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Top 50

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Top 100

281 Total
Selections

IN BRIEF



Sidhu and Amarinder clash over farm laws

CHANDIGARH
As the turmoil within the Congress's Punjab unit continues, party State chief Navjot Singh Sidhu and former CM Captain Amarinder Singh (retd.) engaged in a sharp exchange of words on Thursday over the farm laws.

NEWS PAGE 9

Man booked on conversion charges in Uttar Pradesh

LUCKNOW
A man from Fatehpur district in U.P. was booked under the new anti-conversion law in the State for trying to convert his wife to Islam.

NEWS PAGE 9

**DAILY GUIDANCE
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by Amit Garg & Patil Sir
Ex-Faculties, VAJIRAM & RAVI
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SC says farmers have right to protest, but can't block roads

Farmers blame police, seek nod to protest at Ram Lila Maidan, Jantar Mantar

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said public roads could not be blocked to hamper free movement even as farmers and the Government verbally clashed during the physical hearing, over who is responsible for the nearly two-year blockade.

Farmers, represented by senior advocate Dushyant Dave and advocate Prashant Bhushan, said roads were deliberately blocked to turn public sentiments against them. They should be allowed to enter the Ram Lila Maidan and Jantar Mantar to continue their protests against the agricultural laws.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for Haryana, reminded the court about the Red Fort violence in January that left several hundreds injured and others killed.

A Bench led by Justice S.K.



Impasse continues: Farmers staging a protest in Noida on Thursday. • PTI

Kaul acknowledged that "there is a problem with movement, we are not going to accept there is no problem".

A solution should be found for the impasse between farmers and the Government, it said.

The court noted that it

had laid down the law in the Shaheen Bagh protests case that the right to protest should not hamper the right to movement of the public. Justice Kaul observed, "The law is laid down. There is no reason for the SC to lay down the law again and again..."

Mr. Dave said the right to

protest was a fundamental right. The roads were blocked by the police. The government's view on violence by protesters seemed to be skewed, he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

FARMERS' PROTEST TO CONTINUE, SAYS BKU PAGE 3

India crosses 100 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses

PM congratulates healthcare workers for the milestone

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

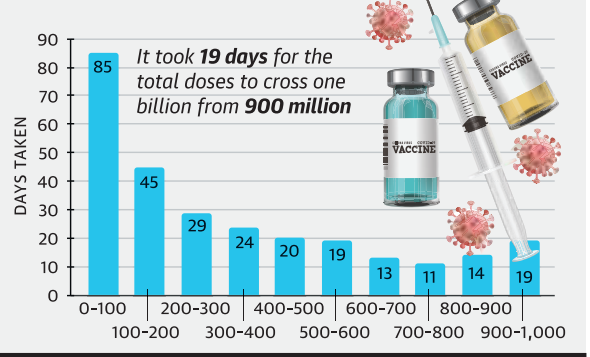
India completed 100 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines on Thursday, in about nine months since the drive began.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his gratitude to doctors, nurses and all those who worked on crossing the milestone. He tweeted, "India scripts history. We are witnessing the triumph of Indian science, enterprise and collective spirit of 130 crore Indians. Congrats India on crossing 100 crore vaccinations."

"The vaccine has brought pride and protection in the lives of our citizens," Mr. Modi noted. He visited the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here and interacted with healthcare workers and people receiving the vaccine.

To mark the occasion, the Union Health Ministry held a

Dose progression | The chart shows the days taken for total COVID-19 vaccination doses in India to cross every 100 million dose mark:



series of events and released a two-minute video on the nation's fight against COVID-19.

Hailing the achievement, UNICEF India representative Yasmin Ali Haque said, "As Indian families recover from the recent devastating COVID-19 wave, for many, this milestone means hope."

Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Poonam Khetrapal Singh also termed it an extraordinary feat.

SCRIPTING HISTORY: EDITORIAL
PAGE 6

RESPONDING TO ADVERSITY WITH ACHIEVEMENT EDITORIAL
PAGE
MORE REPORTS PAGE 10

Organised crime charges valid in Gauri case, says SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday revived the organised crime charges against a man accused of harbouring the alleged killers of journalist Gauri Lankesh, whose murder four years ago struck a deadly blow to the freedom of speech and expression in the country. Gauri was shot dead outside her home in Bengaluru in 2017.

A three-judge Bench, led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, upheld the appeal filed by Kavitha Lankesh, Gauri's sister, that the prior approval given by the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner to invoke offences under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act against accused Mohan Nayak was legally valid. Ms. Kavitha's appeal before the top court came after the Karnataka High Court dropped the organised crime charges against Nayak earlier this year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

PM to attend climate meet in Glasgow

Delegations from U.S., EU, and U.K. visit Delhi to discuss India's climate goals

SUHASINI HAIDAR
JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Glasgow on October 31 to attend the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), India has conveyed to the British Government this week, sources confirmed.

The decision comes even as climate negotiation delegations from the United States, the European Union and the United Kingdom travelled to Delhi to discuss India's climate goals.

Mr. Modi and U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson are expected to jointly launch the "one world, one solar, one grid" initiative at the summit where at least 120 world leaders have confirmed their attendance.

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss will land in Delhi on Friday, and will meet with Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav to finalise details of Mr. Modi's programme.

Meanwhile, a senior U.S. delegation led by Robert Blake, a retired diplomat ap-



Colourful message: Artists in Glasgow painting a mural near Scottish Events Centre, venue for the summit. • GETTY IMAGES

pointed by U.S. Special Envoy John Kerry to coordinate with India on the climate financing and clean energy partnership, is also in Delhi for talks with the Environment Ministry.

On his previous two visits to India, Mr. Kerry had pressed hard for India to update its climate goals, as only a few countries have done thus far after the Paris climate accord, and also to announce a deadline for phasing out coal and achieving a "Net Zero" carbon emission target.

Mr. Blake's visit coincides with that of European Union Executive Vice President for the "European Green Deal" Frans Timmerman, who has been in Delhi for the International Solar Alliance.

'A positive sign'

Mr. Modi's decision to attend the summit in Glasgow, where he will fly directly from the G-20 summit in Rome (October 30-31) is seen as a positive sign that India will announce an updated plan at the conference, diplomats said. India

was expected to update its Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) to reflect its ambition to install 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030, but the deadline for submitting updated NDCs to the United Nations, ahead of the Glasgow summit, was passed on October 12 without the announcement.

"The truth is, apart from China, India, as a growing economy, and a major contributor to carbon emissions, is also the most important country in terms of ensuring the world meets its deadlines on countering climate change, and all eyes are on the clear time-bound commitments Prime Minister Modi will make at the COP26 in Glasgow," a western diplomat told *The Hindu*, explaining the rush of delegations to Delhi this week.

Both Mr. Kerry and COP-26 President-Designate from the U.K., Alok Sharma, have also made two visits each to India this year with this on the agenda.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

'Act on illegal construction in Kaziranga'

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

The Central Empowered Committee (CEC), constituted by the Supreme Court, has asked the Assam government to act on illegal construction in the identified wildlife corridors of the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.

In a letter to the State's Chief Secretary on October 6, CEC Member-Secretary Amarnath Shetty said an action taken report should be submitted to the panel within four weeks.

The CEC had taken note of an inspection report on violation of the court's order, which disallowed new construction on private lands that form part of the nine animal corridors.

No raid at Shah Rukh's house, says NCB

It was for collection of material related to investigation in Aryan's case: agency

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Thursday visited 'Mannat', actor Shah Rukh Khan's house, to collect certain material related to the investigation in the case of his son, Aryan Khan, who is in judicial custody over his alleged chats related to drugs on WhatsApp.

The agency on Thursday also summoned actor Ananya Pandey to record her statement after her name appeared in the WhatsApp chats. She visited the NCB office in the afternoon along with her father and actor Chunky Pandey. Earlier in the day, Mr. Khan visited his son at Arthur Road Jail.

NCB Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede, in a press release, said, "Today on 21



In the spotlight: Shah Rukh Khan leaving Arthur Road Jail after visiting Aryan. • PTI

October, a team of NCB Mumbai Zonal Unit officials visited Mannat, the residence of Shri Aryan Khan in connection with Cr 94/21 for seeking certain material related to the investigation of the case from Mr. Sharukh Khan, F/o Aryan Khan by following due procedure of not-

ice etc. It wasn't a raid as erroneously reported in certain sections/channels of media."

Fresh allegations

Continuing his series of allegations against Mr. Wankhede, Nationalist Congress Party leader and Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik said the extortion money collected by the NCB from Bollywood was collected in the Maldives when the officer's relatives, including his sister, Jasmeen Wankhede, also known as Lady Don, were there when many Bollywood stars, too, were in that country. "Was he also there?" the Minister said.

Mr. Malik also released photographs of Ms. Wankhede when she was in the Maldives.

HC to hear bail plea on October 26

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday said it would hear actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan's bail petition on October 26.

The special Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act court extended the judicial custody of Mr. Aryan and co-accused Arbaaz Merchant and Mumun Dhamecha till October 30. Mr. Aryan was arrested on October 3.

SHUBHRA RANJAN
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By SHUBHRA RANJAN
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25 Pusa Road, 1st Floor, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110005

Is ₹79 crore enough for hybrid courts infrastructure, asks HC

Court asks Registrar General to find out if the Govt.'s revised estimate is feasible

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked its Registrar General to find out if the city Government's revised estimate of ₹79.48 crore from an earlier projection of over ₹220 crore for setting up infrastructure for hybrid hearings in district courts here was feasible.

A Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh said the response of the Registrar General should be duly supported with expert opinion.

Earlier estimate: ₹220 cr. The court pointed out that an earlier estimate of over ₹220 crore, which was submitted by the High Court registry to the Delhi Government, was



brought down to ₹79.48 crore on account of lowered specifications of the infrastructure proposed to be installed for hybrid hearings.

"You (Government) have put a ceiling of ₹79 crore at your end. Has anyone applied his mind to say that ₹79 crore is good enough for virtual court? How can you go to the IT Department later?"

the Bench asked.

Delhi Government's counsel said the revised estimate of ₹79 crore has received "in principle" approval of the Finance Department and after the receipt of a proposal from the relevant authorities, it will be sent to the IT Department of the Delhi Government for further approval.

The counsel said IT experts were "taken into confidence" while deciding the revised estimate and in case the infrastructure needs an upgrade, the same will be done.

The High Court, which was hearing two pleas by lawyers Anil Kumar Hajelay and Manashw Jha seeking various prayers including conducting hybrid hearings in district courts on physical

Domestic help, cousin held for staging robbery of ₹5 lakh

'Duo planned to steal employer's money to start own venture'

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI

A domestic help has been arrested from north Delhi's Wazirabad for allegedly staging a robbery of ₹5 lakh, belonging to his employer, in order to start his own venture. His cousin brother has also been arrested for allegedly assisting him in the crime.

According to the police, they received a PCR call on Monday from the accused, Deepak, 34, who alleged that two bikers had robbed him of his mobile phone and cash worth ₹5 lakh.

After a police team reached the spot, Deepak claimed that he had collected ₹5 lakh from Sector 3 in Rohini around 5.45 p.m. on the instructions of his employer, Rajeev Bansal. He told the police that he had kept the



money in his scooter and was going to deliver it at Seelampur when around 6.20 p.m., near the Burari flyover, two men on a bike threw red chilli powder in his eyes, forcing him to stop the scooter. The pillion rider caught hold of Deepak and snatched his mobile phone and the money, the accused told the police.

However, when a police

team inspected the crime scene, it found no red chilli powder at the spot or on the clothes of the complainant. "He was also changing his statement frequently. His employer was called to the spot and during technical probe, the complainant's version was also not matching his timing," DCP (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said.

After Deepak was interrogated, he allegedly broke down and disclosed that in order to open a new business he hatched a plan with his cousin , Aslam, 39, to stage a fake robbery and steal his employer's money. He also allegedly disclosed that he had worked with Bansal for five to six years without a police verification and was involved in previous criminal cases of similar nature.

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The air quality in the city improved to the higher end of "moderate" category on Thursday from the "poor" level on Wednesday and it is expected to worsen in the next two days, as per official data.

The air pollution had increased to the "poor" category for the first time this season on Saturday and improved to the "good" level on Monday.

On Thursday, the contribution of stubble burning to PM2.5 in Delhi was estimated to jump to 15% and the number of active fire counts was 1,234, according to SAFAR. "However, local winds are moderate and that enhances dispersion of pollutants keeping the AQI in moderate category."

13.8 kg tumour removed from man's chest

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A tumour bigger than the "size of a football" and weighing 13.8 kg was removed from the chest of a 25-year-old man, according to a private hospital.

The tumour had occupied more than 90% of the chest area of the person, reducing the lung function by 90%. "It was a four-hour surgery, which involved opening of both the sides of the chest and cutting the chest bone in between," said Dr. Udgeeth Dhir, head of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, Fortis Hospital, Gurugram.

Students stage protest seeking reopening of schools, colleges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Several student groups under the banner of All India Forum for Right to Education (AIFRTE) staged a protest outside the Ministry of Education building on Thursday, demanding reopening of all educational institutions. They said their prolonged closure has led to disruption in the education system.

The protesters said that despite governments opening markets, malls, bars, hotels and cinemas, no steps have been taken to ensure that educational institutions are opened with sufficient health checks in place to assure students, parents and

teachers of their safety.

"The tragic consequence of this unnecessary closure is that lakhs of school and college students have simply had to drop out of educational institutions," the students said.

They added that that Union and State Governments are concerned about how exams are going to be held and not about how the academic activities of the students are going to be restored.

The students also protested the recommendations of a government-appointed panel that has suggested doing away with the non-NET (National Eligibility Test) fellowship offered to research students at Central universities.

Oppn. hits out at North civic body over delay in property tax waiver

'Talks on with other corporations to implement it together'

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

A ruckus erupted at the North Delhi Municipal Corporation's monthly meeting on Thursday with Opposition leaders alleging that the BJP-led civic body had "failed to implement the tax waiver for houses measuring up to 50 square metres".

The North civic body had approved a proposal to waive property tax for houses measuring up to 50 square metres in approved colonies, rural areas and unauthorised colonies. The move was aimed to benefit three lakh

property owners.

Congress councillor Mukesh Goel said, "We were told that a preamble would be brought forward regarding the waiver but nothing of the sort has been done. If they can make the announcement, then they should stick by it."

Leader of Opposition from the Aam Aadmi Party, Vikas Goel, said that it was evident how the BJP "has been misleading the people of Delhi".

"They (BJP) had also put up hoardings all over Delhi congratulating this move. However, it pains me to in-

Delhi HC tells police not to harass restaurants, bars

'Can conduct checks for herbal hookah'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday told the city police not to "harass" restaurants and bars, which have filed pleas seeking permission to serve herbal-flavoured hookahs, by parking their vehicles outside the premises.

Justice Rekha Palli said the police can conduct random checks in restaurants and bars to see if hookahs are being served but can't keep police personnel posted outside the premises as it will affect business.

The counsel for Delhi police said the force will not

park vehicles outside the premises but it will conduct random checks on to ensure that they don't serve hookahs till an order is passed by the court on their petitions.

The court was informed that the order of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority, prohibiting the use of herbal hookahs in public places to contain the spread of COVID-19, will continue to be in force till further orders.

The court asked the Delhi Government to reconsider the issue within five days. In case it still feels that prohibition is necessary, it should file an affidavit, the HC said.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one female was admitted in Safdarjung Hospital and Expired on 09.10.2021. In this regard a **DD No. 68-A Dated 09.10.2021** has been lodged at **P.S. Kishangarh, New Delhi**. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Dora Rego, **W/o:** SG Rego **R/o:** H.No. 58B, Ground Floor, Ber Sarai, New Delhi **Age:** 55 Years, **Height:** 5'2" Feet, **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** Unknown

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

S.H.O
P.S. Kishangarh, New Delhi.
Ph.: 011-26510085,26510075

DP/892/SW/2021



APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) **Namely Data Ram S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age :** about 60-70 years, **Height :** 5'7", **Complexion :** Wheatish, **Built :** Medium, **Face :** Oval, **Hair :** White, **Wearing :** White colour kurta & yellow colour lunggi has been found dead in area of PS GTB Enclave, Delhi on 13.10.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No. 81A dated 13.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. GTB Enclave, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO
P.S. GTB Enclave, Delhi
Shahdara Distt. Delhi
Tel. No. 011-22137444, 22580947

DP/604/SHD/2021



SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed one girl namely **Shabnam D/o Azeemuddin R/o H.No. L-32, Loha Market Welcome, Delhi**, is missing/kidnapped from the area of PS: Seelampur Delhi since 06.03.2017. In this regard, a case **FIR No. 148/17 U/S 363 IPC, dated 07.03.2017** has been registered at **P.S. Seelampur Delhi**. The description of the missing girl is as under.

Age: 17 Years 6 month, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue Colour Kurta, and Blue Colour Pajami and Chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped girl then please inform P.S: Seelampur, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.in** and Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O.
Seelampur, Delhi
PH. 011-22562989

DP/1057/NE/2021



Dengue situation under control in Delhi: Minister

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The dengue situation in Delhi is completely under control and an adequate number of beds are available in hospitals, Health Minister Satyendar Jain said on Thursday.

"Patients from outside Delhi are also being treated here. At present, 25% of the total dengue patients in Delhi hospitals are from outside the city," Mr. Jain said.

The percentage of beds reserved for COVID-19 patients has been reduced to 10% so that there will be enough beds for dengue patients, the government said.

"There are about 11,000 beds in Delhi government hospitals, but only 221 patients are admitted there," a statement said.



NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Lucknow invites Open tender through E-tendering system on behalf of President of India invites sealed open tender in Two Packet Systems from Advertising Agencies in prescribed proforma to permit three years contract of advertising rights for commercial publicity at Various Station of Lucknow Division, payment of EMD and Tender Fees is paying through net banking or payment gateway.

Details of stations & Tender notice no. Reserve Price, EMD and Cost of bid document are as under:-

S.No.-01, Tender Notice No.-: 23-2021-GKPAvt-LXING/ CIRCULATING AREA, Description of works: Commercial Advertisement Right at Gorakhpur Lxing/Circulating area/ROB/RUB for 03 years. Estimated Value for 01 year (Reserve Price In Rupee): ₹ 42,58,868/-, Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.) through online payment: ₹ 2,55,600/-, Cost of Tender Documents (Non Refundable) (In Rs.) through online payment: ₹ 5,000/-.

- Date and time of Closing of Tender: Up to 14:00 hrs. on 23-11-2021.
- Date and Time of Tender Opening: Up to 15:00 hrs. on 23-11-2021.
- Validity of Tender: 60 days.
- Period of Contract: 03 years.
- Website Address: www.ireps.gov.in

Divl. Rly. Manager (Comm.) CPRO/Vanijya-65 Lucknow

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Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xennmhcdh@yahoo.in

Gist of e-tender
NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/161/e-tendering Dated: 20.10.2021
For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered , reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:

| Name of Work | Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees) | Time of completion (in days) | TS No | AA Accorded | Position of Funds |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 1500 Kg / hr Steam Boiler along with allied works at Govt. UNDP (Handloom Project), Nowshera. | 38.50 | 1000 | 03 months | MHCHD /TS/124 Dt: 10/21 | 621-DHKK of Dt: 08-10-2021 | Available |

1. **Downloading of Bids:-**The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from **20.10.2021 (18.00 hrs)** and can be downloaded from **20.10.2021 (18.00 hrs)**.

