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IN BRIEF



Religious places in Delhi open doors for devotees

NEW DELHI Religious places in the Capital were permitted to reopen for devotees from Friday till mid-October, the DDMA said in an order.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

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CJI for forming special panels to probe 'atrocities' by police

Headed by CJs, they could look into complaints

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said he was in favour of forming standing committees headed by the Chief Justices of the High Courts to investigate complaints received from the common man of "atrocities" committed by the bureaucracy, especially police officers.

The CJI's oral observation comes even as some police



We are very disturbed by what the bureaucracy, particularly police officers, are doing...

When a political party is in power, police officers side with a particular party. Then when a new party comes into power, the government initiates action against those officials

— N.V. RAMANA, CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

officers are in the spotlight for committing serious crimes.

Recently, police officers in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, have been accused of caus-

ing the death of a businessman during a raid in a hotel. In Tamil Nadu, the CBI chargesheeted nine policemen for the custodial deaths of father-son duo P. Jayaraj and

J. Benicks. There have been instances of district administration officers caught on video manhandling citizens during the lockdown.

"We are very disturbed by what the bureaucracy, particularly police officers, are doing... I was in favour of forming standing committees led by Chief Justices of High Courts to look into complaints of atrocities committed by bureaucrats, especially police officers," the CJI said in court on Friday.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

SC SLAMS U.P. GOVT. ▶ PAGE 12

Rawat, Amarinder spar as Congress crisis continues

Former Chief Minister rebuts charges on non-performance

43 MLAs told the party that despite repeated efforts we could not get anything done by Capt. Amarinder

— HARISH RAWAT, PUNJAB CONG. IN-CHARGE

The world saw the insult heaped on me, yet Mr. Rawat is making claims to the contrary

— CAPT. AMARINDER SINGH (RETD.), EX- PUNJAB CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Amid the ongoing crises in the Punjab Congress, party's State affairs in-charge Harish Rawat and former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday traded charges.

While Mr. Rawat accused Capt. Amarinder Singh (ret'd.) of failing to keep his promises on important issues, including the 'Bargari sacrilege, drugs, electricity', the latter rejected the allegation, which he said were clearly prompted by the pathetic situation the party

now found itself in Punjab after being on a winning spree for four and a half years.

Hitting out at the former Chief Minister in an unusually strong statement, Mr. Rawat said, "There was a general perception throughout the State that Captain and the Badals are helping each other, and they have a secret understanding... The whole Bargari issue was mishandled by trusted lieutenants of Capt. Amarinder Singh.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

GST collections hit 5-month high

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's gross GST revenues crossed ₹1.17 lakh crore in September, hitting a five-month high, and the Finance Ministry expects the positive trend to pick up further pace in the second half of the year.

September's revenues were 23% higher than a year ago and 27.3% more than

collections in the pre-pandemic month of September 2019.

"Coupled with economic growth, anti-evasion activities, especially action against fake billers, have also been contributing to the enhanced GST collections," the Finance Ministry said.

For the eighth month in a row, the Ministry did not release any data on com-

pliance levels or the number of GSTR 3B returns filed by taxpayers.

However, State-wise revenue trends were disclosed for the third month in a row, after they were skipped in the months of January, April, May and June.

Revenues from import of goods were 30% higher.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

You are strangulating Delhi, Supreme Court tells farmers

They sought nod for stir at Jantar Mantar

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday accused farmers of "strangulating the city [New Delhi]" with their protest against the farm laws.

A Bench, led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, was hear-

ing a petition filed by Kisan Mahapanchayat, a farmers' body, for a direction to the Delhi Police to permit them to go on satyagraha at Jantar Mantar. "You have been strangulating the entire city and blocking highways... Now you want to enter the city and protest here?" Justice Khanwilkar lashed out.

The Bench asked why the farmers' organisations continued with protests even after

the laws were under challenge or *sub judice* in the Supreme Court.

'Let law take its course'

"Are you then protesting against the judiciary? Once you have approached the court, let the law take its own course... Instead, you continue with the protests and block the national highways... You have to trust us," Justice Khanwilkar said.

Justice Khanwilkar asked the farmers whether they had taken the permission of citizens who lived near the protest sites on the national highways and public roads. "Have you taken permission of the citizens living nearby? There is a right to protest, but there is a right to use public roads and free movement," he said.

"You are even obstructing defence personnel's move-

ment. You block trains and then say you are protesting peacefully. There is no point in continuing to protest once you have come to the court," he stated. The mahapanchayat's counsel, advocate Ajay Choudhary, said the police had blocked the highways and not farmers, who only stressed on their right to protest peacefully.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

100% cut-off for some courses in DU first list

70,000 students scored over 95% in CBSE Class XII

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ
NEW DELHI

Delhi University (DU) on Friday released the first cut-off list for admission to various merit-based undergraduate programmes.

Continuing with the trend of setting perfect scores for admission, four colleges offering Science courses and five colleges offering Arts and Commerce courses have pegged the cut-off at 100%.

These colleges include Shri Ram College of Commerce for B.A. (Honours) in Economics and B.Com (Honours); Hindu College for B.A. in Political Science; Hansraj College, Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College for B.Sc (Honours) in Computer Science; Ramjas College for B.A. in Political Science and B.Sc (Honours) in Physics; and Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur



Rush for seats: Students at a college in New Delhi on Friday after Delhi University released its first cut-off list. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Khalsa College for B.Com (Honours).

Jesus and Mary College, which issues its cut-off list separately, has set the requirement at 100% for B.A. (Honours) in Psychology for candidates who do not include the subject while calculating their best of four scores.

The cut-off was expected to be higher this year with 70,000 students scoring above 95% in the CBSE Class XII exams, a spike from the 38,000 in 2020. The exams were cancelled this year owing to COVID-19 and results

were calculated using a special formula based on past performances.

Last year, Lady Shri Ram College pegged the cut-off at 100% for three courses — B.A. (Honours) in Economics, Political Science and Psychology. This year, the college has set the cut-off at 99.75% for the same courses.

As many as 70,000 seats across colleges are on offer. In previous years, the university has seen over three lakh applicants.

This year, of the over 2.6 lakh applicants, 2.29 lakh appeared for the CBSE ex-

am. Of the total applicants, 1,15,928 are from Delhi.

The university said candidates can apply for admission under the first cut-off list between 10 a.m. on October 4 and 11.59 p.m. on October 6. Colleges will complete approvals by 5 p.m. on October 7 and the last day for payment of fees is 5 p.m. on October 8.

Second list on Oct. 9

According to a notice issued by the university, the second cut-off list will be declared on October 9 and the last day for payment of fees will be October 13. The university is scheduled to release up to five cut-off lists, with the admission process continuing till November 16.

The university has also made provisions for conducting special drives and special cut-off lists against vacant seats in colleges. Special drives are traditionally conducted to fill vacant reserved seats.

The admission process will be conducted through the UG admission portal.

Day of the elderly



Help at hand: Folk artistes waiting to perform during the launch of the national helpline for senior citizens in Bengaluru on Friday, on the occasion of World Senior Citizens Day. The pan-India helpline is available on toll-free number 14567. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Tamil Nadu forest officials on hunt for killer tiger T23

Locals stage protest after one more person killed

ROHAN PREMKUMAR
UDHAGAMANDALAM

An order to hunt the tiger, T23, was passed by the Tamil Nadu Chief Wildlife Warden on Friday after the animal killed one more person at Masinagudi in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR).

The animal, believed to be an old male in failing health and with injuries, is thought to have been responsible for the death of four persons in villages around the MTR and Gudalur. Efforts to tranquillize and capture it was initiated more than a week ago by the Forest Department after a herder was killed at Devan



On the trail: Forest officials on the lookout for the tiger.

• M. SATHYAMOORTHY

Estate in Gudalur.

On Friday, the animal is believed to have crossed back into the MTR from Gudalur and killed M. Basavan, 82. After his body was found, locals staged a protest and demanded that the tiger be killed. They blocked the road between Masinagu-

di and Udhagamandalam and refused to allow the police to take Basavan's body to hospital for post-mortem.

MTR Field Director D. Venkatesh, as well as officials of the district administration, arrived at the site of the protest and attempted to convince them to disperse peacefully. Police presence was also stepped up, to prevent public anger against the forest department from taking a violent turn.

Mr. Venkatesh told the protesters that an order had been passed to hunt the tiger and urged them to return home so that the Forest Department could act quickly.

BP, cholesterol control key for Type 1 diabetics

Clinical parameters play vital role with blood sugar control in long-term survival, says pan-India study

RAMYA KANNAN
CHENNAI

Good control of not only blood sugar but also blood pressure and cholesterol is essential for survival and a good quality of life among Type 1 diabetics (T1D), according to a pan-India study of long-term survivors with the condition.

A first-of-its kind report of long-term survivors of T1D from India, a multi-centric study was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Diabetes Technology and Therapeutics*. Comparing survivors for over 40 years with people who did not survive up to 40 years, the researchers found that "survivors had better glycemic and blood pressure control, more favourable li-

pid profiles and lower prevalence of complications compared to non-survivors".

However, they said "there could be other protective factors as well, which merit further studies". The survivors also had better height and weight parameters compared to the other group.

Individuals with T1D have increased morbidity and excess premature mortality compared to those without diabetes and their life expectancy is reduced by an estimated 15-20 years, even with the life-saving insulin to their assistance. However, long-term survival with T1D is possible and 40% of European individuals with T1D are reported to survive for more than 40 years with life expect-



India is home to more than 95,000 children with Type 1 diabetes • GETTY IMAGES

tancy now extending almost up to 70 years, the paper added. In fact, two patients in the study have lived over 70 years with T1D, said V. Mohan, of Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre (DMDSC), and lead author.

A total of 127 participants with T1D were included in the study which comprised 76 survivors of over 40 years

duration and 51 non-survivors. Of the 76 survivors, 59 were from DMDSC, the coordinating centre in Chennai, and 17 from other participating centres (5 from the Madras Medical College, Chennai; 5 from Ahmedabad, 3 from Delhi, 2 from Kolkata and 1 each from Mumbai and Nagpur). Among the 76 T1D survivors, 58 individuals had survived 40-49 years with diabetes, 12 individuals 50-59 years and 6 individuals, over 60 years with diabetes.

Lower life expectancy

India is home to more than 95,000 children with T1D, reported to be the highest in the world, according to the 9th International Diabetes Federation Atlas, the study

points out, but most reports on long-term survival were from the U.S. and Europe and none from India. Given that life expectancy in India is in general lower, the subject definitely needs attention, the authors argued.

While the study showed a significant differentiation in blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol levels determining better survival and quality of life, Dr. Mohan said it was interesting that many of the long-term survivors in the study were not prescribed intensive insulin therapy in the first 10 years or so after diagnosis, and they still seemed to be protected from complications. This definitely calls for more studies, he added.

Four arrested for running illegal international telephone exchange

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The Delhi police have arrested four persons for allegedly operating an illegal international telephone exchange in central Delhi's Hauz Qazi. DCP (Central) Shweta Chauhan said the accused have been identified as Mohammad Irfan alias Rajji, 37, a resident of Seelampur, Irfan Ali, 48, Zulfiqar Ali, 48 and his son Areeb Ali, 22, all residents of Sita Ram Bazar. They allegedly used to con-

vert Internet-based international calls into voice calls, resulting in loss of revenue to the government and causing a threat to security. The police said officials from the Department of Telecom filed a complaint that they had received input regarding an illegal telecom set-up being run by Zulfiqar at Choori Walan. The illegal international telephone exchange was receiving calls from Gulf nations, USA, Canada, Nepal,

Australia, Pakistan and many other countries and transmitting them illegally to Indian numbers, the police said. According to the police, around 1,47,000 calls from the set-up were found landing on Indian phone and mobile numbers every day, including around 50,000 from Pakistan. The set-up caused an estimated financial loss of ₹103 crore to the Indian government, the police said.

Release juveniles if petty offences pending for over 1 year, orders HC

Court terminates with immediate effect cases where probes remain inconclusive

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI
Terming the high pendency of cases pertaining to petty offences committed by juveniles "completely unacceptable", the Delhi High Court ordered immediate release of those minors whose case inquiry remain inconclusive for longer than one year.

A Bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anup Jairam Bhambhani gave the direction after taking into account a submission by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights that 1,903 inquiries against juveniles relating to petty offences were pending before Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) in the Capital as on June 30, 2021. "And in all cases alleging petty offences against children/juveniles, where the inquiry has been pending and remains inconclusive for longer than one year, regardless of whether the subject child/juvenile has been produced before the JJB, all such inquiries shall stand terminated



Any juveniles detained in relation to such inquiries shall be released immediately without waiting for recording the formal orders

DELHI HIGH COURT

with immediate effect," the High Court ordered. It said a formal order closing all such matters shall be passed by the JJBs in each file within two weeks from the date of the High Court's order passed on September 29. "Any children/juveniles detained in relation to such inquiries shall be released immediately without waiting for recording the formal orders," the court said.

'Automatic termination'
Section 14 of the Juvenile Justice Act (JJ Act) mandates automatic termination of inquiries against a minor alleged to be in conflict with law in case of "petty offences" if the

probe remains "inconclusive" even after four months, and a maximum extension of two months, from the date of first production of the child before the JJB. However, for any inquiry to begin, the authorities have to first determine the age of the subject. The High Court said the process of age determination itself takes substantial time, because of which matters remain pending before JJBs for even longer than the maximum six-month period prescribed in Section 14. Worse still, in the past several months, by reason of truncated functioning of courts due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, juve-

niles are not being produced before the JJBs at all, either in-person or through videoconferencing. Since it was understood that the time of four months stipulated in Section 14 would begin to run after the date of first production of the child before the JJB, hundreds of matters, including petty offences, have been stuck at various stages for much longer than four months. The court opined that "even the mere pendency of an inquiry against a child is certainly stigmatic and impacts the dignity of the child". "Since Section 14 contemplates a maximum of six months within which the entire inquiry must be completed, it cannot be said that the six-month period would only commence once the subject is declared to be a child," the court said, adding that the age determination process must be completed within the four-month period, extendible by two months.

'Take call on representation to withhold movie release'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Friday asked the Centre to decide a representation to withhold the release of a movie, *The Conversion*, which purportedly is based on the issue of inter-faith marriage. A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh gave the direction while dealing with a petition filed by All India Practising Lawyers' Council. "We direct the respondent authority to decide the representation of the petitioner in accordance with law, rules, government policy applicable to the case as expeditiously as possible and keeping in view the allegation that the movie is going to be released on October 8 on YouTube and other platforms," the court said. On the petitioner's complaint against "provocative content", the court said: "Provocation depends on mental status of a person... We can't issue notice on your provocation."

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- महात्मा गांधी

बापू का स्वदेशी, स्वच्छता एवं सर्वोदय का सिद्धान्त आज भी हमारा मार्ग प्रशस्त कर रहा है। स्वदेशी से आत्मनिर्भरता, स्वच्छता से स्वास्थ्य एवं पर्यावरण तथा सर्वोदय से सार्वभौमिक उत्थान एवं शोषण मुक्त समाज की प्रेरणा मिलती है। आइए, एक ऐसे समाज की रचना में भागीदार बनें, जिसमें प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को सर्वांगीण विकास के साधन और अवसर मिलें।

गांधी जयंती

2 अक्टूबर, 2021

के अवसर पर

कोटि-कोटि नमन

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Girl working as house help found dead

Victim's kin suspect foul play

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A 19-year-old house help was found dead at her employer's residence in south-east Delhi's Lajpat Nagar on Friday morning. The victim's family said it suspects "foul play". Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Esha Pandey said they received a call on Friday morning about a girl who had been electrocuted in a house in Lajpat Nagar. When the police reached the spot, they found that the girl, who used to work in the house as a help, had died and had burn injuries on her body. "It was revealed that she worked at the house with her mother. On Friday, the girl had reached the house at 7 a.m.," the DCP said, adding that forensic experts were called for house inspection. The body has been preserved for post-mortem and legal action will be taken after the report comes out, the DCP said. The deceased's mother said that they used to go together but on Friday, she decided to go later and sent her daughter early. "Inside the house, I saw a bottle of kerosene and a matchbox lying outside the washroom. I suspect something wrong has happened with her," she said. According to the family, they had started working at the house two months ago.

53 foreigners held for attacking police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Delhi Police has arrested 53 foreign nationals after they allegedly created ruckus outside Mohan Garden police station and attacked officers on the night of September 26. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Shankar Chaudhary said 53 African nationals were arrested on September 27. According to the police, an African national died under mysterious circumstances at a hospital in the area after which a crowd gathered outside the hospital and the police station and allegedly attacked policemen with sticks and stones.

Thief escapes from custody

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A 22-year-old man, who was arrested in a theft case, escaped from police custody in east Delhi's Preet Vihar on Thursday. A case has been registered in the matter. Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Priyanka Kashyap said the accused, identified as Hari Om alias Poly, a resident of Chitra Vihar, managed to flee when he was brought to Preet Vihar to find and arrest his associate.

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RISE	06:15	SET 18:05
RISE	02:44	SET 16:27
MONDAY, OCT. 04		
RISE	06:16	SET 18:04
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Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	35	26
Safdarjang	35	26
Palam	34	27

Delhi Palam Today
35°C Passing rain or thunderstorm may be a chance with light winds at few places. Slight warm and humid day would prevail.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Mainly dry weather with partly cloudy sky likely. Day would remain warm and humid.

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THE HINDU
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Religious places in city open doors for devotees

DDMA permits reopening till mid-Oct., issues fresh SOPs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Religious places in the Capital were permitted to reopen for devotees from Friday till mid-October, subject to strict adherence to COVID-appropriate behaviour, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) said in an order. All places of worship in the city were closed for devotees for over five months following the imposition of the lockdown during the second wave of COVID-19 infections.

Large gatherings and congregations, however, were not allowed by the authority, which, on Thursday, had given the go-ahead for holding Durga Puja celebrations and festive events such as Ram-lilas. The standard operating procedure for religious places include allowing entry to only asymptomatic persons, use of face masks, avoiding common mats for prayers



A view of the Akshardham Temple after it reopened on Friday. •PTI

and staggering devotees. The order also reiterated that Chhath Puja be observed by devotees at home and activities related to the festival would not be allowed at public places.

Tiwari alleges 'bias'
North East Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari accused the Delhi government and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of exhibiting a discriminatory approach towards the

significant Poorvanchali population residing in the city by prohibiting the Chhath Puja and issued an ultimatum to both demanding a rethink.

Mr. Tiwari chaired a meeting with representatives of Chhath Puja committees to chart the way forward in demanding that the government allow the observance of the festival at public places like other festive events. While addressing the representatives, Mr. Tiwari questioned why Delhi was the only city to "prohibited Chhath Puja".

"1.80 crores have also got the COVID vaccine in Delhi...Weekly market, metro, bus, theatre, liquor contracts etc. are all open.. Then why can people not celebrate Chhath by following COVID rules @ArvindKejriwal? Meet immediately and give solution to this...[sic]" Mr. Tiwari tweeted.

Govt. signs MoU with IIT-D on road safety

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Transport Department on Friday hosted the Delhi Road Safety 2021 Summit, bringing together road safety stakeholders, including Road Safety Lead Agency, Delhi Traffic Police, IIT-Delhi and international experts, to share a robust action plan for safety on the streets of Delhi.

Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot flagged off the summit in the presence of Ashish Kundra, Principal Secretary-cum-Transport Commissioner at The Taj Mahal Hotel.

At the event, the Transport Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IIT-Delhi's Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer to work with the department on road safety projects and policies in Delhi. The Minister also launched a six-month social media campaign to raise awareness.

