FOLLOW US:
thehindu.com
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

THE HINDU

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
16 pages • ₹10.00

PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

VISIONIAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION

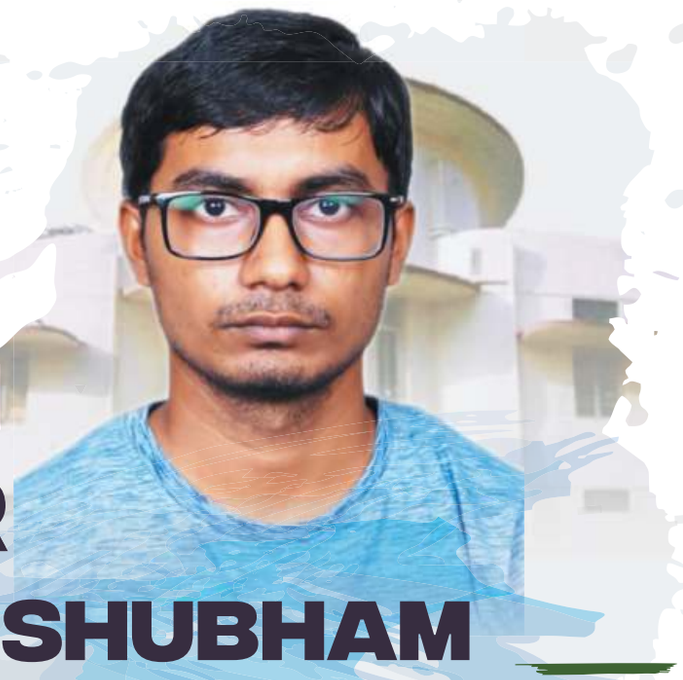
www.visionias.in 8468022022

Heartiest Congratulations

to all candidates selected in CSE 2020

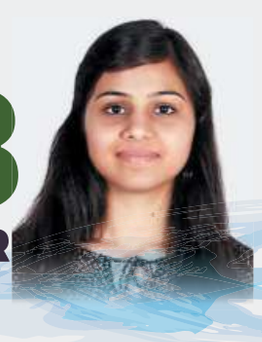
10 IN TOP 10
SELECTIONS IN CSE 2020

from various programs of VISION IAS



1 AIR
SHUBHAM KUMAR
A Student of the following courses of VISION IAS during the last 3 years
- GENERAL STUDIES CLASSROOM FOUNDATION COURSE 2018
(Included the comprehensive 12 month classes, GS Pre, Mains, Essay and CSAT Test Series, Mini Test, Daily Assignment)
- GENERAL STUDIES TEST SERIES 2019
- ESSAY TEST SERIES 2019 & 2020
- ABHYAAS TEST SERIES 2019, 2020

2 AIR
JAGRATI AWASTHI
(ALL INDIA TEST SERIES)



3 AIR
ANKITA JAIN
(ALL INDIA TEST SERIES)

4 AIR
YASH JALUKA
(ABHYAAS ALL INDIA TEST SERIES)

5 AIR
MAMTA YADAV
(ALL INDIA TEST SERIES)

6 AIR
MEERA K
(ALL INDIA TEST SERIES)

7 AIR
PRAVEEN KUMAR
(ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT PROG)

8 AIR
JIVANI KARTIK NAGJIBHAI
(GS FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM STUDENT, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT PROG)

9 AIR
APALA MISHRA
(ABHYAAS ALL INDIA TEST SERIES)

10 AIR
SATYAM GANDHI
(ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST)

YOU CAN BE NEXT

"You are as strong as your Foundation"

Foundation Course
GENERAL STUDIES
PRELIMS cum MAINS 2023

LIVE / ONLINE cum Offline classes

DELHI: 9 Mar | 1 PM | 1 Mar | 9 AM | 11 Jan | 5 PM

HYDERABAD: 15 February | LUCKNOW: 9 February | PUNE: 31 January

JAIPUR: 15 February | CHANDIGARH: 15 February

To know more, get FREE Counseling or Register

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2023

▸ प्रारंभिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज

DELHI: 1 फरवरी | 1 PM | LUCKNOW: 12 अप्रैल | 9 AM | JAIPUR: 15 फरवरी

लाइव / ऑनलाइन एवं ऑफलाइन कक्षाएँ

DELHI
- HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh | CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066
- 635, Opp. Signature View Apartments, Banda Bahadur Marg, Mukherjee Nagar