2. **Uploading:-** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from **21.10.2021(10.00 hrs) to 05.11.2021 (14.00hrs)** in two (02) covers.

3. **Opening of Bids :-** The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on **06.11.2021(14.00 hrs)** or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, Srinagar.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

DIPK-11060/21

The threat within

As the annual NCRB report puts Delhi in the top spot in crimes against the elderly in 2020, old vulnerabilities remain: senior citizens are most at risk from their closest circle, be it maid, watchman, or kith and kin

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI

"I asked her to accompany us to my sister-in-law's house that day, but she refused and said she would go some other time. That is what cost her life," Sunita (35) said, referring to her 65-year-old mother-in-law Rajwati, who was stabbed to death by a man inside her house in north Delhi's Burari in June.

The accused, Shubham (27), used to work at Sunita's husband Pramod's shop and knew that the couple had left their home in the evening, leaving Rajwati alone. "Around 9 p.m, he came to our house and asked for a glass of water. Soon after my mother-in-law went inside, Shubham entered the house and began opening the cupboards in one of the rooms," Sunita said.

After the elderly woman saw Shubham, she raised an alarm following which he took her to another room, pushed her to the floor, and stabbed her multiple times in the neck, eventually killing her.

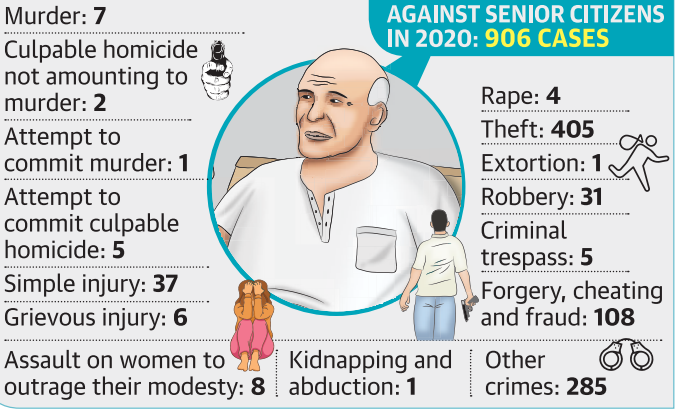
"After robbing some of our cash and jewellery, he burnt our identity documents. He even wanted to burn my mother-in-law's body but failed to do so as smoke started emanating from the house and neighbours raised an alarm, following which he fled the spot," the daughter-in-law said.

In another latest instance, 78-year-old Uma Jain's house in Pandav Nagar was attacked in the early hours of October 3 by three bike-borne men who fired four rounds at the front door before speeding off.

"I have never faced such an incident in the 45 years that I have lived here," the septuagenarian said. "It would be better if I am provided some form of police security."

The National Crime Records Bureau report of crime in India in 2020 has put the spotlight on crimes against senior citizens, with Delhi topping the chart among 19 metropolitan cities. As per the data, 906 such crimes against elderly persons were recorded last year, of which 405 cases were of theft, 108 cases of forgery, cheating and fraud, 37 cases of simple injury, eight cases of assault on women to outrage their

FEAR FACTOR



modesty, seven cases of murder, and five cases of criminal trespass. Significantly, Delhi was the only city reporting four cases of rape against elderly persons.

Of the 906 cases in 2020, chargesheets were filed in only 131 cases, the lowest among all metro cities at 25.3%.

However, there has been a reduction in such crimes in 2020 as compared to 2019 when the number had gone up to 1,076. Mumbai had secured the first spot in crimes against senior citizens in 2018 and 2019.

In light of this, *The Hindu* spoke to victims, police officers, and Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) to get an idea how such crimes are planned and executed and how elderly persons have become vulnerable not only from outsiders but even from their own family members.

Domestic disputes

"There are also cases of intra-family disputes which affect senior citizens mentally and physically. We have seen recurrent cases where the elderly person is harassed by the son or daughter-in-law over property and subsequently threatened with dire consequences," a senior police officer from South district said.

"Elderly persons are easy targets for online fraudsters as the former are technologically backward and might easily fall for fake offers and websites," another police officer said.

Delhi Police has a designated senior citizen cell which caters to grievances raised by elderly persons registered with them. "In most cases, where we are approached on our helpline number, elderly persons raise intra-family issues but in case we receive a serious case, we direct it to the local police for legal action," an officer from the cell said.

Modus operandi

A senior police officer, requesting anonymity, said, "These crimes mostly occur in posh and upscale localities where the accused know that the elderly person is affluent and has been staying alone with children living either out of the city or abroad."

The officer said that usually there exists a well-organised nexus of maids, drivers, watchmen, among other employees, who keep tabs on which house can be easily targeted.

"This has mostly got to do with the inefficient system of background checks of such people. Most residents don't think twice

8800660301

JUDICIARY WEEKEND

| | |
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| 13 Nov., 21 | 16 Jan., 22 |

8800662140

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| 20 Nov., 21 | 25 March, 22 |

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| BSES | | BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi | |
|--|---|---|------------------------|
| TENDER NOTICE | | Date: 22.10.2021 | |
| Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:- | | | |
| Sl. No. | Description | Estimated Cost (₹) | Cost of EMD (₹) |
| 1 | Supply of 66KV GRADE XLPE INSULATED ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR POWER CABLE OF SIZE 1Cx1000 | 3.37 Crores | 6,74,000/- |

| | |
|--|---|
|  Government of Odisha, “e” Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) Bid Identification No. C.C.E.Dk.(R&B) 06/2021-22 | |
| Letter No.1821 / Dt.11/10/2021 | Email Id- sedklpwd@gmail.com |
| <p>The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Building work as detailed below:</p> | |
| 1.Name of the work | : Building work. |
| 2.No of works | : 01 (One) No. |
| 3.Estimated Cost | : Rs.3,70,88,211/- (as given in column No.03 of table) |
| 4.Cost of tender paper | : Rs.10,000.00 |
| 5.Class of contractor | : 'A' & 'Special' (as given in column No.06 of table) |
| 6.Period of Completion of work | : 15 (Fifteen) Calendar months (as given in column No.07 of table) |
| 7.Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website | : From Dt.25.10.2021 to 05.30 P.M. of Dt.08.11.2021 |
| 8.Date of opening of bid | : Dt.09.11.2021 at 11.30 hours |
| Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal B-490 | |

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE
APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) **Mukul S/o Sagar** and (2) **Hanni S/o Sagar** both R/o **H.No. 10671, Gali No. 8, Pratap Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 231/2021 U/S 186/353/332/34 IPC, P.S. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) **Mukul** (2) **Hanni** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) **Mukul** (2) **Hanni** has absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) **Mukul** (2) **Hanni** of **FIR No. 231/2021 U/S 186/353/332/34 IPC, P.S. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **01.12.2021**.

By Order
Sh. Harun Partap,
Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,

Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/1598/N/21(Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Nitin S/o Babulal R/o** H.No. 8129, Khariya Mohalla, Roshanara Road, Subzi Mandi, Delhi, **Age:** 30 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Build:** Normal, **ID Mark:** RT tattoo mark on arm, wearing Kurta Pajama, has been missing from his house since 25.09.2021 at 10:00 AM. In this regard a **DD No. 37A, dated 05.10.2021** has been registered at **P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi**.

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

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
 E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-23468639
 Ph. No. : 011-23468638, 23468641

SHO
P.S. Subzi Mandi,
Delhi

DP/1587/N/2021 Ph. No.: 011-23823161, 8750870126



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)

Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms / contractors registered with for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes / amendments & corrigendum etc.

| S.no | Job no / Work name | Amount |
|------|--|---------------------------|
| 1. | 01/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2021-22, D/o Park in sector-105 (Sub head Open Gym) with five year maintenance. | Cost Rs. 30.98 Lacs |
| 2. | 235/D(H)/DD(H)-II/20-21, - D/o Park Sector-104 with five year maintenance (Open Gym) | Cost Rs. 30.84 Lacs |
| 3. | 05/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2021-22, - M/o Green Belt and RSP along with Express Highway 05.00 Km to 10.00 Km, (L.H.S service road) with two year maintenance. | Cost Rs. 95.70 Lacs |

Which can be uploaded by date **01/11/2021** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date **02/11/2021 at 11.00 AM.**

Office : Sector 39

**Director (Hort.)
Noida**

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| | |
|---|--|
| TAMILNADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION TAMILNADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION DAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL 9356603249 projects@tuhbn.org.in 988821007 tmm@tuhbn.org.in 2022/40/5285/11993  bidders are invited ctors registered ent, Tamilnadu up to 3.00 PM <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">EMD</div> Rs.9,81,750/- he tenderer's .in OT, Chennai-8 <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px;">2</div> gmail.com n behalf of be received as detailed 03 of table) 06 of table) 08.11.2021 Thenkanal 11/0008/2122 | <h1 style="margin: 0;">Scribe, father of treason ch</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Duo was accused of having lin</h2> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 20px;">SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MANGALURU</p> <p>A city court here on Thursday acquitted Vital Malekudiya, a journalist, and his father, Lingappa Malekudiya, seven years after they were charged with treason. The case had drawn national attention back in 2012.</p> <p>Additional district and sessions judge B.B. Jakati acquitted the son and the father of the charges of having links with Maoists. The police had booked and arrested them for offences under Sections 120 B, and 124 A of the Indian Penal Code and under Sections 19 and 20 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. They were released on bail later.</p> <p>In March 2012, Anti-Naxal Force (ANF) personnel, led by sub-inspector Sachin Lawrence, searched the house of Mr. Vittal at Kutlur in Belthangady taluk, under the Kudremukh National Park limits, Dakshina Kannada district, and seized, among other things, a book on Bhagat Singh and some articles related to Maoist activities. The sub-inspector arrested Mr. Vittal, who was then a post-graduate journalism student in Mangalore Uni-</p> <div style="float: right; width: 200px;">  <p style="font-size: small; color: red; margin-top: 5px;">Free at last: Journalist Vittal (right) and his father Lingappa Malekudiya were freed from custody on Thursday. ■ RAJESH K</p> </div> <p>versity, and his mother Mrs. Vittal and sister were in judicial custody for about two months. It was during this period that permission of the court to write the first journalism column. Mangaluru University had not given him his result because of shortage of attendance. After his release in July 2012, he joined classes for the first year and subsequently completed the course. Vittal is presently working in a Kannada newspaper in Bengaluru.</p> <p>23 witnesses exonerated</p> <p>The son and father mentioned as co-defendants in no. six and seventh cases of the Criminals Vikram Gowda, Deepa, John, and Sundari were</p> |
|---|--|

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Short E-tender No.: TNCSC/21-22/ET-28

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For Registration and further details contact MSTC LIMITED,
Ph: 25222842 / 25251910 / 25261005 e-Mail:mstcsro@mstcindia.co.in

Date of Physical Pre-Bid Meeting on 29.10.2021 at 3.00 P.M

Last Date for Online Submission : upto 11.00 A.M on 12.11.2021

DIPR/3059/TENDER/2021 MANAGING DIRECTOR

சேர்த்துக் கொடுத்திருக்கிற கட்டிடப்பணம். எந்தவொரு பரிந்துரைகளையும் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள மாட்டோம்.

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**Third Invitation Notice for Online E-Tender offer for sale of
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price in Kharif season 2018-19.**

In the Kharif season 2018-19, the procurement of Urad whole (Black Gram Whole Urad) was done by MP State Cooperative Marketing Federation and MP State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited in different districts on support price in the state. The procured Urad whole quantity Approx 3,97,694.10 quintal is stored in godowns run by SWC, CWC, MP Markfed in different districts. Lot wise online offers are invited through e-tendering from the interested buyers for sale of stored urad whole. Lot wise online offers are invited from the interested buyers for sale of stored Urad whole through E-Tender on **29.10.2021 till 12:00 noon.**

View of Tender Document on MP MARKFED website **www.mpmarkedf.mp.gov.in**. Available for read only. This tender document can be downloaded and purchased online from **<https://www.mptenders.gov.in>**. All the amendments, clarifications, corrections etc. of the tender document will be displayed only on the official website of **<https://mptenders.gov.in>** for e-tendering and **www.mpmarkedf.mp.gov.in** website of the Marketing Federation, in this regard in any way. No separate information will be issued for the publication of the notification.

M.P. Madhyam/102359/2021 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

| <div>  RAJASTHAN STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD. (A Rajasthan Government Undertaking) Udyog Bhawan, Tikas Marg, Jaipur- 302005, Phone- 0141-2227751, 4593201 Fax: 0141-4593210 e-mail: ricoinfo@ricco.co.in Website- www.ricco.co.in </div> | | |
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| RIICO invites sealed tenders/bids costing more than Rs. 2.00 Lacs through eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for the following works/services/supply etc. | | |
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| 2. Unit Head, Sawai Madhopur | | |
| 2.1 | Development Works at Industrial Area Shreenagar-Todarisingh, Tonk. UBN-RDC1212W5G0B0898 | 377.58 |
| 3. Unit Head, Bikanera | | |
| 3.1 | Survey, Plot Demarcation and Road & CD works at Industrial area Medical Device Park, Bikanera (Ext.). UBN-RDC1212WLOB0899 | 590.00 |
| 4. Unit Head, Balaotra | | |
| 4.1 | Work of Road & CD work alongwith Survey & Demarcation Works at /A Ramnagar (THOB). UBN-RDC1212WLOB0906 | 560.30 |
| 5. Unit Head, Nagaur | | |
| 5.1 | Development works at New Industrial Area Jajal, Nagaur. UBN-RDC1212WLOB0913 | 887.23 |
| 6. Unit Head, Dausa | | |
| 6.1 | Construction of Road and CD work, Demarcation plattings and Levelling of land at Ind. Area Ralawas, Dausa. UBN-RDC1212WLOB0925 | 700.54 |
| 7. Unit Head, Bhatpurur | | |
| 7.1 | Development works at Industrial Area Kotra, Dholpur. UBN-RDC1212W5G0B0993 | 340.88 |
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| For queries please contact: AGM (Civil) Ph: 0141-4593212 | | |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p align="center">GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU</p> <p align="center">NU RURAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT</p> <p align="center">(Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamil Nadu)</p> <p align="center">State Office Building, Thiruv. Vi. Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai- 600 032, 432000 Email – procurement.trntrp@gmail.com, Website: www.trntrp.org</p> | |  |
| <p align="right">Dated: 22.10.2021</p> | | |

Duo was accused of having links with Maoists

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU



Free at last: Journalist Vittala Malekudiya (second from right) and his father Lingappa Malekudiya in Mangaluru on Thursday. ■ RAGHAVA. M

of having links with Maoists. The police had booked and arrested them for offences under Sections 120 B, and 124 A of the Indian Penal Code and under Sections 19 and 20 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. They were released on bail later.

Mr. Vittal and his father were in judicial custody for about three months. It was during this period that he took permission of the court to write the first year journalism course examination. Mangalore University had not declared his result because of shortage of attendance. After his release on bail in July 2012, he attended classes for the first year and subsequently completed the course. Mr. Vittal is presently working in a Kannada daily in Bengaluru.

23 witnesses examined

The son and father were mentioned as accused no. six and seven while absconding Maoist leaders Vikram Gowda, Pradeepa, John, Prabha, and Sundari were men-

tioned as accused no. one to five. As accused no. one to five remained absconding, the court split the case and tried charges against the son and father. A total of 23 witnesses were examined between November 2019 and September 2021.

On Thursday, Mr. Vittal Malekudiyia told reporters that a false case had been foisted against him and his father as he was leading the cause of Malekudiyia tribals who were against displacement from the forest. "I knew we would come clean," he said.

State president of the Democratic Youth Federation of India Muneer Kapipalla said the State Government had to pay compensation to the two for foisting a false case of treason against them.

Former Sena leader joins Congress in Goa

PANAJI
Former vice-president of the Shiv Sena's Goa unit Rakhi Prabhudesai Naik, who recently resigned from the party, joined the Congress here on Thursday. Ms. Naik was inducted into the party in the presence of Goa Pradesh Congress Committee president Girish Chodankar.

THE HINDU

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Scripting history

India must not lose sight of the goal of vaccinating all eligible adults by year-end

India scripted history on Thursday with its COVID-19 vaccine doses administered crossing the one-billion mark – accomplished in just about nine months after the vaccination programme rollout on January 16. What is even more outstanding is the targeting of adults. Unlike the established universal immunisation programme, for infants and children, India has never undertaken any massive universal adult vaccination programme. That this exercise involving thousands of health-care workers and others was carried out even while in the midst of a huge number of daily cases in April-May during the second wave makes it even more remarkable. It became possible only because vaccine manufacturers, the Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech, were able to ensure uninterrupted vaccine availability even if supply was limited in the beginning. If the Serum Institute had the foresight to begin manufacture in advance, Bharat Biotech's capability to quickly develop an indigenous vaccine with the ICMR ensured that India did not have to endlessly wait for vaccine supplies from other countries. If there was hesitancy initially even among health-care workers, who were the first to be eligible to receive the vaccines, the deadly second wave led to a huge leap in vaccine uptake; vaccination was opened up to all priority groups and to everyone above 18 years before the second wave peaked in early May. India could have probably reached this grand milestone earlier had time not been wasted in asking States to procure vaccines directly from the two manufacturers at a higher cost to vaccinate the 18-44 age group.

While basking in glory, it is important not to lose sight of the bigger goal of vaccinating all eligible adults by the year-end. Even as vaccine supply is increasing, the pace of the vaccination drive has to be speeded up to meet the objective. If over 75% of the eligible adults have already been vaccinated with one dose, the proportion of adults who are fully vaccinated is only 31%. Since vaccination with two doses is necessary to increase the protection level, efforts should be directed at increasing the pace of second dose vaccination. China has already administered over 2.2 billion doses and fully vaccinated over 75% of the eligible population even by mid-September. Crossing the one-billion mark became possible as India stopped the export of vaccines, impacting most low- and middle-income countries. On October 14, nearly six months after halting exports, India finally supplied vaccines to four countries; further supplies will depend on production and demand. It is imperative that vaccine production is quickly ramped up to meet demand. Any more delay in meeting international obligations will greatly hurt India's credibility as a reliable vaccine supplier to the global South.