Air quality body directs States to video monitor construction work

Directive will enable authorities to oversee compliance

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Construction projects in Delhi, National Capital Region and adjoining States will have to install equipment that will allow the authorities to monitor if the projects are complying with norms to curb air pollution, according to a directive by the Commission for Air Quality and Management (CAQM).

The CAQM is an executive body set up to oversee measures to curb air pollution in the Delhi-NCR, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

In a directive on Thursday, the CAQM said that all the projects (on plot area equal to or greater than 500

square metres) of construction and demolition under the territorial jurisdiction of Urban Local Bodies in the NCR would have to mandatorily register themselves at a dedicated web portal.

Monitoring mechanism

Those involved in construction activities also have to ensure "video fencing", meaning that they would have to set up cameras on site, with streaming that can be viewed via the web portal. It would thus be possible for the authorities to monitor compliance "round the clock".

They would also have to install reliable and low-cost PM2.5 and PM10 sensors at

the Construction and Demolition (C&D) project sites.

"This technological shift will not only help the project proponents to self-audit and certify compliance of stipulated dust control measures but also strengthen monitoring of dust control measures at C&D sites. The project proponents are also expected to upload the self-declaration on a fortnightly basis. Further, directions have been issued to Delhi Pollution Control Committee and other State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) of National Capital Region to strictly monitor compliance of dust mitigation measures by project proponents," the CAQM said in a statement.

CP smog tower purifying 80% air: Rai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Friday visited the recently installed smog tower at Connaught Place and said that preliminary reports show it is cleaning up to 80% of the air. He said that a 16-

member committee has been constituted to closely monitor the smog tower and give three reports to the government at an interval of three months each. Based on the reports, the government will decide whether to install smog towers at other places.

The preliminary report, he said, showed that at around 8 a.m., the PM2.5 level was 151, which fell to 38 after being purified.

Also, the level of PM10 dropped from 166 to 41 after purification, the Minister said.

Mantras for Positive Ageing shared at book launch

Chief guest Karan Singh's positivity formula: 'delve deeper' into own self and have a spiritual goal'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ageing has five dimensions: chronological, physiological, emotional, intellectual and spiritual, said Karan Singh, politician and scholar, adding that at 90 he felt stronger in capacity on some of these counts than earlier.

He was speaking at the release of *Mantras for Positive Ageing*, an anthology of first-person accounts of several eminent personalities on ageing positively, productively and gracefully, at the India International Centre here on Friday.



(From left) Meera Khanna, Dr. Karan Singh, Dr. Mohini Giri and Diplomat Veena Sikri at the event. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The hybrid event, coinciding with the International Day of Older Persons, was held in collaboration with the Guild of Service.

Dr. Singh, the chief guest at the event, elaborated the five aspects of growing, with em-

phasis on the need for "some kind of spiritual quest in life". He added that all must try and delve deeper into their own self and have a spiritual goal. "It is better late than never," said Dr. Singh, also one of the contributors to the

book. He also praised the Guild of Service for its wide range of work in terms of "geographical and social coverage".

Fifty personal mantras

With a foreword by spiritual leader Dalai Lama, the book, published by Pippa Rann Publications, contains fifty personal mantras of people, including environmental activist late Sunderlal Bahuguna, economist and scholar Devaki Jain, acclaimed theatre and film actor Shama Seth, political leader and diplomat Mani Shankar Aiyar

and gender rights activist Syeda Hameed, among others.

Dr. Mohini Giri, chairperson, Guild of Service, who also edited the book along with gender rights activist Meera Khanna, said she was "happy to have a few of the authors among the audience", but "sad that some were not in the world". Remembering late Kamla Bhasin, Dr. Giri said she could not tell "what she didn't do" and read out one of her poems celebrating death. She also spoke about Durga Deshmukh, one of the contributors, who passed away just a week ago.

CM unhappy over COVID relief pendency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal expressed strong displeasure over pendency in implementing the Mukhyamantri Parivar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana, meant to benefit the next of kin of those who lost their lives to COVID-19.

At a high-level review meeting over the scheme on Friday, the CM directed the officers to disburse the amount due to the families of COVID-19 victims at the earliest. He also ordered that there will no longer be a need for death certificates and surviving member certificates from the families and officials should instead verify applications from the MHA list or official records and immediately disburse money.

To provide a "reality check" to the government officials who are part of the programme, Mr. Kejriwal brought to the meeting a family member of a person who had passed away due to COVID-19. He narrated his ordeal on how he had to run from pillar to post to get his application approved.

In the review meeting, the government stated, officials said that 25,709 applications had been received for the one-time ex gratia of ₹50,000 under the scheme. Out of this, 24,475 had tallied with the list of the MHA; 1,130 teams with 2,019 employees had been deployed to visit the homes of the applicants. Verification of about 19,000 applicants had been completed, of which 1,250 had opted out of the scheme.

At the same time, the CM was told that the Health Department had approved 9,043 of 24,475 applicants under the scheme and 7,163 beneficiaries had been provided relief.

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DGP gets possession of his cap, name badge

Items were evidence in Rajiv case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

IPS officer Prateep V. Philip, who on Thursday retired as Director General of Police, Training, was permitted by a court to temporarily take possession of his blood-stained cap and name badge, which were marked as material objects in the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

Mr. Prateep, as Assistant SP, had miraculously survived the human bomb blast on that fateful night in Sriperumbudur on May 21, 1991. In the impact of the blast, he had sustained injuries and his cap and name badge had fallen off. They were collected by the Special Investigation Team as part of evidence from the scene of the crime.

A few days ahead of his retirement, a petition was filed on behalf of Mr. Prateep before the First Additional Sessions Court seeking to allow him to take possession of the cap and name badge. The trial court concluded the trial in the assassination case and pronounced judgment on January 28, 1998. The convicted persons and the respondent



Prateep V. Philip.

in the case have exhausted all their appeals and all the material evidence and objects available with the Special Investigation Team are no longer required to be preserved, said the petition.

Sanjay Pinto, counsel for Mr. Prateep said the petitioner who faced a near death experience in the line of duty, wished to take back his blood-stained cap and name badge which were his personal belongings and were of immense sentimental value.

'Return by Oct. 28'

First Additional Sessions Judge T. Chandrasekaran on September 28 allowed the petition of Mr. Prateep and ordered the return of his cap and name badge for his interim custody on execution of own bond for ₹1 lakh. The court said they should be handed over to the court on or before October 28.

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NOTICE

Trustees of T V Sundram Iyengar & Sons Private Limited has taken various steps at regular intervals in order to settle or transfer unclaimed Provident Fund accumulations of the former Provident Fund members of TVS, Sundaram Motors and MAS divisions who left from the organization without applying either for withdrawal or transfer of their accumulations.

Communication has already been given to those former Provident Fund members concerned through letters to their last known residential addresses available in our Company records. But, many of former Provident Fund members have not yet claimed or transferred their Provident Fund accumulations, till date.

Hence, once again this notice is issued in the interest of the all those concerned Provident Fund members either to apply for settlement or transfer their unclaimed Provident Fund accumulations within 30 days from the date of this notice.

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Sd/-
Chairman

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Kerala Pravasi Association. The office of the Party is located at Karjirattathil Complex No. 11/58SP at Balal Panchayat, in Malom, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala-671334. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951. Names/Address of the Office bearers are as follows:

National Council Chairman	Mr. Rajendran Vellapattil S/o Balakrishnan Nair, aged 49 years, resident of Vellapattil House, Kannamparamba Post, Mavoor, Kozhikode, Kerala-673601
National Council President	Ms. Aswani Nambiaranbath D/o Valsarajan N, aged 30 years, resident of Kunthatta House, Meloor Post, Elattur, Koyilandy, Kozhikode, Kerala-673108
National Council General Secretary	Mr. Jey Raju S/o Jacob Raju, aged 30 years, resident of Pulikkaseryil House, Perinkent PO, Vilamuna, Kannur, Kerala-670708
National Council Treasurer	Mr. Nithin Joseph Philip S/o Joseph P.P., aged 32 years, resident of Peruvananthapuram House, Maloth, Dargah, Kasargod, Kerala-671533

If any one has any objection to the registration of Kerala Pravasi Association, they may send their Objection with reasons thereof to the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi, 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

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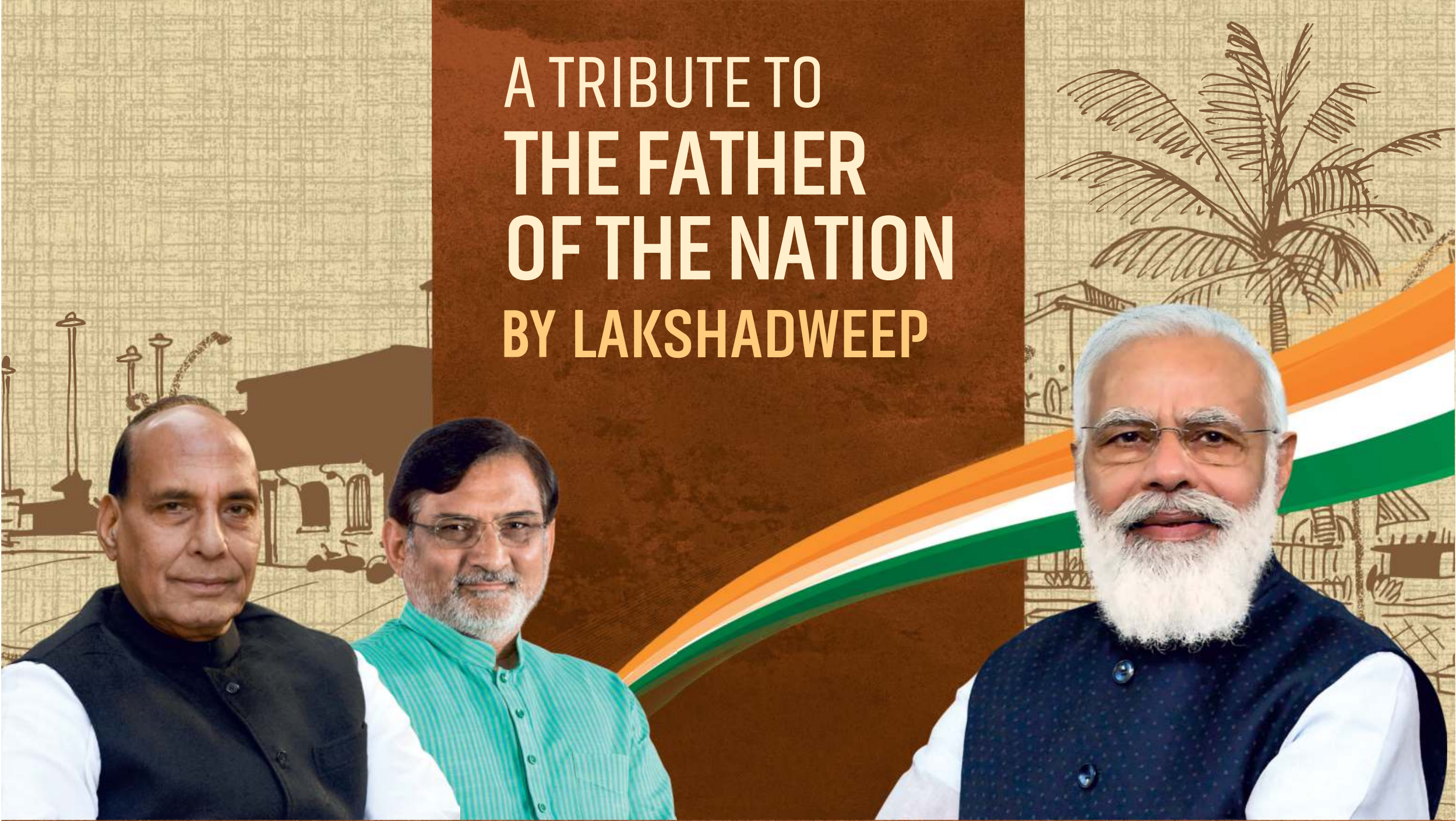


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Former Mumbai police chief may be suspended

Congress accuses BJP of helping Param Bir Singh if he has escaped

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

A day after Maharashtra Home Minister expressed the possibility of former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh “escaping from India”, there was in-

tense speculations on whether the State would suspend the officer.

The senior policeman is being probed for allegations of extortion.

Home department officials said all technical aspects would be examined before taking any decision.

“The Chandiwal commission, formed to probe allegations against Param Bir Singh, sent him summons at to his houses in Chandigarh

and Malbar Hill but he did not comply. The latest summons has asked him to appear on October 6,” said an official.

Mr. Singh was transferred as DG, Home Guards, in March. He went on leave shortly after taking charge.

The Congress alleged on Friday that the Bharatiya Janata Party had a definite role in giving safe passage to Mr. Singh, if indeed he had escaped. “It is quite clear that

saving him supports the BJP’s agenda,” said Maharashtra Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant.

“What was the chowkidar government doing? How often do we find chowkidar government napping when people like Nirav Modi, [Mehul] Choksi, [Vijay] Malya and Parambir elope?” asked Mr. Sawant.

On Thursday Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil told reporters it would not be a

good thing if Mr.Singh had left the country.

“Whether it is a minister, senior official or chief minister, all those who work for the government have to follow certain rules and regulations. They cannot leave the country without prior permission,” he had said.

Last week the possibility of suspending the former Mumbai police chief was discussed by the government, sources said.

Assam eviction: Cong. MLA served notice for ‘provocative’ comment

Sherman Ali Ahmed justified killing of 8 youth in Darrang in 1983

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Assam unit of the Congress party has issued a show-cause notice to one of its MLAs for a provocative statement linked to a recent eviction drive in the Darrang district.

The party has also asked

Sherman Ali Ahmed, who represents the Bagbar Assembly constituency, to explain accusations that he has been acting as an agent of the BJP.

Mr. Ahmed had on September 30 justified the killing of eight Assamese youths in the Garukhuti-Dhalpur

area almost 40 years ago. The area was where police shot and killed two persons, one of them a minor, during an eviction drive on September 23. The government intends to free 77,000 *bighas* in the area allegedly encroached by Bengali-speaking Muslims.



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Chairman and Managing Director

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Welcome to the 63rd Annual General Meeting of NMDC Ltd.

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I hope you and your close ones have been able to get vaccinated and are continuing to protect yourself from COVID-19. If the last 18 months have forced us to recognise our vulnerabilities, simultaneously it has given us strength – as individuals and as an organisation to overcome this challenge.

I am proud to share that your company performed exceptionally well under extremely difficult times that we all are fighting collectively.

Your company has been able to achieve this, while protecting the lives of its employees and their families and ensuring it provides all the help it can, to its stakeholders. We have undertaken vaccination drives for employees and their families and extended these to the larger NMDC family of contract associates at all our sites. Through various initiatives, we have helped create additional hospital facilities, donated oxygen cylinders, provided medication, diagnosis and essential food items available to local communities who live in some of the remotest parts of the country and distributed thousands of masks, sanitisers to help protect lives.

India's large vulnerable population has borne the trauma of a painful second wave with tremendous resilience. While being able to contain the impact of COVID better than many other countries rocked by the virus, India stepped into FY22 determined to carry out an unprecedented nationwide vaccination drive that will enable a faster economic recovery.

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I feel proud to share with you that in spite of being a very challenging year, our team has excelled over last year's production and sales.

The start of the year saw downstream industries having to shut down or operate at lower-than-normal capacity, reducing demand and slowing economic growth globally. Even the steel demand and supply was affected due to tight lockdowns.

A revival driven by resurgent demand from China, stimulus spending and proactive measures from the Government led to a quick recovery in both international and domestic iron ore and steel demand. As most of you are aware, FY21 has been a landmark year for us with respect to production, sales and turnover. While the resumption of mining at the Donimalai Iron Ore Mine of NMDC from 18.02.2021 also contributed, your company achieved its highest ever production of 34.15 MT and sales of 33.25 MT during the year. Do join me in complimenting the respective teams for pulling off this feat this year and the operational sites that weren't spared the pain of a tough second wave of this pandemic.



A COMMITMENT TO UNEARTH VALUE. A RESOLVE OF STEEL TO PERFORM.

Turnover for the year was ₹15,370 crores, again the highest since inception, and an increase of 31.38% from the ₹11,699 crores in the CPLY. A record turnover was also achieved in the fourth quarter of FY21. Profit before Tax (PBT) from operations was ₹8,902 crores compared to ₹6,123 crores in the CPLY – an increase of 45.37%. Profit after Tax (PAT) was ₹6,253 crores compared to ₹3,610 crores in the CPLY – an increase of 73.21%.

Driven by strategic imperatives, NMDC had forayed downstream of the value chain, into pellet and steel. We currently operate a 1.2 MTPA mine-head pellet plant at Donimalai. A 15 MTPA slurry pipeline, linking Bachel to Jagdalpur, with a beneficiation plant at Bachel and a 2 MTPA pellet plant at Nagarnar are under construction.

The state-of-the-art, 3 MTPA integrated steel plant at Nagarnar is at an advanced stage of construction and likely to be commissioned in the fourth quarter of this financial year. The plant will produce an impressive array of products viz. HR Plates, API – 5L Quality Plates, HR Sheets, HR Coils, High Carbon Steel, Silicon Steel and Automotive Steel. The Board of NMDC Ltd. and NMDC Steel Ltd. at its 539th meeting held on 13.07.2021 have inter alia approved the scheme of demerger. This decision unlocking value for our shareholders will allow your company to focus all its resources on its strength, that is mining.



CAPACITY EXPANSION

We continue to aggressively pursue our initiatives to augment capacity and upgrade operations across our mines with the use of technology. During the year, we commissioned an additional screening capacity of 3 MTPA at Kirandul. Additionally, the screening plant III of Kirandul, the doubling of KK Line between Kirandul and Jagdalpur, the additional screening line and up-gradation of the existing downhill conveyor at Deposit 5 at Bachel are also progressing as per schedule.

Multiple expansion projects are also being envisaged for various locations that will increase our output and efficiency. The slurry pipeline is expected to be ready by Q1 of 2023. The company has already awarded a ₹1,000 crore contract and the laying of the pipeline has begun. For greater details on technology adoption and operational expansion initiatives, I would like you to refer to the Directors' Report.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Your company had already initiated IT and digitisation of its business, and this year it has made it a strategic priority,

synergising its efforts to significantly enhance competitive advantage and efficiency. We expect technology, automation and data analytics will reinvent all aspects of our business – from mineral exploration to mining, the processing of ore to the sales and distribution of the product.

In January 2021, your company became the first CPSE to implement the state-of-the-art Enterprise Resource Planning



(ERP) solution, SAP S/4 HANA. The implementation project known as “KALPATRU” has the distinction of being the largest of its kind. Despite COVID-19 challenges, the ERP solutions were planned within a period of 18 months and Go-Live was achieved in 21 months with minimal to near-zero disruption to our business activity.

The digital transformation at NMDC includes an exciting fleet management system that is being implemented currently, automatic sampling, vision enhancement systems to avoid accidents under foggy weather that occurs at our Chhattisgarh sites and 3D volumetric laser scanners, all of which will significantly improve not just our productivity but also the safety of our operations.

MINERAL EXPLORATION

During FY21, exploratory drilling of 17,712 mts. was achieved, against the MoU target of 17,500 mts. signed with the Centre, establishing additional resources and extending the life of mines. Under MoUs with state governments NMDC will also be prospecting and exploring mineralised areas. Your company continues to study the potential of mineral blocks at locations within and outside the country.

GOING FORWARD

Steel demand has shrunk 14.8 per cent sequentially in the June quarter, largely from the impact of lockdowns during the second wave of the pandemic. However, with cases under control and the Government focus on infrastructure and construction sectors, economic activity and steel demand is expected to touch pre-COVID days in the coming quarters. The World Steel Association forecasts global demand to climb 5.8% to reach 1.874 billion tonnes in 2021. Demand will further grow by 2.7% in 2022 and touch 1.925 billion tonnes. We expect the recent pricing volatilities in iron ore to stabilise with the increase in global demand for steel.

