisha FC a 3-1 victory over Bengaluru FC in its Indian Super League opener at the Tilak Maidan Stadium in Goa on Wednesday.

That Hernandez's goals had their origins in completely avoidable mistakes from BFC shouldn't take anything away from the execution; the first was a delightful long-range chip over the entire defence and the second a swerving free-kick from just outside the penalty

At 1-2, BFC skipper Sunil Chhetri could have brought his side back and equalled Ferran Corominas' all-time ISL goal tally (48), but his penalty in the 61st minute was saved. Substitute Cleiton Silva, who earned the spotkick, bundled in the rebound, only for the referee



Javi. • FOCUS SPORTS/ISL

to disallow the goal. Replays showed that the Brazilian had encroached

the penalty box before the kick was taken. But the same replay also showed an Odisha player encroaching, which should have resulted in the penalty being retaken. Regardless, BFC was

clearly below par. The even-

ing was off to the worst possible start when a botched clearance by Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, following a miscommunication with his defenders in the third minute, was beautifully chipped into the goal by Hernandez. Marco Pezzaiuoli's outfit equalised in the 21st minute

with Alan Costa towering over Nandhakumar Sekar to turn in a fine corner from Roshan Naorem. Hernandez's second was through a brilliant free kick

to the top-right corner, but that came after a blunder from Udanta Singh. The winger misplaced a pass, and in an attempt to make amends, ended up fouling Jonathas In the 90th minute, Silva

saw a powerful shot from close range saved by Odisha goalie Kamaljit Singh. Soon enough, Suarez turned Pratik Chowdhary inside out and bundled the ball in to put the result to bed. The result: Odisha FC 3 (Her-

nandez 3, 51, Suarez 90) bt

with Bengaluru FC 1 (Costa 21).

India's shock doubled

preparation.

Determined France ambushes India Clement and Sanjay perform hat-tricks, but the latter's goes in vain plete a hat-trick in the 32nd minute. France pulled away furth-

JUNIOR WC Y.B. SARANGI

A well-oiled France outsmarted defending champion India 5-4 in a Pool B match to cause the biggest upset on the opening day of the Junior men's hockey World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium here on Wednesday.

BHUBANESWAR

The lack of cohesion was apparent as the host was outplayed by France in every department. France, which finished a

surprise runner-up in New Delhi in 2013, stunned the defending champion by scoring in the opening minute through captain Timothee Clement's field goal.

when the pacy French side went 2-0 up in the seventh minute. The trio of Mathis Clement, Jules Verrier and Benjamin Marque finished off a well-coordinated move, reflecting France's excellent



Indians are crestfallen. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

India managed to pull one crisp drag-flick off the first back as Uttam Singh slotted long corner put his side in home a rebound off the the lead again. team's first penalty corner. Sanjay's drag-flick drew pari-

ty before the first break.

longed to France. Clement's

The Frenchmen, who dominated the proceedings, earned three successive pe-The second quarter benalty corners after half-time.

Clement went on to com-

man Kamaruddin 34. Syarman Mat 43) bt Chile 1 (Sebastian Wolansky 59).

ny France.

The results:

Pool B: Poland 1 (Eryk Bembenek 34) bt Canada O; France 5 (Timothee Clement 1, 23 & 32, Benjamin Marque 7, Corentin Sellier 48) bt India 4 (Uttam Singh 10, Sanjay 15+, 57 & 58).

Pool D: Germany 5 (Michel Struthoff 1. Robert Duckscheer 14 & 54. Maximilian Siegburg 19. Benedikt Schwarzhaupt 22) bt Pakistan 2 (Abdul Shahid 18, Muhammed Hammadudin 49).

TV PICKS

India vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 1, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m Sri Lanka vs West Indies: 1st Test, day 5, Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.45 a.m. ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD),

7.30 p.m. Europa League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 11.30 p.m.; Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Friday)



short-handed LA Lakers

NEW YORK Evan Fournier scored 26 points as the host New York Knicks squandered a 25-point lead before recovering to beat the LeBron James-less Los Angeles Lakers 106-100 in the NBA on Tuesday.

The results: Miami 100 bt Detroit 92. New York 106 bt LA Lakers 100, Portland 119



bt Denver 100, Dallas 112 bt

Harmanpreet named WBBL Player of the **Tournament**

Melbourne Renegades star Harmanpreet Kaur has been named the Women Big Bash League (WBBL) Player of the Tournament. The Indian all-rounder, who ended the regular season as her side's leading batter with 399 runs and 15 wickets, finished ahead of the Perth Scorchers pair of Beth Mooney and Sophie Devine. ANI

Darshna triumphs



Darshna Rathore.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Darshna Rathore shot 50 to beat Ganemat Sekhon by four points in the women's skeet final of the 64th National shooting championship at the New Moti Bagh Gun Club on Wednesday.

After qualifying third with 113, Darshna did well to top the field ahead of Ganemat (117) and Areeba Khan (116).

Former champions, Maheshwari Chauhan, Saniya Sheikh and Rashmmi Rathore failed to make the final.