Engaging the Taliban

India and regional powers should ensure that the Afghan rulers respect their people's rights

India's participation in a meeting of 10 nations with Taliban officials in Moscow and the signing of a joint statement that recognised the "new reality" in Afghanistan signal a decisive shift in the country's approach towards the Islamist group. India had earlier taken a strong position against any kind of engagement with the Taliban. In recent months, when the Taliban were making steady advances towards Kabul, India had established contacts with the Taliban's political office in Doha, Qatar, but this is the first time India met a top Taliban delegation, which included Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Salam Hanaifi, and, according to a Taliban spokesperson, promised to send aid. India has vital interests in Afghanistan. Over the 20 years, it has made investments worth billions of dollars which it would want to be protected. Last time the Taliban, which have close ties with anti-India terrorist groups such as LeT and the JeM, were in power, India saw a rise in violent incidents in Kashmir as well as the hijacking of an Indian plane to Kandahar. Now the Taliban say they will not allow Afghan soil to be used by any terrorist organisation. It is in India's interest to make sure that the Taliban walk the talk. It would also not like to see an isolated Taliban being a Pakistani satellite. To meet these goals, given the new reality in Afghanistan, engagement with the Taliban looks a strategic necessity.

But this is a policy that needs to be pursued more through regional diplomacy than bilateral engagement. Bilaterally, India does not have much clout with the Taliban. But Afghan's new rulers, who are struggling with an economy on the brink of collapse, are keener this time to engage with regional powers. So the Moscow 10, which includes China, Pakistan, Iran and the Central Asian republics, has some leverage. These countries also have shared interests in seeing the Taliban severing its terror ties and Afghanistan being stabilised. If not, instability could, once again, spread beyond Afghanistan's border. For this, the Taliban should be ready to open up their government, share power with other political and ethnic communities, and start respecting the fundamental rights of Afghans. The last 40 years of Afghanistan's history are a brutal example of what could go wrong if one party or group tries to amass all powers in its hands. Despite these historical precedents, the Taliban have shown little readiness to change their ways. In the joint statement, India and the others asked the Taliban to keep their commitment on forming an inclusive government and ensure that their territory is not being used by terrorist groups. These calls should not end with the statements. While India and other regional countries should help Afghans during this period of economic miseries, they should also use their collective economic and political clout to mount pressure on the Taliban to make political concessions at home.

Responding to adversity with achievement

India's success in its landmark vaccination drive belongs to Team India, demonstrating that democracy can deliver



NARENDRA MODI

India has completed vaccination of 100 crore doses on October 21, 2021, in just about nine months since starting vaccination. This has been a tremendous journey in dealing with COVID-19, especially when we recall how things stood in early 2020. Humanity was dealing with such a pandemic after 100 years and no one knew much about the virus. We remember how unpredictable the situation appeared then, as we were faced by an unknown and invisible enemy mutating rapidly.

The scale and trust

The journey from anxiety to assurance has happened and our nation has emerged stronger, thanks to the world's largest vaccination drive.

It has been a truly *bhagirath* effort involving multiple sections of society. To get a sense of the scale, assume that each vaccination took just two minutes for a health-care worker. At this rate, it took around 41 lakh man days or approximately eleven thousand man years of effort to reach this landmark.

For any effort to attain and sustain speed and scale, the trust of all stakeholders is crucial.

One of the reasons for the success of the campaign was the trust that people developed in the vaccine and the process followed, despite various efforts to create

mistrust and panic. There are some among us who only trust foreign brands, even for simple every day necessities. However, when it came to something as crucial as the COVID-19 vaccine, the people of India unanimously trusted 'Made in India' vaccines. This is a significant paradigm shift.

India's vaccine drive is an example of what India can achieve if the citizens and the Government come together with a common goal in the spirit of *Jan Bhagidari*. When India started its vaccination programme, there were many people who doubted the capabilities of 130 crore Indians. Some said India would take three to four years. Some others said people will not come forward to get vaccinated. There were those who said there will be gross mismanagement and chaos in the vaccination process. Some even said that India will not be able to manage supply chains.

But just like the Janata Curfew and subsequent lockdowns, the people of India showed how spectacular the results can be, if they are made trusted partners.

When everyone takes ownership, nothing is impossible. Our health-care workers traversed hills and crossed rivers across difficult geographies to vaccinate people. Our youth, social workers, health-care workers, social and religious leaders, all deserve credit for the fact that India faces minimal vaccine hesitancy when compared to even developed nations.

An equitable scheme

There was a lot of pressure from different interest groups to give preferential treatment to them in vaccination. But the Government



NISSAR AHMAD

ensured that, like our other schemes, there is no VIP culture in the vaccination drive either.

Preparing early

In early 2020, when COVID-19 was rampaging across the world, it was clear to us that this pandemic will have to be eventually fought with the help of vaccines. We started preparing early. We constituted expert groups and started preparing a road map right from April 2020.

Till today, only a handful of countries have developed their own vaccines. More than 180 countries are dependent on an extremely limited pool of producers, and dozens of nations are still waiting for the supply of vaccines, even as India has crossed 100 crore doses! Imagine the situation if India did not have its own vaccine. How would India have secured enough vaccines for such a large population and how many years would that have taken? It is here that credit should be given to Indian scientists and entrepreneurs for rising to the occasion. It is due to their talent and hardwork that India is truly *Aatmanirbhar* when it comes to vaccines. Our vaccine manufacturers, by scaling up to meet the demands of such a

large population, have shown that they are second to none.

In a nation where governments used to be known as a roadblock impeding forward movement, our government has instead been an accelerator and enabler of progress. The Government partnered with the vaccine makers right from day one and gave them support in the form of institutional assistance, scientific research, funding, as well as accelerated regulatory processes. All Ministries of the Government came together to facilitate the vaccine makers and remove any bottlenecks as a result of our 'whole of Government' approach.

Logistics, the platform

In a country of the scale of India, it is not enough to just produce. Focus has to be on last mile delivery and seamless logistics. To understand the challenges involved, imagine the journey taken by one vial of vaccines. From a plant in Pune or Hyderabad, the vial is sent to a hub in any of the States, from where it is transported to the district hub. From there, it reaches a vaccination centre. This entails the deployment of thousands of trips taken by flights and trains.

During this entire journey, the temperature has to be maintained in a particular range which is centrally monitored. For this, over one lakh cold chain equipments were utilised. States were given advance notice of the delivery schedule of the vaccines so that they could plan their drives better and vaccines reached them on the pre-decided days. This has been an unprecedented effort in the history of independent India.

All these efforts were complemented by a robust tech platform in CoWIN. It ensured that the vaccine drive was equitable, scalable, trackable, and transparent. This ensured that there was no scope for favouritism or jumping the queue. It also ensured that a poor worker could take the first dose in his village and the second dose of the same vaccine in the city where he works, after the required time interval. In addition to a real-time dashboard to boost transparency, the QR-coded certificates ensured verifiability. There are hardly any examples of such efforts not only in India but also the world.

An example of team work

In my Independence Day Address in 2015, I had said that our country is moving ahead because of 'Team India' and this 'Team India' is a big team of our 130 crore people. People's participation is the biggest strength of democracy. If we run the country through the participation of 130 crore Indians, our country will be moving ahead 130 crore steps every moment.

Our vaccination drive has yet again showed the power of this 'Team India'. India's success in its vaccination drive has also demonstrated to the whole world that 'democracy can deliver'. I am optimistic that the success achieved in the world's largest vaccination drive will further spur our youth, our innovators and all levels of Government to set new benchmarks of public service delivery which will be a model not only for our country but also for the world.

Narendra Modi is the Prime Minister of India

Squaring off again in the Himalayan heights

Beijing seems to have taken the Modi prescription of 2014, of 'Inch towards miles', rather literally on the disputed border



SUSHANT SINGH

The winter is setting in in the icy cold deserts of Ladakh and there is no respite for Indian and Chinese soldiers who will remain deployed against each other. Even if it is a period of calm at the tactical level, the rarefied atmosphere, low temperatures and high altitude take their toll on both men and materiel. In the last 10 months, the Chinese Western Theatre Command has seen four commanders, two of them – Generals Zhang Xudong and Xu Qiling, both 'rising stars' of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) – moved out for serious health issues.

An aggressive focus on India

This ought to have raised wider concerns in the PLA about the health and well-being of its men in the theatre, leading to quick deinduction of its forces from eastern Ladakh. However, going by the obstinate Chinese stance in recent weeks, the PLA seems singularly uninterested in ending the prolonged deployment. The verbal attacks have been matched by massive infrastructure construction, induction of a large quantity of modern equipment, and a sharp increase in the number of military exercises directed towards India. These actions are not limited to Ladakh but have also been initiated in the middle and eastern sectors of the 3,488-kilometre long Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The PLA incursion into Barahoti in Uttarakhand in August was a significant pointer to the renewed Chinese aggression against India. Even though Barahoti is a disputed area between the two sides, it has been a demilitarised zone. No persons in uniform enter the area. This was violated when PLA soldiers came deep into Indian territory in uniform and damaged some infrastructure. The forays of Chinese patrols in Arunachal Pradesh have also increased in fre-

quency and duration, denoting the PLA's intention to keep the Indian military under pressure. Such hostility carries the risk of triggering an unintended escalation, as was the case after 200 PLA soldiers were stopped by an Indian patrol in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang earlier this month.

Western scholars with Chinese connections point to two major drivers for the PLA's aggressive approach against India. The first is its institutional interest as the 'army of the revolution' which is now losing its primacy to the PLA Air Force and PLA Navy when it comes to Taiwan or the South China Sea. With China having resolved its boundary disputes with most countries, the only major adversaries available for the PLA to reassert its importance is India. Even under President Xi Jinping, the PLA remains a major actor in the Chinese political system and can promote actions that further its institutional interests.

The second driver is the PLA's view that the Indian military has been registering a greater presence on "Chinese territory" in the border areas in the last 10-12 years. After the United Progressive Alliance government decided to build infrastructure and raise additional forces for the China border, a larger number of Indian patrols have been going more frequently into areas which they would rarely, if ever, visit. The Doklam stand-off of 2017, when Indian soldiers walked onto Bhutanese territory claimed by China, was a turning point in the PLA's appreciation of Indian designs, reinforcing its apprehensions about territorial losses. Western scholars say that there is a strong constituency in the PLA that wants to put India in its place, evoking an eerie parallel to the discourse in Mao's China after 1959.

New Delhi's response

In response to the PLA's actions on the LAC, the Indian military has also inducted more modern military platforms and systems on the China border which has been backed by infrastructure construction. Despite these accretions, the quantitative and qualitative asym-



GETTY IMAGES

metry with the Chinese has widened in the past 20 months. Senior Indian commanders hope that this gap can be offset to some extent by the vast operational experience of Indian troops in hostile climatic and terrain conditions but recognise the very formidable nature of Chinese challenge.

The Indian military always maintained a defensive deterrence against the PLA which worked for nearly three decades before breaking down completely in 2020. The new troop deployments and equipment inductions, along with infrastructure creation – showcased extensively to the Indian media – are trying to reconstruct that deterrence. India's advantage in dissuading a major military conflict with China is that as a lesser power, it has to only deny an outright military victory to the PLA for the top Chinese leadership to lose face. Only time will tell whether this reconstructed deterrent will work for India but a lot will depend on factors that are beyond the remit of the Indian military.

Impact on modernisation

The foremost among them is the sharp decline in the Indian economy after demonetisation, further battered by the Government's poor handling of the novel coronavirus pandemic. It means that New Delhi is unable to generate enough resources for military modernisation. Ashley Tellis had calculated in 2016 that the Indian Air Force (IAF) would need about 60 fighter jet squadrons by 2020 for a serious two-front threat from China and Pakistan but is down to 30 and losing numbers sharply. The Indian Navy Chief's pleas for another aircraft carrier have been rebuffed for want of funds. The parliamentary standing committee on defence has repeatedly warned

about the abnormally high share of vintage equipment in the Indian Army's profile. So rapidly is the technological asymmetry with the PLA increasing, that in a few years it is feared that India and China will be fighting two different generations of war.

The second factor is the increasingly divisive majoritarian politics practised by the ruling party that has left India vulnerable. The ruling ideology has also held captive the country's foreign policy in the neighbourhood, adversely affecting Indian interests. The United Arab Emirates-brokered back-channel deal with Pakistan fell through apparently because of New Delhi's policies in Kashmir, reactivating the challenge of a two-front collusive military threat. The ceasefire on the Line of Control is barely holding up, with infiltration from the Pakistani side adding to the local Kashmiri youth willing to pick up the gun, opening another half-front for the military. The recent fracas with Bangladesh on the treatment of religious minorities or the ongoing turmoil over the influx of Myanmar refugees in Mizoram has left India, internally unbalanced, weaker in the region to deal with China. The third is the geopolitics arising out of the great power competition in the Indo-Pacific. Many strategic commentators in India had pinned their hopes on the external rebalancing via the Quad (India, the United States, Australia, Japan) but the grouping does not have a 'hard power' agenda yet. That role seems to have devolved upon the AUKUS (the trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States). Closer ties between Washington DC and New Delhi, short of an alliance, leave the questions of actual support during a Sino-India military crisis unanswered. With the Chinese border assertions, it is now that India needs the U.S. more than the U.S. needs India?

The executive's shadow

Finally, the lack of institutional checks and balances on the political executive, which imposes an even bigger cost in decision-making on national security issues. In

the Ladakh border crisis, the Government and its supporters were in denial about the Chinese ingress into Indian territory for months, including the Prime Minister's statement that no one had entered Indian territory. Use of euphemisms like 'friction points' for places of Chinese ingress or the removal of an official report about Chinese presence across the LAC from the Defence Ministry's website or non-acknowledgement of Indian soldiers in Chinese captivity after the Galwan clash have been done to evade political accountability. Parliament has not been allowed to ask questions or seek clarifications; nor has the parliamentary standing committee deliberated upon the issue. Large sections of Indian media have been complicit in this cover up, keeping the public in the dark and blocking the feedback loop that keeps democratic governments honest and responsive. The costs and consequences of a government taking decisions after buying its own spin on national security issues will be inconceivable for India.

Looking ahead

The amplitude of New Delhi's stance on the Sino-India border crisis in the last 20 months has oscillated between denial and bluster. Dampening the oscillations, New Delhi's avowed aim is to restore the *status quo* on the LAC in Ladakh that existed before May 2020. That has not happened so far. In areas of disengagement, a new *status quo* has been created which curtails Indian patrolling rights while the PLA remains ensclosed on Indian territory in Depsang, Hot Springs and Demchok. Having publicly rebuffed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2015 offer to delineate the LAC, Beijing seems to have taken his 2014 prescription of 'Inch towards miles' rather literally on the disputed border. India now has no choice but to be prepared for all eventualities on the Sino-India border.

Sushant Singh is Henry Hart Rice Lecturer at Yale University, U.S. and Senior Fellow at the Centre for Policy 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.

Vaccination high point

It is a spectacular and remarkable achievement that India has crossed the one billion mark as far as COVID-19 vaccine doses are concerned. The virus has caused deep losses in almost every field. It is a feather in the cap of the Indian government, scientists, health workers and the citizens of India in

this exercise of equitable vaccine distribution.

K.V. SEETHARAMAIAH,
Bengaluru

Truth and justice

Ever since October 3, 2021, the day the Lakhimpur Kheri incident occurred, pro- and anti- government groups and the media have been hyperactive – one trying to downplay the

incident and the other to draw political blood. Who has succeeded is a million dollar question right now, but as the matter has become *sub judice* further vocal talk might attract contempt of court provisions. However, the remark by the highest court of the land that the Uttar Pradesh government is dragging its feet on the

issue is not misplaced if one might understand the sequence of events (Page 1, October 21). The alleged involvement of the son of a Union Minister has become the crux of it all. One wonders why the Union Minister concerned has not tendered his resignation. As they say, truth must prevail. GOVARDHANA MYNEDU, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Fresh Afghan outreach

India's decision to extend humanitarian assistance to the people in war-ravaged Afghanistan is timely, imperative and commendable (Page 1, October 21). Humaneness dictates that it is unwise to link the horrific backdrop of the Taliban and humanitarian assistance for the

war-battered people. In fact, India's aid should extend beyond food-related essentials, particularly, in the areas of infrastructure development, health care, and the social and economic empowerment of the Afghan people.

V. JOHAN DHANAKUMAR,
Chennai

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Will privatisation take off after the Air India sale?

PARLEY

The first PSU sale in 18 years is a positive sign but the window of opportunity may be short



Ashok Chawla served as Secretary to the Government of India in Ministries such as Civil Aviation and Finance and retired recently as Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India



Arvind Mehta was Secretary to the Fifteenth Finance Commission, served in two separate stints, and is now a senior fellow in the NITI Aayog. Views are personal



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

Earlier this month, the Tata Group emerged as the winning bidder for Air India, the debt-laden national carrier. In this year's Budget, the government unveiled a bold new disinvestment policy that envisages a bare minimum presence of government-owned businesses even in the strategic sectors. The government is also pursuing the sale of its entire stake in public sector firms such as BPCL, Shipping Corporation of India, IDBI Bank, two other public sector banks and one general insurance company this financial year alone. Given India's recent disinvestment record, this is an ambitious target. Ashok Chawla and Arvind Mehta discuss the implications of the sale of Air India for the future of India's public sector, in a conversation moderated by Vikas Dhoot. Edited excerpts:

How did things come to such a pass at Air India? What do you think stalled previous attempts to initiate reforms or even sell the airline?

Ashok Chawla: About three decades ago, Air India was one of the world's premier airlines. Then it slowly but steadily went into a spin. While an attempt was made in the early 2000s to see if it could be sold based on the recommendations of the then Disinvestment Commission, that didn't move very far. Then, the Civil Aviation Ministry took the view that it would be good if two airlines – Air India and Indian Airlines – were merged. The merger took place in 2007 with a lot of euphoria but slowly it came to pass that such mergers are easy on paper but don't work without cultural and operational synergies. The financial bills of the airline kept getting bloated and the model of a full-service airline became difficult to handle in the domestic sector with low-cost airlines coming in and overtaking Air India in a price-sensitive market. Air India could never recover. We are now told it was losing ₹20 crore each day, which is the ultimate nadir for the airline.

Arvind Mehta: I was part of the transaction team that was looking at the divestment of Air India and In-

dian Airlines in 2001. There were many factors that kept playing out. There was strong buyer interest, including from a corporate house which did not have aviation experience. There was muddying of the waters by some private airlines that feared competition if the transaction went through. To cut a long story short, in the ensuing confusion that happened amid lobbying of various kinds, there was also advice that the enterprise value of the airlines would increase if there was a merger, so when the divestment takes place, later you will get a better value. The government agreed and put the sale on the back burner. When the merger finally happened much later, it led to greater losses instead of better value.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said in 2014 that the government had no business to be in business. But over the last seven years, no public sector unit (PSU) sales materialised. Would the Air India sale, the first such transaction in 18 years, break the recent taboo associated with disinvestment in our political economy?