The pandemic has accelerated some key trends that will bring about a shift in steel demand. The iron and steel industry will see exciting opportunities from rapid developments through digitisation and automation, infrastructure initiatives,

reorganisation of urban centres and energy transformation. At NMDC, we have the required operational agility to absorb the cyclical volatilities in the iron ore and steel sector and stay ahead on a growth trajectory.

- The Ministry of Coal has allocated two blocks to our company - we expect the coal mines to start commercial operations from Q3 or Q4 of FY22
- Your company is planning a capital expenditure of ₹3,720 crores in FY22
- Iron ore production of 47 million tonnes (MT) in FY22

This year NMDC achieved a spectacular performance in Q1 FY22 with production and sales of 8.91 MT & 9.45 MT respectively – its best Q1 since inception. Total revenue from operations stood at ₹6512 crore & PAT at ₹3193 crore in Q1, which is also the best ever. Most importantly, NMDC achieved total production of 15.02 MT and sales of 15.67 MT for the five months up to Aug in the current financial year, which is more than a 50% increase in the production during the first 5 months of last year. With this robust performance and a positive outlook for the iron and steel industry, your company is hopeful of setting new records this year as well.

HUMAN RESOURCES

At NMDC, our human capital is encouraged to rise to perform and strive for excellence, while in pursuit of the company's business goals. NMDC has fostered a culture that promotes continuous learning, collaboration and talent upgradation for the organisation to be future-ready. Capability building of the workforce is achieved by combining formal learning with rigorous on-the-job development, coaching and feedback, which has led to executives and workmen improving their performance and advancing their careers in significant ways. Corporate HRD has organised 24 customised training programmes that 624 executives have gone through during 2020-21. Similarly 29 external training programmes were also made available to 181 executives to attend and benefit from.



SOCIAL COMMITMENT

NMDC's social capital is built on decades invested in community engagement, building of infrastructure in health and education, and contributions to essential development needs of our host communities. These are continuous efforts that your company carries out with great pride and commitment. Our social objectives are aimed at improving the quality of life of people around our mining operations and their socioeconomic environment. During the year, we spent close to



₹160 crores on various such programmes and interventions in the areas of education, health and hygiene, skill development and livelihood creation. The particulars of our CSR are detailed in the Annual Report as part of the Directors' Report.

ENVIRONMENT

As India's largest iron ore miner, your company takes its responsibilities to ensure sustainability of business and environment very seriously. NMDC conducts environmental monitoring studies diligently every year keeping a close watch on pollution control and environment conservation parameters. As part of our sustainability practice, your company also conducts carbon footprint studies, water audits, sustainable mining initiative audit, etc.

NMDC has carried out a Reclamation & Rehabilitation (R&R) study as suggested by the Indian Council of Forest Research and Education (ICFRE, Dehradun) in preparation of the Environmental Management and R&R Plan for the Kirandul Complex, Chhattisgarh and the Donimalai Complex, Karnataka. These are under implementation.



A total of 20,000 saplings have been planted during FY21 in and around our projects. NMDC also contributes to the Government of Chhattisgarh's flagship programme “Hariyari Chhattisgarh”, a roadside tree plantation drive being carried out by CGRVN Limited.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Your Company has complied with Corporate Governance norms as stipulated under SEBI Regulations/DPE Guidelines falling within its ambit. For more details, you may refer to the Report on Corporate Governance, which forms part of the Directors' Report.

I would also like to inform that during this year too, Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) made NIL observations on the Annual Accounts for the Company for the year 2020-21.

Let me conclude by saying that we continue to enhance and expand our mining capabilities to be a key stakeholder in nation building. The Board of Directors of our company and the entire team at NMDC will continue in its endeavour to create value for all our stakeholders.

Thank you and stay safe. Jai Hind.

Sumit Deb
Chairman and Managing Director

HEAD OFFICE : KHANIJ BHAVAN, MASAB TANK, HYDERABAD – 500028, INDIA. | www.nmdc.co.in | CIN: L13100TG1958GOI001674 FOLLOW US ON: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) Note: The above statement does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the 63 AGM of NMDC held on 30-09-2021, Hyderabad.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Adarsh Dhawan

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: **Adarsh Dhawan S/o Sh. Surender Dhawan R/o Plot No. 104, Near Talab Chowk, 11nd Floor, Mandawali, New Delhi** has been missing from Maya Place Hotel Mayapuri, Ph-2, New Delhi Area since **18.09.2021** at about **11:40 AM**. In this regard DD No. 47A dated **19.09.2021** has been Registered at **PS Mayapuri, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-
Age: 38 years, **Height:** 5'9" ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** White & Red colour T-Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans & Brown colour sports shoes in his feet.
Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO P.S. Mayapuri, Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **Ph.:** 011-28116097
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **Mob:** 8750871121
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 **DP/571/WD/2021**
Fax No.: 011-24368639

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Ravi Kumar @ Billu

General public is hereby informed that a man namely **Ravi Kumar @ Billu S/o: Sh. Raj Kumar, R/o: I-115, 3rd Floor, Bhagwan Nagar, Ashram, Delhi** has been reported missing since **02.09.2021** from the Jurisdiction of **P.S. Sunlight Colony, South East District, Delhi**. In this regard DD No. 122A dated **08.09.2021** has been registered at **P.S. Sunlight Colony, Delhi**. The description of missing man is as under:

Name: Ravi Kumar @ Billu, **Age:** 32 Years, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Pink T-Shirt, Blue Pant & White Shoes in feet.
If anyone have any information about this missing man please inform P.S. Sunlight Colony, Delhi.
Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, **Email:** cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, **Fax:** 011-24368639 **SHO Police Station Sunlight Colony, Delhi**
DP/236/SE/2021 **Ph:** 011-26348324, 8750870928

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE							
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / BMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL	
1	UHBVN	LT XLPE ARMoured CABLE OF SIZE 3X25 SQMM AS PER NIGAM'S TECH. SPECIFICATION NO. CSC-201/R-1/DH/UH/P&D/2020-21 AND AS PER RELEVANT IS ALONGWITH ITS AMENDMENTS.	30.09.2021 11.10.2021	FMD 1.75 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in	9023360202	ceem@uqbvn.org.in
2	UHBVN	LT XLPE ARMoured CABLE OF SIZE 4X25 SQMM AS PER NIGAM'S TECH. SPECIFICATION NO. CSC-201/R-1/DH/UH/P&D/2020-21 AND AS PER RELEVANT IS ALONGWITH ITS AMENDMENTS.	30.09.2021 21.10.2021	FMD 2 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in	9023360202	ceem@uqbvn.org.in
3	UHBVN	LT XLPE ARMoured CABLE OF SIZE 4X25 SQMM AS PER NIGAM'S TECH. SPECIFICATION NO. CSC-201/R-1/DH/UH/P&D/2020-21 AND AS PER RELEVANT IS ALONGWITH ITS AMENDMENTS.	30.09.2021 21.10.2021	FMD 2 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in	9023360202	ceem@uqbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

Samvad-13/2022/60/50433/1997/

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Nohradhar invites following offline tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from eligible Contractors for the following work through offline process:-

Sr. No.	Description.	E/Cost	E/ Money	Time	Cost of form
1.	R/M to LWSS Shillanj in GP Shillanj Tehsil Raigarh in Distt. Sirmour (SH:- Supplying & Erection of submersible pumping set of 20 HP).	150000/-	3000/-	3 months	250/-
2.	R/M of various LIS under Jal Shakti Sub Division Raigarh Tehsil Raigarh Distt. Sirmour HP (SH:- Providing and fixing cast steel sluice valves and reflux valves of various dia).	484322/-	9700/-	3 months	250/-
3.	Providing LWSS from Pallarkhad to PC Habitation in GP andheri, Lana Pallar, Ludhiana, Sairji, and Sangarh in Tehsil Sangarh Distt. Sirmour HP (SH:- Providing FHTC to blance households of habitation Baunai, Dibla, Jamthiali, Kakog, Kakog-II, Takrada, Tarsi, Khaguwa, Thana, Mothu, Ghareil and Maina in GP BaunaiKakog and MainaGhareil).	182000/-	3650/-	3 months	250/-
4.	C/O Divisional Office Building at Nohradhar in Tehsil Nohradhar Distt. Sirmour (HP) (SH:- Manufacturing and placing in position furniture for Division Office).	496930/-	9350/-	3 months	250/-
5.	C/O LIS DhamanderKoti and adjoining village in GP TalBhujal Tehsil Raigarh Distt. Sirmour HP (SH:- C/O anchor blocks and cutting & welding of MSERW and GMS pipe line in distribution system at various RD's).	197667/-	4000/-	3 months	250/-
6.	C/O LIS ChanaDevliya in GP Bhatgarh in Tehsil SangarhDistt. Sirmour(HP) (Providing, laying & jointing of HDPE pipe line and construction of hydrant post in distribution system)	373743/-	7500/-	3 months	250/-

The application for purchase of tender documents shall be entertained up to **4.00 PM dated 06/10/2021**, non-refundable, in cash or by money order as per cost shown above. The tenders shall be received in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Nohradhar up to **2.00 PM dated 07/10/2021** and shall be opened on the same day at **3.00 PM** in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives if any.

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Division Nohradhar
H/P / 4432/21-22

Bihar School Examination Board

CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER NOTICE NO.- PR 141/2021

With reference to Tender Notice No.- PR 141/2021 issued in various Newspapers on **2nd September 2021** for “**Procurement and installation of cloud infrastructure for hosting Online Facilitation System for Students and various services of Bihar School Examination Board**”, the last Date/Time for Submission/ uploading of Offer/ Bid has been re-extended to **09.10.2021, 14:00 Hrs.**

Changes have also been made in Scope of Work, Eligibility Criteria & Bid Documents. Updated Tender schedule may be referred over-e-procurement website <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>

Secretary

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 UPLC Lucknow 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 websites: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No.	JOB No.	NAME OF WORK	Amount
1.	03/Manager System/ Kyocera-konica/ photocopier- AMC/ 21-22	A.M.C. of various model of Kyocera Mita and Konica Minolta make photocopier machines	Rs. 4,70,850/-
2.	04/Manager System/ Kyocera/ Printer- AMC/2021-22	A.M.C. of various model of Kyocera make Printer	Rs. 4,89,804/-

Which can be uploaded by date 11/10/2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 12/10/2021at 11.00 AM.

AGM (System)

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IN BRIEF



Former Chief Secretary C. P. Nair no more

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Former Kerala Chief Secretary C.P. Nair passed away on Friday. He was 81. An Indian Administrative Service officer (IAS) of the 1962 batch, Mr. Nair served as Chief Secretary from June 16, 1996, to April 30, 1998. Mr. Nair later served as a member of the Administrative Reforms Commission.

Priest held for killing peacocks in Kerala

THIRISSUR
A priest was arrested here on Friday for trapping and killing peacocks. A team led by Thrissur Flying Squad range officer arrested Fr. Devassy Panthallookkaran, 65, director, Vianney Bhavan, Ramavarmapuram, under the Thrissur Archdiocese, allegedly for trapping two peacocks and killing them. Peacocks are protected under the Wildlife Act, 1972.

11 persons rescued after boat overturns in Kerala

KOCHI
Eleven persons on board a fishing boat were rescued after the boat overturned in the sea off LNG terminal Puthu Vype on Friday morning. They were rescued by workers of other boats in the vicinity and by marine enforcement personnel. No one was injured, sources said.

Official website of Mysuru Dasara launched

MYSURU
The official website of Mysuru Dasara-2021 was launched here on Friday. The Minister in charge of Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts, S.T. Somashekar, unveiled the website in the presence of Pratap Simha, MP, and others. The website <https://mysoreadasara.gov.in/> can be reached for details on the events and schedule of this year's festivities.

Youth kills woman on Kerala college campus

He was irked after his romantic overtures were rejected: reports

1 held for assaulting girl

STAFF REPORTER KOTTAYAM

A 22-year-old woman was murdered by her classmate on a college campus in Pala on Friday.
The deceased was identified as Nithina Mol, a native of Thalayolaparambu. She was attacked around 11.30 a.m. when she came out of the college after attending an examination. The accused, identified as 20-year-old Abhishek Baiju, a native of Koothattukulam, has been taken into custody. Both were pursuing B.Voc degree in Food Science at St. Thomas College, Pala.
Preliminary reports said the accused had been an-

A CORRESPONDENT IDUKKI

The Santhanpara police on Friday arrested a 24-year-old man who sexually assaulted a 14-year-old girl at Anayirankal, near Munnar. According to the police, Mukesh Prabhu was a resident of Panniyar near Kompura in Idukki district. The girl's parents used to go for work in the morning,

gered by the rejection of his romantic overtures by the woman.
Eyewitness accounts suggested that the murder was committed near the college stadium. The accused, who was waiting outside the examination hall, approached

and the girl and her brother were alone at the workers' quarters during the day.
The accused, an autorickshaw driver, on the pretext of taking the girl and her brother to his house, took them out but dropped the boy on the way. The accused sexually abused the girl and brought her back to her house.
A POCSO case has been filed against the accused.

her with a hacksaw blade. He picked up an argument with the woman and in a fit of rage attacked her.
Onlookers prevented the accused from fleeing while the woman was rushed to a private hospital nearby but she passed away.

SC rejects Maudany's plea to relax bail conditions

The PDP leader is an accused in Bengaluru bomb blast case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday rejected a plea by People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Abdul Nazir Maudany to relax his bail condition and permit him to stay in his hometown in Kerala till the pendency of the trial in the 2008 Bengaluru bomb blast case, in which he is an accused.

"Sorry Mr. Bhushan, we cannot relax," Justice S. Abdul Nazeer, heading a Bench comprising Justice Krishna Murari, addressed advocate Prashant Bhushan, who appeared for Maudany.

In 2014, the Supreme Court granted Maudany bail on the ground that he had already undergone judicial custody for four years since



Abdul Nazir Maudany

August 2010 and was suffering from health ailments.
"They assured that the trial would be completed in four months. He has spent 11 years in jail and seven years under conditional bail... The case is crawling at a snail's pace," Mr. Bhushan argued.
Appearing for Karnataka, advocate Nikhil Goel said Maudany could not be allowed to go outside the State. "He was involved in Babri Masjid and even in the Coimbatore blasts. Witnesses have earlier come forward, saying he had tried to influence them," he said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Sikkim, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathwada and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	34.4	26.6	Kozhikode	0.6	33.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	...	34.1	25.7	Kurnool	...	37.3	26.2
Aizawl	...	32	21.0	Lucknow	...	34.0	26.5
Allahabad	...	32.6	25.4	Madurai	52	32.5	22.8
Bengaluru	...	30.8	21.7	Mangaluru	3.2	30.7	24.2
Bhopal	...	32.5	23.5	Mumbai	...	31.5	24.4
Bhubaneswar	...	34.6	25.2	Mysuru	58	30.5	21.2
Chandigarh	13.8	34.2	24.9	New Delhi	...	35.0	26.5
Chennai	5	33.9	27.2	Patna	19	29.9	...
Coimbatore	9	31.1	23.4	Port Blair	...	31.1	26.6
Dehradun	0.8	31.2	23.5	Puducherry	...	32.2	25.0
Gangtok	...	23.2	16.6	Pune	...	33.7	20.7
Goa	...	35	24.0	Raipur	...	32.5	24.0
Guwahati	...	35.2	...	Ranchi	...	27.8	22.3
Hubballi	...	29.0	22.0	Shillong	...	24.3	16.4
Hyderabad	...	32.8	23.8	Shimla	...	25.3	18.3
Imphal	...	31.6	20.1	Srinagar	...	29.5	18.1
Jaipur	1	34.4	24.4	Thiruvananthapuram	0.3	29.6	24.3
Kochi	7	30.2	24.8	Tiruchi	...	38	30.6
Kohima	9	26.0	17.8	Vijayawada	67	32.8	24.7
Kolkata	10	34.7	26.2	Visakhapatnam	...	34.0	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing					Yesterday
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5} PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	44	31	28	47	78
Bengaluru	10	46	102	36	58
Chennai	10	10	32	19	65
Delhi	32	97	99	154	186
Hyderabad	4	47	41	69	72
Kolkata	13	24	20	46	51
Lucknow	8	65	52	68	118
Mumbai	25	10	...	63	104
Pune	103	23	112	40	33
Visakhapatnam	15	24	16	18	54

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Three held in Telugu Akademi fraud case

ABHINAV DESHPANDE HYDERABAD

The Chairman and Managing Director of A.P. Mercantile Cooperative Credit Society Ltd., (APMCCS) Vijayawada, and his two senior employees were arrested by the Hyderabad Central Crime Station police on Friday for the alleged fraud in the Telugu Akademi fixed deposits accounts.

The accused and society Chairman and Managing Director B.V.V.N. Satyanarayana Rao, manager (operations) Vedula Padmavathi and relationship manager Sayyad Mohiuddin were remanded in judicial custody, Joint Commissioner of Police

(Detective Department) Avinash Mohanty said.

While Mr. Rao was arrested in Vijayawada, the other two were taken into custody from the city. He said that based on the complaint lodged by Telugu Akademi director Somi Reddy, a case was registered regarding withdrawal of Akademi funds of ₹43 crore by closing fixed deposit receipts.

"Our investigation has revealed that the society had received the FD amounting to nearly ₹60 crore from a bank," Mr. Mohanty said.

Union Bank of India manager Mastan Vali and two others are likely to be arrested.

Film portrays struggles of farmers

Campaign on to promote Telugu film to amplify voices of ryots

P. SRIDHAR KHAMMAM

Reiterating their steadfast support for the cause of farmers, a host of organisations representing the farmers and other toiling masses have launched a social media campaign to promote the farmer-centric Telugu film, *Rythanna*, in an effort to amplify the farmers' voices and support their protracted agitation against the Centre's three farm laws through the powerful medium of cinema.

The recently released movie, directed by noted Telugu actor and producer R. Narayana Murthy, is based on the issues concerning farmers and their relentless



R. Narayana Murthy

struggle against the "anti-farmer" policies.

As the name suggests, the film portrays the vital role of Annadatas (food givers) as the backbone of the country's economy and the plethora of issues concerning the farmers such as lack of remunerative prices for their produce, endless exploitation by middlemen, distress-

induced suicides and the imminent risk of exploitation by corporate entities.

Various farmers and other mass organisations owing allegiance to the three Left parties have urged their members to watch the movie to be screened at Vinoda theatre in the town from October 2, coinciding with Mahatma Gandhi jayanti, to express their solidarity with the farmers' cause.

The film will be screened in four theatres – one each in Khammam, Madhira, Kothagudem and Yellandu towns in the old undivided Khammam district, considered the traditional bastion of the Left parties, for one week from Saturday.