Ganemat won the junior gold beating Areeba Khan 4-3 in the shoot-off after the two tied on 50.

The results: Skeet: Women: 1. Darshna Rathore 50 (113); 2. Ganemat Sekhon 46 (117); 3. Raiza Dhillon 36 (110); Junior women: 1. Ganemat Sekhon 50(4) 117; 2. Areeba Khan 50 (3) 116; 3. Darshna Rathore 41

United & Chelsea make the knockouts

Barcelona still needs a mountain to climb in its final game against group leader Bayern

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Energised by a change of manager and another opportunistic finish by Cristiano Ronaldo, Manchester United qualified for the knockout stage of the Champions League with a game to spare.

United was led for the first time by Michael Carrick following the weekend firing of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and, just like his predecessor, the interim manager was thankful for a goal by the Champions League's record scor-

Lobbed finish

Ronaldo produced a sublime lobbed finish to put United ahead against Villarreal on Tuesday and a 90th-minute strike by Jadon Sancho sealed a 2-0 win to secure progress as the winner of



Goal-fest: Hudson-Odoi, left, pokes in Chelsea's third in the rout of Juventus. • AP

Group F.

Another English team, defending champion Chelsea, also advanced on the back of a 4-0 win over already-qualified Juventus.

Chelsea and Juventus are tied on 12 points with a game left to play.

Barcelona, now coached by former star midfielder Xavi Hernandez, has advanced from its group every season for almost two decades but a 0-0 draw at home to Benfica means the Spanish club might need to beat Bayern Munich in the final round of games to advance.

If Barca fails to beat Bayern away, Benfica could overtake the Spanish club with a win at home to already-eliminated Dynamo Kyiv. If they finish tied on points, Benfica would advance courtesy of their head-to-head record.

The results: Group E: Dynamo Kiev 1 (Garmash 70) lost to Bayern Munich 2 (Lewandowski 14, Coman 42); Barcelona O drew with Benfica O.

Group F: Villarreal O lost to Manchester United 2 (Ronaldo 78, Sancho 90); Young Boys 3 (Siebatcheu 39, Sierro 80, Hefti 84) drew with Atalanta 3 (Zapata 10, Palomino 51, Muriel 88).

Group G: Lille 1 (David 31) bt Salzburg O; Sevilla 2 (Jordan 13, Mir 90+7) bt Wolfsburg O.

Group H: Chelsea 4 (Chalobah 25, James 56, Hudson-Odoi 58, Werner 90+5) bt Juventus 0; Malmo 1 (Rieks 28) lost to Zenit Saint Petersburg 1 (Rakitsky 90+2-pen).

Ramkumar eases past Orlov

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Sixth seed Ramkumar Ramanathan beat qualifier Vladyslav Orlov in the first round of the \$52,080 Challenger tennis tournament.

In the \$100,000 ITF women's event in Dubai, Ankita Raina and Tereza Mihalikova made the quarterfinals beating Alena Fomina-Klotz and Ekaterina Yashina.

In the \$25,000 ITF women's event in Ortisei (Italy), Karman Kaur Thandi defeated fourth seed Ylena In-Albon to reach the quarterfinals.

The results: \$100,000 ITF women, Dubai: Doubles: Prequarterfinals: Tereza Mihalikova (Svk) & Ankita Raina bt Alena Fomina-Klotz & Ekaterina Yashina (Rus) 7-5, 7-5.

\$60,000 ITF women, Brasilia: First round: Carolina Meligeni Alves (Bra) bt Riva Bhatia 3-6.

\$25,000 ITF women, Ortisei, Italy: Singles: Pre-quarterfinals: Karman Kaur Thandi bt Ylena In-Albon (Sui) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. First round: Karman Kaur Thandi bt Deborah Chiesa (Ita) 4-6, 6-0, 1-0, retd.

\$15.000 ITF women. Cancun. Mexico: First round: Raveena Kingsley (RSA) bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 7-5, 6-2.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Isabella Barrera Aguirre & Marika Jones (US) bt Lucia Gonzales (Per) & Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-1,

\$52,080 Challenger, Manama: First round: Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Vladyslav Orlov (Ukr) 6-2, 6-4.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Sriram Balaji & Divij Sharan bt Abdulkarim Abdulnabi & Hasan Abdulnabi (Brn) 6-1, 6-0; Arjun Kadhe & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Omar Ahmed & Saud Alhogbani (Brn) 6-0, 3-1, retd.; Nuno Borges & Francisco Cabral (Por) bt Goncalo Oliveira (Por) & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 3-6, 6-2, [10-6].

Sathiyan, Ayhika advance

All other Indians exit in singles

WORLD TT

SPORTS BUREAU HOUSTON

G. Sathiyan and Ayhika Mukherjee were the lone Indian players to enter the singles second round of the World table tennis championships here on Tuesday.

The mixed doubles duo of Sharath and Archana Kamath entered the second round with a 11-7, 11-6, 11-6 win over Algeria's Sami Kherouf and Katia Kessaci.