JAIPUR | GUWAHATI | HYDERABAD | AHMEDABAD | LUCKNOW | CHANDIGARH | PUNE

VISIONIAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION

Congratulations to our students for securing 42 Ranks in top 50

LIVE/ONLINE Classes Available

www.visionias.in

11 AIR — DEVAYANI — All India Test Series

12 AIR — MITHUN PREMRAJ — All India Test Series

14 AIR — KARISHMA NAIR — All India Test Series, Abhyaas

15 AIR — RIA DABI — All India Test Series, Abhyaas, Essay Enrichment , Personality Development Programme

16 AIR — ARTH JAIN — All India Test Series, Personality Development Programme

17 AIR — SARTHAK AGRAWAL — All India Test Series, Essay Test, Personality Development Programme

18 AIR — RADHIKA GUPTA — All India Test Series, Personality Development Programme

19 AIR — SHASHWAT TRIPURARI — All India Test Series, Abhyaas

20 AIR — P SRIJA — HYDERABAD FOUNDATION COURSE GS CLASSROOM, LAKSHYA

23 AIR — SADAF CHOUDHARY — All India Test Series

24 AIR — KRISHAN KUMAR SINGH — All India Test Series

25 AIR — VAIBHAV RAWAT — All India Test Series, Abhyaas

26 AIR — PULKIT SINGH — Personality Development Programme

27 AIR — MAITHREYI NAIDU — All India Test Series, Sociology Test Series, Essay Test

28 AIR — DIVYA MISHRA — FOUNDATION COURSE GS CLASSROOM PROGRAMME, LAKSHYA

29 AIR — PRAKHAR KUMAR SINGH — All India Test Series, Abhyaas

30 AIR — DIVYANSHU CHOUDHARY — All India Test Series, Essay Test, Personality Development Programme

31 AIR — Y MEGHA SWAROOP — All India Test Series, Abhyaas

32 AIR — RALLAPALLI JAGAT SAI — Abhyaas, Personality Development Programme

33 AIR — NARAYANA SARMA V S — Abhyaas

34 AIR — SIMRANDEEP SINGH — All India Test Series, Essay Test, Abhyaas

35 AIR — APARNA RAMESH — Abhyaas, Personality Development Programme

37 AIR — NARWADE VINAYAK KARBHARI — All India Test Series

38 AIR — VARUNA AGRAWAL — All India Test Series, Essay Test, Personality Development Programme

42 AIR — POOJA GUPTA — Personality Development Programme

44 AIR — DIVYANSHU NIGAM — All India Test Series, Ethics Case Studies, Essay Test

45 AIR — ANIL BASAK — FOUNDATION COURSE GS CLASSROOM PROGRAMME

46 AIR — JUBIN MOHAPATRA — Mains Advance , Pre Fast Track, PT365, Mains 365, AITS, PDP

47 AIR — VINAYAK CHAMADIA — All India Test Series, Sociology Test Series, Abhyaas

48 AIR — SAI MANASA NC — All India Test Series

49 AIR — RAJAT RAVINDRA UBHAYKAR — Ethics Case Studies, All India Test Series, Abhyaas, PDP

50 AIR — ABHISHEK SHUKLA — Mains Advance, PT365, Mains 365, AITS, Abhyaas, PDP

LIVE / ONLINE CLASSES AVAILABLE

1 YEAR CURRENT AFFAIRS for GS PRELIMS 2022 in 60 Hours

PT 365

- Specific targeted content oriented towards Prelims exam

ENGLISH Medium | 22 Mar 5 PM

हिन्दी माध्यम | 29 Mar 5 PM

ABHYAAS 2022
ALL INDIA PRELIMS (GS+CSAT) TEST SERIES

100+ Cities

17th Apr | 1st & 15th May

Registrations Opening 15th Feb

Register at: www.visionias.in/abhyaas

ARE YOU "PRE" CAUTIOUS?
FAST TRACK COURSE 2022
GENERAL STUDIES PRELIMS

Admission open

- This Course is designed to help aspirants prepare for and increase their score in General Studies Paper I. It will not only include discussion of the entire GS Paper I Prelims syllabus but also that of previous years' UPSC papers along with practice and discussion of Vision IAS classroom tests and the Prelims All India Test Series.

ALL INDIA GS & CSAT PRELIMS OPEN MOCK TEST-1

- Test available in ONLINE mode only
- Available in English / हिन्दी

CSAT: 13 Feb

GS: 30 Jan

Register @ www.visionias.in/opentest

ALL INDIA PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2022-23

» General Studies » CSAT

for PRELIMS 2022: 13 February
प्रारंभिक 2022 के लिए 13 फरवरी

for PRELIMS 2023: 20 February
प्रारंभिक 2023 के लिए 6 मार्च

ALL INDIA MAINS TEST SERIES 2022-23

» Sociology » Philosophy » PS & IR | 13 Feb

» General Studies » Essay

for GS 2022: 13 February
सामान्य अध्ययन 2022: 13 फरवरी

for GS 2023: 6 February
सामान्य अध्ययन 2023: 6 फरवरी

ALTERNATIVE CLASSROOM PROGRAMME

GENERAL STUDIES Prelims & Mains 2024 & 2025

- Includes All India GS Mains, Prelim, CSAT and Essay Test Series of 2023, 2024, 2025

DELHI

9 Mar 1 PM | 1 Mar 9 AM | 11 Jan 5 PM

ETHICS CASE STUDIES CLASSES

Case studies covers all the exclusive topic from contemporary & current issues as well as previous Year UPSC Paper Case studies

25 Feb | 1 PM

PERSONALITY TEST PROGRAMME

15 February

- DAF Analysis Session with senior faculty members of Vision IAS
- Mock Interviews Sessions with Ex-Bureaucrats/ Educationists

ESSAY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Learn the art of Essay writing by understanding how to build and interlink different concepts

» LIVE / ONLINE Classes Available

13 February | 5 PM

Scan the QR CODE to download VISION IAS App. Join official telegram group for daily MCQs & other updates.

/visionias.upsc
/c/VisionIASdelhi
/c/VisionIASdelhi
/t.me/s/VisionIAS_UPSC

DELHI: HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade Karol Bagh | CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066 | JAIPUR | GUWAHATI | HYDERABAD | AHMEDABAD | LUCKNOW | CHANDIGARH | PUNE

FOLLOW US:
thehindu.com
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

THE HINDU

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
16 pages • ₹10.00

Protests erupt across Telangana against PM's remark on bifurcation
page 5

Russia sees 'positive signals' after Macron visit to Ukraine
page 11

SC to hear Amazon plea against High Court stay on February 23
page 12

Prasidh, Suryakumar help India seal ODI series against WI
page 13

PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

IN BRIEF

DU to resume physical classes from Feb. 17

NEW DELHI

Delhi University announced on Wednesday that it will resume physical classes from February 17. Students celebrated the university's decision by taking out a victory rally on the campus.

CITY ▸ PAGE 2

Uproar over paper leak in Rajasthan Assembly

JAIPUR

The budget session of the Rajasthan Assembly began on a stormy note on Wednesday with the Opposition BJP MLAs demanding a CBI probe into the leak of question paper of the examination for recruitment of teachers.

STATES ▸ PAGE 3

Govt. does not use the phrase 'urban naxals': Rai

NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that the government does not use the phrase "urban naxals", but when it comes to left-wing extremism, a vigil is kept and strict action is initiated.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 8

PLUTUS IAS
G.S Pre Cum Mains 23-24
Online Interactive Mode
Limited Seats Available
15th Feb 2022
Register Now
8448440231 www.plutusias.com

Battle of the ballot begins in U.P. today

First phase of 58 seats in western belt to reflect impact of farmers' protest; litmus test for RLD-SP combine

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The high-stakes electoral battle in Uttar Pradesh will commence on Thursday with voting for 58 seats in the western belt of the State where the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) dominance since 2014 faces a challenge from the resurgent alliance of the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD).

More than 2.28 crore voters will decide the fate of 623 candidates, including 73 women.

The first phase of the Assembly election in the rich sugar cane and potato belts as well as the industrial regions close to Delhi will test the chemistry of the RLD-SP alliance, the grit of the BJP's incumbent 'double engine' government and most importantly, the impact of the farmers' protest.

The group leading the farmers' protest has appealed to voters to throw out the BJP government.

In terms of individuals, the first phase will also reveal the popularity of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati, but more significantly it will be the appraisal of RLD chief Chaudhary Jayant Singh, who is banking on the support of the agrarian castes and especially the unity of the Jat and Muslim communities.

This election will also to a large extent be a commentary on the future of Mr. Singh, who himself lost his seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha election despite having support from the SP and the BSP. The RLD won only one seat in 2017. The legislator later joined the BJP.

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly has 403 seats. In the past three elections, the BJP managed a near sweep of the western region – first riding on the communal polarisation following the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots, then on the anti-SP sentiment in 2017 and finally on the charm of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP's caste-communal calculus of uniting the upper castes, non-Yadav OBCs and the non-Jatav Dalits in 2019.