“For Gram Swaraj, every village should be self-supporting to fulfil its needs. If we have to build Swarajya on the basis of non-violence, then villages have to be given their proper place”

- Mahatma Gandhi



Remembering
Father of the Nation
Mahatma Gandhi
(2 October 1869 – 30 January 1948)

on his 152nd Birth Anniversary

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Paving the Path to Realise Gandhiji's Dream of Sustainable Future

A New Dimension of Suraji Gaon Yojana

Inauguration of Electricity Generation from Cow Dung

Bemetera, Durg and Raipur Districts

2nd October, 2021



Shri Bhupesh Baghel
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh



Gadhbo Nava Chhattisgarh



No clean sweep

Transforming urban India calls for community-based moves towards a circular economy

Seven years after launching his government's marquee programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), with a fresh promise to make India's cities clean. For all the attention it has received, the goal of scientific waste management and full sanitation that Mahatma Gandhi emphasised even a century ago remains largely aspirational today, and the recent lament of Principal Economic Adviser Sanjeev Sanyal on dirty, dysfunctional cities drives home the point. That urban India, in his view, is unable to match cities in Vietnam that has a comparable per capita income is a telling commentary on a lack of urban management capacities in spite of the Swachh Bharat programme enjoying tremendous support. SBM-U 2.0, with a ₹1.41-lakh crore outlay, aims to focus on garbage-free cities and urban grey and black water management in places not covered by AMRUT. In its first phase, the Mission had an outstanding balance of ₹3,532 crore, since the total allocation was ₹14,622 crore while cumulative releases came to ₹11,090 crore. The issue of capability and governance underscores the challenge – of being able to process only about one lakh tonnes of solid waste per day against 1.4 lakh tonnes generated – to transition to a circular economy that treats solid and liquid waste as a resource.

Raising community involvement in resource recovery, which the rules governing municipal, plastic and electronic waste provide for, calls for a partnership that gives a tangible incentive to households. The current model of issuing mega contracts to big corporations – as opposed to decentralised community-level operations for instance – has left segregation of waste at source a non-starter. In the absence of a scaling up of operations, which can provide large-scale employment, and creation of matching facilities for material recovery, SBM-U 2.0 cannot keep pace with the tide of waste in a growing economy. On sanitation, the impressive claim of exceeding the targets for household, community and public toilets thus far obscures the reality that without water connections, many of them are unusable, and in public places, left in decrepitude. State and municipal governments, which do the heavy lifting on waste and sanitation issues, should work to increase community ownership of the system. As things stand, it is a long road to Open Defecation Free plus (ODF+) status for urban India, since that requires no recorded case of open defecation and for all public toilets to be maintained and functioning. Equally, the high ambition of achieving 100% tap water supply in about 4,700 urban local bodies and sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities depends crucially on making at least good public rental housing accessible to millions of people.

Crime and the pandemic

The lockdown had a bearing on the patterns of crimes that were registered in 2020

The annual report, 'Crime in India', released by the National Crime Records Bureau in mid-September this year needs to be carefully parsed before gleaming insights or making State-wise comparisons. The reason is the significant variances in case registration across States and Union Territories, especially serious crimes pertaining to rape and violence against women. States/UTs such as Tamil Nadu with 1808.8, Kerala (1568.4) and Delhi (1309.6) recorded the highest crime rate (crimes per one lakh people) overall. But it is difficult not to see these numbers as a reflection of better reporting and police registration of cases in these States and the capital city, respectively. On the other hand, while there was an 8.3% decline in registered cases of crimes against women in 2020 (of which the bulk of them, 30.2%, were of the category "Cruelty by husband or his relatives"), this number has to be assessed along with the fact that the year saw prolonged lockdowns during the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic (between late March and May 2021 in particular). This period coincided with a high number of complaints of domestic violence – the number of complaints received by National Commission for Women registered a 10-year high as of June 2020. The seeming mismatch between the NCW and NCRB data must be studied and can only be explained by a lack of registration of cases in some States where crime reporting remains sluggish either due to a fear of doing so or a lackadaisical approach to such cases by law enforcement. On the other hand, the lockdown also led to an overall fall in crime related to theft, burglary and dacoity.

The COVID-19 related disruption also led to a greater registration of cases overall (a 28% increase in 2020 compared to 2019) largely due to a 21-fold increase in cases related to disobedience to the order duly promulgated by a public servant and over four times in cases involving violations of other State local laws. This is not surprising either. India had one of the most stringent lockdowns and law enforcement spared little in enforcing strictures on physical distancing. The question of registration does not apply to some types of cases such as murders – which showed only a marginal increase of 1% compared to 2019. Worryingly, while there was a reduction in the registered number of economic offences (by 12% since 2019), cybercrimes recorded an increase of 11.8% . The increase in cybercrimes is cause for concern as this requires sharper law enforcement as seen even in highly developed societies. While cases related to sedition declined from 93 in 2019 to 73 last year, Manipur and Assam led with 15 and 12 cases each. Sedition has increasingly been used as a weapon to stifle dissent and this trend needs to be reversed urgently.

Reading Gandhi as a lesson of political maturity

His appeal to conscientious politics and nobility of spirit continues to be a strong ethical response to political issues



RAMIN JAHANBEGLOO

Nearly 74 years after his death, Gandhi remains the most widely known political leader of modern India. Gandhi's stature as a major historical figure was confirmed by his successful non-violent movement against British rule in India. Yet, what makes Gandhi so relevant and meaningful for our world is that his political legacy and his philosophical significance continue to inspire millions of people around the globe – to fight against inequality, injustice and historical wrongs.

An imperative

Accordingly, what distinguishes Gandhi from all politicians in today's world is not only his simplicity and honesty – which have become rare characteristics for many men and women who pretend to represent our wills and wishes around the globe – but also his belief in the moral growth of humanity. In a world such as ours which suffers from an immaturity of politics and politicians, either in tyrannical situations such as Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, etc. or in democracies such as the United States, Spain, Poland, India, etc. reading Gandhi as a lesson of political maturity is an ethical imperative. As such, and not strangely, Gandhi believed in no divorce between politics and ethics.

For Gandhi, politics was essentially an ethical mode of conduct.

He never pretended to be a teacher of truth. However, others took him to be a guru, and there is no doubt that his attempts to encourage people to experiment with the truth were both philosophical and pedagogical.

Culture of patience

Therefore, as a practitioner of empathetic humanism and a pluralist thinker, Gandhi was an exemplar of a lifelong process of listening and learning. He actually played the role of an exemplar in prescribing "patience" as a means to understand and approach the other. The dialogical nature of Gandhi's culture of patience finds its roots in the idea of epistemic humility as a necessary methodology in approaching and understanding other cultures and religions. As such, the entire Gandhian thought in the realm of religion and politics revolves around this concept of epistemic humility. That is why Gandhi had a profoundly ethical view of religions.

In other words, he recognised neither the infallible authority of prophetic texts nor the sanctity of religious traditions. At the same time, he was the foremost critic of the epistemological arrogance of modern rationality and its authoritarian practices in terms of colonial thinking and imperialistic domination. It is on account of his overriding concern for the self-respect of individuals and nations that Gandhi joined the two notions of truth and non-violence to that of the term Swaraj.

Gandhi believed that all individuals irrespective of their religion, race and culture had the right to self-governance. Accordingly, what we can call the Gandhian moment of Swaraj was actually for



him a constant experimentation with modes of cross-cultural and inter-faith understanding and dialogue.

In other words, the capacity to engage constructively with conflicting values was an essential component of Gandhi's practical wisdom and empathetic pluralism. As a matter of fact, Swaraj as a space of self-realisation was where the ethical and the political joined in the Gandhian political philosophy. For Gandhi, politics, like spirituality, was a space to examine and experience Truth, which he considered not as a given process, but as an effort of re-evaluation and reformulation of reality.

A self-transcendence

In this sense, Gandhi did not consider freedom as a mere political act, but he defined it primarily as an ethical enterprise. That is why Gandhi argued, "I am but a seeker after Truth. I claim to have found a way to it. I claim to be making a ceaseless effort to find it. But I admit that I have not yet found it. To find Truth completely is to realize oneself and one's destiny, i.e., to become perfect. I am painfully conscious of my imperfections, and therein lies all the strength I possess, because it is a rare thing

Time to sound the bell with class doors reopening

Learning recovery and safety should be top priorities as schools begin to open again across India



YASMIN ALI HAQUE

The sight of children going to school evokes normalcy and hope. Our children's lives are centred around schools, and the learning, the routine, and fun that come with it.

But for nearly a year-and-a-half since the novel coronavirus pandemic in 2020, schools had to shut their doors, and shift to remote learning. Children could not meet their friends, or eat hot school meals. Some suffered mental distress. Many faced violence. Millions of children missed critical developmental milestones.

What started off as a health crisis fast turned into an acute child rights crisis. Learning loss was a big fallout of the pandemic.

The gaps in online learning

While remote, online learning is the only resort to connect students with teachers. It is a pale substitute for in-person learning. Many children have been excluded

from online classes, due to the digital divide. There is also grave concern over the learning outcome for children who can connect.

Eight out of 10 parents of students aged between five to 13 years are of the opinion that their children were learning less or significantly less remotely compared to when in school. More than nine of every 10 children in Classes 2 to 6 have lost at least one specific ability in language from the previous year.

Across India, States have started reopening schools as COVID-19 cases plateau. Large numbers are now vaccinated, and it is steadily moving up. The government prioritisation of teachers for vaccination is very reassuring.

Back at school

However, the decision to reopen schools is fraught with emotions, fears, and heated debates. The questions being raised by parents need to be addressed. Schools must put in place and implement all safety protocols.

An online survey conducted by UNICEF reached nearly 11,000 respondents (parents, teachers, and students). By and large, all 6,157 responding parents felt that being vaccinated is the most important



safety measure for children to return to school. While parents (55%) said they were not keen on sending their child to school yet, parents (60%) did not feel confident that their child's school and staff are ready for safe reopening.

Out of 4,451 teachers who responded to the survey; 65% said they have been provided support and guidance on how to work safely in schools as they reopen. While 93% said school staff should be fully vaccinated before classes resumed. Out of 366 student respondents, 71% were excited to go back to school.

Schools can focus on getting back younger children first, as primary and pre-primary-school age children are the least likely to be infected. Children are mostly

for a man to know his own limitations." We have here a process of individual self-transcendence that Gandhi also applied to the idea of civilisation, since he considered civilisation as an exercise of human maturity.

Gandhi firmly believed that the anthropological and ethical origins of such a state of maturity resided in the spiritual capacity of human beings. But he also underlined this move towards maturity as a process of learning to be responsible towards oneself and the others. As a result, everything Gandhi did and wrote during his lifetime was an attempt to bring into the open his own journey of intellectual and political maturity. He, therefore, used the concept of maturity not only in the social context, but also as an expression of character building which he distinguished from literary training.

As he asserted, "Literary training by itself adds not an inch to one's moral height and character-building is independent of literary training." Therefore, according to Gandhi, character-building was an art of developing a sense of autonomy and having authority over one's self.

In other words, maturity for Gandhi was a state of mind and a mode of being, where one had the capacity to form one's life in a social sphere. It was on the basis of this act of maturity that Gandhi established his political anthropology and pedagogical premises. He believed that an autonomy formed by a mature judgment prepared a life according to morality. Gandhi, therefore, approached pragmatic politics as a form of character-building and not necessarily a struggle for getting elected or grasping power.

asymptomatic and are less likely to spread the virus when compared to adults.

We have evidence to show that schools are not the main drivers of community transmission and that children are more likely to get the virus outside of school settings. In fact, keeping schools closed for more than a year did not prevent the raging second wave of the pandemic. With measures firmly in place, schools can be safer environments for children than other places.

Teachers have shown remarkable courage and commitment across India. They stepped up to support online and offline learning across high tech, low tech and no tech settings. And used various other platforms for learning and even did door-to-door visits with students.

Learning now and solutions

The novel coronavirus pandemic has paved the way for a blended teaching-learning approach combining online and offline lessons. Teachers may assess the levels of progress in students in remote learning and plan for lessons based on these levels. Parents, teachers, students and school managements need to work to-

Gandhi's acknowledgment of the moral imperative of maturity and his devotion to democratic transparency continues to distinguish his political psychology from most of the other discourses in Indian and world politics. As such, Gandhi's suggestion to us in relation to moral excellence and spiritual maturity presents itself at the same time as an invitation to self-respect and self-restraint.

A continuing relevance

As he argued, "Where there is egotism, we shall find incivility and arrogance. Where it is absent, we shall find a sense of self-respect together with civility... He who holds his self-respect dear acts towards everyone in a spirit of friendship, for he values others' self-respect as much as he values his own. He sees himself in all and everyone else in himself, puts himself in line with others. The egotist keeps aloof from others and, believing himself superior to the rest of the world, he takes [it] upon himself to judge everyone and in the result enables the world to have the measure of his smallness."

Therefore, it goes without saying that by reading Gandhi closely and correctly, we can get to the conclusion that, despite all his shortcomings, his appeal to mature and conscientious politics and nobility of spirit continues to be a strong ethical response to the political issues and challenges of our time. Maybe, that is why, Gandhi remains our contemporary, while he belongs to our future.

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together to find solutions. Positive examples have emerged from different States such as open-air classes under trees.

Despite doubts, there is no better alternative to the safe reopening of schools. The longer children are out of schools, the more difficult it would be for them to return and learn. The social and economic costs of children continuing to be out of school have become too high.

Here is an example of a student's reaction: "When schools were closed, it did not feel right, I got bored and missed my friends. Schools have now opened, we are again meeting every day, playing with friends. We show others how to follow COVID appropriate behaviours in and outside of school. We request our teachers and friends to always wear masks. And that is how we keep everyone safe."

Many children are finding rhythm and normalcy in going to schools, like Anshu Kumari, a Class eight student of Jay Mangal School in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, said.

In India, equity must guide how children return to school, and continue to learn and grow.

Yasmin Ali Haque is UNICEF Representative in India

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.

Party matters

The reports in *The Hindu* over the past two days, and on page 1, show the glory of a once Grand Old Party under the stewardship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi has faded. There is no doubt that the Gandhis – Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra – are most certainly damaging the party. There is absolutely no value for talented Congressmen; for that matter, even the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is no different. If the reins of the Congress are with the Gandhis, the BJP is in the pincer-like grip of two men! There are many of us who despair the absence of a strong Opposition party to keep the government of the day under check especially as it [the Government] seems to be drifting away from the democratic way of functioning.

BARU RAJENDRA PRASAD, Hyderabad

■ It has become fashionable for many in politics (the G-23 cohorts are among them) and commentators to lay the

blame at the door of the Congress leadership for everything. They criticise and find fault with the Gandhis for the 'absence of a strong Opposition' to take on the BJP and the Narendra Modi government. It does not occur to them that if the BJP is strong today, it is not because of the Gandhis, but despite them. The problem is deeper than most people assume, diagnose or hesitate to state openly for whatever reason. A party's strength is relative to its support among the people. Fighting the BJP with its USP of a Hindutva narrative is no easy task. Sensitising the masses about the bread-and-butter issues of politics and weaning them away from the BJP requires a lot of work.

G. DAVID MILTON, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ It is time the decision-making authority within the party is revamped to be in sync with the realities of Indian politics. All decisions made by the party are those of the Gandhis; and most of them are absolute failures. There are many who

still desire that the Grand Old Party should be revived and function as an effective Opposition, as there is no other party that has a national outlook. The first thing the Congress should do now is to decide its leaders through a democratic process of elections, right from the bottom-most level to the AICC.

P.R.V. RAJA, Pandalam, Kerala

■ When Congress chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala says the CWC meeting would be convened 'very soon', one wonders how 'soon' means given the party's tendency to procrastinate over normal issues such as electing a regular chief while relegating urgent things to the backburner. The reactions to well-meaning concerns – such as those by G-23 – show the reluctance for course correction. The placards with the 'Get well soon' messages, which Congress protesters displayed outside Kapil Sibal's house, should have been turned inwards.

AYYASSERI RAVEENDRANATH, Aranmula, Kerala

■ There are many who would echo what Kanhaiya Kumar said while joining the Congress – that the party is not simply a political institution but rather an idea and philosophy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi must be basking in comfort that it is a case of TINA – There Is No Alternative. With the general election still far away, the Congress can set its house in order.

D. NAGARJUNA, Hyderabad

■ Apathy, sycophancy and a coterie are weakening the Grand Old Party. Despite crises and numerous defeats, the party is not addressing the root cause – strengthening the party from the grassroots. Rahul Gandhi's propensity for foot in the mouth comments has only worsened the situation. Allowing sane voices to deliberate, discuss and debate matters should be the "Panchsheel" of the party.

P.S.S. MURTHY, Hyderabad

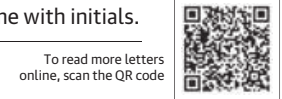
■ Why is so much newsprint being wasted on the internal matters of a party that is

being managed by one of the most incompetent set of leaders it has ever had? It is also amusing that there are many readers close to grief, as can be seen in the 'Letters to the Editor' column in the daily. A party leadership that fails to capitalise on so many burning issues – and being handed to it on a platter – deserves to sink.

G. NARASIMHAN, Bengaluru

The Quad and China

It is baffling that the Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has now said that "China can join Quad initiatives" (October 1), in effect massively diluting the Quad's unstated objective of "encircling" China in different ways, to stop it from becoming the undisputed hegemon of Asia. So what happens to the many declarations made at the in-person summit in the United States? The U.S.'s statements on AUKUS will have a psychological and strategic impact on Japan and India, as it is clear that both nations will not be a part of this 'Anglo-Saxon formation'. The net result is



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that the Indo-Pacific region is ready to bubble over.

ADI BALSARA, Mumbai

New species

A group of us, Santoshkumar Abujam, Arup Nama Das, Budhin Gogoi, D.N. Das, S.P. Biswas and Heiko Bleher – researchers from the Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya and Dibrugarh University, Assam – have discovered a new small-sized fish of the genus *Esomus* in Dima Hasao district, Assam. The species has the taxonomic designation, *Esomus nimasowi*, and we describe it in *Aqua, International Journal of Ichthyology* (September 2021). The genus *Esomus* includes a total of nine valid species found around the globe and spread across South-East Asia. So far, only three species occur in India – *Esomus danrica*, *Esomus thermoicos* and *Esomus bengalensis*.

ARUP NAMA DAS, Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya

A people who became Indian overnight

In December 1971, families in Pakistan suddenly found themselves in India when the Indian Army captured four villages that were part of Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. **Sharath S. Srivatsa** reports on the lingering pain of a people who were separated from their loved ones



A view of Turtuk village on the left bank of Shyok river. (Below): Ahmed Shah, 75, has spent a considerable part of his life in Thang village watching over the fields of Pharnu using binoculars. He was separated from his family almost 50 years ago when the LoC was redrawn. ■ R. KRISHNA KUMAR; SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Holding a pair of small binoculars in his wrinkled hand, 75-year-old Ahmed Shah has been watching tourists make a beeline to his village for more than a month now. Perched on a boulder on the fringes of Thang, one of India's northern-most villages, situated about 230 km from Leh, Shah has been offering the binoculars to tourists who are curious to see Pharnu, Pakistan's village across the Line of Control (LoC), about 1.5 km away. Some offer him money and very few chat with him about his obsessive interest in Pharnu, but he has a toothless smile for all.

The septuagenarian has spent a considerable part of his life in Thang watching over the fields of Pharnu using binoculars, for he was separated from his family almost 50 years ago when the LoC was redrawn after the 1971 India-Pakistan war. His brother, Ghulam Mohammed, and sister, Ruzi Bi, are in Pharnu, where his ancestral home and fields are located. "I was a 25-year-old then and did not expect the war to separate me from my family. I have been watching them work in the fields using these binoculars," he says. In recent years, he has also been able to speak to them on Internet calls.

From Pakistan to India

Between the midnight of December 14 and December 16, 1971, the Indian Army captured four villages across several hundred square kilometers in the Shyok (which means 'river of death') Valley that were part of the Gilgit-Baltistan region in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Overnight, a population of about 1,200 in the villages of Turtuk, Thang, Thyaski and Chaluinka were cut off from Baltistan. A region that was part of the Skardu district in Baltistan became a part of Leh district in Ladakh.