The results (first round): Men: Singles: Cedric Nuytinck (Bel) bt Sharath Kamal 9-11, 11-5, 11-6, 11-7, 11-9; G. Sathiyan bt Yaroslav Zhmudenko (Ukr) 11-2, 11-9, 11-, 11-3; Bode Abiodun (Ngr) bt A. Amalraj 11-6, 5-11, 5-11, 11-8, 10-12, 11-9, 11-6; Benedikt Duda (Ger) bt Harmeet Desai 11-9, 11--7, 11-7, 11-4.



G. Sathiyan. ■ FILE РНОТО

Women: Singles: Bruna Takahashi (Bra) bt Manika Batra 5-11, 13-15; 11-8, 11-4. 11-6, 4-11, 11-7; Ayhika Mukherjee bt Farah Abdel-Aziz (Egy) 11-7, 14-16, 8-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-6; Choi Hyojoo (Kor) bt Sutirtha Mukherjee 8-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-0, 11-4; Saki Shibata (Jpn) bt Madhurika Patkar 11-7, 11-4, 11-3, 11-8.

Mixed doubles: Sharath Kamal & Archana Kamath bt Sami Kherouf & Katia Kessaci (Alg) 11-7,

Jhili to replace Mirabai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Jhili Dalabehera will represent India in the women's 49kg category, in place of Mirabai Chanu who has pulled out, in the upcoming World weightlifting championship in Tashkent next month. The squad:

Men: Sanket Sargar (55kg), Guru Raja (61kg), Jeremy Lalrinnunga (67kg), Achinta Sheuli (73kg), Ajay Singh and Amarjit Guru (both 81kg), Vikas Thakur and Jagdish Vishwakarma (both 96kg), Lovepreet Singh (109kg) and Gurdeep Singh (+109kg).

Women: Jhili Dalabehera (49kg), S. Bindrarani Devi (55kg), Popy Hazarika (59kg), Komal Khan (64kg), Harjinder Kaur and Lalchhanhimi (both 71kg), Poonam Yadav and R. Arockiya Alish (both 76kg), Anuradha Pavunraj (87kg)

'Asian Games is Mirabai's main target'

Coach Sharma says they are working on her snatch technique

WEIGHTLIFTING

Y.B. SARANGI BHUBANESWAR

National weightlifting coach Vijay Sharma said winning a medal in the 2022 Asian Games would be the main target for Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu.

Sharma has decided not to field Mirabai in the upcoming World championships in Tashkent from December 7 to 17.

"We are working on Mira's snatch technique. We are trying to rectify a technical fault. You need time for that. I cannot see the kind of performance she needs to produce to compete at the World championships," said Sharma on Wednesday.

"Since we are working on



Getting ready: Mirabai is missing the Worlds to fine-tune some technical issue. ■PTI

the technique, there is no load and rush, then there is a question of how much she does in snatch. In clean and jerk, she has not gone past 100-105kg. We are not taking load in jerk. If you don't prepare the body for taking the

chance of picking up an injury." Sharma said the Asian where Mirabai would face strong competition from the Chinese lifters, would be the main challenge

for the 27-year-old. "When we are qualifying

(for the Commonwealth Games) on the basis of her No.1 ranking, then there is no need to go to the World championships (which is also a qualifying event for the Commonwealth Games). We have a (CWG qualifying) competition (in Singapore) in February, we need to test ourselves there.

"Even if she does not do anything special, she will win the CWG gold. But the main target is the Asian Games. We have sufficient time to train for the Asiad, which is very close to the CWG. If we achieve the peak too early, then it will be difficult to maintain that performance for a long period of time," said Sharma.

Manish gets the better of Sekulic

Karan Singh beats Niki Poonacha in straight sets

ITF MEN

KAMESH SRINIVASAN GURUGRAM

Manish Sureshkumar got his act right and beat the finalist of the last two events. Philip Sekulic of Australia, 6-3, 7-6 (5) in the first round of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament at the Tennis Project on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old overcame moments of uncertainty to haul himself past the talented Sekulic, whom he had beaten for the title in the final in Indore. Sekulic engaged in verbal

volleys with his father right through the match and lacked the mental energy to fight his way past trouble this day. Thus, he was unable to drive home the advantage when leading 5-3, 30-0 in the second set.

In another match, Karan Singh continued to hold sway over two-time national champion Niki Poonacha as he beat the second seed 6-2, 6-3. Poonacha has been trou-



Manish Sureshkumar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

bled by back pain and could not stand up to the barrage of winners that the 18-yearold Karan unleashed.

Having negotiated three rounds of the qualifying event, Karan was sharp with his game. He had beaten Poonacha in the first round in Indore.

Ishaque Eqbal converted his sixth match point to beat seventh seed Rishab Agarwal 7-6(4), 6-3.

Top seed Sidharth Rawat played close to his best to dismiss the challenge from the young Dev Javia in

Yuvan bests Aditya

straight sets. Eighth seed S.D. Prajwal Dev overcame a tricky start to beat Romain Faucon of Belgium in three sets. In the pre-quarterfinals, he will play Nitin Kumar Sinha who also overcame a slow start to beat Bharath Kumaran.