In 2017, the saffron party secured 53 out of the 58 seats which go to the polls on Thursday. These constituencies are located in the Jat-dominated districts of Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Baghpat, Shamli, Mathura and others. Voting will also take place in Aligarh, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Hapur, Agra and Bulandshahr.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8
RELATED STORIES ON ▸ PAGE 9

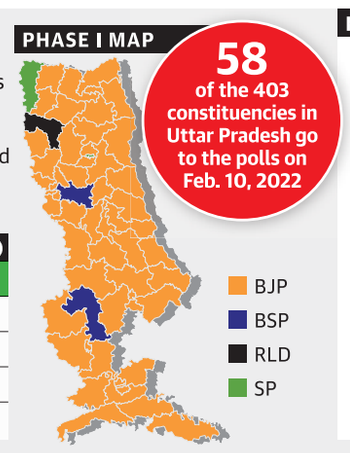
In focus

Of the 58 seats going to the polls on Thursday, the BJP won 53 in the 2017 Assembly election. In the phase 1 seats, the BJP secured 46% votes, followed by the BSP (22.5%) and the SP (14.3%)

2017 ASSEMBLY POLL (PHASE 1)

Party	Seats	Vote share
BJP	53	46.3%
BSP	2	22.5%
SP	2	14.3%
RLD	1	7.1%

PHASE I MAP



KEY CONTESTS

THANA BHAWAN
Suresh Rana *(BJP)*
Ashraf Ali *(RLD)*
Zaheer Malik *(BSP)*

BUDHANA
Umesh Malik *(BJP)*
Rajpal Baliyan *(RLD)*
Haji Mohammad Anish *(BSP)*

KAIRANA
Nahid Hasan *(SP)*
Mriganka Singh *(BJP)*
Haji Akhlaq *(INC)*

Modi confident of BJP victory in all five State polls

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday exuded confidence over the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) winning the Assembly elections in all the five poll-bound States – Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand and Manipur.

In an interview to *ANI*, Mr. Modi said, "I have seen in all States that there is an inclination towards the BJP, and we will win the elections with a full majority. The people of all these five States will give BJP the opportunity to serve them." He denied any atmosphere of anti-incumbency in the States where the BJP received the opportunity to work, adding that there was an atmosphere of "pro-incumbency".

Narendra Modi

"Wherever BJP got the opportunity to work with stability, there the environment is of 'pro-incumbency' instead of 'anti-incumbency'. The BJP always emerges victorious with 'pro-incumbency' in elections," Mr. Modi said.

Scathing attack

The Prime Minister made a scathing attack on "dynastic politics", saying "it is a big threat and biggest enemy of democracy" and it severely compromises on the talent coming into a political party.

About allegations that the BJP also had dynastic leaders, Mr. Modi said there was a difference between one or two people from a family getting tickets and winning elections and all important political positions in a party going to a particular family.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Point of view: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaking in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. • PTI

Budget ignored the poor: Opposition

'Only corporates will benefit from it'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday hit out at the government over high unemployment rate in the country and said the Union Budget 2022-23 failed to address the concerns of the poor. They said the Budget was only intended to benefit big corporate houses.

During the discussion on the Union Budget, Congress member Kapil Sibal said the Budget had "no vision, no long-term plan". Taking a dig at Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Mr. Sibal said her party, the BJP, should field her in elections so that she could see the reality on the ground.

Mr. Sibal said the government had given the corporate sector a tax cut in 2019, but it did not create wealth. He said there was a need to boost research and development spending, which would lead to wealth creation.

BJP member Sushil Kumar Modi, who spoke next, countered by saying that the focus of the Budget had been on "jobs, jobs and jobs". He said the government was providing job-oriented growth and that jobs would not be created by giving people "dole".

CPI member Jharna Das Baidya said the Budget had "completely failed in identifying the priorities to provide relief for the common people", saying the LPG subsidy had been cut and allocation for Anganwadis had remained the same.

Sukhram Singh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party said the Budget had made no mention of the farmers' protest and did not provide any aid to the families of farmers who died during the protests against the three farm laws.

CPI's Binoy Viswam said the Budget had "failed".

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8
'NO CABINET MINISTER REPLIED TO QUERIES' ▸ PAGE 8

Scientists set new record in fusion energy

Team at JET near Oxford generated 59 megajoules of sustained energy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Scientists in the United Kingdom said they have achieved a new milestone in producing nuclear fusion energy, or imitating the way energy is produced in the sun.

Energy by nuclear fusion is one of mankind's long standing quests as it promises to be low carbon, safer than how nuclear energy is now produced and, with an efficiency that can technically exceed a 100%. A team at the Joint European Torus (JET) facility near Oxford in central England generated 59 megajoules of sustained energy during an experiment in December, more than doubling a 1997 record, the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority said in a statement on Monday.

A kilogram of fusion fuel contains about 10 million times as much energy as a kilogram of coal, oil or gas. The energy was produced in a machine called a tokamak, a doughnut-shaped apparatus. The JET site is the largest operational one of its kind in the world.

Deuterium and tritium, which are isotopes of hydrogen, are heated to temperatures 10 times hotter than the centre of the sun to create plasma. This is held in place using superconductor electromagnets as it spins around, fuses and releases tremendous energy as heat.

The record and scientific data from these crucial experiments are a major boost for the ITER, the larger and more advanced version of the JET. The ITER is a fusion research mega-project supported by seven members – China, the European Union, India, Japan, South Korea, Russia and the U.S. – and based in the south of France. It seeks to further demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy.

Ian Chapman, CEO, U.K. Atomic Energy Authority, said in a statement: "These landmark results have taken us a huge step closer to conquering one of the biggest scientific and engineering challenges of them all. It is reward for over 20 years of research and experiments with our partners from across Europe..."

Three-judge HC Bench to hear hijab petitions today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A three-judge Bench of the Karnataka High Court, headed by Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, will hear the petitions questioning the ban on wearing hijabs by students in colleges on Thursday.

The other members of the Bench are Justice Krishna S. Dixit and Justice Jaibunnisa M. Khazi. On Wednesday, Justice Dixit, who was hearing the case, referred the petitions to a larger Bench.

"Considering the enormity of questions of law debated, this court is of the considered opinion that the petition papers be put at the hands of the honourable Chief Justice to consider if a larger Bench can be constituted in the subject matter," Justice Dixit said in his brief order.

The court said the "petitions give rise to certain constitutional questions of seminal importance in the light of some aspect of personal laws".

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

SRIRAM's IAS
MORE THAN 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION
OUR RESULT
UPTO 6 IN TOP TEN
SINCE 2002
IAS 2023
- Prelim cum Main
- Comprehensive and in- depth
- Personal Attention
- Building from Basics
- Senior Faculty
- Prelim and Main Test Series Built-in
- Study Material Specifically Authored for Civil Services Exam
- Previous Years' Question Papers Covered
- Hindu Plus News and Views Video
- Daily MCQ/Writing Practice
- EMI Facility Available upto 18 Months

GTB Nagar Centre NOW OPEN
Detailed Brochure available on the website and at both centres
Admissions Open
Course Details:
Date: 20th FEB 2022
Time: 11 AM TO 1:30 PM
Centre: Old Rajinder Nagar
BEWARE OF FAKE INSTITUTES WITH SIMILAR NAMES. LOOK FOR THE SRIRAM'S IAS LOGO BEFORE ENROLMENT.
SRIRAM's IAS Towers, 10-B, Pusa Road, Bada Bazaar Marg 01142437002, 9811489560
73-75, 1st Floor, Beside GTB Metro Gate No.1, Ring Road, Kingsway Camp, New Delhi
www.sriramsias.com

DU to resume physical classes from Feb. 17

As protest bears fruit, students celebrate the announcement by taking out victory rally on campus

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi University will reopen for physical classes on February 17 after being shut since March 19, 2020, due to the pandemic. Students have been protesting for three days, demanding opening of the campus after the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) issued orders that higher education institutions must shift completely to offline learning.