AC: It's certainly a long-awaited positive signal regarding the public sector, and more so for domestic and foreign investors. In the last 18 years, irrespective of the government in power, there's been share sales or transfer of shares from one pocket to the other but no genuine privatisation. There is euphoria and expectation, but as one can appreciate in all such matters, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. So, the euphoria needs to be tempered a bit. While the broad policy is there, once you get into the details, one doesn't know whether there will really be a fairly robust pipeline of public sector entities which are up for offer with a symmetry between what the government offers and what the investors are really interested in. Second, there is the parallel track which the government is pursuing for fiscal mathematics, which is the monetisation track. If you push the disinvestment and monetisation tracks aggressively, then the issue of whether there is



adequate appetite and capacity on the other side of the table will arise. Third, we have to appreciate that the process of disinvestment is long-drawn and complicated. It was the case even in the first round 20 years ago and not much has changed in that regard. Finally, I think there is the elephant in the room which one cannot ignore – what is the window of opportunity? The general elections are coming up in 2024. So, the window of opportunity for either this kind of disinvestment or for monetisation is, at best, 18 to 20 months. So, whatever the government can do with that to fulfill its broad objective of actually pulling back from business where it does not need to be in business, let's hope it is able to do a fair amount... That would really be a welcome step for the stakeholders, the economy and the people at large.

Between 1999 and 2003, the National Democratic Alliance privatised 17 firms. Can we look at a similar streak in the window we have before the next Lok Sabha polls?

AM: In the [Atal Bihari] Vajpayee era, the commitment to privatisation was very strong. It started with the loss-making Modern Foods, then Balco, IPCL, the share sale of Maruti which gave controlling interest away... there was a momentum building up. But when the government finally came to the BPCL sale, the pushback started happening with many in Parliament questioning the sale of a profit-making central PSU, whereas you could possibly have a reason for doing it for loss-making PSUs. With that kind of pushback, there was a loss of mo-

The whole process will get further energised if it isn't perceived as something the government wants to do because it doesn't have money.

mentum. And then, of course, the philosophy of divestment became entirely different with a coalition government supported by the Left. The real value I see in this Air India sale now is that again, there is clarity of thought. The government feels that whether it's a loss-making or a profit-making Central PSU (CPSU), it is willing to make a strategic exit. That the DIPAM (Department of Investment and Public Asset Management) has found a mechanism for the strategic sale of a loss-making unit like Air India is also a positive, because it's easy to sell something like BPCL that will attract buyers based on its enterprise value and profits. I hope that many other loss-making units that are continuously bleeding the taxpayers also find strategic buyers through the right sweeteners.

We have heard the usual criticism from trade unions and Left parties on the Air India sale. But do you fear that hiving off profitable PSUs will again attract a wider groundswell of Opposition criticism?

AM: There is the possibility that as and when profitable PSUs are sold, there will be stronger ideological battles and questions about why there is a need to sell the family silver, something which is giving good

dividends, etc. It's far more difficult to justify those kinds of sales; it would be easier to justify the loss-making sales.

AC: There will be the usual noises when profit-making enterprises are sold, but if the government clearly articulates its policy on what it wants to sell and what it wants to retain, I think the general consensus across the political spectrum would be that the public sector need not occupy the commanding heights of the economy. While people may object for the sake of objecting, as long as the process is run in a very transparent manner, I think there will not be too much objection.

Should some sectors like coal be a no-go area for divestment, even though the government has said it will retain bare minimum presence in strategic sectors? Should people be worried that one or two groups may get a lot of assets under their control as is happening, for instance, in airports and ports?

AM: The previous Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, made a famous comment about the Air India sale. He had said that if you wait too long, there will be no airline left to sell. But yes, there is a role for certain kinds of countervailing mechanisms in a calibrated fashion... We shouldn't do any fire sales and there has to be a watch on the market appetite. We don't want those kinds of sales which happened in certain countries where oligarchs came and just lapped up all the public sector assets and then became billionaires at the cost of the social good.

Of the 17 PSUs that were privatised, not a single sale was undertaken where the Cabinet Minister was in charge of a PSU with operations in their home State, as per a study. Do you expect such tendencies to crop up this time round?

AC: I guess that's been the case in all the major economic moves to some extent. But 2021 is very different from 20-30 years ago. It's not much of a problem now because the political resolve is strong. The whole process will get further energised if it isn't perceived as something the

government wants to do because it doesn't have money. The perception is that the government is pressed to the wall; that it is trying to push privatisation and monetisation because '*paisa nahi hai* (there is no money)' and it needs money for welfare programmes. With DIPAM under the Finance Ministry, unlike earlier when disinvestment was a separate ministry, it sends a signal about balancing the books. There should be a separate ministry or commission which reports directly to the Prime Minister's Office. That will make things far simpler for the mechanics of implementing disinvestment plans, and minor political issues of whether a particular minister is happy or unhappy will not really come to the surface. The focus should now be totally on efficiency, productivity increases, not the fiscal focus on balancing the books.

AM: For a strategic sale, it used to always be difficult to convince the concerned ministry in charge of a PSU to come fully on board, because for them, it was a sense of loss. There would always be various reasons they would give for why it's not the appropriate time. They had no problem with part share sales as long as ownership control did not go out of the ministry's hands. So, that kind of a problem always remained and that's why I said strategic sales are far more difficult than part sales of shares. But I think the mood has changed now. The Prime Minister has said that the government has no business to be in business. He has made it clear that he doesn't want to see IAS officers and others running a PSU and being changed from time to time. I think that kind of mindset earlier where a ministry could try and sabotage a strategic sale... I don't think we are going to see that kind of resistance in this time period. But what worries me actually is the narrative that goes out that the government is doing the sales because it needs to cover its fiscal deficit. That narrative is very damaging because then in the public perception, it is simply a sale of the family silver. So, I would be happier with a narrative that does not talk about the monetary aspects so much but is one that simply says that we are convinced that society is better off by having this not being a government-run entity anymore.

The poor conditions of protectors

Despite the onerous nature of their duties, the police are a neglected lot

M.P. NATHANAEL

In December 2020, Deputy Commandant Vikas Kumar of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)'s elite unit, CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), was seriously injured when an IED planted by Maoists went off in Sukma district, Chhattisgarh. He succumbed to his injuries the next day. A month earlier, in Chintagufa area of Sukma, Assistant Commandant N. Purushottam Bhalerao was seriously injured along with nine other commandos when an IED went off during an anti-Maoist operation. Bhalerao succumbed to his injuries. In April this year, two police constables – Omkar Raika and Pawan Chaudhary – of the Rajasthan Police were shot dead by suspected drug smugglers when they were carrying out routine checks of vehicles at checkpoints in Bhilwara district.

Paying tributes

In memory of these and other colleagues killed, all the police forces of the State and Centre observe October 21 as Police Commemoration Day. This year, tributes were paid to 377 personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty between September 1, 2020, and August 31, 2021. As the CRPF is deployed in the highly disturbed areas of Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeast and the Left-Wing Extremist-affected States, the highest casualties (82) were seen in this force. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), which guards the border from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh at forbidding heights, lost 54 of its personnel, while the Border Security Force lost 47 personnel. Among the State Police forces, Chhattisgarh, which is combating the Maoist menace, lost the most personnel (32) followed by J&K (17) and Karnataka (17).

October 21 is observed as Police Commemoration Day as it was on this day in 1959 that a pitched battle was fought against the Chinese in Ladakh close to the border. The Chinese opened fire killing 10 CRPF personnel. They took seven as prisoners, while three escaped. The incident went down in the history of the forces as an example of unflinching loyalty to the nation, dedication to duty

and daring of the highest order.

Year after year, a contingent of the police comprising personnel of all ranks from all States and paramilitary forces of the country visit Hot Springs to pay homage to those who lost their lives that day. A memorial at the spot is testimony to the sacrifices made by our forces. On it is etched the famous epitaph by John Maxwell Edmunds: "When you go home/ Tell them of us/ And say/ 'For your tomorrow,/ We gave our today'." A company of the ITBP stands guard here even today in the extreme cold, guarding the border within visual distance of Chinese soldiers deployed across the border.

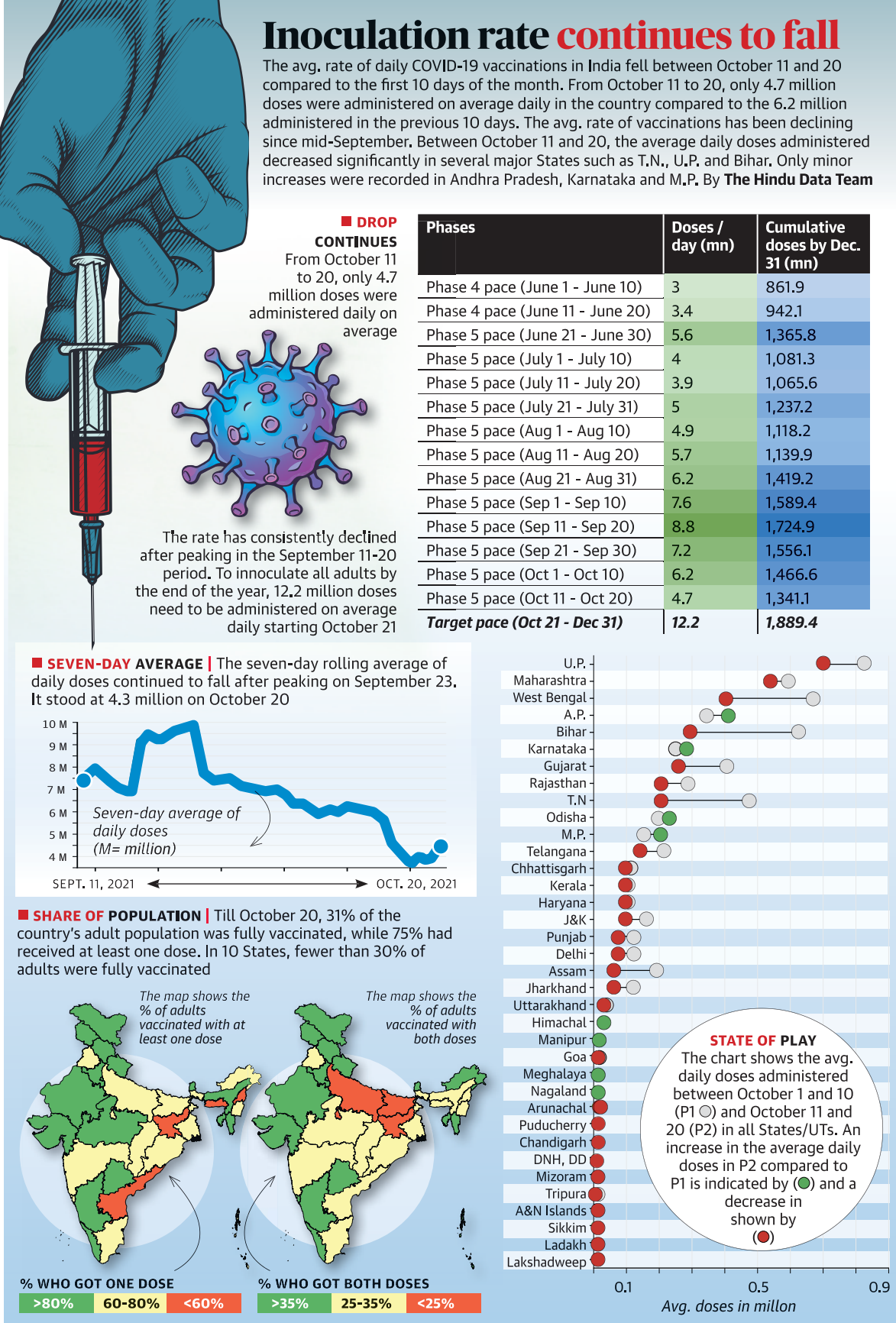
Don't let sacrifices go in vain

Despite the onerous nature of their duties, the police are a neglected lot. They get paid low salaries, have a poor quality of life and are often deprived of basic facilities. Yet they risk their lives to protect citizens. The morale of the paramilitary personnel is not of the desired level. Those who cleared recruitment exams in 2003 but joined the force in 2004 or later are not eligible for pension under the old norms. Canteen and medical facilities are dismal. Items sold through the Central Police Canteens are not exempted from GST. It is high time the government takes note of the grievances of the police and paramilitary personnel and not let their sacrifices go in vain.

There are notable variations in the ex-gratia amounts given to the next of kin of the police who are killed. While certain States like Delhi and Tamil Nadu pay ₹1 crore, several other States dither to pay even half that amount. The Centre and the States need to bring about uniformity in the amount paid. While the Centre pays ex-gratia to the families of the Central Armed Police Forces which may be short of ₹1 crore, the balance should be borne by the States as ₹1 crore is reasonably sufficient to see the family through hard days. Care should be taken to ensure that the next of kin are not deprived of a decent living. Payments from the public exchequer need to be made judiciously.

M.P. Nathanael is Inspector General of Police (Retd), CRPF

DATA POINT



The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 22, 1971

Literature Nobel to Chile diplomat

Mr. Pablo Neruda, Chilean poet, diplomat and a strong marxist, was to-day [Stockholm, Oct. 21] awarded the 1971 Nobel Prize for Literature. Mr. Neruda, 67, who is his country's Ambassador in France, was cited by the Swedish Academy for "a poetry that with the action of an elemental force brings alive a continent's destiny and dreams". The 450,000 crowns (Rs. 6,60,000) prize award added one more triumph to the controversial poet-politicians, a one-time Stalin Prize winner and political exile whose convictions carried him to a top post this year after the marxist regime of Mr. Salvador Allende came to power. Mr. Neruda is the second Chilean to receive a Nobel Prize for Literature. The first was his high school teacher and helper, Gabriela Mistral, awarded in 1945. The Secretary of the Swedish Academy, Mr. Karl Ragnar Gierow, who is still in the midst of the controversy surrounding last year's laureate, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, in a prepared radio address acknowledged that the prize in Mr. Neruda "has a recipient who is a controversial author". Mr. Gierow said: "Besides being the subject of debate he is in some people's eyes debatable, not to say questionable."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 22, 1921

Yakub Hasan arrested

Mr. Yakub Hasan was arrested in Madras yesterday evening and taken to Tanjore for trial for offences alleged to have been committed by him in his speech delivered, it is said, as President of the Provincial Conference. Before the Khilafat question came into prominence, Mr. Yakub Hasan was a Moderate in politics and was a member of the Madras Liberal League. We do not know what exactly are the expressions in his speeches on which a prosecution for the offences of sedition and class hatred has been launched. Prosecutions of offences of this description cannot be instituted except with the sanction of the Governor in Council. The last mentioned requirement is based or ought to be upon well considered legal opinion. In the discussion in the Imperial Legislative Council where the scope of the offence of sedition was enlarged, Sir Harold Stuart who was then Home Secretary said that the fact that the previous sanction of the Local Government was required for the initiation of prosecutions was an ample safeguard against Executive officers light-heartedly embarking upon them.

FROM PAGE ONE

Farmers can protest but not block roads, says SC

Mr. Dave asked why farmers were not being allowed at Jantar Mantar when Tuesday saw massive protests organised by the BJP in the area over the attack on Hindu in Bangladesh during Durga Puja. “The solution is allow us to agitate at Jantar Mantar,” he said.

Mr. Mehta submitted, “Last time they came, it became a serious issue... something much more than a serious issue”. He insinuated that “sometimes it is felt the farmers’ agitation is not for the cause but for something else...”

Mr. Dave retorted that

farmers felt the same way about the Government’s agricultural laws. “We also feel that the farm laws are not for the farmers but for something else... If you are going to make allegations against the farmers, we will make allegations against you.” He repeated that the only solution to the problem would be to allow farmers’ entry to the Ram Lila Maidan.

The court issued notice on new petitions filed by other private citizens seeking the removal of the blockades. The Bench posted the hearing on December 7.

PM to attend climate meet in Glasgow

India, though the third-largest carbon greenhouse gas emitter but with among the lowest per-capita emissions, had in 2015 committed to increasing the share of non-fossil fuel sources to 40% and reduce its emissions intensity per unit of GDP by nearly 33-35% of 2005 levels and create a carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

India has maintained that it is the only G20 country to keep its climate goals on track to achieving the Paris Agreement of keeping global temperature from rising beyond 2 degrees Celsius. Though it hasn’t committed to a ‘net zero’ target, unlike major emitters, the United States and China, India says that developed countries are far from making good on their commitments to deliver adequate finance, technology and themselves cut emissions enough to reflect their historical contribution to the climate crisis.

Mr. Yadav said all such important pending issues “should be resolved mutually taking into account national priorities and circumstances.”

Independent analysts say that the West’s insis-

tence on net zero targets could mean differences will emerge at the meeting in Glasgow.

“For the developed world, significant outcomes would be net-zero pledges and enhanced NDC ambition, hard targets on coal phase-out by countries that have not done so yet, and some progress on methane reduction plans. For the developing world, it would be delivery on climate finance for both mitigation and adaptation, legacy carbon credits, technology transfers, and introducing equity in the net-zero debate. If the developed world continues hammering on the net-zero, coal or methane reduction issues while dragging feet on climate finance, legacy carbon credits, and tech transfer issues, we could end up seeing Copenhagen 2.0,” said Vaibhav Chaturvedi, Fellow, CEEW.

Meanwhile, a senior U.S. delegation led by Robert Blake, a retired diplomat appointed by U.S. Special Envoy John Kerry to coordinate with India on the climate financing and clean energy partnership, is also in Delhi for talks with the Environment Ministry.

Do you want to revisit ₹8 lakh slab, asks SC

“Can the Supreme Court strike down the criterion if no study was undertaken?” the Bench asked.

In the previous hearing on October 7, the Government assured the court that it would file an affidavit on oath explaining the reasons and statistics which led to the figure of ₹8 lakh as the annual income criterion to identify EWS among forward classes of society for grant of 10% reservation in medical admissions under the all-India quota.

The Supreme Court’s query is significant as the One

Hundred and Third Constitutional Amendment of 2019, which introduced the 10% EWS quota, is itself under challenge before a larger Bench.

The Amendment is under question for making economic criterion as the sole ground for grant of reservation benefits.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions filed by NEET aspirants challenging a July 29 notification of the Centre announcing 27% quota to OBCs and 10% reservation to EWS in the All India Quota category.

Organised crime charges valid in Gauri case: court

The High Court said he was not engaged in “continuing unlawful activity” to be a part of a gang involved in organised crime.

The prosecution had argued that Nayak had taken a house on rent on the instructions of co-accused Amol Kale in the guise of running an acupressure clinic. The house was, in fact, meant to accommodate the killing crew. Gauri’s assassins hid out in the same house after the murder, the prosecution version said.

Justice Khanwilkar said the Police Commissioner, while giving approval, needed only to focus on whether there was credible information before him about the involvement of an “organised syndicate” behind the crime. He just needed to be *prima facie* satisfied about it after looking at the material

before him.

It was not necessary at that point of approval to look into the role of the individual offenders.

It noted that the High Court had examined the circumstances of the Police Commissioner’s approval by applying “erroneous scale”. The High Court had “glossed over the core and tangible facts”.

Besides, the top court said the Police Commissioner’s approval seemed not to “suffer from any infirmity including *qua* Nayak having noted his intimate nexus with the brain behind the entire event, being none other than Amol Kale and master-arms trainer Rajesh D. Bangera, who are part and parcel of an organised crime syndicate and committed organised crimes as such”.