The results: First round: Sidharth Rawat bt Dev Javia 6-3, 6-4; Arvid Nordquist (Swe) bt Madhwin Kamath 2-6, 6-1, 6-4; Paras Dahiya bt Shahbaaz Khan 7-6(4), 6-1; Ishaque Eqbal bt Rishab Agarwal 7-6(4), 6-3; Manish Sureshkumar bt Philip Sekulic (Aus) 6-3, 7-6(5); Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Lakshya Gupta 7-5, 5-7, 6-1.

Julian Cash (GBr) bt Arthav Neema 6-2, 6-2; Dusty Boyer (USA) bt Adil Kalyanpur 6-1, 6-4; S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Romain Faucon (Bel) 4-6, 6-1. 6-2; Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Bharath Kumaran 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Nicolas Tepmahc (Fra) bt Fardeen Qamar 3-6, 6-3, 6-0; Karan Singh bt Niki Poonacha 6-2,

Doubles: Yuki Bhambri & Saketh Myneni bt Aryan Goveas & Karunuday Singh 6-3, 6-4; Julian Cash (GBr) & Zsombor Velcz (Hun) bt Ishaque Eqbal & Faisal Qamar 6-4, 6-2.

Witness the congregation of key stakeholders, esteemed dignitaries, and Tokyo Olympics 2020 champions in Sportstar's first ever North-East Conclave as they discuss key issues pertaining to the sports ecosystem in the region. The full-day conclave aims to provide an in-depth review of the local sports infrastructure and how to transform the North-East into as the sports hub of India. Follow the conclave live on **sportstar.thehindu.com** on November 26, Friday between 12:00 PM - 5:30 PM. **Shri Anurag Thakur**

Union Minister of Information &

Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports

The conclave will be conducted by adhering to strict Covid-19 protocols.

Admission strictly by invite only

DELHI CRICKET

Kabir's five-for helps **Haryana Academy** reach the final

A five-wicket haul by Kabir Bishnoi helped Haryana Academy beat Sehgal Club by three wickets and reach the final of the 36th Laxman Das Chhabra memorial cricket tournament.

The scores (semifinal):

Sehgal Club 171 in 37 overs (Shivam Gupta 58, Kshitij Sharma 44. Kabir Bishnoi 5/26. Poonish Mehta 3/24) lost to Haryana Academy 174/7 in 38 overs (Yash Vardhan Dalal 40, Vishal Choudhary 3/24).

Prince Kumar powers MPS Club into final

A fluent knock of 74 by Prince Kumar helped MPS Club to a five-wicket victory

over India Power Pro and into the final of the Bimala Devi Kapoor cricket tournament in Noida. The scores:

The scores:

India Power Pro 169/9 in 20 overs (Mayank Raghav 52, Prince Kumar 3/29) lost to MPS Club 172/5 in 18 overs (Prince Kumar 74, Sachin Bhatti 33).

Digvesh bowls Sepience Club to big win

Digvesh took five wickets as Sepience Club beat Learners Academy by 194 runs in the Sita Rani Juneja cricket tournament.

Sepience Club 277 for seven in

40 overs (Raghav Kapoor 86, Abhimanyu 63) bt Learners Academy 83 in 32 overs (Akshay 30, Digvesh 5/18).

ITF JUNIORS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Yuvan Nandal overcame an indifferent start to beat Aditya Nandal 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the boys' pre-quarterfinals of the ITF grade-4 junior tennis at the DLTA Complex here on Wednesday.

Yuvan, who had lost the final in three sets to Aditya last week in Guwahati, settled the scores quickly in setting up a second round against Parv Nage.

In the girls' section, Renne Singla prevailed over Nandini Dixit in the second set tie-break to set up a quarterfinal against Suhitha Maruri.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Boys: Aman Dahiya bt Nikhil Mukherjee 6-3, 6-4; Deep Munim bt Abhay Chhabra 6-7(4), 6-0, 6-1; Parv Nage bt Daniil Felker (Kaz) 6-7(10), 6-1, 6-2: Yuvan Nandal bt Aditva Nandal 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Muni Ananthmani bt Aryan Lakshmanan 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; Monil Lotlikar bt Daksh Prasad 6-0, 6-2; Daksh Agarwal bt Jaishnav Shinde 6-4, 6-1; Max Batyutenko (Kaz) bt Bushan Haobam 6-7(3), 6-1, 6-0.

Girls: Shruti Ahlawat bt Tamanna Takoria 6-1. 6-1: Saina Deshpande (US) bt Hitakamya Singh Narwal 6-1, 7-6(7); Erkezhan Arystanbekova (Kaz) bt Sukhmanni Bhandari 6-3, 2-6, 6-1; Lakshmi Prabha bt Kristi Boro 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Renne Singla bt Nandini Dixit 6-4, 7-6(4); Suhitha Maruri bt Niyati Kukreti 6-2, 6-3; Vaishnavi Adkar bt Ruma Gaikaiwari 6-2, 6-0; Sonal Patil bt Lakshmi Gowda 6-1, 6-0.