Students celebrated the announcement by taking out a victory rally across the campus. Students who had sat on a hunger strike were met by DU Proctor Rajni Abbi who appealed to them to end their protest.

Students protesting outside the Shastri Bhawan on Wednesday, demanding reopening of DU colleges. ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Accessibility issue

In an official order, DU said the teaching-learning process has been continuing in the online mode since the onset of the pandemic. As there are students from all corners of the country and have been residing in their home town since then, they had no other option but to continue with the online mode.

"It is difficult for the students in different parts of the country to reach Delhi at a short notice in the prevailing pandemic situation. Appropriate time is required for students to arrange for their travel from their respective home town to Delhi to attend class in offline mode," said DU Registrar Vikas Gupta. He added, that after the DDMA guidelines were released, a committee was constituted by the Vice-Chancellor that recommended the opening of the university from February 17.

Outstation students have been advised to plan their arrival in Delhi in such a manner that they are able to complete the isolation period of three days before reporting to their colleges or departments. All libraries and laboratories and canteens will also function from February 17.

Following the announcement, university officials met students of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad who were sitting on an indefinite fast on the North Campus. They requested them to call off their strike. Celebrations erupted with students taking out a victory rally on the campus.

Over the past three days, students had boycotted online classes, protested outside the V-C's office, blocked university roads and organised classes on the streets to highlight the problems of online education, the digital divide and the issue of students dropping out due to prolonged closures.

Hard-fought win

The All India Students' Association (AISA) in a statement said: "This decision is not a gift of DU administration but a hard-fought victory of consistent AISA-led Reopen DU Movement."

The Students' Federation of India (SFI) said that despite strong repression and violent manhandling from the security and police, the students did not budge an inch.

"Their long and enduring fight for inclusive and quality education has demonstrated that unity can in fact forced the authorities to uphold interests of the student community," the SFI said.

DU AC passes new UG curriculum framework

NEW DELHI

The Academic Council of Delhi University on Wednesday passed the new Undergraduate Curriculum Framework (UGCF), 2022, that was formed to adopt the New Education Policy. The draft curriculum framework was released last month and all stakeholders were asked to submit their feedback. The AC, in its meeting, passed the proposal after incorporating some of the feedbacks and it was passed with 11 members submitting their dissent.

Delhi govt. regularises 700 DJB contractual employees

Kejriwal calls it a first-of-its-kind step in the country

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday administered the regularisation of 700 contractual Delhi Jal Board (DJB) employees. He termed it a landmark step which went against nationwide trends of privatisation and decreasing permanent employees.

Calling the mass regularisation a first-of-its-kind step in the country, Mr. Kejriwal hoped those in other departments would follow suit.

"Our nation is headed in the opposite direction where the number of regular employees is decreasing and the number of non-regular employees is increasing," the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Kejriwal said the step was against public opinion that once employees are regularised they do not work hard and become complacent and lazy.

> **We will make consistent efforts and negotiate with the Central govt. to ensure more employees in other Delhi government departments are regularised**
>
> ARVIND KEJRIWAL
> Delhi Chief Minister

Mr. Kejriwal said the employees were successfully regularised since the DJB was an autonomous body with no "interference from the Centre".

"We will make consistent efforts and negotiate with the Central government to ensure more employees in other Delhi government departments are regularised," he said.

The regularised employees will now be able to avail themselves of the benefits, including medical facilities, government accommodation, leave benefits and terminal dues like gratuity, NPS, LTC among others.

They will also receive arrears from 2019 in addition to double salary and perks such as DA, annual increments, children education allowance, paternity and maternity leaves.

It is fraud: BJP

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri termed the announcement a "fraud".

"All these employees were appointed in the DJB on compassionate grounds after the death of a relative. Their appointment should have been permanent, but the Jal Board deliberately kept them temporary," he said.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor asked why not even a single contractual employee was regularised in the last seven years.

HC grants bail to man accused of cheating bank

Court says keeping an undertrial in custody will impact his right to defend

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has observed that the consequences of pretrial detention are "grave" and keeping an undertrial in custody would "necessarily impact his right to defend himself during trial in as much as he will be clearly denied the right to a fair trial".

Justice Chandra Dhari Singh made the remarks while granting bail to one Vikas Chawla, who is accused of cheating HDFC Bank and BMW Financial Services to the tune of several crores of rupees.

The High Court also took into account that the investigation has been completed, the chargesheet has been filed and Mr. Chawla is languishing in jail since August 5 last year. The court also noted that all the incriminating evidences against Mr. Chawla are documentary in nature and have already been seized by the investigating agency.

It also considered that Mr. Chawla is a patient of "uncontrolled diabetes mellitus type-II, hypertension and seasonal bronchial asthma. His sugar levels are dangerously high and HB1AC has touched 9.4, which is extremely fatal in nature".

Mr. Chawla, on his part, has undertaken that he was a bona fide businessman and will make all endeavour to repay the outstanding balance to the financiers.

As a condition for bail, the court directed Mr. Chawla to cooperate in the trial of the case and appear before the court as and when required. .

Most COVID deaths among heart, liver and kidney patients: govt. data

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

Heart patients, those with kidney disease and lung problems constituted the majority of COVID-19 patients who died in Delhi hospitals over the last 27 days.

According to government records, of the 878 deaths audited between January 12 and February 9, over 91%, or 802, were patients suffering from one comorbid condition or another.

At 164, or over 20%, of the total deaths, patients with heart disease accounted for the largest number of deaths among COVID patients. These were followed by 164 patients with assorted conditions ranging from morbid obesity to parkinsonism and HIV.

COVID also claimed 152 lives among patients with kidney disease, making up over 19% of the total death toll audited by the government.

With 100 and 70 deaths, patients with lung and liver disease accounted for over 12% and 8%, respectively of the total fatalities analysed. With 63 deaths, cancer patients constituted almost 8%.

Farmers begin strike outside CM's house

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Farmers in the Capital, led by the BJP, sat on an indefinite protest outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence alleging that the Delhi government had not fulfilled any election promise made to them since coming to power.

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the protest will not end until their demands are met.

"The Delhi government had assured that it would increase compensation to farmers whose land was being acquired. This is yet to happen. It should actually be increased to ₹10 crore per acre," he said. The farmers, he added, were also demanding subsidies on agricultural machinery, fertilizers and tractors as given in other States.

'No one from government has reached out to us'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Anganwadi workers and helpers, who have been protesting for the past 10 days demanding higher wages, on Wednesday said that they were disappointed that no one from the government has reached out to them.

The workers under the banner of Delhi State Anganwadi Workers and Helpers' Union are on an indefinite strike near Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence in north Delhi.