‘NGOs cannot get unbridled foreign funds’

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that NGOs have no fundamental right to receive “unbridled foreign contributions” without regulations.

It was responding to petitions challenging amendments made in the Foreign Contributions Regulations law in 2020. The petitions had argued that the amendments severely restricted the use of foreign funds by the NGOs for their activities. The petitioners had also found it cumbersome that the new law expected 23,000 NGOs to open accounts in the main branch of the State Bank of India (SBI) in the capital to receive their foreign funds.

The Centre said the amendments were meant to ensure that foreign funds were not used to impinge upon the functioning of parliamentary institutions, political associations and other organisations in India.

64 killed in Uttarakhand floods

Timely warning by Centre saved many lives, says Home Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that so far, 64 people had been found dead in the Uttarakhand floods, and more than 11 were missing.

Mr. Shah, who did an aerial survey of the flood-affected region in the hill State, said 535 people had been rescued, and more than 16,000 people evacuated.

He said due to the timely weather warning by the Centre, the State Government could prepare better, and many lives could be saved.

The Home Minister said 80% of the phone lines had been restored, but some roads had been completely washed away.

“New roads will have to be constructed by cutting through the mountains. A portion of the railway track has also been washed away; efforts are on to fix it,” he said.

The Minister, flanked by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh



Tough terrain: NDRF personnel carrying out rescue operations in a landslide-affected area at Dungree in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. **PTI**

Dhami and Rajya Sabha member Anil Baluni, briefed the media after the aerial survey. He said the Char Dham Yatra had been resumed, and none of the pilgrims were missing or killed in the floods.

“This was possible because of advance alert sent by the Centre. Alert was sent around 2.30 p.m. on October 16, mobile phone users were alerted and people were

asked to stay indoors, this minimised the loss of lives,” he said.

Trekking teams

Of the two trekking teams that were missing, one had been tracked and efforts were on to rescue them, he said. Electricity had been restored in 60% of the area affected.

A team of officials from the Home Ministry will soon

visit the State to assess the damage. Mr. Shah said that a few days ago, ₹250 crore was released to the State for disaster management.

The Minister added that 17 teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 60 of the State Disaster Response Force, 15 companies of the Provincial Armed Constabulary and 5,000 policemen were involved in relief and rehabilitation work.

SC has physical hearing after 18 months

Judges sat behind glass partitions, court staff behind a second glass divide

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Nearly 18 months after the pandemic forced it to go virtual, the Supreme Court opened its courtrooms for its first day of full-fledged physical hearings on Thursday.

The court’s long corridors once again saw some brisk activity. Additional waiting rooms had lawyers sitting patiently for their cases to be called from inside the courtrooms.

Entry for media persons into the courtrooms faced initial hiccups from the security personnel manning the courtroom doors. However, the court, it is learnt, is working to make coverage of proceedings seamless.

The judges sat behind



glass partitions. The court staff worked behind a second glass divide. Junior lawyers were seen passing case documents to the court staff through partially opened glass doors on the sides.

The atmosphere inside the courtrooms was sub-

dued, compared to the pre-COVID jostle and bustle. However, lawyers and judges were heard expressing relief at the return to normalcy. Justices S.K. Kaul and D.Y. Chandrachud said they were happy to have lawyers once again argue in person.

Modified SOP

The court took the first step by modifying its standard operating procedure on October 7 to have mandatory physical hearings on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

However, the SOP did meet with reservations from some lawyers, including senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who had urged Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana to not make physical hearings a

“hard-and-fast rule” on the two days. It is reliably learnt that Chief Justice Ramana and other senior judges held an extensive meeting with Mr. Sibal, Attorney General K.K. Venugopal, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Vikas Singh, senior advocate C.U. Singh, Bar Council of India chairperson Manan Kumar Mishra and other office-bearers of lawyers’ bodies on the issue on Thursday.

Sources said the CJI has asked the Supreme Court Registry to tweak the SOP so that the Bench could consider and approve a lawyer’s genuine request for a virtual hearing on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

‘377 policemen died while on duty last year’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In the past one year, as many as 377 police personnel died in the line of duty, Intelligence Bureau Director Arvinda Kumar said on Thursday.

Over 3.54 lakh police personnel were infected with COVID-19 since last year, while 2,548 died of the infection, he said.

Mr. Kumar was speaking at a function to mark Police

Commemoration Day. The day is observed in the memory of 10 Central Reserve Police Force men who were killed on October 21 in 1959 in an ambush by Chinese troops in Ladakh’s Hot Spring area.

Since Independence (till August, 2020), 35,780 police personnel had laid down their lives in the service of the nation, Mr. Kumar said.

Without naming China, Minister of State for Home

Nityanand Rai said a few days ago, “Our troops gave a befitting reply to the expansionist activities of our neighbouring country and neutralised their attempt successfully. This gave a message that India will never compromise on its sovereignty and security”. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) deployed along the Line of Actual Control made a “vital contribution” during this action.

Mr. Rai, along with another Minister of State in the Home Ministry Ajay Kumar Mishra and chiefs of various police organisations and forces, laid a wreath at the police memorial in honour of the personnel killed in the line of duty.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in a Twitter message that the nation bows to the brave police personnel who laid down their lives to protect the country.

Young World painting contest to be held online

Portal closes on November 23

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Club Mahindra and *The Hindu Young World* have announced the national painting competition 2021 to be held online.

The topics for the prelims are as follows:

Sub-juniors (Classes 3-5): My best holiday memory, Best resort holiday with family, The perfect holiday destination.

Juniors (Classes 6-8): Holiday with grandparents, Best recreational activity at a resort, My favourite holiday memory with cousins.

Seniors (Classes 9-12): The best view from our resort room, My dream destination, An unforgettable holiday memory with friends.

Participants can choose any one of the above topics as per their category and paint on a blank A3 size (11.7 x 16.5 inches) drawing sheet. They may log on to www.ywc.thehindu.com/ clubmahindra for registration and other details.

The online registration and submission portal closes on November 23. Parti-



pants should ensure that their physical art work reaches the nearest *The Hindu* office before November 25. If the participant qualifies for the finale, the date and details will be intimated through the registered email ID.

There will be three top winners and seven consolation prize winners in each category. Winners will get attractive prizes and the winning paintings also stand a chance to be displayed at select Club Mahindra resorts.

In case of any queries or clarifications, students or parents may call at toll-free number 1800 102 1878 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Monday to Saturday).

Gene editing guidelines facing delay

A proposal from IARI is pending with an appraisal committee for almost 2 years

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

Even as the Centre investigates allegations that unauthorised genetically modified (GM) rice was exported to Europe, it is yet to decide on a research proposal from its own scientists which would allow plants to be genetically modified without the need for conventional transgenic technology.

Scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute are in the process of developing resilient and high-yield rice varieties using such gene editing techniques, which have already been approved by many



The IARI is on the lookout for high-yielding rice.

countries, and they hope to have such rice varieties in the hands of the Indian farmers by 2024. However, the proposal for Indian regulators to consider this technique as equivalent to conventional breeding methods,

HC rejects CISF officer’s plea against his dismissal

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has rejected the petition of a former Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officer, who was discharged from service after being found under the

influence of liquor during duty, noting that his behaviour reflects “gross indiscipline”.

A Bench declined to interfere with the CISF order directing the removal of Pra-deep Kumar from service.

SKM suspends Yogendra for a month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Thursday decided to suspend its core committee member, Yogendra Yadav, from all its activities for one month because he visited the family of one of the BJP workers who died in Lakhimpur Kheri.

“It was a collective decision taken by all members of the SKM to take this action against him for going to the BJP worker’s house and for his tweet about it also,” said Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh leader Abhimanyu Kohar, who attended the general body meeting at the Singhu border. “Many farmers had expressed concern and were hurt... We took note of it and acted,” he added.

Mr. Yadav defended his actions during the meeting. “I was asked to say that I made a mistake by going there. I refused to say that. I said that for me, it is a matter of principle and policy,” he said.

System to track prisoners on parole

States told to use ‘ePrisons’

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The Union Home Ministry has advised the States to update recent photographs of prisoners released on parole/furlough/premature release in the “ePrisons” and Interoperable Criminal Justice System database to generate immediate alerts and facilitate easy tracking in the event of their violating the law.

In an advisory sent to the Chief Secretaries, the Ministry said the States and the Union Territories were advised to review the existing practices and procedures governing grant of parole, furlough and premature release to inmates, as per provisions under the Model Prison Manual, 2016, and guidelines issued by the Home Ministry, the National Human Rights Commission and the Supreme Court. It was also advised that in order to ensure that the inmates released on parole, furlough and premature release do not violate law, systems must be put in place for monitoring and follow-up of each such case.

Generate alerts

Taking into account the importance of initiating timely action in the event of any inmate absconding/escaping

from custody/prison, it was considered necessary to have recent photographs of the prisoners updated in the system and also generate immediate alerts which would enable tracking of such inmates by the law enforcement agencies. The ‘ePrisons’ and ‘Interoperable Criminal Justice System’ platforms could be deployed to address such issues.

Prison departments were told to update the details of any escape from the prison/custody on ‘ePrisons’ on a real time basis. Quick availability of this information would facilitate police and other authorities concerned in nabbing the escapee/absconder. States/Union Territories should leverage ‘ePrisons’ application for updating the profile of inmates on a regular basis, the advisory said.

The Ministry called for appropriate systems to be put in place for monitoring and follow-up of each case of an inmate released on bail, parole, furlough and premature release etc. so that they do not indulge in criminal activities. “Any person who either attempts to escape from prison or absconds from custody should not be considered for grant of bail, parole or furlough.”

APPEAL

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Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

Final report on data Bill to be out in Nov.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Personal Data Protection Bill has completed its deliberation on the long-pending Bill and will be submitting the final report in the upcoming winter session in November.

The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2019 and was referred to the JPC. It got its fifth extension in the monsoon session in July.

Sources said the contentious Clause 35 of the legislation, which, in the name of “sovereignty”, “friendly relations with foreign states” and “security of the state”, allows any agency under the Union Government exemption from all or any provisions of the law, had been retained.

More than 10 MPs in the panel had objected to it.

“While the clause will remain, the committee has recommended that the reasons for seeking such an exemption should be submitted in writing by the Government,” one of the members said. The draft report would be circulated among the members in the next few days.

Pakistan retained on FATF’s ‘greylist’ again

Prove investigations targeted terror groups, Islamabad told

DEVESH K. PANDEY NEW DELHI

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Thursday retained Pakistan in the ‘greylist’ yet again, observing that it needed to further demonstrate that investigations and prosecutions were being pursued against the senior leadership of UN-designated terror groups, which include the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

At a press meet, FATF President Marcus Pleyer said Pakistan remained under increased monitoring.

“The Pakistan Government has two concurrent action plans with a total of 34 action plan items. It has addressed or largely addressed 30 of the items. Its most recent action plan from June this year, which largely focused on money laundering deficiencies, was issued after the FATF’s regional partner APG, that is the Asia-Pacific Group, identified a number of serious issues,” said Dr. Pleyer.

Stating that Pakistan was making good progress over-



Marcus Pleyer

all on the new action plan, in which four of the seven items had been addressed or largely addressed, Dr. Pleyer said regarding the earlier action plan, which focused on terrorist financing issues and dated back to June 2018, Pakistan was still assessed to have largely addressed 26 of the 27 items. The FATF also announced the ‘greylisting’ of Jordan, Mali and Turkey, following the conclusion of the Plenary session.

At the previous Plenary in June, the FATF had kept Pakistan in the list of “jurisdictions under increased monitoring” owing to its failure in prosecuting the top operatives of the Security Council-designated terror groups. “The FATF recognises Pa-

kistan’s progress and efforts to address these CFT [Combating the Financing of Terrorism] action plan items and notes that since February 2021, Pakistan has made progress to complete two of the three remaining action items on demonstrating that effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions are imposed for TF [Terror Financing] convictions and that Pakistan’s targeted financial sanctions regime was being used effectively to targeted terrorist assets,” it had said.

The FATF had asked Pakistan to work on the remaining recommendation by demonstrating that terror financing investigations and prosecutions targeted leaders and commanders of UN-designated terror groups.

It had advised that Pakistan should continue to work to address its six strategically important deficiencies, which included enhancing international cooperation by amending the money-laundering law and demonstrating that assistance was being sought from foreign countries in implementing the UNSCR 1373 designations.

Hindu man booked on conversion charges in U.P.

He had recently been granted bail by the Allahabad HC

OMAR RASHID LUCKNOW

A man from Fatehpur district in Uttar Pradesh was booked by the police under the new anti-conversion law in the State for trying to convert his wife to Islam.

The Allahabad High Court had recently granted bail to the accused, a truck driver by profession. In the High Court, he had pleaded that he and his wife were both Hindus.

On June 26, an FIR was lodged against Vijay Kumar Sonkar, 28, at Khakhru police station under Sections 3, 5 (1) of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance 2020. Mr. Sonkar was also booked under Indian Penal Code Sections 295 (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

Rajesh Kumar, Additional Superintendent of Police, Fatehpur, said that Mr. Sonkar was booked on a complaint lodged by his wife Poonam Devi, 22, who accused her husband of putting pressure



Mr. Sonkar was booked on a complaint lodged by his wife Poonam Devi, who accused her husband of putting pressure on her and her family to convert to Islam

RAJESH KUMAR Additional Superintendent of Police

on her and her family to convert to Islam. Mr. Sonkar had allegedly befriended a Muslim truck driver and accepted Islam as his faith, Mr. Kumar said in June. On July 6, a local court refused bail to Mr. Sonkar.

Abused, thrashed

According to details in the bail rejection order, Poonam Devi said that her husband wanted her to convert. On June 25, she alleged, Mr. Sonkar abused and thrashed her to force her to convert. She added that her father-in-law did not intervene when her husband hit her.

Mr. Sonkar’s lawyer told the court that he was falsely implicated in the case. The accused stated that on the

day of the alleged incident, the couple had a domestic dispute. Some people in the neighbourhood who bore animosity against him maliciously persuaded his wife to file an FIR on fabricated charges.

Mr. Sonkar also submitted that he was happily married with Poonam and that the allegation of use of force or inducement to get her converted to Islam was false and unfounded.

The lawyer arguing the case for the State opposed the bail and submitted that police had recovered the Quran and other articles from the accused.

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Kumar Chaurasia denied bail to Mr. Sonkar saying the charges against him were “very serious in nature”.

Mr. Sonkar then approached the Allahabad High Court. On September 27, Justice Sanjay Kumar Pachori granted him bail without expressing opinion on the merit of the case. Mr. Sonkar submitted in the High Court that he and his wife were both Hindus by religion and that she was living with him.

Police to further probe death of Jaya’s driver

STAFF REPORTER SALEM

The Salem rural police on Thursday took up an old case pertaining to the death of C. Kanagaraj, former Chief Minister Jayalithaa’s driver, for further investigation.

Kanagaraj, 36, was killed in a road accident near Attur in April 2017. On the day of the accident, Kanagaraj was reportedly on his way to Thalavasal, on the Salem-Ulundurpet Highway, on a two-wheeler.

When he took a right turn to move to the service lane, a car heading towards Perambalur allegedly hit his vehicle, and Kanagaraj was thrown off. He was rushed to the government hospital at Attur where doctors declared him dead.

Kanagaraj was named the prime accused in the murder of the watchman at the Kodanad Estate bungalow of Jayalalithaa. Kanagaraj’s family members have been demanding a detailed probe into his death, alleging that he was murdered.

Superintendent of Police M. Sree Abhinav confirmed the development.

Turmoil continues as Sidhu and Amarinder clash over farm laws

Former CM an architect of controversial laws, says Sidhu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

As the turmoil within the Congress’s Punjab unit continues, the party’s State president, Navjot Singh Sidhu, and former Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh (retd.) engaged in a sharp exchange of words on Thursday over the farm laws.

Mr. Sidhu tweeted an old video clip of Capt. Singh and accused the former Chief Minister of being an architect of the three farm laws. “The Architect of 3 Black Laws ... who brought Ambani to Punjab’s Kisani ... who destroyed Punjab’s Farmers, Small traders and Labour for benefiting 1-2 Big Corporates!” he said in his tweet.

Hitting back, Capt. Singh said Mr. Sidhu was clueless about Punjab and the farmers’ interests. “What a fraud and cheat you are @sherryontopp [Navjot Sidhu]!



You’re trying to pass off my 15-year-old crop diversification initiative as connected with #FarmLaws against which I’m still fighting and with which I’ve linked my own political future!” he said on Twitter. “It’s obvious @sherryontopp you’re clueless about Punjab’s & its farmers’ interests. You clearly don’t know the difference between diversification & what the #FarmLaws are all about. And yet you dream of

leading Punjab. How dreadful if that ever happens!” he added.

Capt. Singh also questioned Mr. Sidhu’s timing in posting the video. “And it’s hilarious @sherryontopp that you’ve chosen to post this video at a time when @INCPunjab govt is going all out to promote its upcoming Progressive Punjab Investors’ Summit. Or are you opposed to that too?” he added.

President attends Bihar House’s centenary event

Soil of Bihar is ratnagarbha: Kovind

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PATNA

President Ram Nath Kovind said on Thursday that he was delighted to have got an opportunity to carry forward the legacy of the first President, Rajendra Prasad, who was also from Bihar.

“The soil of Bihar is *ratnagarbha* [a treasure trove]. I have always been moved by the affection showered by its people. And this is why a visit here always brings me joy,” said the President in his address as the

chief guest at an event to mark the centenary of the State’s Assembly building.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Governor Phagu Chouhan, and Deputy Chief Ministers Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha and Chairman of the Legislative Council Awadhesh Narayan Singh were among a host of leaders and dignitaries present. The Chief Minister welcomed Mr. Kovind, calling him a “Bihari President”.

No poll events in areas near byelection seats, says ECI

Enforcement of MCC, COVID-19 norms must apply, it says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday told political parties not to hold election events in areas adjoining the constituencies where byelections are being held.

The ECI said its existing instructions on the model code of conduct (MCC) provided that it would be applicable to the district comprising the Assembly or Lok

Sabha constituency where byelections are being held. In case the seat was in State capitals, metropolitan cities and municipal corporations, then the MCC would be applicable in the area of the constituency concerned only. “In all other cases, aforesaid instructions would be enforced in the entire district(s) covering the Constituency going for byelection (s),” an ECI statement said. It advised parties not to organ-

ise any activity directly related to the bypolls, which would be held on October 30, in adjoining areas.

The ECI also “clarified that if any electioneering activities connected to ongoing byelection are organised anywhere within the district, then all instructions related to enforcement of MCC, COVID and expenditure monitoring shall apply as done in case of political activities.”

Court rejects Kangana’s plea to transfer case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

A court here on Thursday rejected actor Kangana Ranaut’s petition seeking a transfer of the criminal defamation case filed against her by lyricist Javed Akhtar.

The actor filed the transfer petition before the chief metropolitan magistrate last month, stating that she had “lost faith” in the magistrate’s court hearing the case as it had indirectly “threatened” her with a warrant if she failed to appear before it in a bailable offence. Mr. Akhtar had earlier opposed the petition, stating that it was “devoid of all merits”.