Thang and Pharnu were twin villages before 1971, with villagers holding property and homes in both. Shah's parents and siblings were in Pharnu and Shah had stayed back in Thang on the night of December 15. "I slept as a Pakistani and woke up as an Indian in the morning. I could not do anything," he says. He was resigned to his fate. "I do not feel like going there, but it will be good if both countries talk and allow families to meet at least." Deep emotional scars remain among the elderly as almost all the Balti families in these villages have stories of painful separations to narrate after they were cut off from Gilgit-Baltistan abruptly.

Surrounded by the lofty and arid Himalayan mountains, Turtuk, the biggest of the four villages, on the banks of Shyok, offers a breathtaking view of apricot and walnut orchards. During winter, temperatures dip to -20°C and the area remains cut off.

Before Independence, these villages, nestled between the Karakoram and Himalayan ranges, maintained close ties



with Skardu due to a common language and culture. Their connections with Leh were limited to apricot and walnut trade. The road link to Leh over the Khardung-La (pass) ended at Diskit, about 100 km away. For those travelling by foot, geographically, Turtuk is almost equidistant from Kargil, Leh and Skardu, all trading towns in the famed Silk Route.

“We were self-sufficient villages. Apricot oil was used in cooking and milk products came from yak or cow. Salt was extracted from the mountain. Wheat and vegetables were grown in villages. Interaction with the civil government was negligible. It was after 1947 that the Baltis in the village came into contact with the Pakistan Army. Many worked as contractors or porters,” says Haji Mohammed Issu, 84, a farmer. Issu worked as a labourer in Gilgit and later as a porter in the Pakistan Army. After 1971, he worked with the Indian Army before age caught up with him.

Issu was playing volleyball with his friends when the initial news of a fierce gun battle between the armies in the nearby Chalunka village reached Turtuk. Fear gripped the villagers that chilly winter night. Only a few men stayed back at a house while women and children took shelter at a nullah in the upper reaches, braving the cold. It was only after personnel from Ladakhi Scouts and Nubra Guards offered rations that things calmed down. "The next morning, Baltis, as per the customary *faatba*, offered apricots to welcome the Army," Issu recalls.

At that time, Issu's uncle Abdul Raheem was in Turtuk, while his children Abdul Aziz and Basit Ali were in Skardu working as labourers. "I looked after my uncle till his death about 25 years ago. He died without seeing his children and was distraught all the time," Issu says. Abdul Raheem left a power of attorney for Issu to look after the house and land till the time his children returned from Gilgit. "They have bought homes there (Gilgit) now. They call us once in a while. There are many such cases where villagers have looked after elders who were separated from their children," Issu says.

Fifty years after the war, Abdul Raheem's mud and stone house is in a shambles as Issu finds it difficult to maintain it. Many homes whose owners now live across the border have met with the same fate.

Until recently, before social media platforms helped reconnect families, communication was next to impossible. Postal letters would reach Turtuk after several months. The first mobile tower in the area was set up in 2012. For some time before social media arrived, people communicated through video messages and family celebrations were shared on flash drives that came through posts.

A demand that remains unmet

For over three decades now, the Baltis have been seeking road connectivity between Turtuk and Pharnu that could reunite families, or at least a meeting point where families can get together. This demand has not been met. "Several requests have been made for a road or meeting point. Though the Indian Army is not averse to the idea, the Pakistan Army has been turning down the request, we are told. The least they could do is to get older people to meet their kin. Many have died without fulfilling this dream," says Ghulam Hussain Baig, a member of the Turtuk Farol Gram Panchayat. Baig's maternal uncle, Mohammed Ibrahim, who was at Skardud during the war, now lives in Rawalpindi. "Of the eight siblings of my mother, only he stays there. He is lonely. The family has not met him in 50 years," he says.

Ghulam's grandfather, the late Mohammad Ali Khan, was among the village elders who negotiated the transition of the Balti villages with the Indian Army. Elderly Baltis credit the legendary Major Chewang Rinchen for the smooth integration of these villages. In an early morning interaction on December 16 at a house in Turtuk, in which Khan and other elderly Baltis were present, Major Rinchen assuaged the fears of the Baltis. "Major Rinchen hailed from the adjacent Nubra Valley, and my grandfather and his father were friends. His presence as a local and assurances of protection to women and children helped ease anxiety, and people returned from hiding," Ghulam says.

When the border was redrawn, nobody abandoned Turtuk, Thang and Thaykshi, says Ghulam. However, all the families, barring two, in Chalunka hurriedly moved to Pakistan. Most in Chalunka moved due to fear as war clouds began to gather and a fierce gun fight had begun.

An emotional reunion

In Thang, about seven km from Turtuk, 'Goba' (village head) Mohammed Ali has been separated from his parents since he was five. He and his brother were brought up by his grandfather as his parents were in Pharnu. While his mother had moved towards the forests in Pharnu around the time the Indian Army was moving in, his father went towards Pakistan to look for his mother after the Army takeover had been completed. He also did not return. "I really missed my parents and seven siblings. I can imagine how my grandfather would have felt," says Goba Ali, now a popular figure among the Indian Baltis. His grandfather died in 1985. Goba Ali says the Indian Army has taken care of them.

After several years of multiple failed attempts to secure an Indian passport and later a Pakistan visa, Goba Ali finally made it to Gilgit-Baltistan in 2014. It was ironic that he had to travel nearly 3,000 km, crossing the border at Wagah in Punjab, to meet his parents who lived only a couple of km away from Thang.

"I was harassed by Pakistani authorities because I was working for the Indian Army. Even after the questioning, I remained in Islamabad for nearly two months. Before meeting my parents, I had mixed feelings. When I actually met them, I was crying. I cannot put in words what emotions went through my mind," he says. The video of an intense emotional reunion with his parents is available on YouTube.

According to Ghulam, who also works as an Army porter, four more persons from the Balti villages have met their families in Pakistan. In 2015, four elderly persons, including a woman,

came from Gilgit-Baltistan looking for their family members in Turtuk. Today, many in the younger generation, who were born after the war, like Ghulam, are not keen to visit their relatives in Pakistan though they connect with them on phone. "It is very expensive and a cumbersome process to travel. So, most of the elderly have given up and the younger generation is disconnected from their extended families," he says.

Unlike the neighbouring Kashmir Valley, armed insurgency has not been reported here. However, during the Kargil War, about 25 men from Turtuk, Thyakshi and Thang, who took their sheep for grazing in higher altitudes, were arrested for having received money and weapons. They were released from jail after two years. "The villagers had accepted the money because they were poor. They abandoned the weapons. We have not had such instances since then," Ghulam says.

The change of nationality for many, including Issu, did not matter for employment. If they had worked for the Pakistan Army before 1971, the Indian Army employed them later to be porters given their astute knowledge of the terrain. "Change of nationality did not affect the population here as far as livelihood issues were concerned. But family ties were irreversibly hit," Ghulam says.

In the village of Turtuk also lives the titular head of the Baltis, Mohammed Khan Kacho, a descendant of the Yabgo dynasty. He lives in a 16th century stone palace ravaged by Pakistani Army personnel in the 1950s. "There are no people in Turtuk without relatives in Pakistan. It has been a painful separation. In Islam, without *talak*, a remarriage is not possible. Several couples were separated and no communication from either side was possible. Some became mental wrecks," he says.

Kachoo, who traces his ancestry to Western Turkistan (in Central Asia), says most of the region in his erstwhile kingdom is now in Gilgit-Baltistan. He, too, like a majority of the Baltis, has not seen his clan, including his sisters and cousins, who live in Pakistan. His properties are being taken care of by his cousins. "I had raised the issue of facilitating family reunions at a designated place on the border. The Indian Army had agreed but it looks like the Pakistan military did not," he says. Kachoo says he has not attempted to visit Pakistan since it is too cumbersome. He has not considered entering politics to further the Balti cause, but says that it is the responsibility of elected representatives to take care of development and address these issues.

The Baltis say that a lot of the development in the villages took place after the area came under the Indian fold. "Hospital, school, ration and water has been taken care of," Kacho says. Issu points out electricity supply and roads

as measures of development. "There was nothing much here till 1971 and the civil administration had turned its back on the region," Issu says.

For the elderly Baltis, development apart, the larger issue is of interactions with relatives across the border. "If trade and interactions can take place at Wagah border in Punjab or between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, why is it being denied to us," asks an elderly person at Turtuk.

A thriving culture

While families distressed by the separation carry emotional scars, the last five decades have seen the Balti population (now about 3,000) holding on to its culture and tradition. A population that practised Tibetan Buddhism till the 14th century converted to Sufi Islam due to the influence of Hazrat Shah Hamadan from Iran during his second visit to Baltistan in 1383 CE. Navros, the Zoroastrian new year, and the Apricot Blossom festival are celebrated with much pomp along with hard polo games on Zanskari horses in an ancient polo ground at Turtuk. Continuing a centuries-old tradition, the Baltis store butter for decades in 'natural cold storage' (a stone structure below the ground). Despite the introduction of Hindi and English in schools, Balti continues to be the language of the people.

But several educated Baltis have moved out looking for greener pastures. The Army Goodwill School at Thyakshi remains popular. Hydro-generated power has arrived, and DG sets are used for power supply in winter.

After nearly four decades of restricting entry to outsiders, the government now allows tourists into the villages. Turtuk and Thyakshi were opened in 2010, but till August 2021, tourists could see the Pakistan posts through binoculars only from outside Thang. Since mid-August this year, tourists are allowed inside Thang after intense identity checks. They now have a closer look at 'Zero Point', the LoC.

From having just two guesthouses before 2010 to nearly 40 homestays, hotels and campsites now, Turtuk has been welcoming visitors curious to see the ramparts of bunkers built by the Pakistani Army or the school built by Pakistan which is now being run by the Indian administration. More than 50 families have their men in the Indian Army and most are connected to the army in one way or the other. Connectivity has improved. Earlier there was just one State transport bus a week; now there are four shared taxis daily to Leh.

But for this small ethnic population, the pain of separation from their families has lingered for five decades. The wait for the warm hugs and banter with their family members remains a mirage, overshadowed by war and diplomatic obstacles.



FROM PAGE ONE

CJI for special panels to probe police ‘atrocities’

The observation came when the court was reserving judgment on petitions filed by suspended Additional Director General of Police Gurjinder Pal Singh in Chhattisgarh. He had sought protection from arrest in various criminal cases, including sedition, extortion and criminal intimidation, arraigned against him by the current government.

The court, in its order on Friday, refused to protect

Mr. Singh in a corruption case filed against him. However, it protected him in the sedition and extortion cases till the High Court decided them on merit in two months.

The court recently made oral observations in the case about how police officers act with impunity with one government but have to “pay back with interest” when there is a regime change.

Amarinder, Rawat spar as Cong. crisis continues

“In Cabinet meetings, there were heated discussions on the issue and later, many prominent Ministers came to Delhi with a complaint that now with Capt. Amarinder at the helm of affairs, Congress can’t win the elections,” he said.

“After prolonged discussions, the Chief Minister agreed to implement 18 points, which included Bargari, drugs etc. – issues that were suggested by the panel to the Congress president. He did not implement even one out of these 18 points.”

He said, “43 MLAs told the party that despite repeated efforts we could not get anything done by Capt. Singh, so please call a CLP (Congress Legislature Party) meeting; otherwise we are going to call a separate meeting. I tried to contact Amarinder Singhji thrice, but I could not get him on telephone.”

“Then I suggested to the party high command, that if we delay the matter then many MLAs may form a separate group or may create some problem for the party. It was then decided to call a CLP meeting,” said Mr Rawat, adding “No humiliation was done to him.”

The senior Congress leader alleged that after Capt. Amarinder met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the theory of humiliation is being circulated to gain the sympathy of the people.

Countering the allegations, Capt. Amarinder in a statement said: “Three weeks before stepping down

as CM, I had offered my resignation to Mrs. Sonia Gandhi but she had asked me to continue.”

Stating that the humiliating manner in which he was pushed into resigning just hours before the CLP meeting, which was clearly convened to oust him, was a matter of public record, he said, “The world saw the humiliation and the insult heaped on me, and yet Mr. Rawat is making claims to the contrary.”

“If this was not humiliation then what was it?” Capt. Amarinder said.

The former CM of Punjab recalled that Mr. Rawat himself had publicly stated after meeting him that he was satisfied by his government’s track record on the 2017 poll promises. In fact, the Mr. Rawat had categorically stated, as recently as September 1, that the 2022 elections would be fought under his (Capt. Amarinder’s) leadership and the high command had no intention of replacing him, he pointed out. “So how can he now claim that the party leadership was dissatisfied with me, and if they were, then why did he deliberately keep me in the dark all this time?” he asked.

On Mr. Rawat’s remarks that he [Capt. Amarinder] seemed to be under pressure, the former Chief Minister said the only pressure he had been under for the past few months was that of his own loyalty to the Congress, because of which he continued to tolerate insult after insult.

You are choking Delhi, SC tells farmers

The Bench directed the petitioner to serve an advance copy of their petition on the Attorney General and listed the case for Monday.

The court also ordered the organisation to file an affidavit “declaring they are not part of the protest being carried out, blocking the highways”.

The mahapanchayat has

argued that the “patently discriminatory, arbitrary and unreasonable action” of the Delhi Police in preventing it from holding peaceful and non-violent satyagraha at a designated place in Jantar Mantar is in violation of basic democratic rights enunciated as fundamental rights under the Constitution.

GST collections hit 5-month high in Sept.

Indirect tax collected on domestic transactions, including the import of services, were 20% higher in September, compared to the same month in 2020.

The significant increase in GST collections both from import and domestic transactions and the marked increase in the collections in key States indicates country-wide acceleration in business activities, said M.S. Mani, senior director at Deloitte India. “Most of the key manufacturing States are reporting a growth of over 20%,” he pointed out.

Among the major States, GST revenues grew 29% in Karnataka, 28% in Gujarat, followed by 22% in Maharashtra and 21% each in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Telangana recorded a 25% surge in revenues, while Odisha saw a sharper 40% rise.

“The average monthly gross GST collection for the second quarter of the current year has been ₹1.15 lakh crore, which is 5% higher than the average monthly collection of ₹1.10 lakh crore in the first quarter of the year. This clearly indicates that the economy is recovering at a fast pace,” the Finance Ministry said.

“Although the pace of growth eased relative to the 30% logged in August 2021, this owes to a normalising base,” noted Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA. “The release of GST compensation cess of ₹22,000 crore will benefit the States’ cash flow situation, allowing accelerated spending in the third quarter of 2021-22 that would complement the expected boost to central government spending after the easing of cash management guidelines,” she said.

Punjab CM urges PM to withdraw farm laws

Channi calls on Modi, requests him to end deadlock

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

At his first meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi urged him to end the deadlock with the agitating farmers by repealing the three farm laws and resuming talks.

During his meeting, the Chief Minister also requested that the procurement of paddy in Punjab be commenced immediately; the process has been put off till October 10.

“I asked the PM to resolve the matter of farmers’ protest and resume dialogue with the protesting farmers. I demanded that the three laws should be scrapped,” Mr. Channi told reporters after his meeting with Mr. Modi.

Since November 26 last year, farmers have been protesting outside the Delhi border as well as a few other States. Though the Centre has held a few rounds of talks with the farmers’ association, there has no breakthrough as the farmers have been insisting on repealing the three laws.

“I have told him that Punjab’s economy is agriculture driven and Punjab can only progress if our farmers and



Warm greetings: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi in New Delhi on Friday. •PTI

farm labourers are happy,” the Chief Minister said.

Kartarpur Corridor

The newly appointed Chief Minister also requested the Prime Minister to reopen the Kartarpur Corridor that had been closed as part of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Amid an ongoing crisis in the Punjab Congress over the resignation of State unit chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, the newly appointed Chief Minister returned to Chandigarh without meeting the party’s top leadership.

Sources in the party however said no meetings were scheduled because the high

command did not want to send a signal that it was trying to micro-manage the issue and wanted the State leadership to resolve the problem with Mr. Sidhu.

In a parallel development, Congress president Sonia Gandhi met former Madhya Pradesh chief minister and party veteran Kamal Nath on Friday.

As Mr. Nath is known to be close to former Punjab Chief Minister Capt. (retd.) Amarinder Singh, the meeting fuelled speculation about developments on the Punjab crisis. However, there was no official word on the meeting.

INTERVIEW | ANIL BALUNI

‘Zero tolerance for corruption in Uttarakhand’

‘No charge has been made against BJP, which is a big departure from the regime headed by Harish Rawat of the Congress’

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha MP **Anil Baluni**, who is also the national media head for the BJP, speaks on the upcoming Assembly election in Uttarakhand and the reasons for multiple changes of Chief Ministers, but denies any schisms within the party.

The BJP changed three CMs in Uttarakhand within a year. Is it a good message going into the polls?

■ The changes reflect our thinking that like in football whoever is close to the goal post is given the pass. Thus Trivendra Singh Rawat passed the ball to Pushkar Singh Dhami and he will be the striker to score the goal. Whatever is required for the State of Uttarakhand and its welfare will be done.

There were issues like the Devasthanam Board Act that had hurt feelings in the State but that hasn’t been reversed yet.

■ In Trivendra Rawatji’s time, we had set up the Devasthanam Board, we have

the *Chardham* in Uttarakhand and in *Devbhoomi* (abode of the gods – a term that refers to Uttarakhand) there were many such religious places. But we found that there was some uneasiness among the *pandas* and *purohits* in these places of worship. They are our brothers and part of our society and, therefore, we took them on board and set up a committee, under the leadership of our senior leader and MP Manohar Kant Dhyani to review the Act, to address all the objections to the Board.

When Tirath Singh Rawat was appointed Chief Minister, wasn’t the fact that he would need to fight a bypoll for the Assembly taken into account? Why then was he removed?

■ When he was made Chief Minister, there was a little more than a year left for the term of the Assembly. But circumstances intervened in the form of the second wave of COVID-19 when bypolls or any other elections were not being held, and thus such a decision had to be taken.

Bypolls have been held for West Bengal and other Assemblies. Couldn’t polls have been held in Uttarakhand for one seat?

■ At that particular time (when Tirath Singh Rawat quit) there was no prospect of polls being held, and as more and more days were passing and the Assembly elections were looming, we had to take the decision that we did.

The big regional rivalry in Uttarakhand is said to be Kumaon vs Garhwal. Now with a Chief Minister from Kumaon, it is said that there is widespread resentment in

Unions challenge delay in paddy procurement

They plan protests from tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A number of farmer unions from Punjab and Haryana have raised objections to the Centre’s decision to postpone procurement of paddy in both States until October 11, citing higher moisture content due to rainfall. The unions have called on farmers to protest the move outside the homes of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Jan-nayak Janta Party (JJP) legislators from Saturday.

Procurement of paddy at minimum support prices (MSP) for the 2021-2022 kharif marketing season was originally scheduled to start on October 1 in Punjab, and from September 25 in Haryana.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha platform of protesting unions, the majority of which are based in Punjab and Haryana, plans to hold protests against the postponement from Saturday, by gheraoing legislators from the BJP and its ally the JJP, as well as District Commissioners’ offices. “The government’s excuse that it is being done due to delayed rains has no validity because the government itself has sanctioned short term varieties of paddy which are ready and which are waiting in the markets,” said a state-



Harvested paddy has started arriving at markets in Punjab and Haryana.

“From 10 o’clock [on Saturday], Haryana farmers should take their paddy to the homes of BJP-JJP MLAs and demand that their paddy be weighed right there,” said Rakesh Tikait, leader of another faction of the BKU.

The Food Ministry stated, “Procurement of paddy at high moisture content is fraught with risk of increase in damage percentage of rice grain. Also the grain will become vulnerable to shrivelling, blackening, discoloration and prone to infestation. This may lead to rejection at procurement centres and would lead to distress sale of paddy and consequent loss to the farmers.” “The better course would be to harvest the paddy crop offered after a period of 10 days i.e. after proper maturity then the problem of moisture can be minimised,” it added.