Anganwadi workers from Delhi are running a 'boycott campaign' in election-bound Goa, the union said. "Two teams of 15 members each are protesting in Goa and one team of 35 workers from Delhi will reach Punjab tonight. In Goa, we are protesting in public spaces and anganwadi centres, exposing both the AAP and the BJP," Ms. Kaul said.

CHANDIGARH ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT

SHORT TERM E-TENDER PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer Electricity OP Division No.2, New Power House Colony, Indl. Area Phase-1 (Opp. Transport Area Sector 26) UT, Chandigarh, invites E-Tender on behalf of President of India for appointment of Actuarial Valuer for assessing unfunded Terminal liabilities as on proposed transferred date (say 24th March 2022) of Electricity Wing of Engineering Department UT Chandigarh (EWEDC) from the Experienced Actuaries who are fellow members of the Institute of Actuaries of India or firms of Actuaries for undertaking valuation assessment of Pension, Gratuity, Provident fund, Leave Encashment, Leave Travel Allowance, Fixed Post-Retirement Medical Allowance and any other terminal liabilities applicable to the employees of EWEDC as per scope of work.

All the above agencies/traders are to be registered on the e-tender web portal and must possess compatible digital signature certificate of Class II or III for E-Tendering.

Milestone dates of Electronic Tendering

Tender No.	OP2/26/2021-22
Cost of Tender Document	Free of Cost
Earnest Money deposit Declaration	Earnest money deposit Declaration as per proforma 'Annexure-A'
Downloading of e-tender document	Start date 08.02.2022 at 06:00 PM End date 15.02.2022 at 02:00 PM
Date of uploading of E-tender	Start date 08.02.2022 at 06:00 PM End date 15.02.2022 at 02:00 PM
Date of opening of Tender (online)	Date 15.02.2022 at 04:00 PM
Time Limit	One Month

Bid documents consisting of the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be downloaded free of cost/ seen at the website of Chandigarh Administration www.etenders.chd.nic.in/nicgep/app

Executive Engineer,
Electy. 'OP' Division No.2,
Indl. Area Ph-I,
UT, Chandigarh
E-mail: elop2-chd@nic.in
Contact No.0172-2655531
Fax No.0172-2637880

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this Male **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 47 Years, **Sex:** Male **Height:** 5 feet 4 inch **Built**: Strong, **Complexion** : Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Light Brown Color Jacket, Blue Color Jeans Pant was found Dead on Mahatma Gandhi Marg Near Shantivan Red Light towards Kashmiri Gate terminal , Daryaganj, Delhi on 06.02.2022.

In this regard a FIR No.116/22, dated 06.02.2022, has been Registered in place of lodged at P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi.

The Dead Body has been preserved in MAMC Mortuary for 72 hours for identification.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Male but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this Male may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi
DP/1242/CD/2022(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23274683, 8750870421

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Bhoranj Distt. Hamirpur H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class for the works as detailed in the table.:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Starting Date for down--loading Bid	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Construction of type-II quarter 4 Nos for HPPWD employees at Bhoranj Distt. Hamirpur(SH:- C/O building portion , water supply sanitary installation, septic tank and site development including boundary wall).	90,31,392,/-	1,22,900/-	22/02/2022	02/03/2022
2.	Construction of Divisional office building at Bhoranj District Hamirpur (H.P.)(SH:-Construction of building portion, providing water supply and sanitary installation Septic tank, rain water harvesting tank and site development i/c boundary wall and solar water heater).	1,84,29,314/-	2,20,000/-	22/02/2022	02/03/2022
3.	C/O additional accommodation in Govt. Sen. Sec. School Amroh Tehsil Bhoranj Distt. Hamirpur (HP) (SH:- C/O building portion one No. class room with staff room and stair case with verandah in second floor) (Deposit)	18,91,902/-	38,000/-	22/02/2022	02/03/2022
4.	C/O Ambulance road to Harizan Basti Balokhar Distt. Hamirpur (HP) (SH:-C/O R/wall in various RD 0/185 to 0/195, 0/195 to 0/208 and 0/240 to 0/260 and C.C pavement at RD 0/220 to 0/260).	8,64,917/-	17,500/-	22/02/2022	02/03/2022
5.	C/o Rain shelter at Mundkhar on Una Aghar Mandi road Km. 85/850.	5,66,495/-	11,500/-	22/02/2022	02/03/2022
6.	C/O outdoor stadium in Tehsil Bhoranj at Sungarwar (SH:- C/O 900 mm dia hume pipe culvert).	19,63,095/-	37,500/-	22/02/2022	02/03/2022
7.	C/O Hamirpur Jahu road Km. 15/0 to 30/0 (SH:- C/O R/wall at RD 20/681 to 20/695).	5,55,303/-	11,500/-	22/02/2022	02/03/2022
8.	C/O M/T link road to village Bhoti towards house of Shri Shamsher Singh (SH:-P/L interlocking paver block and C.C pavement at RD 0/0 to 0/400).	20,88,874/-	39,000/-	22/02/2022	02/03/2022
9.	C/O library at Govt. Degree College Bhoranj (Tarkwari) Distt. Hamirpur (HP) (SH:- C/O building portion, water supply and sanitary installation, septic tank, RWH etc.)	78,80,252/-	1,57,700/-	22/02/2022	02/03/2022
10.	C/O Type –I quarter 4 Nos. for HPPWD Employee at Bhoranj Distt. Hamirpur (SH:- C/O civil work, water supply and sanitary installation, septic tank and site development).	55,82,392/-	89,000/-	22/02/2022	02/03/2022
11.	C/O additional accommodation (6 no. class room) in Govt. Senior Secondary School Bhoranj Distt. Hamirpur (HP). (SH:- C/O 3 No. class room building portion with stair case in 1st floor level).	28,12,892/-	50,000/-	22/02/2022	02/03/2022

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer,
Bhoranj Division, HPPWD, Bhoranj. Pin Code 176045
Telephone No. 01972-266099
e-mail: eepwd-bhoranj-hp@gov.in
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HP / 6762/21-22 **HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER TO BE ISSUED FOR PUBLICATION IN NEWS PAPERS FOR OFFLINE TENDERING.