After hearing both sides, the court rejected Ms. Ranaut’s petition. However, a detailed order is yet to be made available.

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2. 167_2/CPO/SL3SDPM/PT/MIT/2021 SLS 3D Printing Materials 1 ₹20,00,000/-
The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website <https://tntenders.gov.in> from 11.00 am on 22.10.2021. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website upto 03.00 pm on 22.11.2021 and will be opened at 03.00 pm on 23.11.2021. Other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website (<https://tntenders.gov.in>).
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COIMBATORE - 641046.
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR M.Phil / Ph.D. (Full - Time / Part Time) PROGRAMME 2021 - 2022
Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission to M.Phil. and Ph.D., (F.T / P.T. December 2021 Session) programmes during the year 2021 - 2022 for University Departments / Affiliated colleges / Approved Research Institutions of Bharathiar University.
For Application Forms, Prospectus & other details, kindly visit our website : www.b-u.ac.in
Last date for submission of applications : 25.11.2021
DIPR/934/DIS/2021 Registrar i/c
சேர்தகன கட்டுத்து கத்தறும் அடைந்தேறும், சாதனை புரித்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

LOOK OUT NOTICE
The person shown above namely AJAY PAWAL Age: 17/19 native Nasik, Maharashtra State, he is missing since 30.05.2019 & a crime 1051/2019 U/s 57 of KP Act has been registered in this matter. His description roll is as under.
Colour : Medium White, Date of Missing : 30.05.2019
Please have sharp Look Out if traced out any information contact Neyyattinkara Police Station on sinktvmr.pol@kerala.gov.in or following numbers.
Sub Inspector of Police : 9497980123
Inspector of Police : 9497947112
Neyyattinkara Police Station: 04712222222
Deputy Supdt of Police Neyyattinkara: 9497990017
District Police Chief Tvpm Rural : 9497996985
Sd/- Inspector of Police Neyyattinkara Police Station
(1743/F2/2021/I&PRD)

CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
Sector 10, Janakipuram Extension, Sitapur Road, Lucknow-226 031 (India)
ADVERTISEMENT NO. 10/2021
ADMISSION TO Ph.D. PROGRAMME FOR ACADEMIC SESSION JANUARY-2022
CSIR-CDRRI Lucknow, a premier research centre in the country invites applications from highly motivated and research-oriented applicants for admission to full time Ph.D. programme in the relevant research areas of Institute.
Eligibility criteria:
M.Sc. or equivalent degree in Life sciences/Biotechnology/ Chemical sciences/Pharmaceutical Sciences with valid fellowship (CSIR/UGC/ICMR/DBT/DST/AYUSH-NET/GPAT-JRF or with any other relevant national fellowship).
The fellowship should be valid as on the date of joining for the session commencing from January-2022. FOR ONLINE Application and more details visit our website www.cdri.res.in/CDRIPhD2022 or scan the following QR Code:
Senior Controller of Administration

M O F P I
National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Thanjavur
(an Institute of National Importance; formerly Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology - IIFPT)
Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005, Tamil Nadu • director@iifpt.edu.in
ADMISSIONS 2021 - 22

| B.Tech. | M.Tech. (Food Tech.) | M.Tech. (Food Tech.) | M.Tech. (Food Tech.) |
|---|--|--|--|
| Food Technology | Food Process Engineering | Food Process Technology | Food Safety & Quality Assurance |
| Selection Criteria: All India Rank of JEE (Main)-2021 through JoSAA 2021 (https://josaa.nic.in) | Ph.D. (Food Tech.) Food Process Engineering | Ph.D. (Food Tech.) Food Process Technology | Ph.D. (Food Tech.) Food Process Technology |
| Selection Criteria: M.Tech.: UG marks & NIFTEM-T (IIFPT) online entrance exam Ph.D.: UG, PG marks, NIFTEM-T (IIFPT) online entrance exam & online interview | Last date for application: M.Tech. 25.10.2021 Ph.D.: 15.12.2021 | | |
| Academic programmes are accredited by AICTE and affiliated with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University | | | |
| For further details, visit: www.iifpt.edu.in Email: admission@iifpt.edu.in DIRECTOR | | | |

ANNA UNIVERSITY
CHENNAI - 600 025
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Ref. No. 179/CPO/DCC/COE/2021
On-line Tenders in Two Bid System are invited for the procurement of following items for The Controller of Examinations, Anna University, Chennai - 600 025.
Sl. No. Tender Ref. No. Name of the Item Qty. Approx. cost Rs.
1. 179/CPO/DCC/COE/2021 Deluxe Cloth lined Covers 1 ₹30,00,000/-
The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website <https://tntenders.gov.in> from 11.00 am on 22.10.2021. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website upto 04.00 pm on 10.11.2021 and will be opened at 04.00 pm on 11.11.2021. Other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website (<https://tntenders.gov.in>).
DIPR/3033/Tender/2021 REGISTRAR i/c
“சேர்தகன கட்டுத்து கத்தறும் அடைந்தேறும், சாதனை புரித்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.”

ANNA UNIVERSITY
CHENNAI - 600 025
TENDER NOTICE
On-line Tenders in Two Bid System are invited for Supply and Installation of following equipment for The Director, Centre for Aerospace Research, MIT Campus, Anna University, Chennai - 600 044.
Sl. No. Tender Ref. No. Name of the Item Qty. Approx. cost Rs.
1. 180/CPO/ORPTO/CASR/MIT/2021 Outsourcing of Remote Pilot Training Organization (RPTO) operations including Manpower, Marketing and Maintenance 1 ₹2,00,00,000/-
The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website <https://tntenders.gov.in> from 11.00 am on 22.10.2021. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website upto 05.00 pm on 10.11.2021 and will be opened at 05.00 pm on 11.11.2021. Other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website (<https://tntenders.gov.in>).
DIPR/3034/Tender/2021 REGISTRAR i/c
“சேர்தகன கட்டுத்து கத்தறும் அடைந்தேறும், சாதனை புரித்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.”

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुसंधान समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्डूर (जिला), आ.प्र./ SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
संक्षिप्त ई-निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
सं.शार.नि.अनु.स. विद्युत एवं एसी तिथि/Date, 20.10.2021
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, “एसपीएजी परियोजना (पिकेज-डी) (शार/सीएमजी/एसी/जी2187207/2021-22, अनुमानित लागत 60.94 लाख), हेतु वातानुकूलन प्रदान करने के लिए मंद दर निविदाएं ऑनलाइन आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज 02-11-2021 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO देखें।
“On behalf of President of India, item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for “Providing AC to SPAG project (Package-D)” (SHAR/CMMD/AC/G2187207/2021-22, Est. cost Rs. 60.94 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded upto 02.11.2021, 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.
हस्ताक्षरित Sd/- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी, एसडीएससी शार / GROUP HEAD, CMG, SDSC SHAR

A Mirage 2000 aircraft of the Indian Air Force crashed in Bhind district of Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. "An IAF Mirage 2000 aircraft experienced a technical malfunction during a training sortie in the central sector this morning. The pilot ejected safely," the IAF said. An inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident. The aircraft had taken off from the Maharajpura airbase at Gwalior in the morning, an official said.

NEW DELHI The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved an increase of dearness allowance (DA) given to Central Government employees and dearness relief (DR) to pensioners from 28% of the basic pay or pension to 31%. The Cabinet, at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the release of an additional instalment of DA and DR with effect from July 1 to compensate for price rise, a government statement said. "This will benefit about 47.14 lakh Central Government employees and 68.62 lakh pensioners," a statement said. The combined impact on the exchequer would be ₹9,488.7 crore a year.

GUWAHATI The police in central Assam's Nagaon district arrested two minor "porn addicts" who allegedly stoned a six-year-old girl to death for resisting sexual abuse. An eight-year-old boy was also arrested for abetting the crime along with the parents of one of the two boys, both aged 11, for trying to suppress the incident and tamper with evidence. The girl was killed on October 18 at a village under the Uluoani police station. Found lying unconscious inside the toilet of a stone-crushing mill, she was declared dead on arrival at a local hospital.

BHUBANESWAR
A local court in Odisha on Thursday upheld the death penalty imposed on nine persons, who killed three members of a family by injecting them with pesticide in 2016. The three were killed on the suspicion that they practised witchcraft. The crime took place in the remote Kitum village under the Putasingh police station limits in Rayagada district on September 9, 2016. The additional district judge, Gunupur, convicted the nine persons on April 11, 2018, and handed out the death sentence. Those convicted had filed an appeal against the sentence.

Party congratulates health sector workers for helping India administer 100 crore vaccine doses



Celebrating a record: The Konark Sun temple is illuminated to celebrate the 100 crore vaccine milestone and pay tribute to frontline and health workers in the country. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on Thursday illuminated 100 monuments in the tricolour to celebrate the milestone of 100 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses. Thanking frontline workers, the ASI said in a statement that 100 monuments, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites – Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb and Qutub Minar in Delhi, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri in Uttar Pradesh, Konark Temple in Odisha and Mamallapuram Rath temples in Tamil Nadu – were lit up.

about 42 crore were waiting for the second dose.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury tweeted, "A billion vaccinations is a landmark. But celebrations? Modi Govt. has abandoned it's own target of fully vaccinating all adults by year end. Only 21% are fully vaccinated. Unless this reaches 2/3rd of India, dangers loom large. Accelerate vaccinations."

CPI secretary D. Raja said, "Time has come now for public spending on health to go up and the Centre should ensure adequate supply of vaccines to State Governments so that people have access to vaccines."

Doctors flag positivity rate

SHISHWANATH GHOSH
KOLKATA

West Bengal is witnessing a small but steady rise in the number of COVID-19 cases following Durga Puja festivities.

On Thursday, the number of daily cases recorded in the State stood at 867, from 726 on Wednesday and 690 on Tuesday.

Positivity rate stood at 2.43% on Thursday, and had even climbed up to 3% last weekend.

"Positivity rate had fallen to below 1% but it is rising again. This is clearly connected to the Durga Puja celebrations. We had cautioned the State government well in advance," said Purnabrata Gun, convener of the West Bengal Doctors' Forum. Koushik Lahiri, a founding member of the forum and a well-known skill specialist, said, "In contrast to other States, the positivity rate is rising in West Bengal. The next couple of weeks are going to be crucial. We are doing less number of tests but the number of cases is still over 800."

ENT specialist Arjun Dasgupta attributed the current rise in cases to the pre-puja shopping crowds.

Internal medicine specialist Rahul Jain said that the rise in the number of cases was modest and that most patients showed only mild symptoms.

Official cites tepid demand, strict visa regime

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Government is unlikely to allow full resumption of international flights in the near future as it believes that demand for foreign travel is still tepid, according to the Civil Aviation Ministry.

"The current frequencies

available under the public-private partnership arrangements are adequate to meet the demand. There isn't much demand for international routes, as the visa regime is very restrictive. On certain sectors such as the U.S. and Canada, airlines have 30% to 40% load factors [seat occupancy] for mid-December 2021. We can surely consider opening once the demand nears the pre-COVID-19 levels," Rajiv Bansal, Secretary, Ministry of Civil

'It is a tremendous achievement'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As India hit a milestone of administering 100 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines on Thursday, Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Poonam Khetrpal Singh termed it an extraordinary feat. This would not have been possible in a short span without a strong political leadership, intersectoral convergence, dedicated efforts of the entire health and frontline workforce and the people themselves, she said.

"India's progress must be viewed in the context of the country's commendable commitment and efforts to ensure that these life-saving vaccines are accessible globally," she said.

UNICEF India representative Yasmin Ali Haque welcomed the strides India had made in recent months to ramp up vaccination. She said, "This is a tremendous achievement, given the logistical complexity of administering 1 billion doses in less than a year, in a country as vast and diverse as India. As Indian families recover from the recent devastating

COVID-19 wave, for many, this milestone means hope."

"UNICEF has supported these efforts by procuring and supplying over 4,195 pieces of electrical cold chain equipment, including walk-in coolers, freezers, ice-lined refrigerators, and deep freezers. We also supplied more than 4,20,000 pieces of cold chain boxes and vaccine carriers."

"As part of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement response, UNICEF continues to actively support the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through national communication campaigns to promote behaviours to prevent COVID-19 and speed up India's vaccine drive."

UNICEF India was in the process of procuring millions of syringes and other equipment as per the needs of the Government of India, the statement added.

Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Biotech Krishna Ella observed that reaching the one billion mark of vaccination in just nine months was a remarkable achievement for the nation.

Minister says State tops in double dose

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

A day after colleges opened in Maharashtra, Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Thursday announced a special drive to vaccinate students between the age group of 18 and 25.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Tope said the drive would start from October 25 and would continue till November 2. "We have given three days to colleges to collect data on how many students have received the first dose. Based on that, we will make our assessment on the doses required to fully vaccinate the students," he said. Higher and Technical Education

Minister Uday Samant was also present.

Talking about the State's overall performance with regard to COVID-19 vaccination, Mr. Tope said Maharashtra had the highest number of people who had been given both doses of the vaccine. "Around 6.4 crore people in the State have been given one dose, while 2.9 crore have got the second dose," he said.

The Minister added that since restrictions on various activities and movement were being lifted and the festive season was in progress, a possible third wave post-Deepavali could only be countered by increased vaccination.

Display keystrokes of genius.
Type your answers in our online grids:
@ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjpTn>

[illegible]

- 1 Link note to former (6)
- 4 Remove unknown abrasive (8)
- 10 Somehow change current unit inside a toaster? (9)
- 11 Pose with hollow air instrument (5)
- 12 Team's strategic dialogue which includes India (5)
- 13 Storytellers quickly moved back with artist to the upper house (9)
- 14 Not in favour of strong move over preserving visibility (4-3)

- 16 Colour of map in Kindle (4)
- 19 Grain I lost in jungle (4)
- 21 Probationer's part in ape's transformation (7)
- 24 A position had some significance for deserters (9)
- 25 Film where doctor avoids maid in Mumbai (5)
- 26 Phoney Guru hugged young Chinese national (5)
- 27 Fix duct for dental procedure (4,5)
- 28 Made listener join again (8)
- 29 Finishes with zero wickets and leaves (6)

■ DOWN

- 1 Transport for Richard, the Mumbai opener (8)
- 2 Result in captain having till... (4,2,2)
- 3 Bound to initially copy and then delete (5)
- 5 Explain Shakespearean character breaking a drinking vessel (5,2)
- 6 He stays away from Jack's teacher without reading (9)
- 7 Fibre bed's the current fashion (6)
- 8 It represents the tree of knowledge. Why? At the end, it has pain (1-5)
- 9 Drink gone bad? Add a drop of ginger and some grape-juice (6)
- 15 Relating to breaking French law on river (9)
- 17 Angry duck/bird (8)
- 18 Transports very fresh lichees (8)
- 20 Obtains money from old wrongdoings (7)
- 21 Not a drop over a plunger (6)
- 22 Raja guaranteed to trap an animal (6)
- 23 Go and tune out speech (6)
- 25 Philosopher's company in bar (5)

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13382

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V | I | S | E | U | P | T |
| T | O | N | R | H | E | S |
| W | A | R | N | G | R | E |
| M | I | C | T | O | R | E |
| V | I | C | T | O | R | E |
| N | R | H | E | S | U | P |
| B | H | A | R | A | T | A |
| T | R | O | M | H | I | E |
| E | O | E | D | S | H | O |
| E | V | A | L | U | A | T |
| P | L | U | N | G | S | H |
| E | E | D | S | H | O | R |

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Lord Rama's regret

Kulasekhara Azhvar, in his Thillai Thiruchitrakootam pasurams, expresses his longing to see Rama. He sings of the events of Rama's story, for Lord Govindaraja of Thillai has enabled him to view events that took place in a distant yuga. Serving the Lord was more appealing to Kulasekhara Azhvar than being king, said Akkarakanni Srinidhi in a discourse. He bows before those who serve the Lord. Rama is not One who savours the pomp and glory of kingship. The Lord too values service done to Him, however little it might be. Rama refers to a tree as Sriman Vanaspati. Sriman is a prefix used out of regard for people. How did a tree merit such an honour? Because, when Rama and Sita were in the forest, the tree had afforded them shelter.

Lord Rama also saw kingship as a burden. When Vibhishana sought refuge at Rama's feet, there was one worry that Rama had. He was not too keen on ruling in Ayodhya. That being the case, what if Vibhishana, after the slaying of Ravana, requested Him to take over Lanka as well? Taking charge of Ayodhya was unavoidable. But why add His responsibilities? So went Rama's thoughts. And, so when He promised the kingdom of Lanka to Vibhishana and it was accepted, Rama heaved a sigh of relief. It was as if He had been relieved of a fever.

But there was one fever that abided with Him. Rama had requested Indra to bring back to life every monkey killed in the Lankan battle, and as Rama saw monkeys coming back to life, and was happy about it, His thoughts went to Jatayu. He Himself had performed the last rites for Jatayu. Had He not done so, and brought Jatayu to battlefield, then Jatayu too would have been revived by Indra. Now that chance was lost, and this was a regret Rama carried with Him always.

| MARKET WATCH | | |
|--------------|------------|----------|
| | 21-10-2021 | % CHANGE |
| Sensex | 60,924 | -0.55 |
| US Dollar | 74.87 | 0.00 |
| Gold | 46,503 | ---- |
| Brent oil | 84.06 | -1.33 |

| NIFTY 50 | | |
|-------------------|----------|---------|
| | PRICE | CHANGE |
| Adani Ports | 779.35 | -15.55 |
| Asian Paints | 3002.00 | -167.60 |
| Axis Bank | 807.80 | 3.00 |
| Bajaj Auto | 3804.00 | -44.65 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 18579.60 | -23.60 |
| Bajaj Finance | 7737.30 | -24.05 |
| Bharti Airtel | 696.05 | -12.40 |
| BPL | 451.05 | 9.95 |
| Britannia Ind. | 3714.35 | -47.65 |
| Cipla | 911.55 | 5.65 |
| Coal India | 182.40 | 1.90 |
| Divis Lab | 5193.65 | -77.25 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 4651.65 | -102.25 |
| Eicher Motors | 2663.35 | 12.15 |
| Grasim Ind. | 1745.80 | -53.30 |
| HCL Tech | 1210.70 | -22.20 |
| HDFC | 2844.10 | 49.00 |
| HDFC Bank | 1676.30 | 2.45 |
| HDFC Life | 694.55 | -8.85 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 2756.90 | -59.10 |
| Hindalco | 493.75 | -19.20 |
| Hind Unilever | 2445.75 | -32.90 |
| ICICI Bank | 755.50 | 9.65 |
| IndusInd Bank | 1184.40 | -17.30 |
| Infosys | 1753.65 | -48.70 |
| Indian Oil Corp | 131.65 | 1.10 |
| ITC | 244.70 | -1.90 |
| JSW Steel | 674.10 | -11.05 |
| Kotak Bank | 2143.75 | 128.30 |
| L&T | 1805.75 | -0.95 |
| M&M | 897.00 | -2.35 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 7575.25 | -15.50 |
| Nestle India Ltd. | 19233.15 | -44.50 |
| NTPC | 147.90 | 1.65 |
| ONGC | 155.00 | 0.10 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 194.05 | -0.30 |
| Reliance Ind. | 2622.50 | -77.90 |
| SBI Life | 1158.30 | -10.45 |
| State Bank | 502.95 | 3.05 |
| Shree Cement | 27618.70 | 161.30 |
| Sun Pharma | 818.40 | 3.50 |
| Tata Consumer | | |
| Products Ltd. | 814.80 | -12.15 |
| Tata Motors | 508.00 | 21.10 |
| Tata Steel | 1314.70 | -28.60 |
| TCS | 3532.50 | -76.35 |
| Tech Mahindra | 1524.25 | -15.05 |
| Titan | 2395.70 | -15.70 |
| UltraTech Cement | 7129.00 | -0.60 |
| UPL | 717.45 | 1.55 |
| Wipro | 696.30 | -5.65 |

| EXCHANGE RATES | | |
|---|--------|---------|
| Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 21 | | |
| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
| US Dollar | 74.66 | 74.98 |
| Euro | 86.91 | 87.28 |
| British Pound | 103.10 | 103.53 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 65.47 | 65.75 |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.67 | 11.72 |
| Swiss Franc | 81.30 | 81.65 |
| Singapore Dollar | 55.47 | 55.71 |
| Canadian Dollar | 60.49 | 60.75 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 17.94 | 18.04 |

Source: Indian Bank

L&T to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040

MUMBAI
L&T said it will achieve carbon neutrality by 2040, ahead of Paris Agreement's deadline of 2050, and water neutrality by 2035.