FOLLOW US

Half effective

In percent, the effectiveness of two doses of Covaxin against symptomatic COVID-19, according to the first real-world assessment of India's indigenous coronavirus vaccine published in The Lancet *Infectious Diseases* journal. The results of an interim study recently published in The Lancet showed that two doses of Covaxin, also known as BBV152, had 77.8% efficacy against symptomatic disease and present no serious safety concerns. The latest study assessed 2,714 hospital workers from April 15-May 15, who were symptomatic. PTI

Terror again in J&K

The number of militants killed in an encounter with the security forces in the Rambagh area of Srinagar on Wednesday. Officials said the militants' identities and group affiliation were still being ascertained. Two spells of lockdown the first after J&K was stripped of its statehood and its special constitutional status, and the second related to COVID-19 - had put a lid on new terrorist incidents. However, terror seems to be increasing again, and civilians, including from the minority community, are being targeted more. AGENCIES

COVID-19 and a cult

The number of new little-known sect led by a pastor who pokes people's eyes to heal them is at the centre of the latest outbreak. In a tiny rural church in a town of 427 residents in Cheonan city, south of Seoul, at least 241 people linked to the religious community had tested positive for COVID-19. About 90% of the religious community was unvaccinated. REUTERS

Lira on the decline

In percent, Turkey's currency Lira's losses against the dollar this year. On Tuesday, it crashed to record lows driven by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's defence of rate cuts. On Wednesday morning, the Lira weakened as far as 13.15 to the U.S. currency. Many Turks, already grappling with inflation of around 20%, fear prices will accelerate. Opposition politicians have accused Mr. Erdogan of dragging the country into a crisis. Retailers are also struggling, with some websites stopping sales of electronic products. REUTERS

One more debut

The number of players who would have debuted for India in Tests after Shreyas Iyer joins the playing XI in the first Test against New Zealand in Kanpur on Thursday. India's stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane confirmed Iyer's inclusion on Wednesday. Iyer has secured the spot after K.L. Rahul was ruled out following a left thigh muscle strain. "It's obviously a big blow. Rahul did really well in England. But we have guys who can do the job, guys who have done well for us in the past and are experienced," Rahane said.

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Falling back on reserves to tilt the scales

Will the move to exert pressure on the powerful OPEC+ oil producers, that turned down suggestions to enhance output, pay off or prove counter-productive?

THE GIST

- India has announced that it will release 5 million barrels of crude oil as part of a coordinated approach mooted by the U.S. after the oil producing OPEC+ bloc waved off suggestions to boost the output for a calming effect on the prices.
- India stores 5.33 million tonnes (MT) of crude oil in underground caverns which can be supplied to refineries either through pipelines or through a combination of pipelines and coastal movement.
- The OPEC and its ally producers could resort to putting on hold the incremental production they planned ahead as a measure to keep the global prices from crashing.

N.RAVI KUMAR

The story so far: India on November 23 announced that it will release 5 million barrels of crude oil from strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) or the stockpiles. This is part of a coordinated approach mooted by the U.S. and other major oil consumers after the oil-producing OPEC+ bloc waved off suggestions to boost the output for a calming effect on the prices. At the heart of this are the petroleum product prices that have been rising steadily for months now, and which threaten to throw a spanner in the post-pandemic economic recovery process.

What is behind India's decision to use crude oil stockpiles?

Rising crude oil prices in international markets to which pump prices of petrol and diesel in the country are intrinsically tied to, a nudge from the U.S. and the long-felt need to send out a stern message to the powerful oil-producing lobby are behind the Centre's decision to use crude oil reserves, albeit in a

The U.S. along with China, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom have also announced that they will be part of this exercise,

limited way. Quoting an unnamed top Government official, PTI said it would be the first time that India will be releasing crude oil stocks to cool international oil prices. About 5 million barrels will be released, starting as early as 7-10 days, according to the official.

India is not alone in resorting to such a move. The U.S., China, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom have also announced that they will be part of this exercise, widely perceived to be a measure by major energy-consuming countries to flex their muscles.

When are the rest in the group likely to follow suit?

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in a statement on November 23, said that at the direction of President Joe Biden, the Secretary of Energy, Jennifer M. Granholm, authorised 50 million barrels of crude oil from the DOE's Strategic Petroleum Reserve to be made available. According to the PTI

report, China has also said it is working on crude oil release. Citing a report in *Nikkei* newspaper, Reuters stated that Japan will hold auctions for about 4.2 million barrels of oil out of its national stockpile.

How many petroleum stockpiles does India hold and who will get access to it?

India stores 5.33 million tonnes (MT) of crude oil in underground caverns. The strategic crude oil storage at Visakhapatnam, commissioned in June 2015, Mangaluru (October 2016) and Padur, near Udupi (December 2018), were created from a perspective of ensuring energy security, especially during any supply disruptions. The contents from the caverns can be supplied to refineries either through pipelines or through a combination of pipelines and coastal movement, according to the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) Ltd, the wholly owned subsidiary of the Oil Industry Development Board. These strategic storages are in addition to the

existing storages of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies. Two new SPRs, with an additional storage of 6.5 MT, are proposed to be constructed at Chandikhol in Odisha and Padur.