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

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time	Cost of form
1.	Improvement of water supply scheme for providing household connection to PC habitation under Gram Panchayat Drognoo, Thala Urla & Bhagotla under water supply scheme Kandi Bhagotla in Tehsil Palampur, Distt. Kangra (H.P) (UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION) (SH:- Laying, jointing and testing of galvanized iron pipe of various dia for distribution system)	Rs. 2,51,956/-	Rs. 5,040/-	Three Months	Rs. 250/-
2.	Augmentation and Improvement of water supply scheme Andretta Agozar Biara & Lift water supply scheme Tikkar Indora under Jaisinghpur constituency in Tehsil Palampur, Distt. Kangra (H.P) (SH:- Laying, jointing and testing of galvanized iron pipe of various dia for distribution system)	Rs. 4,24,219/-	Rs. 8,490/-	Three Months	Rs. 250/-
3.	Providing of High Quality Banners based on water Quality and JJM Under IEC/BCC/IPC activities under JJM in JSV Sub Division Palampur, Distt. Kangra (H.P) (SH:-Providing and fixing of Banners at various G.P. School and Anganwari)	Rs. 1,20,750/-	Rs. 2,420/-	Three Months	Rs. 250/-
4.	Providing House hold connection by Ministry of Jal Shakti "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal" in WSS Andretta, Agojar & Biara in Jaisinghpur Constituency in Tehsil Palampur, Distt. Kangra (H.P) (SH:- Laying and jointing of GMS Pipe Light class of various dia)	Rs. 2,85,598/-	Rs. 5,720/-	Three Months	Rs. 250/-
5.	Improvement of water supply scheme for providing household connection to PC habitation under Gram Panchayat Drognoo, Thala Urla & Bhagotla under water supply scheme Kandi Bhagotla in Tehsil Palampur, Distt. Kangra (H.P) (UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION) (SH:- Laying, jointing and testing of galvanized iron pipe of various dia for distribution system)	Rs. 3,51,262/-	Rs. 9,000/-	Three Months	Rs. 250/-
6.	Construction of Flow irrigation scheme Maang Kuhl in Tehsil Palampur, Distt. Kangra (H.P) (SH:- Construction of reinforcement cement concrete main channel form RD 115 to 235 = 120 runningmetre)	Rs. 3,58,886/-	Rs. 7,180/-	Three Months	Rs. 250/-
7.	Providing household connection by Ministry of Jal Shakti "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal" in water supply scheme Andretta Agojar Biara in Tehsil Palampur, Distt. Kangra (H.P) (UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION) (SH:- Construction of reinforcement cement concrete underground storage tank of 40000 litre capacity each at Node No. 88)	Rs. 4,36,401/-	Rs. 8,730/-	Three Months	Rs. 250/-

1. Last date of submission of tender:- **17.02.2022 upto 11:00PM** and the same will be opened on **17.02.2022 at 11.30 AM**. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website. **www.hpiph.org.** or from office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Palampur date specified above.

HP / 6773/21-22 **HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION DIVISION BAGLIHAR HYDRO PROJECT - II CHANDERKOTE DISTRICT RAMBAN, J&K-192148
E-mail:- xenegenbhep2@gmail.com, Ph.No. 01998-288052

NOTICE INVITING OFFERS
No: GEN/BHEP-II/1205-07 Dated:04-02-2022

For and on behalf of Managing Director JKSPDC, offers are invited from OEM or their authorized dealers or reputed firms/contractors etc for the below mentioned job.
Detailed inspection and maintenance of 400 KV GIS System at 3X150 MW BHEP-II Power House.
The brief scope of work for the offers to be submitted should be as per below mentioned format:

S.NO	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	QUANITITY	AMOUNT (To be quoted including GST)
1	Detail Inspection & Maintenance of 400 KV GIS at BHEP-II Power House as per the operation , maintenance manual submitted by the OEM . All the Manpower, consumables, tools and plants, testing equipment (if any) etc. required for completion of whole job shall be included in the scope.	Complete Job	
		TOTAL AMOUNT	

The Budgetary offers can be sent via email to xenegenbhep2@gmail.com or via hand/speed post/courier to the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of uploading.
Note : 1. The rates quoted should be FOR Ramban,chanderkote and inclusive of all taxes and duties.
2. In case of any query, the offerers/ quotationers should contact the office of the undersigned before the end of last date for seeking the necessary clarification,

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Generation Division BHEP-II , chanderkote.
DIP/J-6073-P/21

Office of the Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Daltonganj

e-Procurement Notice

Short e-Tender Reference no.- RCD/Daltonganj/113 (3rd Call)
Dated :- 09.02.2022

1	कार्य का नाम	Construction of Road from Daltonganj 2 no. Town Link Road to Pandit Jag Narayan Tripathi B.Ed College Bahimagara (Chiyanki) Under Road Division, Daltonganj (Total Length - 510 M) for the Year 2021-22.
2	प्राक्कलित राशि	Rs.- 3,02,13,000.00 (Three Crore Two Lacs Thirteen Thousand Only).
3	बीड सिक्युरिटी (राशि)	Rs.- 3,02,500.00 (Three Lacs Two Thousand Five Hundred Only).
4	कार्य पूर्ण करने की तिथि	06 Months
5	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	14-02-2022 from 10.30 A.M.
6	निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	28-02-2022 upto 12.00 Noon
7	निविदा खुलने का तिथि एवं समय	04-03-2022 at 12.30 P.M.
8	निविदा खुलने का स्थान	Chief Engineer (Com)cum-Nodal Officer, e-Procurement Cell, RCD, Jharkhand, 1st Floor, Engineer's Hostel No. -2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004.
9	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम, पता एवं दूरभाष संख्या	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, डालटनगंज। 06562–225019
10	ई–मेल	eercdmedini-jhr@nic.in
11	ई–प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल का सहायता दूरभाष संख्या	0651-2401010

Note : Estimated amount may vary.
Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer,
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Daltonganj
PR 263548 Road(21-22).D

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank
Central Stationery Department
Nowgam Bye-Pass
Srinagar, 190 015 J&K

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

e-Request for Quote (e-RFQ)
for
Printing and Supply of Cheque Books / Security Forms (S-2) from Prospective IBA Approved Security Form Printers

RFQ Notice along with Complete RFQ document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal **https://jkbank.abcprocure.com** w.e.f., **February 10, 2022, 16.00 Hrs.** Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website **www.jkbank.com**. Last date for submission of Bids is **March 03, 2022, 17.00 Hrs.**

e-RFQ Ref. No. JKB/CSD/Security-Forms/2022-226
Dated: 08-02-2022

J&K PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD.
Office of the Deputy General Manager Mechanical Unit
ABBREVIATED SHORT TERM E- TENDER NOTICE
E-NIT No MECH/J/NIT/28of 2021-22 Dated: 04-02-2022

For and on behalf of the Managing Director JKPCC Ltd., Jammu, e-tenders are hereby invited by Deputy General Manager,Mechanical Unit, JKPCC Ltd, Jammu for the following

S. No	Subject	Tendered Amount (Rs.)
A	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of one no 20 passenger machine room less (MRL) bed elevator at additional 100 bedded IPD Block of Distt Hospital Kishtwar.	22.89 lacs
B	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Detection, Fire Alarm & Fire Hydrant System at additional 100 bedded IPD Block of Distt Hospital Kishtwar.	26.73 lacs
C	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Medical Gas pipeline system for OTs along with construction of manifold room at Indira Gandhi Govt Dental Hospital Phase-II, Jammu	28.35 lacs

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from Dt: 05-02-2022 from 1600 Hrs to Dt: 14-02-2022upto 1600 Hrs with due date of opening on 15-02-2022.

Sd/- (Er. K. K. Padotra)
Deputy General Manager,
JKPCC Ltd. Unit, Jammu.
DIPJ-6063- P/21

Herbal hookah allowed in bars, Delhi govt. tells High Court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Wednesday told the High Court that service of herbal hookah is permitted in bars subject to compliance with COVID-19 appropriate protocol and other relevant conditions.