Minister under whom the party wins an election is repeated. It is being said that the same might be repeated for Uttarakhand.

■ What is decided later is a matter for the party, but the fact is that the captain of our team is Pushkar Singh Dhami and our entire team is fighting alongside him. State unit chief Madan Kaushik will lead the party and Dhamiji will lead the government. Our goal is to win the poll.

Through these chief ministerial changes what do you think is the achievement of the government that you will go to the people with?

■ The Uttarakhand government under BJP has zero tolerance for corruption and its our record that no allegation of corruption has been laid against our door. This is a big departure from what was there under the Harish Rawat government of the Congress. Under the Congress,

Modi launches missions for better cities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation would be aimed at making cities free of garbage and ensuring safe drinking water. It would also be ensured that no untreated water was discharged into any of the rivers in the country.

Launching the second edition of the mission, he applauded the country for fulfilling the pledge of making it free of open defecation.

Mr. Modi said that people came to cities seeking a better life. Even if they managed to find employment, their living standards often suffered. It was a double whammy for workers: first they were away from their homes and then they were forced to live in deplorable conditions, he stated, adding that the missions would improve cities.

India was processing about one lakh tonnes of waste every day. Under the new phases of the two missions, the garbage mountains that pile up at the borders of cities would be processed and completely removed, the Prime Minister said.

there was politics of appeasement in this *Devbhoomi*; then chief minister Harish Rawat used to visit the holy shrines of only one particular community and instituted the Jumma holiday. When the BJP came to power we made sure we took every community along and ended the politics of appeasement. Our government provides ₹1 per litre water in the State and has covered every household under the Atal Ayushman Yojana. Uttarakhand is the first State where women have equal rights to property.

The Haridwar Kumbh saw a big scam with regard to fake testing and other controversies, will this affect your prospects?

■ You people unfairly compared the Prayag Kumbh to the Hardwar Kumbh. The scam of testing that you are talking about was not at the level it has been portrayed, there were issues but the government is dealing with it.

Chirag seeks LJP symbol for bypolls

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

The Chirag Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party has claimed the right to use party’s name and symbol for the upcoming bypoll on two Assembly seats in Bihar, and has written to the Election Commission to reject the claim of his estranged uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras to be party president.

The bypoll on two seats – Tarapur in Munger and Kusheshwarsthan in Darbhanga – is scheduled for October 30 with results to be announced on November 2.

“Paras’ claim of being the party president also violates the party’s constitution,” said Abdul Khaliq, general secretary of the LJP (Chirag faction).

However, Mr. Paras has asserted that LJP and its election symbol – the bungalow – belonged to his faction only.

Meanwhile, the RJD has announced that it will contest both the seats.

Modi praises Rajasthan Chief Minister Gehlot

‘Trust, faith strengths of democracy’

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot during a foundation stone laying ceremony of medical colleges in the State, even as the senior Congress leader is caught in a war of nerves with the party’s high command over sharing of power with the rival camp led by his former deputy, Sachin Pilot.

Mr. Modi thanked Mr. Gehlot at the virtual event on Thursday for trusting him with a number of tasks. He said this kind of “friendship, trust and faith” was the real strength of democracy. The Chief Minister had opened his heart and expressed his faith in a display of strong relationship, he stated.

“I was listening to the Chief Minister of Rajasthan. He has given a long list of projects. His political ideology and party is different and mine is different, but he has so much faith in me.

His political ideology and party is different and mine is different, but he has so much faith in me

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

This friendship, trust and faith is a big strength of democracy,” Mr. Modi noted.

Mr. Gehlot had requested the Prime Minister to take a decision for opening medical colleges in the remaining districts of the State, approve a medical device park in Jodhpur and a bulk drug park in Kota. The virtual programme marked the foundation stone laying of medical colleges in Banswara, Sirohi, Hanumangarh and Dausa districts.

Mr. Modi’s remarks assumed significance amid speculations that former Punjab Chief Minister Captain (retd.) Amarinder Singh may forge a relationship with the Bharatiya Janata Party, which is exploring its options in that State.

IN BRIEF



Khurshid for talks between party leaders

NEW DELHI

With P. Chidambaram expressing helplessness over lack of “meaningful conversations” within the Congress, party colleague Salman Khurshid on Friday said he had hoped the discussions the former Finance Minister spoke of might have been led by him. “But of course Mr. Chidambaram let us all talk, not just talk but talk with each other,” he wrote on Facebook. •PTI

Digvijaya Singh seeks probe into drug seizure

JAIPUR

Veteran Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh on Friday demanded a judicial inquiry into the seizure of heroin worth ₹21,000 crore at the Mundra Port in Gujarat, saying he had no faith in the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Mr. Singh alleged that some BJP leaders were involved in drug smuggling.

China sends 25 jets into Taiwan air zone

Show of force came as Beijing marked its National Day; Taiwan scrambles aircraft to warn them

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TAIPEI

Taiwan said 25 Chinese military planes crossed into its defence zone on Friday, the same day that Beijing marked the founding of the People's Republic of China and its biggest incursion there in months.

The show of force on China's National Day near the self-ruled democratic island, which Beijing claims as part of its territory, came in the same week it accused Britain of sending a warship to the Taiwan Strait with "evil intentions".

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said it scrambled its aircraft to broadcast warnings on Friday after 22 Chinese fighters,



Rising tensions: A Chinese bomber flying near the Taiwan ADIZ, in this file photo. ■ AP/TAIWAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

two nuclear-capable bombers and one anti-submarine aircraft entered the island's southwest Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ).

China often sends military aircraft into Taiwan's air defence zone to display displeasure and last week it flew 24 planes into the zone after Taiwan applied to join a ma-

jor trans-Pacific trade pact.

China's authoritarian leaders have vowed to one day seize Taiwan, by force if necessary.

It has ramped up pressure on Taipei since the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen, who views the island as "already independent".

Continuous incursions

Last year, Chinese military jets made a record 380 incursions into Taiwan's defence zone, and the number of incursions for the first nine months of this year has already exceeded 500.

The incursion on Friday was the biggest since 28 jets breached Taiwan's ADIZ on June 15.

It came after Britain sent a warship through the Taiwan Strait on Monday for the first time since 2008, a move that challenged Beijing's claim to the sensitive waterway and marked a rare voyage by a non-U.S. military vessel.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre Command lashed out at the voyage, accusing Britain of acting out of "evil intentions to sabotage peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait".

U.S. warships regularly conduct "freedom of navigation" exercises in the waterway separating Taiwan and mainland China, triggering angry responses from Beijing.

Divided, House Democrats delay vote on \$1 tn infra Bill

No agreement on the social spending and climate action Bill

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

Despite frenetically working late into Thursday night, Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives failed to vote on a \$1 trillion infrastructure Bill as moderate and progressive factions could not agree on a second 'once in a generation' social spending and climate action Bill, for which U.S. President had requested \$3.5 trillion. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said the infrastructure vote will take place on Friday.

"There will be a vote today," Ms. Pelosi said just past midnight (i.e., early Friday), as per the *New York Times*.

Failure to pass the social spending package is likely to damage Democrats' prospects in the 2022 midterms and also in the general election ins 2024. Both the Bills define Mr. Biden's domestic agenda, with the White House having proposed the American Jobs Plan (infrastructure) and the American Families Plan (social spending) earlier this year, as a way to 'Build Back Better'.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki released a statement at around 11 p.m. on Thursday night, saying a "great deal of progress" had been made this week and that an agreement was closer than ever, "but we are not there yet."

Mr. Biden and his team had been meeting with lawmakers and making a series of calls in the run-up to Thursday.

"Nobody should be surprised that we are where we are, because we've been telling you that for three and a half months," said Democrat Pramila Jayapal, head of the Congressional Progressive



Finding common ground: Nancy Pelosi is surrounded by mediapersons as she arrives at the U.S. Capitol on Friday. ■ AFP

Caucus, as per a report in the *New York Times*.

The infrastructure Bill – which seeks to revitalise America's roads, bridges, airports, railroads, broadband and so forth – has bipartisan support, with the Senate having already passed it in August. Progressives, however, are concerned that they will lose leverage if the deal on traditional infrastructure deal passes without the \$3.5 trillion 'human infrastructure' Bill, which will allocate spending on healthcare, education, childcare and climate action.

Democrats hold a majority of eight in the House but the Senate is tied 50-50 with Vice-President Kamala Harris holding a tie-breaking vote. For the social spending Bill to get to the President's desk for his signature, the Senate too will need to pass it. For this, Democrats plan to use the 'budget reconciliation' – a process that needs a simple majority (as opposed to a super majority).

Critical to the plan are two centrist Senate Democrats – Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona. Mr. Manchin, on Thursday, stuck to his guns

– a top line figure of \$1.5 trillion for the social spending Bill – and said that people ought to elect more progressives if they wanted a higher number.

"I don't fault any of them who believe that they're much more progressive and much more liberal, God bless them. And all they need to do is, we have to elect more liberals," he told reporters at a press gaggle.

Ms. Sinema was at the White House multiple times this week and Mr Biden had cancelled a visit to Chicago on Wednesday so he could stay in Washington and work with lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Democrats were hoping to get the two Senators to agree to a figure of \$2.1 trillion, *Politico* reported.

"This is not a baseball game. This is the most significant piece of legislation in 70 years," former Democratic Primary candidate and independent Senator from Vermont, Bernie Sanders, said.

Mr. Sanders has called on his fellow progressives in the House to not vote for the infrastructure Bill unless agreement is reached on passing the \$3.5 trillion Bill.

As Beijing faces power crisis, firms told to secure supplies

Fuel crunch shuts factories, threatens growth, global supply

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

China's top state-owned energy companies have been ordered to ensure there are adequate fuel supplies for the approaching winter at all costs, a report said on Friday, as the country battles a power crisis that threatens to hit growth in the world's number two economy.

The country has been hit by widespread power cuts that have closed or partially closed factories, hitting production and global supply chains.

The crisis has been caused by a confluence of factors, including rising overseas demand as economies reopen, record coal prices, state electricity price

controls and tough emissions targets.

More than a dozen provinces and regions have been forced to impose curbs on energy usage.

Bloomberg News, citing people familiar with the matter who did not want to be named, reported that Vice Premier Han Zheng had told energy companies to make sure there is enough fuel to keep the country running and that Beijing would not tolerate blackouts.

Mr. Han, who supervises the nation's energy sector and industrial production, was speaking at an emergency meeting this week with officials from Beijing's state-owned assets regulator and economic planning agency, the people said.

"It is probably a strong signal about how concerned China is regarding keeping industry going, and more importantly, the winter that is just around the corner," said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at OANDA.

Coal-reliant economy

Nearly 60% of the Chinese economy is powered by coal, but supply in the world's largest coal importer has been disrupted by the pandemic and squeezed by falling imports amid a trade tiff with Australia.

Data released on Thursday showed China's factory activity contracted last month for the first time since February 2020, when the country was under lockdown.

Amid abuse accusations, Xinjiang gets new leader

Tuniyaz is a defender of Chinese policies

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING

China has appointed a new Governor for Xinjiang, where the ruling Communist Party is accused of carrying out mass detentions and other abuses against members of the Uighur and other Muslim minority groups.

A former Vice-Governor, Erkin Tuniyaz, 59, an ethnic Uighur, gained some notoriety for delivering a vociferous defence of Chinese policies in the northwestern region, particularly the use of facilities critics call detention centres but which China says are intended for vocational training and deradicalisation and turning the region's residents away from terrorism and extremism.

In his February video ad-



Erkin Tuniyaz

dress to the United Nations, Mr. Tuniyaz said: "All trainees of these facilities had graduated" by October 2019 and now had "stable jobs and are living a normal life."

Observers say the camp system has been expanded with more permanent facilities, while ex-detainees say they were subjected to brutal conditions and political indoctrination intended to separate them from their traditional culture and religion.

Sri Lanka lifts lockdown, retains curfew at night

Ban on gatherings and parties remains

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Friday lifted a near six-week lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19 but maintained a night curfew and a ban on public gatherings and parties.

Daily deaths had jumped to over 250 with 4,000 infections after Sri Lankans celebrated the traditional Sinhala and Tamil New Year in mid-April, but case numbers have since eased.

The Health Ministry has urged companies to encourage staff to work from home but there was no decision yet on reopening schools.

"It is imperative to maintain the progress made to curb COVID-19 infections and the dreaded daily death toll," Health Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said.

Official figures show nearly 13,000 deaths, with more than half a million infections, but experts say the actual numbers could be at least twice as much.

The easing of restrictions came as the government aggressively pushes a vaccination drive, fully inoculating 56% of the population of 21 million. Numbers attending weddings and funerals will be restricted to a maximum of 10 till October 15.

Iran begins war games near Azerbaijan border

Aliyev slams Tehran for holding drill

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

The Iranian Army's ground forces began holding manoeuvres near the country's border with Azerbaijan on Friday, state media reported, despite criticism from its neighbour.

The exercises took place in northwestern Iran, said state television, which showed tanks, howitzers and helicopters firing at targets on the ground.

"We respect good neighbourly relations but we do not tolerate the presence of Zionist regime (Israeli) elements and Islamic State terrorists in the region,"

ground forces commander Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari told state TV.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev had criticised the Iranian war games. "Every country can carry out any military drill on its own territory. It's their sovereignty right. But why now, and why on our border?" he told said.

His comments were rebuffed by Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh. "The drills carried out by our country in the northwest border areas... are a question of sovereignty," Mr. Khatibzadeh said.

Covid-19 pill hailed for 'reducing deaths by 50%'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

In a potential leap forward in the global fight against the pandemic, drugmaker Merck said on Friday that its experimental pill for people sick with COVID-19 reduced hospitalisations and deaths by half.

That could add a whole new weapon to an arsenal that already includes the COVID-19 vaccine.


The company said it will soon ask health officials in the U.S. and around the world to authorise the pill's use. A decision from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration could come within weeks after that, and the drug, if it gets the nod, could be distributed quickly soon afterward.

If cleared, it would be the first pill shown to treat COVID-19. All other therapies now authorised in the U.S. require an IV or injection. A pill taken at home, by contrast, would ease pressure on hospitals.

Merck and its partner Ridgeback Biotherapeutics said early results showed patients who received the drug, molnupiravir, within five days of COVID-19 symptoms had about half the rate of hospitalisation and death as those who received a dummy pill.

The study tracked 775 adults with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who were considered to be at higher risk for severe disease because of health problems such as obesity, diabetes or heart disease.

Merck studied its drug only in people who were not vaccinated. But FDA regulators may consider authorising it for broader use.

**ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED**
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA,
PIN:751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020, e-Mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM

"e" Procurement Notice No. 05 /OCCL/2021-22 (on-line)

Type of Work :- Dredging Maintenance Work
Total Nos of Works :- 01 (One) No.

Sl. No.	Bid Identification No.	Period of Completion	Amount Put to Tender (approx) (Rs. in lakhs)	Bid Security	Availability of Tender (on-line)	Submission of Tender (on-line)
01	OCCL-TIP/ 01/2021-22	24 (Twenty four) calendar months	Rs.2762.55 Lakh	Bid Security Declaration as per W.D.O.M No.5984, dt.27.04.2021 is to be furnished	From 04.10.2021, 10.00 AM to 01.11.2021 up to 5.30 PM	From 04.10.2021, 10.00 AM to 01.11.2021 up to 5.30 PM

Procurement Officer – Managing Director, Odisha Construction Corporation Limited
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid: 02.11.2021, 12.00 Noon
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>
MANAGING DIRECTOR
CAD-1375
OIPR-34120110006/2122

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE, BALANGIR
e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION No. CCE(R&B) BGR/06/2021-22
No.2549 // Dtd.28.09.2021

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate composite bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for the construction of works detailed in the table below from **A/Special Class** Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

2. Nature of Work :- Building Work
3. No. of tender :- Buildings - 09 no's.
4. Tender Cost :- Rs.10,000/-
5. Class of Contractor :- A/ Special
6. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids :- From DL05.10.2021, 10.00 A.M. to DL25.10.2021 up to 05.00 P.M.
7. Date of Opening of Bid :- DL26.10.2021 at 11.00 A.M.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>. All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.

Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir.
B-436:
OIPR-34131/11/0005/2122

**THE MARINE PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)
Panampilly Nagar, Kochi 682 036, KERALA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

MPEDA invites bids from reputed and experienced companies for Automation of Farm enrolment and development of Web GIS portal. The details of requirements and terms & conditions are available in the E-procurement portal: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and MPEDA website: <https://mpeda.gov.in/>. The last date for submission of bid is 22/10/2021 upto 17:00 hrs.

Sd/- Secretary, MPEDA

**KARNATAKA FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.,**
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Hoige Bazar, Mangaluru - 575 001, Ph.No: (0824) 2421281/ 82
Fax: (0824) 2424560 E-mail: kfdcltd@yahoo.com Website: www.karnatakfsheries.com
KFDC/Tadadi/Licence/MT/C/TENDER/04/2021-22 DATED: 01-10-2021
(e- tender No. KFDC/Tadadi/Licence/MT/C/TENDER/04/2021-22 DTD: 04-08-2021)

Corrigendum-2 of Short Term E-Tender NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement Portal Only)(Two Cover System)
Managing Director, Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd, Hoige Bazar, Mangalore invites Bids for licensing of EU Standards Marine Export Unit (KFDC-UNIT 3) at Fishing Harbour Tadri, Kumta Taluk, Uttara Kannada District for a period of 10 years from reputed Firms/Individuals/ Companies to operate, maintain and Transfer (OMT) basis. With their competitive rates.

Name of the Work: "Licensing of EU Standards Marine Export Unit (KFDC-UNIT3) at Fishing Harbour Tadri, Kumta Taluk, Uttara Kannada District", EMD: Rs.5,00,000/- Tenderers are requested to submit tenders Only through e-procurement portal. Government of Karnataka:<http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in> cost of document: as per e-portal norms. Tender documents can be downloaded from e-procurement portal from 04-08-2021 to 08-10-2021 up to 4.00pm. Last date for uploading tender is **08-10-2021 up to 4.00pm**. Technical Bid of tender opening date 11-10-2021 at 11.00AM.Commercial Bid of tender opening date 13-10-2021 at 4.30 PM. Tenderers who have not registered with e- procurement portal may get registered immediately and participate the tender.

Sd/- Managing Director, KFDC Ltd., Mangalore

**KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION**
(Govt. of India, Ministry of MSME)
Divisional Office, Maharanipeta, Dandu Bazar, D.No. 13-28-8, Sri Hari Plaza, 1st floor, Visakhapatnam, AP-530002.

INVITING SEALED TENDERS FOR SUPPLY OF HONEY BEE BOXES WITH LIVE BEE COLONIES, TOOL KITS & EXTRACTORS UNDER HONEY MISSION PROGRAMME 2021-22

THE DIVISIONAL OFFICE, KVIC - VISAKHAPATNAM INVITES SEALED TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF 400 NUMBERS OF APIS MELLIFERA BEE BOXES WITH BEE COLONIES (LIVE STOCK), 40 NUMBERS OF TOOL KITS AND 08 NUMBERS OF APIS MELLIFERA STAINLESS STEEL EXTRACTORS (FOUR FRAME SIZE) FROM THE SUPPLIERS / MANUFACTURERS. PARTICULARS OF SUPPLY ARE MENTIONED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENT. COST OF BEE BOXES, LIVE BEE COLONY WITH TOOLKITS AND EXTRACTORS WOULD BE INCLUDING ALL TAXES + GST + TRANSPORTATION). SUPPLY SHOULD BE AT DESIRED PLACES WITH IN THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH ONLY.