India relies on imports to meet 80-85% of the crude oil refined in the country. According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, there were 226.955 MT crude oil imports in 2019-2020 as against 226.498 MT in the previous fiscal year. In 2020-21, a year ravaged by the pandemic, the imports were lower at 196.461 MT.

According to PTI, the 5 million barrels will be sold to refineries of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), which are connected by pipeline to the strategic reserves.

Will this move change pump prices of petrol and diesel?

The pump prices declined sharply after the Centre, earlier this month, reduced the

excise duty on petrol by ₹5 a litre and the levy on diesel by ₹10 a litre. In addition to this, some States also reduced the VAT on the fuels. Interestingly, global crude oil prices that were behind the Government's decision to cut the levy started tapering on the back of fresh COVID-19-triggered worries in Europe. The threat of a coordinated release of the reserves, the PTI report said,

has knocked the wind out of crude oil's rally. It would be sometime before any impact is likely on the pump prices as the quantities committed to be released are not enough to cause a ripple effect. The OPEC and its ally producers could resort to putting on hold the incremental production they planned ahead as a measure to keep the global prices Julian Lee says the OPEC+ group would have planned output increases to offset strategic stockpile releases led by the U.S. The group is due to hold discussions on Dec. 2 to set production plans for January.

Black gold: A view of the crude cavern of the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd at Lova Gardens in Visakhapatnam, in 2015.

from crashing. Bloomberg oil strategist to defer at least two months' worth of

EXPLAINER

The need for a proper Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy

How many bills have been tabled without prior discussions? What needs to be done to improve public consultation in policymaking?

The story so far: The Union Government has listed 29 Bills (26 new and three pending) to be tabled in the winter session of Parliament. In 2014, the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy was adopted, mandating a host of rules, including that whenever the Government makes any law, it must place a draft version of it in the public domain for at least 30 days. Since the inception of the policy, 227 of the 301 bills introduced in Parliament have been presented without any prior consultation. Of the 74 placed in public domain for comment, at least 40 did not adhere to the 30-day deadline.

What is the policy?

The Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy (PLCP) 2014 mandates that whenever the Government makes any laws (bills, rules, regulations etc.), it must place a draft version of it in the public domain for at least 30 days. The policy also says that along with the draft, a note explaining the law in simple language and justifying the proposal, its financial implication, impact on the environment and fundamental rights, a study on the social and financial costs of the bill, etc. should



be uploaded. The respective departments should also upload the summary of all the feedback that they receive on the circulated draft.

The PLCP was formulated based on the broad recommendations of the National Advisory Council headed by Sonia Gandhi (2013) and the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2002). It aimed to create an institutionalised space for public participation in lawmaking processes.

Why is it important?

This policy provides a forum for citizens and relevant stakeholders to interact with the policymakers in the executive during the initial stages of lawmaking. Protests in the recent past over laws such as the farm laws, the RTI Amendment Act, the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, etc. have all highlighted that there is discontent among relevant stakeholders and the public at large since they were not looped in while framing such laws. Public consultations enhance transparency, increase accountability and could result in the building of an informed Government where citizens are treated as partners and not as subjects.

For example, concerns raised by civil society members (#SaveTheInternet

campaign) were addressed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority in its framing of the net neutrality rules after extensive consultation and deliberation processes adopted by them.

What is the status of its implementation?

During the 16th Lok Sabha (May 2014 to May 2019) 186 bills were introduced in Parliament, of which 142 saw no consultation prior to introduction. From the 44 bills placed in the public domain for receipt of comments, 24 did not adhere to the 30-day deadline. During the 17th Lok Sabha (June 2019 to present), 115 bills were introduced in Parliament, of which 85 saw no consultation prior to introduction. From the 30 bills placed in public domain for receipt of comment, 16 of them did not adhere to the 30-day deadline.

The tentative schedule for the winter session indicates that a total of 29 bills are listed for introduction and passing. Of these, 17 saw no prior consultation while from the 12 that were placed in the public domain, only six adhered to the 30-day deadline.

Why is implementation difficult?

Though it is required that the mandates of an approved policy be heeded by all Government departments, the absence of a statutory or constitutional right has watered down its effect. The effective implementation of the policy requires subsequent amendments in executive procedural guidelines like the Manual of Parliamentary Procedures and Handbook on Writing Cabinet Notes. However, during a subsequent amendment to the Manual of Parliamentary Procedures, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs ignored the Ministry of Law and Justice when it requested them to incorporate PLCP

provisions in the manual. Incorporation of pre-legislative consultation in the procedures of the Cabinet, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha etc. should be prioritised. Similarly, it must be required of ministers while introducing the bill to place an addendum note on the details of the pre-legislative consultation. Empowering citizens with a right to participate in pre-legislative consultations through a statutory and a constitutional commitment could be a gamechanger.