Delhi government counsel Santosh Kumar Tripathi told Justice V. Kameswar Rao that the case of the petitioner – a restaurant-cum-bar owner challenging the ban on serving herbal hookahs – is covered by the order passed by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority on February 4 which has allowed bars and restaurants to operate at 50 per cent capacity.

He said petitioners have to give an undertaking in court that they would strictly follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour while serving herbal hookah.

The judge stated that the DDMA order permitting the petitioner to serve herbal hookah shall be effective till the next date of hearing on April 20.

Industries in NCR told to switch to PNG by Sept. 30

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Commission for Air Quality Management on Wednesday asked industries located in the NCR districts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to completely switch over to PNG or biomass fuels by September 30.

The commission had in the past also asked States multiple times to switch to PNG or biomass fuels.

Closure warning

"As per the Commission's directions, industries located in the NCR of Haryana, U. P. and Rajasthan shall completely switch over to PNG or biomass fuels, by September 30. Non-switchover shall result in closure of industries using other fuels," the commission said in a statement.

Timings

DELHI

THURSDAY, FEB. 10		
RISE	07:04	SET 18:08
RISE	12:41	SET 02:03
FRIDAY, FEB. 11		
RISE	07:03	SET 18:09
RISE	13:23	SET 02:58
SATURDAY, FEB. 12		
RISE	07:02	SET 18:09
RISE	14:10	SET 03:52

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	22	13
Safdarjang	22	13
Palam	22	13

Delhi Palam Today
22°C The weather will be dry. Shallow fog and mist will occur in cold morning. Day will be windy but pleasant. Night will be cold.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
22°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cold and misty. Day will be pleasant but windy. Night will be cold.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

Budget session begins on stormy note in Rajasthan

BJP MLAs wear black arm bands to protest exam scam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The budget session of the Rajasthan Assembly began on a stormy note here on Wednesday with the Opposition Bharatiya Janta Party MLAs demanding a CBI probe into the leak of question paper of the State's biggest examination for recruitment of teachers to the government schools. All three Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) legislators also entered the well of the House and raised slogans in support of the demand.

The Congress government has since cancelled the Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers (REET) level II, held in September 2021. While the RLP MLAs staged a walkout, the BJP members, wearing black arm bands, kept standing at their seats and displayed placards containing slogans in support of their demand for probe by the premier investigating agency.

Governor Kalraj Mishra in the Assembly on Wednesday.

The State government has handed over investigation to the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the police, which has confirmed that the question paper was leaked from the Education Department's building, Shiksha Sankul, in Jaipur two days before the exam.

The SOG has arrested 38 persons, including 14 candidates, and recovered ₹1.16 crore paid for gaining access to the paper.

Governor Kalraj Mishra read out the customary address to the House, highlighting the State government's achievements and praising the management of COVID-19 pandemic.

Though Mr. Mishra asked the BJP MLAs to sit down in the middle of his address, the protesting legislators refused to budge.

However, there was no disruption and the Governor completed his address in about an hour.

Asked to help topple MVA govt.: Raut

ED targeting party leaders, Sena MP writes to RS Chairman

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut, one of the architects of the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra, has written to Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu claiming he was approached to help topple the State government.

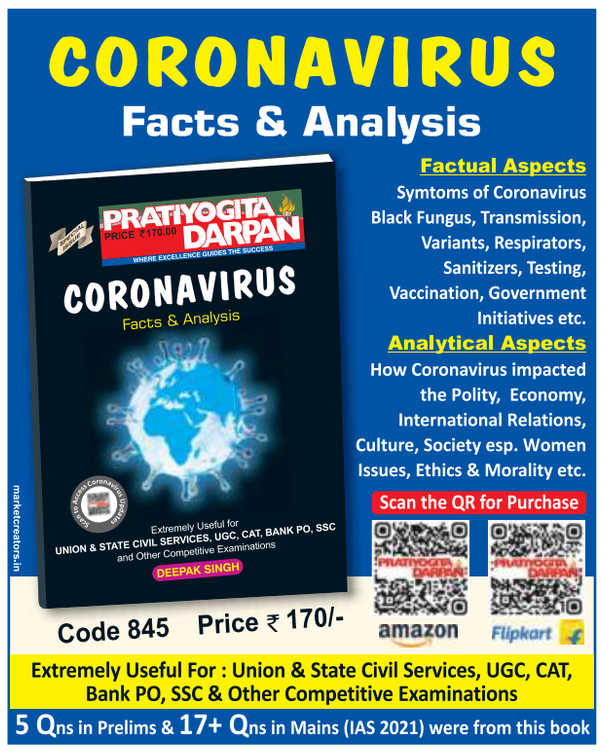
He said Central agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are targeting Sena leaders, setting the stage for yet another round of confrontation between the party and the opposition BJP after a brief lull.

"About a month ago, I was approached by certain people and told to assist them in toppling the Maharashtra government. They wanted me to be instrumental in such endeavour so that the State could be forced into midterm election," wrote Mr. Raut, adding that since he refused, he was warned about having to pay a heavy price for it.

The Sena leader wrote that agencies were threatening to jail friends and acquaintances and attach their properties if they do not give statements against him.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 9820350726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in
THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper



Sundaram-Clayton Limited

Regd office: "Chaitanya", No.12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Chennai 600 006
Tel : 044-2833 2115 Fax : 044 - 2833 2113
Website : www.sundaram-clayton.com Email : corpsec@sundaramclayton.com
CIN : L35999TN1962PLC004792

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended
		31.12.2021	31.12.2020	31.03.2021	31.12.2021	31.12.2020	31.03.2021
		(Unaudited)		(Audited)	(Unaudited)		(Audited)
1	Total Income	427.17	376.27	1,288.08	6,930.64	6,396.90	20,361.68
2	Net Profit / (Loss) before tax (before Exceptional Items)	9.44	44.91	136.10	369.46	443.21	876.62
3	Net Profit / (Loss) before tax (after Exceptional Items)	20.23	39.60	123.10	379.80	436.16	854.26
4	Net Profit / (Loss) after tax (after Exceptional Items)	16.36	38.24	75.84	253.21	330.74	592.09
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (after tax)]	16.80	49.24	174.04	268.78	366.51	806.02
6	Equity share Capital (Face value of Rs.5/-each)	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	705.76	-	-	2,894.47
8	Security Premium Account	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42
9	Networth	2,263.89	529.14	556.27	6,601.91	4,242.80	4,438.39
10	Outstanding Debt (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary)	717.38	596.44	631.23	2,603.70	2,823.88	2,407.22
11	Outstanding redeemable Preference Shares	- NOT APPLICABLE -					
12	Debt Equity Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary, including exceptional item)	0.31	0.90	0.85	0.35	0.33	0.31
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Rs.5/-each) (not annualised) (In Rs.)						
	(i) Basic	8.09	18.90	37.49	62.93	100.02	159.98
	(ii) Diluted	8.09	18.90	37.49	62.93	100.02	159.98
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -					
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -					
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary)	1.63	4.14	1.28	3.48	5.95	2.26
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary)	4.15	7.17	5.76	11.79	6.76	8.88

Notes:

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

2 The Company has prepared these standalone and consolidated financial results in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013.