THE TENDER DOCUMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT DIVISIONAL OFFICE, KVIC, VISAKHAPATNAM FROM 2ND OCTOBER (10.00 AM TO 05.30 PM EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS). COST OF TENDER DOCUMENT IS OF RS. 2000/- (RUPEES TWO THOUSAND ONLY). THE TENDER DOCUMENT WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED BIDDERS THROUGH E-MAIL ON PAYMENT.

THE SEALED TENDERS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED PERSONALLY OR BY POST TO THE DIVISIONAL OFFICE AS ADDRESS MENTIONED ABOVE ON OR BEFORE 23RD OCTOBER 2021 (BEFORE 04.00 PM). RULES & SPECIFICATIONS MENTIONED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENT SHOULD BE ADHERED STRICTLY.

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL BIDS SHOULD BE FILLED SEPARATELY BY MENTIONING IT CLEARLY ON THE COVER AS "TENDER FOR HONEY MISSION". EMD OF UNSUCCESSFUL BIDDER WILL BE REFUNDED AFTER FINALIZATION OF TENDER WITHIN 30 DAYS.

OPENING OF TENDER IS ON 27TH OCTOBER 2021 AT 03.00 PM AT VISAKHAPATNAM. FOR ANY OTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT OVER PHONE OR E-MAIL (KVIC - 0891-2565904 / 2561156 / KVICVIZAG@GMAIL.COM) ON ALL WORKING DAYS.

(NOTE:- KVIC HAS RESERVED ALL RIGHTS TO ACCEPT OR REJECT OR CANCEL TENDERS)

DATE: 02.10.2021 **SD/- DIVISIONAL DIRECTOR**
KVIC, VISAKHAPATNAM, A.P.

APPOINTMENT

**SRI VENKATESWARA VEDIC UNIVERSITY, TIRUPATI**
(Sponsored by TTD and Recognized by UGC)
Alipiri-Chandragiri By-pass Road, Tirupati - 517502

NOTIFICATION

Applications with detailed bio-data in a prescribed pro-forma as given in the website are invited from the candidates having highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment for the position of Vice-Chancellor. The applicant should be a distinguished academician having the background of traditional Vedic Learning with a minimum of 10 years experience as Professor in a University or 10 years experience in an equivalent position in a reputed research and/ or academic administrative organization, as per UGC norms, with a proof of having demonstrated academic leadership. The applications in a sealed cover should reach the Registrar, S.V. Vedic University, Tirupati on or before **30.10.2021 at 04.00 PM. Website : www.svvedicuniversity.ac.in.**

Date:01.10.2021 **Sd/- REGISTRAR (FAC)**

MISSING

Sunny Varghese Naronha, Age - 16 Years old, Boy from Pune, about 5 feet tall, White and Slender, Seen in this Photo has gone missing due to a case under Thampanoor Police Station, Crime - 975/2021 U/s - 57 (1) A of KP Act. Anyone with any information about the Child would like to report it to the nearest Police Station or to the following Phone Numbers.

- Thampanoor Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram City, Kerala State - **0471 - 2326543.**
- Inspector SHO, Thampanoor Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram City, Kerala State - **9497987013.**
- Sub Inspector of Police, Thampanoor Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram City - **9497980046.**

Sd/- Inspector of Police, Thampanoor Police Station,
Thiruvananthapuram City, Kerala State
(1651/F2/2021/1&PRD)

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
CENTRALISED ADMISSION COMMITTEE-CENTAC
Pondicherry Engineering College Campus, Puducherry - 605 014

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION TO PG MEDICAL COURSES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22

Online applications are invited from NEET PG Qualified candidates for admission to the first year PG (Medical) courses in the Government and Self Financing Medical Colleges in the UT of Puducherry. Applications are invited under Government / All India (Management) Quota. For more details visit www.centacpuducherry.in

IMPORTANT DATES

➤ Online application submission opens on : **02.10.2021**

➤ Last date for online submission of application : **18.10.2021**

CO-ORDINATOR (ADMISSION) CENTAC

No.169/DIP/AD(Press)/2021-22

MARKET WATCH

	01-10-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	58,766	-0.61
US Dollar	74.12	0.15
Gold	45,472	1.10
Brent oil	78.67	0.17

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	734.95	-2.95
Asian Paints	3177.85	-66.80
Axis Bank	768.15	1.60
Bajaj Auto	3852.60	19.95
Bajaj Finserv	17177.80	-608.95
Bajaj Finance	7522.75	-145.35
Bharti Airtel	675.90	-12.40
BPCL	433.05	0.85
Britannia Ind	3921.10	-27.85
Cipla	986.20	2.65
Coal India	188.70	3.60
Divis Lab	4832.30	33.60
Dr Reddys Lab	4955.85	75.15
Eicher Motors	2772.45	-17.75
Grasim Ind	1677.15	7.70
HCL Tech	1273.75	-5.80
HDFC	2711.65	-42.65
HDFC Bank	1582.70	-12.25
HDFC Life	729.45	7.05
Hero MotoCorp	2847.95	15.45
Hindalco	484.35	-3.60
Hind Unilever	2704.05	2.25
ICICI Bank	692.35	-8.50
IndusInd Bank	1104.05	-7.85
Infosys	1665.15	-10.05
Indian Oil Corp	127.40	2.10
ITC	235.35	-0.80
JSW Steel	674.25	5.95
Kotak Bank	1993.55	-11.95
L&T	1696.90	-6.05
M&M	827.85	24.80
Maruti Suzuki	7162.30	-175.75
Nestle India Ltd.	19549.95	104.40
NTPC	139.90	-1.95
ONGC	146.25	1.75
PowerGrid Corp	191.85	1.95
Reliance Ind	2523.70	4.45
SBI Life	1209.05	-6.05
State Bank	451.65	-1.35
Shree Cement	29099.55	198.00
Sun Pharma	826.60	8.35
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.	801.25	-12.35
Tata Motors	333.30	-0.05
Tata Steel	1297.85	8.95
TCS	3730.20	-45.35
Tech Mahindra	1371.25	-9.35
Titan	2163.75	1.90
UltraTech Cement	7483.55	87.45
UPL	712.65	4.95
Wipro	636.25	2.15

EXCHANGE RATES

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

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.92	74.24
Euro	85.62	85.99
British Pound	99.87	100.34
Japanese Yen (100)	66.51	66.80
Chinese Yuan	11.46	11.52
Swiss Franc	79.24	79.59
Singapore Dollar	54.43	54.68
Canadian Dollar	58.19	58.44
Malaysian Ringgit	17.67	17.77

Source:Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



LIC elevates Patnaik as managing director

MUMBAI Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has announced the elevation of B.C. Patnaik to the rank of MD with effect from October 1, 2021. Mr. Patnaik had joined LIC as a direct recruit officer in 1986. Prior to taking charge as MD, he was Secretary General, Council for Insurance Ombudsmen (CIO), Mumbai.

Zee board turns down Invesco plea for EGM

NEW DELHI Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. on Friday said its board had rejected the request of shareholders Invesco and Ofi Global China Fund, to convene an EGM to discuss various issues, including removal of managing director Punit Goenka, terming the request 'invalid and illegal'. PTI

September PMI signals uptick in manufacturing expansion

Index rises for third straight month; hiring remains in a rut, price pressures climb

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Manufacturing activity expanded at a slightly improved pace in September, IHS Markit's survey-based Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) signalled, even as raw material shortages and high fuel and transport costs intensified price pressures and pushed input cost inflation to a five-month high.

The index rose last month to 53.7, from August's 52.3, marking the third straight month of expansion, with consumer goods showing the highest growth in output and international sales picking up momentum. Business confidence also improved on expectations of increased



In a spot: Raw material shortages and high fuel and transport costs lifted input cost inflation to a 5-month high. •BLOOMBERG VIA GETTY IMAGES

production in the year ahead, despite the pandemic. A PMI reading above 50 marks an expansion.

However, employment showed little change for the second month in a row. The PMI survey, which had in Ju-

ly reported a resumption in hiring after 15 months of job losses, saw manufacturers pause hiring in August.

"Companies continued to purchase extra inputs in September, but jobs were little changed over the month,"

Surging power demand may spur coal crisis

REUTERS
CHENNAI

Utilities are scrambling to secure coal supplies as inventories hit critical lows after a surge in power demand from industries and sluggish imports due to record global prices push power plants to the brink.

More than half of India's 135 coal-fired power plants have fuel stocks of less than three days, government data showed, far short of guidelines recommending supplies of at least two weeks.

India is competing against buyers such as China, which is under pressure to ramp up imports amid a severe power crunch.



Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

Senior bureaucrats have likely already met to do the groundwork before a final approval by the GoM and may have identified the winner of the stake sale. Earlier in the day, Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management denied media reports that the Centre had approved Tata as the winning bidder.

'GoM to decide soon on winning bidder for AI'

Govt. denies reports on Tata as choice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Group of Ministers (GoM) led by Home Minister Amit Shah will meet soon to take a decision on the winning bidder for Air India, a top government official said on Friday.

"Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) will meet soon to decide," the official told *The Hindu* when asked about the outcome of the financial bids submitted by Tata Sons and SpiceJet's Ajay Singh last month. AISAM is the name given to the GoM headed by Amit Shah. It includes Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and

NMDC logs 29% rise in September sales

Posts 47% y-o-y increase in production

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Public sector mining major NMDC produced 2.69 million tonnes (MT) of iron ore and posted a sales of 2.73 MT in September, an increase of 47% and 29% respectively from the performance a year earlier.

Production and sales for the fiscal up to September stood at 17.71 MT and 18.50 MT respectively.

This translated into an increase of 45% and 43% respectively over the same period last year.

Stating that it was the best ever Q2 and half-yearly performance, CMD Sumit Deb said in a release on Friday that a focus to enhance mine capacity and streng-



then logistical support had significantly improved operational efficiency. With the performance, the "team has proven that NMDC is on a strong, stable footing to beat the challenges and absorb cyclical volatility."

Addressing the AGM on Thursday, Mr. Deb said NMDC expects to produce 47 MT in current fiscal. The production was 34.15 MT last fiscal.

Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit, said in the release. "In some instances, survey participants indicated that government guidelines surrounding shift work prevented hiring," she noted.

'Gearing up for demand'

Firms reporting growth cited favourable market conditions and improved sales volumes, aided by the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and strengthening demand.

"Manufacturers lifted production to a greater extent in September as they geared up for improvements in demand and the replenishment of stocks," Ms. De Lima observed.

September auto sales across segments hit by chip shortage

Maruti, M&M report double-digit decline in dispatches

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The domestic auto sector may be headed for a lacklustre festive season despite strong demand as vehicle production has been severely hit by the shortage of electronic components.

Major players such as Maruti, Hyundai and Mahindra & Mahindra, saw double-digit decline in vehicle dispatches to their dealers in September, ahead of the festive season that accounts for nearly 40% of the industry's annual sales.

Country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki said it sold 63,111 passenger vehicles

Exports rise 21%, exceed pre-pandemic Sept. level

Imports surge faster; deficit at a high

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports grew 21.3% year-on-year to \$33.44 billion in September, and were 28.5% higher than the pre-COVID level of September 2019. Merchandise imports, however, grew faster to \$56.38 billion, 84.8% higher than September 2020 and almost 50% over the pre-pandemic level, as per preliminary estimates.

Total merchandise exports in the first half of the year amounted to \$197.11 billion, close to 57% higher than 2020 and 23.8% more than in 2019. This means exports will have to gain further momentum over the rest of the year to meet the government's \$400 billion target for 2021-22.

The trade deficit hit a re-



cord of almost \$23 billion in September, widening the overall trade deficit in the current fiscal year to \$78.81 billion, more than a tripling from a year earlier, but still 11.4% below the 2019 level.

"With the surge in imports, merchandise trade deficit has ballooned to an all-time high in September; we now expect the current account to display a double-digit deficit in the second quarter," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA.

Performance of IBC not skewed: CEA

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian took on critics of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for labelling its performance as 'skewed' with low recovery rates, arguing they were 'cherry-picking' IBC data and a lot of the loans going through the IBC process were a result of 'crony lending' prior to 2014.

Speaking at the fifth annual day of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, the CEA said the average recovery rate is 45% under the IBC and this compared favourably with the U.S., where the rate is 59%. He said one ought not to ignore outliers and then conclude that recoveries amounted to only 25%.

NCLT, NCLAT draw most flak at IBC: Debroy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council Bibek Debroy said complaints about the efficacy of the IBC processes largely pertain to the functioning of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

Arguing that the IBC and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) are unique compared with similar mechanisms in other countries, he said, "Here is a regulator that doesn't enforce its rules. We have NCLT and NCLAT - most of the time, (when) people complain about the process, it is about them."



(PVs) in the domestic market last month, lower by 57% year-on-year. Hyundai Motor India wholesales was down 34% to 33,087 units during the month due to semiconductor supply constraints.

In the two-wheeler segment, TVS Motors sold 2,44,084 units in the domestic market last month, as

against 2,41,762 units in September 2020. "With pandemic restrictions easing and the festive season soon approaching, we expect the retails to improve significantly in the coming months," the company said.

Royal Enfield saw sales skid by 52% to 27,233 units as the ongoing global shortage of semiconductor chips and the recent lockdown in certain source markets had impacted volumes for September. "The situation improved towards the end of September, and availability of parts is expected to start scaling up from Q3 FY22," the company said.

Bharti to move court over DoT penalty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel said on Friday it would pursue legal options after the Department of Telecom (DoT) slapped penalties of ₹1,050 crore and ₹2,000 crore, respectively, on the firm and Vodafone Idea based on the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's recommendation five years ago, according to sources.

The DoT has given three weeks' time to the telecom operators to pay the penalty, a source said while sharing the content of the demand notice served to the companies on Thursday.

In 2016, TRAI had recommended penalising the firms for allegedly denying inter-connectivity to Jio.

'Ethanol production absorbed 2 MT of sugar'

'Current season may see 3.5 MT used'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

Almost two million tonnes (MT) of sugar were diverted for ethanol production during the last sugar season (October 2020 to September 2021), Sudhanshu Pandey, Food Secretary, said at a webinar on sugar output on Friday.

During the current season, which started on Friday, about 3.5 MT of sugar are expected to be used for ethanol production in the country.

"[The] ethanol journey has just begun. And, we look forward to new technological interventions in future, and align our policies and programmes in a manner that we make the best of



these value chains and enrich all stakeholders... and also help economies not only in India but globally to prosper," he said.

Abinash Verma, Director General of the Indian Sugar Mills Association, said the opening stock for the current sugar season is 8.5 MT and production is estimated to be 31 MT. Exports would account for close to six million tonnes.

SPORT

Manu takes air pistol gold

Esha, Ganemat, Rudrankksh win silver; bronze for Ramita

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU
LIMA

Youth Olympics champion Manu Bhaker was crowned the champion in air pistol as she beat compatriot Esha Singh by 1.3 points in the final of the junior World Championship here.

Rhythm Sangwan finished fourth.

In women's skeet, Ganemat Sekhon came up with a commendable fare but was beaten to the gold in the shoot-off, after being tied on 46 in the final with USA's Alishia Fayth Layne.

Rudrankksh Patil and Ramita won silver and bronze medals in the men's and women's air rifle events respectively.

With one gold, three silver and one bronze, India was second in the medals ta-



Manu Bhaker. •FILE PHOTO

ble behind USA, which had three gold, two silver and a bronze.

The results: Men: Air pistol: 1. Abdul-Aziz Kurdzi (Blr) 236.8 (576), 2. Martin Freije Torneiro (Esp) 235.5 (582), 3. Eduard Baumeister (Ger) 215.4 (574), 4. Naveen 196.6 (584), 6. Sarabjot Singh 157.0 (584), 8. Vijayveer Sidhu 115.6 (581).

Air rifle: 1. William Shaner

(USA) 250.7 (630.7), 2. Rudrankksh Patil 250.0 (630.2), 3. Rylan William Kissell (US) 228.2 (623.7), 7. Paarth Makhija 141.4 (629.2), 8. Dhanush Srikanth 121.0 (629.6).

Skeet: 1. Elijah Keith Ellis (USA) 53 (117), 2. Jordan Douglas Sapp (USA) 52 (120), 3. Cristian Ghilli (Ita) 42 (119), 10. Rajveer Gill 112, 17. Abhay Singh Sekhon 108, 18. Ayush Rudraraju 105.

Women: Air pistol: 1. Manu Bhaker 241.3 (574), 2. Esha Singh 240.0 (572), 3. Yasemin Beyza Yilmaz (Tur) 217.9 (572), 4. Rhythm Sangwan 198.7 (577).

Air rifle: 1. Oceanne Muller (Fra) 250.6 (10.4) 632.6, 2. Mary Carolyn Tucker (USA) 250.6 (10.0) 632.1, 3. Ramita 229.1 (629.8), 5. Mehuli Ghosh 186.8 (630.9), 8. Nisha Kanwar 123.5 (629.1).

Skeet: 1. Alishia Fayth Layne (USA) 46(2) 115, 2. Ganemat Sekhon 46(0) 110, 3. Sara Bonigini (Ita) 35 (113), 6. Raiza Dhillon 14 (109).

Jeevan and Purav in final

SPORTS BUREAU
LISBOA (PORTUGAL)

Top seeded Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Purav Raja beat wild card entrants Jaime Faria and Luis Faria 4-6, 6-3, [10-5] in the doubles semifinals of the €44,820 Challenger tennis tournament here.

Other results: €44,820 Challenger, Sibiu, Romania: Quarterfinals: Sumit Nagal bt Geoffrey Blancaneaux (Fra) 7-6(3), 6-3.

€44,820 Challenger, Murcia, Spain: Semifinals: Alberto Barroso Campos & Roberto Carballes Baena (Esp) bt Sri Ram Balaji & Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-5, 7-6(6).

\$15,000 ITF men, Cancun, Mexico: Quarterfinals: Austin Ansari (USA) & Siddhant Bantia bt Alejandro Mendoza (Bol) & Andres Urrea (Col) 6-1, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Quarterfinals: Eszter Meri (Svk) bt Jennifer Luikham 6-2, 6-1.

Unbeaten Miracle primed to take the Deccan Derby

HYDERABAD: Trainer P. Shroff's unbeaten filly Miracle, who is in great heart, should not find it difficult to win the Golden Jubilee Deccan Derby (Gr.I), the stellar attraction of Saturday's (Oct. 2) races here.

1 SMT. TEEGALA SULOCHANA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,800m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 12.15 p.m.: 1. Bisate (6) P.S. Chouhan 60, 2. N R I Valley (4) Akshay Kumar 56.5, 3. Ashwa Yashobali (7) Gaurav Singh 56, 4. Staridar (1) Abhay Singh 56.5, 5. Lombardy (2) S. Zervan 54.5, 6. Maxwell (3) Mukesh Kumar 54, 7. Her Legacy (8) G. Nareish 53.5 and 8. Balius (5) B.R. Kumar 51.

2 ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB CUP (Div. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 12.45: 1. Castlerock (10) Md. Ismail 60, 2. Amrya (5) Neeraj 59.5, 3. Trump Star (6) Deepak Singh 59.5, 4. Colachel Battle (12) Surya Prakash 59, 5. Mind Reader (8) B.R. Kumar 59, 6. Nearest (3) Gaurav Singh 55.5, 7. Gusty Note (4) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 8. Alluri's Pride (7) R. Ajinkya 54, 9. Whiskey Martini (9) Kuldeep Singh 53.5, 10. Aibak (11) Anel 53, 11. Look Of Love (2) Rafique Sk. 52.5 and 12. Flamingo Fame (1) Santosh Raj 50.