Corporate frauds to rise in next 2 years: Deloitte-IOD

Study cites pandemic induced pressure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI
Corporate fraud cases will rise in the next two years because of COVID-19 related pressures, 63% of independent directors (IDs) said in a survey.
This is because COVID-19 has significantly disrupted business environments, leading to change in business models, cash flow crunch, and remote working environment, which have exposed organisation and individuals to increased fraud-related vulnerabilities, the survey by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (DTTILLP), in association with the Institute of Directors (IOD), revealed.
Cybercrimes (23.90%), financial statement fraud including incorrect business valuations (20.96%) and



leak of sensitive information (12.87%) are the most likely fraud schemes to be experienced in the near future, according to the findings.
“Our survey results brought to the forefront that independent directors are ready to be part of a board that has previously experienced/reported fraud,” said Nikhil Bedi, partner and leader, Forensic, Financial Advisory, DTTILLP.

Realty sector sees demand revival: CII-JLL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI
Despite COVID-19 related challenges, the Indian real estate sector is seeing demand revival, a report by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and JLL said.
“The pandemic did halt much of the industry's growth, however there are lots of green shoots emerging and transforming the future of all asset classes with multi-fold opportunities,” Radha Dhir, chairperson, CII Realty & Infrastructure Conclave, and CEO & Country Head, India, JLL, said in the report.
“Commercial real estate has shown resiliency in 2021 and is likely to gain momentum in 2022. The office segment will remain the centre of the work ecosystem,” she said.

Firms unsure of recovery from ransomware: Dell

Data grew 10-fold in 5 years, poll finds

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU
A majority of organisations are uncertain if they can recover from a ransomware attack and the situation is likely more dire than earlier, given that enterprises globally are managing more than 10 times the amount of data they did five years ago, a Dell Technologies survey showed.
Dell Technologies 2021 Global Data Protection Index (GDPI) findings revealed that organisations were facing several data protection challenges driven by the constant threat of ransomware and the consumption of emerging technologies such as cloud and artificial intelligence.
“As we move further in the data era, the amount of



High wire: India's 17,000 MW based on imported coal, 24,000 MW of gas-fired plants get hit when prices rise. *K. K. MUSTAFAH

serve of these fuels – gas, oil, imported coal... so that economies are able to adjust and tide over these supply shocks for about a month or so. That will be a small cost vis-à-vis the cost of these disruptions,” he said at the South Asia Power Summit hosted by the Confederation

of Indian Industry (CII).
Noting that even China, U.K., Europe and Singapore had faced supply challenges, Mr. Kumar said high prices made energy security challenging. India, he pointed out, had 17,000 MW of power plants based on imported coal and 24,000 MW of gas-

fired plants, which virtually go out of play when prices rise too high.

‘Crunch time’
“Many countries have started keeping strategic reserves, because when it comes to a crunch, every country will meet its needs first. Russia has curtailed gas supply to Europe because they want more gas to be consumed within their country,” he said, making a case for South Asian countries to build up similar reserves.
Mooting the need to diversify the energy basket to cope with the fossil fuels’ supply crunch, the official said: “For the last one week, we are generating extra hydropower on off-peak days to conserve our coal. We have talked to States and said wherever you have water reservoir, or higher water le-

vels, please generate more hydropower so that we can save coal.”
A surge in power demand combined with a fall in imports due to high global coal prices have led to supply disruptions and power cuts lasting up to 14 hours a day despite record supplies from state-run Coal India. Most of India's 135 coal-fired power plants have fuel stocks of less than three days. Coal accounts for more than 70% of India's power generation.
India, the world's second largest coal importer with the world's fourth largest reserves, must also compete for supplies with China.
“High prices will make energy security very challenging if we don't have a well thought out strategy,” Mr. Kumar said.
(With inputs from Reuters)

Coal scarcity still a looming risk, says Crisil

‘Stock build-up is a must for summer’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Centre's steps to regulate coal supplies to non-power sectors may have helped tide over the immediate threat of a major power crisis, but coal scarcity remains a looming risk for corporate India and domestic consumers, rating agency Crisil said in a report.
“The threat still looms when power demand picks up from here... Coal stocks are unlikely to improve to the previous level of 15-18 days’ inventory anytime soon. Also, availability of rakes and a pickup in power demand in March-May will be the key monitorables from here,” it noted, emphasising that a build-up in coal inventories by February 2022 is critical to avert outages in the coming summer.



Crisil noted that power demand had surged almost 20% in industrial States such as Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat in the first half of FY22, even as dependence on coal-based power has grown. Coal stocks are at most critical levels in Bihar, followed by Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, the rating agency said.
“Coal-based power generation rose 19.1%, while [that] from other conventional sources saw a 15.5% on-year decline,” it pointed out.

Cabinet okays implementing PM GatiShakti

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
A week after PM Narendra Modi unveiled the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for improving multimodal connectivity projects’ outcomes, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Thursday approved an institutional framework for its implementation.
“The PM GatiShakti masterplan has been approved with a three-tier monitoring system led by an empowered group of secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary,” Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said after the meeting of the Cabinet and the CCEA.



Piyush Goyal

these point to the growing confidence towards India,” Mr. Goyal said in an address to the India Energy Forum hosted by CERAAWeek.
Citing the sharp drop in electricity costs in recent years, he said the price of solar power had come down from ₹8-10 per unit about 6-7 years ago to just ₹2.40.

Court asks Zee to call shareholders’ meeting

Any resolution at EGM to be on hold

REUTERS
NEW DELHI
A court on Thursday asked Zee Entertainment Enterprises to call a meeting of shareholders, as sought by top investor Invesco, which is pushing for the removal of the TV network's CEO and a board revamp.
Any resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting will be put on hold, however, until the Bombay High Court decides on the legality of Invesco's request for such a meeting.
Zee and Invesco did not immediately respond to a request for comment.
Invesco, which owns almost 18% of Zee via two funds, wants a shake-up at



the Indian TV network over corporate governance concerns at a time when the company is planning a merger with the local unit of Japan's Sony Group.
That move is set to create India's biggest broadcaster, but Invesco has raised concerns about options given to Zee's founding family to raise their stake in the merged company to 20%.

TVS Motor Q2 net jumps 29% to ₹234 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
TVS Motor Company on Thursday posted a 29.19% increase in consolidated net profit to ₹234.37 crore for the second quarter ended September.
The company had reported a net profit of ₹181.41 crore in the July-September period of the previous fiscal.
Revenue from operations rose to ₹6,483.42 for the second quarter as compared with ₹5,254.36 in the year-earlier period, TVS Motor Company said in a regulatory filing.
For the six months ended September 30, the company posted a consolidated net profit of ₹219.65 crore.

Rising prices restrain consumer mood in festive season

REUTERS
NEW DELHI
For Delhi resident Suman Milind, rising prices are casting a long shadow over the upcoming Deepavali festival.
The 33-year-old homemaker is tightening her purse strings, thanks to soaring

costs of fuel, transport and many manufactured items, coupled with stagnant incomes due to the pandemic.
“Earlier we used to get four or five boxes of dry fruits during festivals, but now we hardly get one or

two because of the high prices,” said Ms. Milind.
Millions of Indian households are facing similar strains on their budgets ahead of Deepavali, which this year falls in early November and marks the country's busiest shopping season for consumer goods.
Many are foregoing big-ticket purchases such as television sets and jewellery, according to half-a-dozen people Reuters spoke to and a consumer survey by Mumbai-based consultancy Axis My India, threatening to slow

an economy recovering from the worst of COVID-19.
Pump prices of petrol and diesel are up nearly 35% from a year ago and cooking gas by more than 50%, severely hitting more than three-quarters of households, economists said.

TVS MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED

Regd office: "Chaitanya", No. 12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006

Website:www.tvsmotor.com Telephone No. (044) 28332115

Fax No. (044) 28332113 Email:contactus@tvsmotor.com

CIN:L35921TN1992PLC022845

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS

FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

(Rs. in Crores)

| S. No | Particulars | Standalone | | | Consolidated | | |
|-------|---|--------------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| | | Quarter ended | | Year ended | Quarter ended | | Year ended |
| | | 30.09.2021 | 30.09.2020 | 31.03.2021 | 30.09.2021 | 30.09.2020 | 31.03.2021 |
| | | (Unaudited) | | (Audited) | (Unaudited) | | (Audited) |
| 1 | Total income | 5622.90 | 4616.58 | 16783.51 | 6491.18 | 5269.59 | 19468.04 |
| 2 | Net Profit (before Tax, Exceptional items) | 376.91 | 267.42 | 826.24 | 344.19 | 256.83 | 830.99 |
| 3 | Net Profit before tax (after Exceptional items) | 376.91 | 267.42 | 826.24 | 343.22 | 255.41 | 821.63 |
| 4 | Net Profit after tax (after exceptional items) | 277.60 | 196.25 | 612.04 | 234.37 | 181.41 | 607.50 |
| 5 | Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] | 243.46 | 224.22 | 719.13 | 180.94 | 186.34 | 723.24 |
| 6 | Paid up Equity share capital (Face value of Re.1/- each) | 47.51 | 47.51 | 47.51 | 47.51 | 47.51 | 47.51 |
| 7 | Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) | - | - | 4123.44 | - | - | 3779.10 |
| 8 | Security Premium Account | - NOT APPLICABLE - | | | | | |
| 9 | Networth | 4460.83 | 3686.82 | 4076.32 | 3916.84 | 3285.81 | 3730.13 |
| 10 | Outstanding Debt (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) | 1663.82 | 2010.29 | 1106.38 | 2222.41 | 2585.92 | 1775.99 |
| 11 | Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares | - NOT APPLICABLE - | | | | | |
| 12 | Debt Equity Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 0.7 |
| 13 | Earnings Per Share (Face value of Re. 1/- each) (not annualised) | | | | | | |
| | (i) Basic (in Rs.) | 5.84 | 4.13 | 12.88 | 5.10 | 3.79 | 12.51 |
| | (ii) Diluted (in Rs.) | 5.84 | 4.13 | 12.88 | 5.10 | 3.79 | 12.51 |
| 14 | Capital Redemption Reserve | - NOT APPLICABLE - | | | | | |
| 15 | Debenture Redemption Reserve | - NOT APPLICABLE - | | | | | |
| 16 | Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) | 6.3 | 6.6 | 5.2 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 3.1 |
| 17 | Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) | 11.8 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 8.1 | 5.7 | 5.8 |

Note:

The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock exchange websites (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.tvsmotor.com).

Place : Chennai

Date : 21st October 2021

For TVS Motor Company Limited

Sd/-

Chairman

TO ADVERTISE VISIT: www.thehinduads.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
CHENNAI BENCH
CP(CAA)/33(CHE)/2021
(Connected with CA/14/CAA/2021)
In the Matter of Section 230 to 232 of The Companies Act, 2013

In the Matter of Composite Scheme of Amalgamation and Arrangement (Demerger) between

Sundaram Industries Private Limited, T.S. Rajam Tyres Private Limited, TVS Mobility Private Limited (Formerly known as T.S. Rajam Distribution Services Private Limited), Southern Roadways Private Limited, Southern Roadways (Madurai) Private Limited, T.V. Sundram Iyengar & Sons Private Limited, Trichur Sundaram Santhanam and Family Private Limited, TVS Sundram Fasteners Private Limited, Madurai Alagar Enterprises Private Limited, SB TVS Industrial Ventures Private Limited (Formerly known as SB Industrial Ventures Private Limited), Cheema Industrial Ventures Private Limited, TVS Holdings Private Limited (Formerly known as TVS Investments and Holdings Private Limited), TVS Investments Private Limited and Geeyees Family Holdings Private Limited

And
Their Respective Shareholders and Creditors

SB TVS Industrial Ventures Private Limited
(Formerly known as SB Industrial Ventures Private Limited)
Having its registered office at 11, Pattullo's Road,

NOTICE OF PETITION

Petition under Section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 for sanction of the Composite Scheme of Amalgamation and Arrangement (Demerger) between Sundaram Industries Private Limited (Demerged Company 1), Transferor Company 1) and T.S. Rajam Tyres Private Limited (Resulting Company 1) and TVS Mobility Private Limited (Formerly known as T.S. Rajam Tyres Distribution Private Limited (Resulting Company 2), Transferor Company 2) and Southern Roadways (Madurai) Private Limited (Resulting Company 2) and T.V. Sundram Iyengar & Sons Private Limited (Transferee known as Company 1/ Demerged Company 3) and Trichur Sundaram Santhanam and Family Private Limited (Resulting Company 4) and TVS Sundram Fasteners Private Limited (Resulting Company 5) and Madurai Alagar Enterprises Private Limited (Resulting Company 6) and Sundram Iyengar & Sons Private Limited (Formerly known as Sundram Industrial Ventures Private Limited) (Resulting Company 7) and Chema Industrial Ventures Private Limited (Resulting Company 8) and TVS Holdings Private Limited (Formerly known as TVS Investments and Holdings Private Limited) (Resulting Company 9) and TVS Investments Private Limited (Transferor Company 3) and Geeyes Family Holdings Private Limited (Transferee Company 2) and their respective Shareholders and Creditors was presented by the Petitioner, Advocate with the undersigned, on 03/11/2021 before the National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench on the 03/11/2021. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Petition should send to the Petitioner's Advocate, notice of his intention, signed by him or his Advocate with his name and address, so as to reach the Petitioner's Advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the Petition. Where he seeks to oppose the Petition, the grounds of opposition on the copy of the Petition to be furnished with such notice. A copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to all persons requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Dated at Chennai on this the 20th day of October, 2021.

M/s. T.K. Bhaskar, Srinath Sridevan & K. Harishankar
Advocates for the Petitioner, No.37, Law Chambers,
High Court Buildings, Chennai - 600 104

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
CHENNAI BENCH
CP(CAA)/34(CHE)/2021
(Connected with CA/14/CAA/2021)
In the Matter of Section 230 to 232 of The Companies Act, 2013
And

In the Matter of Composite Scheme of Amalgamation and Arrangement (Demerger) between

Sundaram Industries Private Limited, T.S. Rajam Tyres Private Limited, TVS Mobility Private Limited (Formerly known as T.S. Rajam Distribution Services Private Limited), Southern Roadways Private Limited, Southern Roadways (Madurai) Private Limited, T.V. Sundaram Iyengar & Sons Private Limited, Trichur Sundaram Santhanam and Family Private Limited, TVS Sundram Fasteners Private Limited, Madurai Alagar Enterprises Private Limited, SB TVS Industrial Ventures Private Limited (Formerly known as SB Industrial Ventures Private Limited), Cheema Industrial Ventures Private Limited, TVS Holdings Private Limited (Formerly known as TVS Investments and Holdings Private Limited), TVS Investments Private Limited and Geeyes Family Holdings Private Limited

And

Their Respective Shareholders and Creditors

Cheema Industrial Ventures Private Limited
Having its registered office at
11, Pattulo's Road, Chennai - 600002,
Tamil Nadu, India

... Petitioner Company

NOTICE OF PETITION

A Petition under Section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 for sanction of the Composite Scheme of Amalgamation and Arrangement (Demerger) between Sundaram Industries Private Limited (Demerged Company 1), Transferor Company 1) and T.S. Rajam Tyres Private Limited (Resulting Company 1) (Formerly known as T.S. Rajam Tyres Private Limited (Formerly known as T.S. Rajam Distribution Services Private Limited) (Demerged Company 3) and Southern Roadways Private Limited (Demerged Company 2/ Transferor Company 2) and Southern Roadways (Madurai) Private Limited (Resulting Company 2) and T.V. Sundram Iyengar & Sons Private Limited (Transferor Company 1/ Demerged Company 3) and Trichur Sundaram Santhanam and Family Private Limited (Resulting Company 4) and TVS Sundram Fasteners Private Limited (Resulting Company 5) and Madurai Alagar Enterprises Private Limited (Resulting Company 6) and Sundaram Tyres Private Limited (Formerly known as SB Industrial Ventures Private Limited)(Resulting Company 7) and Cheema Industrial Ventures Private Limited (Resulting Company 8) and TVS Holdings Private Limited (Formerly known as TVS Investments and Holdings Private Limited) (Resulting Company 9) and TVS Investments Private Limited (Transferor Company 3) and Geeyees Family Holdings Private Limited (Transferor Company 2) and Sundaram Tyres Private Limited (Formerly known as Sundaram Tyres Private Limited).

The Petitioner on 25/08/2021 and the said Petition is fixed for hearing before the National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench on the 03/11/2021. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Petition should send to the Petitioner's Advocate, notice of his intention, signed by him or his Advocate with his name and address, so as to reach the Petitioner's Advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the petition.

A copy of the affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Dated at Chennai on this the 20th day of October, 2021.