Arun P.S. is a public policy researcher based out of

- Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy was adopted, mandating a host of rules, including that whenever the Government makes any law, it must place a draft version of it in the public domain for at least 30 days.
- This policy provides a forum for citizens and relevant stakeholders to interact with the policymakers.
- Though it is a requirement that should be heeded by all the Government departments, the absence of a statutory or constitutional right has watered down its effect.





Hard work: A daily wage labourer eats lunch on a piece of tin sheet at a construction site in New Delhi, in 2019. • THE HINDU

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The shaky foundation of the labour law reforms

It could be a long wait before employers and workers enjoy the so-called benefits extended by the labour codes

THE GIST

■ The National Democratic Alliance Government enacted the Code on Wages in August 2019 and the other three Codes, viz., the Industrial Relations Code, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code and Code on Social Security (CSS) in September 2020.

■ The Government passed these laws in a hurry and held only symbolic and partial consultation with the central trade unions. Till August 2021, major States have not even issued the draft rules under any codes.

■ In the meanwhile, the Supreme Court of India has exerted pressure on both the Central and the State Governments to implement a 'one nation, one ration card' (ONOR) scheme and register all the unorganised workers under the National Database for Unorganized Workers (NDUW).

K.R. SHYAM SUNDAR

Following the repeal of the farm laws by the Union Government, the Trade Unions have decided to step up their protests against the Labour codes passed in 2019, 2020 and which are yet to be notified. In this article dated August 10, 2021, K.R. Shyam Sundar writes about the codes; what they are, how they were formed and are now being implemented. Edited excerpts:

The National Democratic Alliance Government enacted the Code on Wages in August 2019 and the other three Codes, *viz.*, the Industrial Relations Code, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code and Code on Social Security (CSS) in September 2020. Later, it had framed the draft rules albeit incompletely under all the codes – incompletely because the rules have not covered some aspects of the Codes, e.g. rules regarding recognition of central trade unions have not been framed so far.

A rushed exercise

Controversies surround the processes of the enactment of codes and the framing of rules. The Government has held only symbolic and partial consultation with the central trade unions. The three codes were passed in Parliament even as the Opposition parties, otherwise insignificant, boycotted the proceedings. The tearing hurry in which the Government carried out the reforms even during the COVID-19 period gave tremendous hope to employers and potential investors. It announced its intentions of implementing the Codes from April 1, 2021 even as State governments were completely unprepared with the rules. Symbolically, labour law reforms have been affected and the Government can boast of it; simply put, it is more symbolic rather than a meaningful act.

Court directives

The Central Government has deferred the possible date of implementation to October 1, 2021, again tentatively. In the meanwhile, the Supreme Court of India has exerted pressure on both the Central and the State Governments to implement a 'one nation, one ration card' (ONOR) scheme and register all the unorganised workers under the National Database for Unorganized

Workers (NDUW), which was to have been done by July 31, 2021. Government agencies are rushing to comply with both the directives. In ONOR, Aadhaar seeding and the universal availability of an electronic point of sale (EPOS) system are necessary. And for the NDUW, it has to register each of the approximately 400 million workers, a conservative figure.

Perhaps, the Supreme Court passed such an extraordinary perhaps impracticable order following the hesitancy in early 2020 to provide relief to suffering migrant workers following the national lockdown. One is not sure when Governments would comply fully and well with the Supreme Court's orders. Unorganised workers including migrant workers will continue to be deprived of their promised and extended entitlements.

The Government said the codes would extend universal minimum wages, social security, enable enhanced industrial safety and the provision of social security to gig workers, among other things.

Government's line vs reality

The Government said the codes would extend universal minimum wages and social security, enable enhanced industrial safety and the provision of social security to gig workers, among other things. The Industrial Relations Code provides for recognition of trade union(s) by employers, a labour right that eluded workers for seven decades. On the other hand, employers celebrated the extension of tremendous flexibility to them, even those unasked, such as relief from framing standing orders for most firms. But do they enjoy these benefits?

On August 3, 2021, I browsed the Simpliance website (a law portal) to assess the record of State Governments regarding rules under the codes. It was a revelation to find that major States such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Haryana and Delhi have not issued the draft rules under any codes. Karnataka, Gujarat and Jharkhand have framed Rules for the Code on Wages and the Industrial Relations Code. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab have framed rules for all

the codes. Even though the Code on Wages was enacted in August 2019, it was only in March 2021 that the Central Government notified the constitution of an advisory committee. On June 3, 2021 it also announced an expert committee with a tenure of three years to advise it on minimum wages. Then, on July 12, 2021, it announced that the wage index's base year would be shifted from 1965 to 2019 to use the revised wage index to determine minimum wages. The Government seems to be clueless regarding the implementation of minimum wages.

Poor safety record

The incidence of major industrial accidents has remained undiminished even during the COVID-19 period. For instance, IndustriAll reported that between May to June, 32 major industrial accidents occurred in India, killing 75 workers. Industrial safety continues to be a grave concern even after the enactment of the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code.