1. AMYRA, 2. COLACHEL BATTLE, 3. TRUMP STAR

3 MADRAS RACE CLUB CUP (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1.20: 1. Scramjet (6) P. Trevor 60, 2. Lockhart (4) P. Sai Kumar 55.5, 3. Crazy Horse (8) Mukesh Kumar 55, 4. Mark My Day (5) B.R. Kumar 54, 5. All Time Legend (10) A.A. Vikrant 53.5, 6. Southern Princess (7) S. Zervan 53.5, 7. Just Incredible (3) Anel 53, 8. Siyavash (1) Ashad Asbar 52.5, 9. Watch My Stride (2) Akshay Kumar 51.5 and 10. Cheltenham (9) Afroz Khan 51.

1. SCRAMJET, 2. WATCH MY STRIDE, 3. SOUTHERN PRINCESS

4 ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF CLUB CUP (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1.55: 1. Honest Hunter (2) Deepak Singh 60, 2. House Of Diamonds (4) Akshay Kumar 59, 3. N R I Elegance (7) Gaurav Singh 58, 4. Xfinity (6) P. Sai Kumar 58, 5. City Of Bliss (3) Mukesh Kumar 55.5, 6. Sublime (8) Ajit Singh 55, 7. Different (10) Md. Ismail 54, 8. Cosmic Run (1) Kiran Naidu 53.5, 9. N R I Magic (5) Anel 53.5 and 10. Good Connection (9) S. Zervan 53.

1. GOOD CONNECTION, 2. HOUSE OF DIAMONDS, 3. XFINITY

5 TURF AUTHORITIES CUP (1,400m), rated 80 and above (Cat. I), 2.35: 1. Corfe Castle (4) Gaurav Singh 63, 2. Victory Parade (3) P.S. Chouhan 59.5, 3. Galloping Gangster (6) R. Ajinkya 54, 4. Premier Action (4) Afroz Khan 54, 5. Prince Valling (7) Khurshad Alam 53, 6. Shant Singh (5) Akshay Kumar 52.5 and 7. Ashwa Bravo (2) Ashad Asbar 50.

1. ASHWA BRAVO, 2. CORFE CASTLE, 3. VICTORY PARADE

6 MYSORE RACE CLUB CUP (1,800m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.10: 1. Super Angel (6) Abhay Singh 62.5, 2. Painted Apache (10) P. Trevor 52, 3. By The Bay (3) Santosh Raj 61.5, 4. Zamazenta (9) Akshay Kumar 60, 5. Muser (8) Nakhat Singh 58.5, 6. Call Of The Blue (1) B.R. Kumar 58, 7. Ashwa Migsun (5) C.S. Jodha 55.5, 8. Rhythm Selection (2) Kuldeep Singh 55, 9. Dillon (4) B. Nikhil 53.5 and 10. Bedazzled (7) P. Sai Kumar 50.

1. ZAMAZENTA, 2. PAINTED APACHE, 3. SUPER ANGEL

7 BANGALORE TURF CLUB CUP (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.45: 1. Soloist (13) Akshay Kumar 60.5, 2. Stunning Force (11) Ashad Singh 59.5, 3. Campana (3) P. Trevor 58.5, 4. Moonlight Ruby (8) Kuldeep Singh 58.5, 5. General Atlantic (6) B. Nikhil 57.5, 6. Lacrosse (1) S. Zervan 57.5, 7. City Of Passion (16) Mukesh Kumar 57, 8. Steve Rogers (7) S.S. Tanwar 56.5, 9. Nightmare (10) B.R. Kumar 55.5, 10. Beauty Flame (4) Ajit Singh 53.5, 11. Fatuma (14) Gaurav Singh 53.5, 12. Prime Gardenia (15) Abhay Singh 53.5, 13. Isra (2) Anel 52.5, 14. Rhine (5) G. Nareish 52.5, 15. That's My Way (9) Rafique Sk. 51 and 16. Win Vision (12) Santosh Raj 50.

1. SOLOIST, 2. LACROSSE, 3. CAMPANIA

8 GOLDEN JUBILEE DECCAN DERBY (Gr. I) (2,000m) (Terms), 3-y-o only, 4.20: 1. Akido

(9) Nakhat Singh 56, 2. Angelico (7) A. Santosh 56, 3. Fire Power (5) S. Zervan 56, 5. Johannesburg (1) N.S. Parmar 56, 6. Silvarius (11) Antony Raj 56, 7. Southern Dynasty (2) C.S. Jodha 56

Smriti makes historic Test memorable with maiden century

Opener also comes up with a couple of other records; rain plays spoilsport for the second successive day

INDIA IN AUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CARRARA

Rain wiped out a significant part of the second day's play after India opener Smriti Mandhana (127, 216b, 22x4, 1x6) stole the limelight with a magnificent maiden Test hundred in the historic women's Day-Night match against Australia here on Friday.

India was 276 for five in 101.5 overs when lightning forced the players indoors some time after the dinner break, meaning more than a session's play was wasted due to inclement weather. The lightning was followed by rain, rendering the outfield wet.

Deepti Sharma was batting on 12 and Taniya Bhatia

was yet to open her account as the players walked off the field and covers were brought on.

India lost two wickets in the second session, including that of skipper Mithali Raj for 30 and debutant Yastika Bhatia for 19. Mithali, who was looking good for a big one, was run out after playing a few lovely shots.

Earlier, flamboyant opener Smriti shattered a few records en route to slamming a magnificent Test century as India progressed to 231 for three in the second day's opening session.

The 25-year-old Smriti became the first Indian woman to hit a century in Day-Night Tests and also the first Indian woman to reach three figures in the game's traditional format on Australian soil.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS
Smriti Mandhana c McGrath b Gardner 127 (216b, 22x4, 1x6), Shafali Verma c McGrath b Molineux 31 (64b, 4x4), Punam Raut c Healy b Molineux 36 (165b, 2x4), Mithali Raj run out 30 (86b, 5x4), Yastika Bhatia c Mooney b Perry 19 (40b, 3x4), Deepti Sharma (batting) 12 (28b, 2x4), Taniya Bhatia (batting) 0 (13b); Extras (b-2, lb-5, w-13, nb-1): 21; Total (for five wkts. in 101.5 overs): 276.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-93 (Shafali, 25.1 overs), 2-195 (Smriti, 68.1), 3-217 (Punam, 80.4), 4-261 (Yastika, 92.5), 5-274 (Mithali, 98.1).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Perry 18-3-54-1, Brown 10-0-49-0, Campbell 6-0-31-0, McGrath 15.5-3-39-0, Molineux 14-5-28-2, Gardner 22-10-26-1, Sutherland 11-4-25-0, Wareham 5-1-17-0.



Milestone woman! Smriti Mandhana was in her element as she marked up a major career achievement. ■GETTY IMAGES

Punam earned our respect, says Smriti

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Smriti Mandhana took off her helmet, raised her bat, tossed the hair off her face, and allowed herself a smile.

She said at a virtual press conference that she had been visualising the moment – a celebration of her hundred – during the 14-day quarantine in Australia.

“But that celebration (in the visualisation) was different to what I did today,” she said, smiling. “I don’t know why I become shy when it actually happens.”

Her maiden Test hundred earned praise from many. But there was another In-

There seemed to be a really faint edge. It was her discretion to walk or not. And she did

ELLYSE PERRY

dian batter who caught as much attention.

Punam Raut's decision to walk when the umpire did not give her out – after her faint edge was taken behind the stumps – rightly won her many admirers.

Smriti said Punam earned the respect of her teammates. “Our first reaction was ‘why did you do that’, but then that is something we all respect her for,” she said.

Kings edge Knight Riders to stay alive

Rahul, Mayank, Shahrukh help PBKS win thriller; Venkatesh's knock in vain

IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

Captain K.L. Rahul's marvellous half-century enabled Punjab Kings to beat Kolkata Knight Riders by five wickets in a tense run chase and stay alive in IPL 2021.

KKR, asked to bat, rode on its new-found sensation Venkatesh Iyer's best IPL score, a 49-ball 67, to post a challenging 165 for seven at the Dubai International Stadium on Friday. PBKS achieved the target with three balls to spare.

The left-handed Venkatesh, who flicked left-arm spinner Fabian Allen for a four off the first ball of the match, had an updated field-map in his brain as he picked the deliveries well and used his supple wrists to place the ball intelligently in the gaps.

After the fall of his opening partner Shubman Gill, who was done in by an Arshdeep Singh delivery that moved in off the surface, Venkatesh forged an important well-crafted 72-run stand with Rahul Tripathi to provide KKR a sound platform.

PBKS trump card Ravi Bishnoi broke the partnership by having Tripathi, who executed some attractive strokes on both sides in his 26-ball 34, caught on the on-side.

Venkatesh, who produced a pulled six and a scooped four in a bouquet of spectacular shots, batted maturely to reach his second IPL 50 before pulling Bishnoi to deep mid-wicket in the 15th over.

Nitish Rana scored an 18-ball 31 and KKR collected 44 in the last five even as Arshdeep came up with another impressive performance.

Mayank Agarwal and Rahul batted with common



Rising to the occasion: Rahul came good in what was a crucial game for his side. ■SPORTSPICS/IPL

sense to gather 70 and give PBKS a fine start. Mayank, who hit three fours and as many sixes in his 27-ball 40, was held at cover by Eoin Morgan, who had dropped the PBKS opener at the same position on zero, off Varun Chakravarthy. Varun struck again to remove Nicholas Pooran and mount pressure

on PBKS. On a slow pitch, Rahul batted with composure to score a valuable 67 off 55 and take the chase deep. He was dismissed in the last over but his team managed to cross the line. KKR skipper Mor-

gan, who fielded four full-time bowlers after dropping an unfit Lockie Ferguson, missed a fifth bowler.

Shahrukh Khan's cameo was an invaluable contribution for PBKS.

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Venkatesh Iyer c Hooda b Bishnoi 67 (49b, 9x4, 1x6), Shubman Gill b Arshdeep 7 (7b, 1x4), Rahul Tripathi c Hooda b Bishnoi 34 (26b, 3x4, 1x6), Nitish Rana c Mayank b Arshdeep 31 (18b, 2x4, 2x6), Eoin Morgan lbw b Shami 2 (2b), Dinesh Karthik b Arshdeep 11 (11b), Tim Seifert run out 2 (4b), Sunil Narine (not out) 3 (3b); Extras (b-3, lb-1, w-4): 8; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 165.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-18 (Gill, 2.2 overs), 2-90 (Tripathi, 11.3), 3-120 (Venkatesh, 14.4), 4-124 (Morgan, 15.5), 5-149 (Rana, 17.4), 6-156 (Seifert, 18.4), 7-165 (Karthik, 19.6).

PUNJAB KINGS BOWLING
Allen 4-0-38-0, Shami 4-0-23-1, Arshdeep 4-0-32-3, Ellis 4-0-46-0, Bishnoi 4-0-22-2

PUNJAB KINGS
K.L. Rahul c Mavi b Venkatesh 67 (55b, 4x4, 2x6), Mayank Agarwal c Morgan b Varun 40 (27b, 3x4, 3x6), Nicholas

Pooran c Mavi b Varun 12 (7b, 1x6), Aiden Markram c Gill b Narine 18 (16b, 1x6), Deepak Hooda c Tripathi b Mavi 3 (4b), Shahrukh Khan (not out) 22 (9b, 1x4, 2x6), Fabian Allen (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (lb-2, w-3, nb-1): 6; Total (for five wkts. in 19.3 overs): 168.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-70 (Mayank, 8.5), 2-84 (Pooran, 10.4), 3-129 (Markram, 15.3), 4-134 (Hooda, 16.3), 5-162 (Rahul, 19.2).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Southee 4-0-40-0, Mavi 4-0-31-1, Varun 4-0-24-2, Narine 4-0-34-1, Venkatesh 2.3-0-30-1, Rana 1-0-7-0.

Toss: PBKS; **MoM:** Rahul. PBKS won by five wickets with three balls to spare.

Next assignment
PBKS: Oct. 3 vs RCB, Sharjah, 3.30 p.m. IST
KKR: Oct. 3 vs SRH, Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

We need to do what's best for Hardik: Jayawardene

SPORTS BUREAU

Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene said if Hardik Pandya bowls in the IPL, it may hurt his chances as a batter.

Hardik, picked as an all-rounder for the T20 World Cup with India's chief selector Chetan Sharma stressing he will “bowl in every match”, missed the first two games of the second leg and hasn't bowled in any of the matches he has played so far.

Evaluate

“Whether he can bowl in the IPL or not is something that we will have to look at on a daily basis and evaluate and then see how he progresses.

“I understand all concerns, but going forward, we need to do what's best for Hardik. He will be an asset as a bowler as well,” Jayawardene said on Friday, ahead of MI's tie against Delhi Capitals, the team in form.

“But at the moment if we push too hard, it might be an issue where he might even struggle and not be an asset as a batter. So that's something that we will have to

take into account with all concerned parties and take it a day at a time.”

Jayawardene admitted Hardik, who has been struggling with a back injury since 2018, had an additional niggle in the lead-up to the IPL, without giving out the details.



“Because he hasn't bowled since Sri Lanka for a longer period of time and he had another niggle and managed getting through that process,” Jayawardene said.

“I understand the World Cup (is to follow) as well. We are talking to the Indian team management and making sure that as soon as he feels comfortable, we get him to the bowling programme and prepare him.”

Wobbly middle-order

Despite Hardik and Kieron Pollard coming good with the willow against Punjab Kings earlier in the week, an in-form Capitals bowling unit will be keen to expose MI's wobbly middle order.

Having qualified for the playoffs, Rishabh Pant and Co. will hope to continue the mini-battle against Chennai Super Kings for the top spot in the table.

TODAY'S MATCHES			
 SHARJAH, 3.30 P.M. IST	vs.	 ABU DHABI, 7.30 P.M. IST	
HEAD-TO-HEAD		HEAD-TO-HEAD	
Played: 29		Played: 24	
MI 16 DC 13		RR 9 CSK 15	
In 2021		In 2021	
Played 1 MI 0 DC 1		Played 1 RR 0 CSK 1	
STAR SPORTS 1 & SS SELECT 1 (SD & HD)			

India in final

SPORTS BUREAU

SITGES (SPAIN)

R. Vaishali provided the lead and Tania Sachdev finished the job for 2.5-1.5 victory in the second set as India upstaged third seed Georgia for a place in the final of the FIDE World women's team chess championship on Friday. In the other semifinal, top seed Russia defeated Ukraine.

Amid mounting tension, after India led 1.5-0.5 following Vaishali's victory on the second board, a previously-undefeated Mary Ann Gomes slipped into an inferior position.

Tania held the Indian hopes and finally got it right to give it a memorable victory.

The results (semifinals):
Set 1: Georgia drew with India 2-2 (Nana Dzagnidze drew with D. Harika; Nino Batsiashvili drew with R. Vaishali; Lela Javakhishvili bt Bhakti Kulkarni; Salome Melia lost to Mary Ann Gomes); Russia bt Ukraine 2.5-1.5.

Set 2: India bt Georgia 2.5-1.5 (Harika drew with Dzagnidze; Vaishali bt Batsiashvili; Tania Sachdev bt Meri Arapidze; Mary lost to Lela Javakhishvili). Ukraine lost to Russia 1-3.



End of a long run: S.V. Sunil has been a key member of the Indian team for 14 years. ■FILE PHOTO: K MURALI KUMAR

India won beating Pakistan in the final.

The two-time Olympian (2012 and 2016) was member of the Indian team that won gold at the 2011 Asian Champions Trophy and silver in the same event in 2012. He also won gold and bronze at the 2014 and 2018 Asian Games besides a gold in the Asia Cup 2017.

He played an instrumental role in the team's historic silver medal wins at the 2016 and 2018 FIH Champions Trophy.

Sunil also led the forward-line in the 2015 World League Final where the team won a bronze and was also part of the team that won bronze at the same event in 2017 in Bhubaneswar.

He also has a silver from the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Hockey India president Gyanendra Ningombam congratulated Sunil for his “contribution to Indian hockey and for being an inspiration to an entire generation of young players”.

Pele discharged

REUTERS

SAO PAULO

Brazilian football legend Pele left a hospital here after several weeks on Thursday, and a hospital bulletin said he would undergo chemotherapy following the removal of a colon tumour.

Atanu misses out on bronze

SPORTS BUREAU

YANKTON (USA)

Atanu Das lost in the bronze medal match to return without a podium finish in the archery World Cup Final (WCF) here on Thursday.

Against reigning Olympic champion Mete Gazoz of Turkey, Atanu lost 6-0 in straight sets. Gazoz won 29-27, 27-26, 30-28.

Atanu rallied to beat German Maximilian Weckmuller 6-2 (26-27, 29-25, 29-28, 29-28) in the recurve men's individual quarterfinals.

However, he was beaten 6-2 (29-28, 28-27, 29-30, 30-27) by World No. 1 Brady Ellison of the USA in the semifinals.

Sunil ends international career

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Veteran India men's hockey team striker S.V. Sunil on Friday announced his international retirement, bringing the curtains down on a 14-year career during which he was part of the 2014 Asian Games gold-winning side.

The 32-year-old Sunil, hailing from Karnataka, was not part of the team at the Tokyo Olympics.

Sunil said it was time for him to make way for youngsters and help build a winning team for the future. He has appeared in 264 matches for India and scored 72 goals.

“... time to take a break. More than 14 years after I wore India colours for the first time. I have decided to make myself unavailable for the national camp which begins next week,” Sunil, who grew up playing hockey with a bamboo stick due to his family's limited resources, said in a statement on his Twitter handle.

The Arjuna awardee from Somwarpet in Coorg made his international debut in 2007 at the Asia Cup which

Royals have a tough task against Super Kings



Meaning business: Faf du Plessis, in the company of Ruturaj, ensured a smooth chase for CSK against SRH. ■SPORTSPICS/IPL

SPORTS BUREAU

Rajasthan Royals will face a tough test against table-toppers Chennai Super Kings in Abu Dhabi on Saturday in a match that could decide its fate in the competition.

Royals, currently seventh in the table with just four wins, need to win their remaining three matches by good margins to have any hope of reaching the playoffs.

If not for Kartik Tyagi's brilliant final over against Punjab Kings, the team would not even have the solitary win it has in the UAE so far. The main problem for Royals has been the misfiring middle-order with an over-reliance on skipper Sanju Samson. In the previous

game against RCB, it slipped from 100/1 to 149/9.

CSK, on the other hand, is under no pressure after having sealed its playoff berth with a six-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad on Thursday.

With nine wins from 11 matches, the team can now afford to experiment with players who have not played regularly and coach Stephen Fleming stated the team would look into it.

“We will certainly talk about how we can manage our players, making sure that we manage the team that played today (Thursday) and also the opportunities for guys who are on the fringe. So we have (been) afforded that luxury now, but we won't be too experimental,” said Fleming.

POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Chennai Super Kings (Q)	11	9	2	18	1.002
Delhi Capitals (Q)	11	8	3	16	0.562
Royal Challengers	11	7	4	14	-0.200
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	5	7	10	0.302
Punjab Kings	12	5	7	10	-0.236
Mumbai Indians	11	5	6	10	-0.453
Rajasthan Royals	11	4	7	8	-0.468
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	11	2	9	4	-0.490

After the KKR-PBKS match on Oct. 1

Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated

TV PICKS

Australia Women vs India Women: Only Test, day 3, Sony Ten 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.

Badminton: Sudirman Cup: Star Sports 3, 12.30 p.m.; Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IPL 2021: Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 5 p.m., 7.30 p.m. & 10 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Connor becomes MCC's first woman president

LONDON

Former England captain Clare Connor on Friday took charge as the MCC president, becoming the first woman to hold the post in the club's 234-year-old history. Connor's nomination was announced by her predecessor Kumar Sangakkara at the AGM last year but she had to wait for a year to take charge due to COVID-19. PTI