M/s. T.K. Bhaskar, Srinath Sridevan & K. Harishankar
Advocates for the Petitioner, No.37, Law Chambers,
High Court Buildings, Chennai - 600 104

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
CHENNAI BENCH
CP(CAA)/35(CHE)/2021
(Connected with CA/14/CAA/2021)
In the Matter of Section 230 to 232 of The Companies Act, 2013
And

In the Matter of Composite Scheme of Amalgamation and Arrangement (Demerger) between

Sundaram Industries Private Limited, T.S. Rajam Tyres Private Limited, TVS Mobility Private Limited (Formerly known as T.S. Rajam Distribution Services Private Limited), Southern Roadways Private Limited, Southern Roadways (India) Private Limited, TVS Sundram Iyengar & Sons Private Limited, Trichur Sundaram Santhanam and Family Private Limited, TVS Sundram Fasteners Private Limited, Madurai Alagar Enterprises Private Limited, SB TVS Industrial Ventures Private Limited (Formerly known as SB Industrial Ventures Private Limited), Cheema Industrial Ventures Private Limited, TVS Holdings Private Limited (Formerly known as TVS Investments and Holdings Private Limited), TVS Investments Private Limited and Geeyes Family Holdings Private Limited

And

Their Respective Shareholders and Creditors

TVS Holdings Private Limited
(Formerly known as TVS Investments and Holdings Private Limited)
Having its registered office at No.12,
Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakam,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, 600 006

... Petitioner Company

NOTICE OF PETITION

A Petition under Section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 for sanction of the Composite Scheme of Amalgamation and Arrangement (Demerger) between Sundaram Industries Private Limited (Demerged Company 1) and Transferor Company 1) and T.S. Rajaram Iyengar Private Limited (Resulting Company 1) and Sundaram Iyengar & Sons Private Limited (Formerly known as T.S. Rajam Distribution Services Private Limited) (Resulting Company 3) and Southern Roadways Private Limited (Demerged Company 2) and Transferor Company 2) and Southern Roadways (Madurai) Private Limited (Resulting Company 2) and T.V. Sundaram Iyengar & Sons Private Limited (Transferor Company 1) (Demerged Company 3) and Thiruchur Sundaram Santhanam and Associates Private Limited (Resulting Company 4) and Thiruchur Sundaram Santhanam and Associates Private Limited (Formerly known as Thiruchur Sundaram Santhanam and Associates Private Limited) (Resulting Company 6) and SB TVS Industrial Ventures Private Limited (Formerly known as SB Industrial Ventures Private Limited) (Resulting Company 7) and Cheema Industrial Ventures Private Limited (Resulting Company 8) and TVS Holdings Private Limited (Formerly known as TVS Investments and Holdings Private Limited) (Resulting Company 9) and TVS Holdings Private Limited (Transferor Company 2) and Geeyees Family Holdings Private Limited (Transferor Company 2) and their respective Shareholders and Creditors was presented by the Petitioner on 25/06/2021 and the said Petition is fixed for hearing before the National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench on the 03/11/2021. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Petition should send to the Petitioner's Advocate, notice of his intention, signed by him or his Advocate, not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the Petition. Where he seeks to oppose the Petition, the grounds of opposition on a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Dated at Chennai on this the 20th day of October, 2021.

M/s. P.K. Dinkar, Chinai Sridhar & R. Hanishankar
Advocates for the Petitioner, No.37, Law Chambers,
High Court Buildings, Chennai - 600 104



TV PICKS

Badminton: Star Sports 3 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.
Men's T20 World Cup: (first round): Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12 a.m. (Saturday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

IN BRIEF

Hima Das recovers from COVID-19

NEW DELHI
Star Indian sprinter Hima Das on Thursday announced she had tested negative for COVID-19, a week after contracting the virus at the National camp at Patiala. "... Can't wait to get back on track. Hope everyone is safe and healthy. #TestedNegative ButStayingPositive #BackOnTrack," she wrote on Twitter. PTI

Sandeepthi to meet Renne in final

JHAJJAR
Sandeepthi Singh Rao beat second seed Reshma Maruri 6-3, 6-3 to set up a title clash against top seed Renne Singla, who beat Suryanshi Tanwar 6-3, 6-2, in the ₹100,000 AITA women's tennis tournament at the Joygaon Academy on Thursday.

Cmdr P.K. Garg appointed TOPS CEO

NEW DELHI
The Sports Authority of India (SAI) on Thursday appointed Commodore P.K. Garg as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). Garg will assume office on October 25, replacing Commander Rajesh Rajagopalan, who held the post from 2018 till the Tokyo Olympics. PTI

Shillong to host TT Nationals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Shillong will host the National table tennis championship from January 21 to 29, 2022. The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) also finalised the schedule of rest of the Nationals and ranking events for the season on Thursday.

The schedule: Dec. 7-13: National-ranking championship at Dehradun; **Dec. 20-27:** National-ranking championship (South Zone) at Puducherry.

Jan. 3-9, 2022: National-ranking championship (Central Zone) at Indore; **Jan. 11-17:** National youth (under-13 and under-15) at Indore; **Jan. 21-28:** National championship at Shillong; **Feb. 6-13:** National youth (under-17 and under-19) at Thiruvananthapuram.

Continental GT 650 to make its debut

JK Tyre National racing championship to be held at the Kari Motor Speedway this weekend

MOTORSPORTS

RAYAN ROZARIO COIMBATORE

With sporting events resuming, JK Tyre is hosting its 24th edition of the FMSCI National Racing Championship at the Kari Motor Speedway here this weekend.

Interestingly, the event will mark the entry of the Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup. Built on Royal Enfield's most capable racing motorcycle, the Continental GT 650 will further add weight and thrill to the whole show.

The Continental GT Cup is India's first retro racing format aimed at building accessible entry into track racing for new entrants as well as experienced racers.

The first ever season has seen an overwhelming response from enthusiasts across the country. From a list of 300 aspirants, 100 racers were shortlisted and invited to showcase their ta-



Ready to roar: The rider representation for the Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup, which will be run for the first time at the 24th JK Tyre National racing championship. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

lent for the selections held here earlier this week. And, a final grid of 18 riders were identified for the weekend event.

Close competition

The qualifying rounds indicated a close competition. Topping the time charts in the category was Anfal Akdhar (Thrissur). He clocked

1:23.126 and proved to the rest what he is capable of along with other well-known riders like Anish Damodara Shetty. However, it was Lani Zena Fernandez (Puducherry) who took the track by storm.

Raivat Dhar of Jammu, made it to the final grid. The qualifying selection round was conducted under pro-

fessional guidance and safety controls.

The entire grid was within 2.75s of each other on the timing sheet, which shows the level of competence, skill and quality of talent that has made the grid.

With a well-known brand like Royal Enfield to be part of the JK Tyre event, which spreads over four rounds

comprising eight races, the season will be watched with utmost interest.

The four-wheeler category will witness the FLGB4 cars. These cars designed at home have withstood the test of time and given drivers ample chance to showcase their skills. This time around, it's a full grid with 26 cars in fray.

Apeksha on the double, clinches two golds

Rewrites 50m breaststroke record registered in the heats, wins 200m butterfly

AQUATICS

SPORTS REPORTER BENGALURU

Maharashtra's Apeksha Fernandes won two golds, one of them with a new National record, on the third day of the sub-junior and junior National aquatic championships at the Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre on Thursday.

Apeksha added to her gold in 200m IM on day one. She set a new record in girls' Group I 50m breaststroke, winning in 34.44s to better her own mark recorded in the heats.

Apeksha took the 200m butterfly gold in 2:21.63s for her second yellow metal of the day.

Ridhima, Dhinidhi shine
Karnataka's Ridhima Veerendra Kumar set another record, this time in 50m backstroke for Group II girls, clocking 29.94s to erase Maana Patel's mark of 30.37s from 2014.

Fellow swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu continued her good run, clocking 2:33.36 to win the 200m IM for Group III girls and rewriting Vania Kapoor's record of 2:37.99 set in 2013.

Elsewhere, Yadesh Babu (Group I, boys) broke the Na-



Making a splash: Apeksha Fernandes took her gold tally to three on Thursday. ■FILE PHOTO

tional record in 50m breaststroke in the heats by coming home in 29.99s, but could only manage fourth place in the final.

Gujarat's Aryan Panchal produced the other record-breaking performance of the day, in 200m butterfly for Group I boys. He won in 2:03.52s, bettering Supriya Mondal's record of 2:03.63s from 2014.

The results:

Boys: Group I: 1500m freestyle: Anesh S. Gowda (Kar), 16:07.97; **50m backstroke:** Utarkarsh Santosh Patil (Kar), 27.87; **50m breaststroke:** Meet Makhiya (Mah), 30.04; **200m butterfly:** Aryan Panchal (Guj),

2:03.52 (NMR; OR: 2:03.63, Supriya Mondal (Ben), 2014).

Group II: 400m freestyle: Pavan Dhananjaya (Kar), 4:25.93; **50m breaststroke:** Krish Jain (Har), 29.12; **200m breaststroke:** Krish Sukumar (Kar), 2:32.54; **Group III: 50m freestyle:** Akshaj Thakuria (Kar), 29.08; **200m IM:** M.S. Nithesh (TN), 2:33.20; **Group IV: 50m breaststroke:** Tirthankar Mondal (Ben), 40.52; **100m butterfly:** Sharan Sridhara (Kar), 1:14.47; **Group V: 50m breaststroke:** Jas Singh (Kar), 42.18; **100m butterfly:** P. Monish Naidu (TN), 1:19.59.

Girls: Group I: 50m backstroke: Nina Venkatesh (Kar), 30.89; **50m breaststroke:** Apeksha Fernandes (Mah), 34.44 (NMR; OR: 34.57, Apeksha, 2021);

200m butterfly: Apeksha, 2:21.63; **Group II: 400m freestyle:** Hashika Ramachandra (Kar), 4:41.65; **50m backstroke:** Ridhima Veerendra Kumar (Kar), 29.94 (NMR; OR: 30.37, Maana Patel (Guj), 2014); **200m breaststroke:** A.K. Lineysa (Kar), 2:44.27.

Group III: 50m freestyle: Tanishi Gupta (Kar), 28.93; **200m IM:** Dhinidhi Desinghu (Kar), 2:33.36 (NMR; OR: 2:37.99, Vania Kapoor (Kar), 2013); **Group IV: 50m breaststroke:** Zeal Malani (Mah), 42.61; **100m butterfly:** Anwesha Khanikar (Asm), 1:18.53.

Group V: 50m breaststroke: Adriza Chetia (Asm) 41.41; **100m butterfly:** Janani Venkadeswaraperumal (Kar), 1:27.89.

Bopanna & Qureshi lose in quarterfinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU MOSCOW

Rohan Bopanna and Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi of Pakistan lost 7-6(4), 5-7, [10-8] to Ilya Ivashka and Pedro Martinez in the doubles quarterfinals of the \$779,515 ATP tennis tournament here on Thursday.

The results: \$779,515 ATP, Moscow, Russia: Quarterfinals: Ilya Ivashka (Blr) & Pedro Martinez (Esp) bt Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi (Pak) & Rohan Bopanna 7-6(4), 5-7, [10-8].

€44,820 Challenger, Losinj, Croatia: Quarterfinals: Victor Vlad Cornea (Rou) & Ergi Kirkin (Tur) bt Geoffrey Blancaneaux (Fra) & Arjun Kadhe 6-3, 1-6, [10-4]; Amie Cerretani (USA) & Fabian Fallert (Ger) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 7-5, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF men, Doha, Qatar: First round: Radu Florin Macovei (Rou) bt Tushar Madan 6-1, 7-6(4); Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Abdulhamid Mubarak (Kuw) 6-1, 6-1; Aleksandre Bakshi (Geo) bt Anurag Agarwal 6-0, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF, Monastir, Tunisia: Men: First round: Louis Tessa (Fra) bt Sidharth Rawat 6-3, 6-3.

Women: Second round: Jennifer Luikham bt Astrid Ciototte (Fra) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

\$25,000 ITF women, Seville, Spain: Quarterfinals: Diane Parry (Fra) & You Xiaodi (Chn) bt Sapfo Sakellari (Gre) & Sathwika Sama 6-2, 6-4.

\$25,000 ITF women, Hamburg, Germany: Second round: Mallaurie Noel (Fra) bt Zeel Desai 6-3, 6-4. **Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Olivia Gadecki (Aus) & Sada Nahimana (Bdi) bt Isabelle Haverlag (Ned) & Karman Kaur Thandi 6-4, 6-4; **First round:** Himari Sato (Jpn) & Yue Yuan (Chn) w/o Ioana Loredana Rosca (Rou) & Prarthana Thombare; Isabelle Haverlag & Karman Kaur bt Anna Popescu (GBR) & Chiara Scholl (USA) 1-6, 6-4, [11-9].

\$15,000 ITF women, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: Second round: Ho Ching Wu (Hkg) bt Shreya Tatavarthy 6-2, 6-1; **First round:** Sandra Samir (Egy) bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-1, 6-2; Shreya Tatavarthy bt Anastasiya Apalikhina (Rus) 6-1, 7-6(3).

Jamuna, Nikhat advance in style

Anjali bests Vinodhini in tight contest

BOXING

SPORTS BUREAU HISAR

World Championships medalist Jamuna Boro and Asian medalist Nikhat Zareen returned to action in style by recording comprehensive wins in their respective first round matches in the National women's boxing championships at the St. Joseph's International School here on Thursday.

Jamuna defeated Jyothi Valla of Andhra Pradesh in a 54kg bout when the referee stopped the contest in the first round.

Nikhat also secured an identical verdict in her favour in a 52kg bout against Siya Walke of Goa.

In an edge-of-the-seat thriller, Madhya Pradesh's Anjali Sharma beat Tamil Nadu's V. Vinodhini 3-2 in a 52kg contest.

Important results:

50kg: Nikita Kumari (Bih) bt Nikitha Baby (Ker) 4-1, Komal (Pun) bt Sonia Gauri (Utk) 5-0, Hemlata (Del) bt Mantasaha

Kumari (Asm) 4-0.

52kg: Himani Pant (Utk) bt Poonam (Raj) 4-0, Manju Basumatary (Asm) bt Tanuja Kumari (HP) RSC-R3, Nikhat Zareen (Tel) bt Siya Walke (Goa) RSC-R1, Anjali Sharma (MP) bt V.Vinodhini (TN) 3-2.

54kg: Gayatri Kasnal (Utk) bt Poonaima Rajput (MP) 4-1, Jamuna Boro (Asm) bt Jyothi Valla (AP) RSC-R1, Renu (Har) bt Arshi Khanam (Raj) 3-2, Siksha (RSPB) bt Sinsha R.K. (Ker) RSC-R2.

57kg: Radha Patidar (MP) bt Khushbun Hussain (Mah) 5-0.

Anupama wins, Amee second

SNOOKER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

Tamil Nadu's Anupama Ramachandran and Madhya Pradesh's Amee Kamani clinched the first and second positions in the women's (1st leg) round-robin league of the GSC World Snooker Qualifiers.

Both Anupama and Amee finished with five wins each, but the former, with a slender frame difference (frames won 17, frames lost 7) of 10 as compared to Amee's frames difference (FW 15, FL 6) of 9,

grabbed the pole position, a media release issued here on Thursday stated.

In the final round of matches, India No. 4 Anupama Ramachandran defeated Delhi's Keerthi Bhandaal 3-1 (57-23, 73-30, 45-63 and 59-10), while India No. 2 Amee with a fine effort of 64 points in the second frame, scored a confidence-boosting 3-0 win against national champion Vidya Pillai.

Vidya and Varsha Sanjeev of Tamil Nadu, with 4 wins to their credit, were placed third and fourth respectively.

In the men's competition, ace cueist Pankaj Advani (PSPB) stamped his authority with a classy 4-1 win against national champion Aditya Mehta (PSPB) in the final round-robin match.

Advani constructed an 84 points break in the third frame and cantered to a 72-58 (66-23, 55-45, 94/84)-26, 30-68) victory to finish unbeaten in the 7-player league.

Aditya and India No. 3 Laxman Rawat (PSPB), having suffered two defeats each, claimed the second and third positions.

Polyanskiy banned for three years

ATHLETICS

ASSOCIATED PRESS LAUSANNE (SWITZERLAND)

In the first formal disqualification of a Tokyo Olympics athlete for doping, Russian Igor Polyanskiy has been banned for three years, World Triathlon said on Thursday.

Polyanskiy admitted doping with EPO, an endurance boosting hormone, ahead of the Olympics and is banned until during the 2024 Paris Games.

World Triathlon added Polyanskiy did not dispute his positive test in a sample taken at a training camp in Vladivostok, Russia, five days before he began

competing in Tokyo.

The positive test was notified after he placed 43rd in the men's race and helped the Russian Olympic Committee quartet finish 14th in the mixed relay. He was 31st in the men's event at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

He and the Russia team were disqualified and their Tokyo results annulled, World Triathlon said.

Because the 31-year-old Polyanskiy admitted the charge, he got a one-year reduction from the potential four-year sanction by a World Triathlon tribunal.

He is cleared to compete again on Aug. 10, 2024, one day before the Paris closing ceremony.



Igor Polyanskiy admitted doping with EPO. ■REUTERS

Fournier does the star turn for Knicks

NBA

REUTERS NEW YORK

Evan Fournier scored a career-high 32 points and hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 56.1 seconds left in the second overtime on Wednesday night for host New York Knicks, who squandered an 11-point lead late in the fourth quarter before edging the Boston Celtics 138-134 in an entertaining season opener for both teams.

Julius Randle scored 35 points and added nine assists and eight rebounds for the Knicks, which made the playoffs last year for the first time since 2012-13.

The results:

Charlotte 123 bt Indiana 122; Chicago 94 bt Detroit 88; New York 138



Game-changer: Evan Fournier, centre, celebrates after making a decisive three-pointer that helped New York put it past Boston. ■AP

bt Boston 134 (OT); Washington 98 bt Toronto 83; Memphis 132 bt Cleveland 121; Minnesota 124 bt Houston 106; Philadelphia 117 bt New Or-

leans 97; San Antonio 123 bt Orlando 97; Utah 107 bt Oklahoma City 86; Denver 110 bt Phoenix 98; Sacramento 124 bt Portland 121.

Indian women lose to Swedish club

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA STOCKHOLM

The Indian women's football team conceded an own goal after twice frittering away its lead to suffer a 3-2 defeat to Swedish top-tier side Hammarby IF in a friendly on Wednesday.

The result: Hammarby IF 3 (Nina Jakobsson 36, Amanda Sundstrom 52, Ranjana Chanu 78-og) bt India 2 (Indumathi 30, Manisa Panna 40).

Harmeet Singh in final

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Harmeet Singh beat top seed Dilip Mohanty 6-2, 6-3 in the over-35 semifinals of the ITF seniors tennis tournament at the Roots Academy in Zirakpur, on Thursday. In the final, Harmeet will play fourth seed Raj Kumar.

The results (semifinals):

Men: Over-35: Harmeet Singh bt Dilip Mohanty 6-2, 6-3; Raj Kumar bt Varun Makkar 6-4, 6-0; **Over-45:** Yogesh Kohli bt S Venkataraman 6-3, 6-2; Monty Roy bt Shiyam Jagat 6-1, 6-3; **Over-55:** Nirmal Kumar Ranjan bt Sanjai Kumar 6-3, 3-1 (retired); Ajeet Bhardwaj bt Kuldeep Singh 6-2, 6-0; Over-65: Narendar Jamweja bt Muraliath Barkakoti 6-4, 6-1; Murdhati Suresh bt Vinayak Gujrathi 6-3, 6-4.

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