According to several research reports, COVID-19 intensified informality, led to the withdrawal of workers from the labour market, reduced earnings, increased unemployment and widened inequality. The non-statutory floor level minimum wage remains a meagre ₹178 still even as Wholesale Price Index-inflation rates have galloped to 12% in June 2021. It did not implement the widely endorsed measure of direct benefit transfer at least for low-income families.

In perspective

Thus, we see two aspects concerning labour market governance in India. One, the Government has failed to provide legal visibility to millions of unorganised and migrant workers, even after decades, and despite direction by the highest court in the land.

Two, despite the gazetting of four Codes, age-old laws are in force. Thus, they reflect poorly not only on the governance abilities of the governments but also on the countervailing power of the Opposition parties. Were the labour law reforms rushed with little or no debate and consultation whatsoever, only to remain in the gazette books? Employers and workers cannot enjoy the so-called benefits extended by the codes.

KEYWORI

Hysterical realism

How an insult turned into a literary genre

G. SAMPATH

The term 'hysterical realism' was supposed to be the first salvo in a literary feud. While the feud never really took off, the term itself, despite being intended in a pejorative sense, has gained currency as a useful descriptor of a certain kind of contemporary fiction. It was coined by the English critic James Wood in a 2000 essay in which he lamented a literary tendency to cover up a lack of something primary with an excess of many things secondary.

These novels - Wood invoked Zadie Smith's White Teeth, Salman Rushdie's Fury, Don DeLillo's White Noise and David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest, among others -- were typically marked by an overabundance of cartoonish characters, a profusion of stories, and a surfeit of information about obscure things, all rendered in glittering prose running into 1,000 pages or more. For Wood, a conservative who believes that a novel's mandate is to explore individual consciousness, these works were "brilliant cabinets of wonders" that hid a profound lack - "the human". As he put it, in the hysterical realist novel, "the conventions of realism are not being abolished but, on the contrary, over-worked. One's objections are made not at the level of verisimilitude but at the level of morality: the style of writing is not to be faulted because it lacks reality -- the usual charge -- but because it seems evasive of reality, while borrowing from realism itself. It is not a cock-up but a

Wood's essay was so closely argued that even Smith, the immediate target of his critique, was forced to acknowledge that hysterical realism was a "painfully accurate term for the sort of overblown, manic prose to be found in novels like my own *White Teeth*". Her defence was that novelists write not what they want but what they can.

From the vantage of literary history, the rise of hysterical realism is only a recent wrinkle in the vast canvas of realism that began that began to dominate prose fiction in the mid-18th century. Realism, simply put, denotes fiction that faithfully mirrors reality. It evolved in opposition to romanticism, where it was not reality but dramatic or genre conventions that dictated content. There are many types of realism, depending on which aspect of reality gets priority. For instance, social realist novels dwell on the lives of the working classes, whereas psychological realism focuses on character motivation. Then there is magic realism, which blurs the line between reality and fantasy.

To the lay reader may not be conversant with literary theory, realism might seem like the 'obvious' framework for fiction writing. After all, the most 'commonsensical' criticism of a novel (or even a film) is that it is 'unrealistic' or 'not believable'. But things are not so simple. Realism is one response to a problem of literary aesthetics, which we can define as follows: if creation is an exercise in autonomy, then what is the nature of the relationship between text and reality?

If the subjectivity of the author is at one end of the spectrum, denoting absolute autonomy of the text, and objective reality is at the other end, then the kind of realism one finds in a novel reflects the nature of the relationship between the text and the world. So, for instance, the Harry Potter series of novels is a complete fantasy, whereas Gabriel Garcia Marquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude, which too has fantastical elements, isn't -- it is magic realism. Practitioners of hysterical realism - while they may not particularly like the term - might argue that how a human being experiences reality in the age of the internet is best depicted in the 'hysterical' mode, for that is the effect of hyper-mediated reality on human consciousness.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A popular quote goes thus "The world would be a nicer place if everyone had the ability to love as unconditionally as a dog". A quiz on 'man's best friend'.

The dog is one of the most ubiquitous domestic animals. According to experts, all dogs, more than 400 breeds of them, trace their ancestry to which specific member of the Canidae family?

2 Usually standing no taller than 8 inches, which breed is considered the smallest and is named after a place in which country?

What is the native name for the 'Maiden's Beastmaster', an indigenous sighthound found in South India (specifically Tamil

4 What is the adjective for dog-like and what is the

study of matters related to domestic dogs called?

Two of the most popular

5 Two of the most popular fictional dogs are Snoopy (Peanuts) and Snowy (Tintin). What breeds are they supposed to be?

Which breed of our furry friend is called the 'barkless dog' because it is known for making a yodeling noise instead of barking?



■ According to the Guinness Book of World Records, this is the world's oldest known breed of domesticated dog. Identify. •AP

Please send in your answers to the dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1.Chaebol, 2.Kim Dae-Jung, 3.Hellbound, 4.Ri Chun-hee, 5.Largest known prime number, 6.Soohorong & Bandabi; Pyeongchang

Early Birds: Mohd Kiron Karim| Ranjan Anil Kumar| Sakshi Shahi| Nagamani Cherukuri| Manish



Compiled by: V.V. Ramanar

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