For Sundaram-Clayton Limited
Sd/-
Chairman

Date : 9th February 2022

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/2012/49940 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 12 • No. 34

Set up SIT to probe murder of T.N. Minister's brother: High Court

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Wednesday ordered the constitution of a Special Investigation Team to probe the 2012 murder of K.N. Ramajeyam, brother of Municipal Administration Minister K.N. Nehru.

The decision was taken since the Central Bureau of Investigation, which had been probing the case since 2017, has been unable to make any breakthrough.

HC seeks Facebook's stand on plea by T.N. leader

State BJP spokesperson's account was restricted after he had posted a video of anti-LTTE speech

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked Facebook to respond to a petition by BJP Tamil Nadu spokesperson S.G. Suryah challenging the decision of the social networking giant to restrict and demonetise his account.

Justice V. Kameswar Rao issued notice to Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook, and the Centre while posting the case for hearing on March 30.

Mr. Suryah, in his petition filed through advocate Mukesh Sharma, said that he has a verified Facebook page with a following among various political observers, not only in India but also internationally.

Several limitations

He stated that in December last year, he came to know that two of his Facebook posts were marked as community standard violation and later his Facebook page

was restricted for a month with several limitations along with a disclaimer of "risk of my Facebook page getting unpublished".

Mr. Suryah said the Facebook post pertains to a YouTube video on anti-LTTE speech made by Jnanpith and Sahitya Akademi awardee late Tamil writer Jayakanthan. He said Facebook marked these two posts as "pro-LTTE" and restricted his Facebook page without even giving any opportunity of hearing.

"It seems that the Respondent No.2 [Facebook] misinterpreted the contents of aforesaid two posts, which were posted in Tamil language and took a wrongful decision," his plea contended. In Facebook, the demonisation of page means that my ability to host or create paid online events got restricted, Mr. Suryah said. He argued that Facebook's action also imposes an "intolerable and illegal restriction" on the right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under the Constitution.

Mr. Suryah has sought that his Facebook account be reinstated with the same reach as it had prior to the action.

Four Naxals arrested with explosives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DANTEWADA

Four Naxals were arrested and explosives were seized from their possession in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Dantewada district, police said on Wednesday.

Two tiffin bombs, weighing 3 kg each, five gelatin sticks and a wireless set, a Maoist uniform, electric wire and items of daily use were recovered from the them, a CRPF officer said.

Message for BJP in berth for NPF in Nagaland govt.

Assembly had become Opposition-less

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

An MLA of the Naga People's Front (NPF), whose members used to sit in the Opposition until August 2021, was sworn in on Wednesday as a Cabinet Minister in the Nagaland coalition government headed by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

Y.M. Yollow Konyak was accommodated to fill a berth vacated by C.M. Chang of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), who died in October 2020.

He was sworn in by Nagaland Governor Jagdish Mukhi at the Raj Bhavan in State capital Kohima in the presence of Mr. Rio, his predecessor and newly appointed chairman of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA), T.R. Zeliang, the Ministers and other legislators.

UDA insiders said that in Mr. Konyak's induction was a message from the NDPP to its minor partner, the BJP.

The BJP's State unit had reportedly been parleying with the NPF a year ago to keep the NDPP in check. But Mr. Rio is said to have turned the tables by offering the NPF to become part of the government on the pretext of pursuing the "Naga political issue" (peace process) together. The NPF took the offer in August 2021.

Vaze's plea to retract his statement rejected

Deshmukh, his staff asked me to collect money from bars, he says in affidavit

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The judicial commission constituted to investigate corruption allegations against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Wednesday rejected an application by dismissed police officer Sachin Vaze to retract his statements.

Mr. Vaze had filed an affidavit stating he wanted to retract his statements made during his deposition. "Not only Anil Deshmukh (former Home Minister) but also people associated with him asked me to collect money from bars or bar owners," he said.

Mr. Vaze referred to his cross-examination on December 14, 2021, when he was asked "Was there any occasion for you where you had to make payment to the then Home Minister Anil Deshmukh?" He had then said "No".

However in the affidavit he mentions, "I retract the same today and the answer to the question is "Yes"."

He also wanted to change his reply to the second question: "Is it correct, none of the persons either as personal staff or associated with Mr. Deshmukh ever demanded money from you?" To this he had said "From me, personally "No"." However, he now wants to change his reply to "Yes, people associated with Mr. Deshmukh or on his behalf did demand money from me, which I was instructed to collect on behalf of Mr. Deshmukh and/or his associates".

The third question was: "Did anybody from the office of Mr. Deshmukh or Mr. Deshmukh ask you to collect money from bars or bar owners?" He had replied "I do not remember". He now wants to change it to "Not only Mr. Anil Deshmukh, but also people associated with him asked me to do so".

The fourth question was: "...since you did not collect any money, there was no occasion for you to make payment/offer anything by cash to the staff of Mr. Deshmukh or Mr. Deshmukh himself?"

He had said "Yes". He now wants to retract that and say, "No, I did hand over the cash to people associated with Mr. Deshmukh, upon his instructions".

His affidavit alleges, "I have been always subjected to severe mental torture and harassment apparently by the then Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, and even after his resignation, it has continued."

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH
AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE Established by Govt. of Karnataka
(A Postgraduate Institute of Higher Medical Sciences)
Recognised Under Societies Registration Act. Reg. No. 132/85-86
South Hospital Complex, Dharmaram College Post, Bengaluru-560029.
e-mail: ihealthchild@yahoo.in Website: https://igich.karnataka.gov.in

IFT No: IGICH/ADMN/TEN/1/2022-ADMN-IGICH Date: 07.02.2022

INVITATION OF TENDERS
(Through GoK e-Procurement Platform https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

Tenders For The Procurement of Surgery & Anesthesia, Lab & Blood Bank, ENT, CSSD, Orthopedics & Pulmonology Medical Equipments are invited through GoK e-Procurement platform **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by the Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bengaluru - 560 029 from eligible tenderers for the following mentioned hereunder:

Sl. No.	Equipments	Qty	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Neonatal Restoscope Urethrotome & Knife	1	10,000/-
2	Integrated Cystoscope (Neonatal)	1	6,500/-
3	Integrated Cystoscope (Padeiatric)	1	6,500/-
4	Table mounted self retaining abdominal retractor set with flexible arm	1	28,000/-
5	Surgical smoke evacauator	1	5,000/-
6	Paediatric Rigid Bronchoscope	1	5,000/-
7	Mobile C-Arm unit	1	15,000/-
8	Videogastroscope	1	15,000/-
	Microbiology		
1	Elisa reader instrument	1	6,000/-
	Blood Bank		
1	Refrigerated centrifuge with Buy Back System	1	35,000/-
2	Fully automated Elisa processor 3 plates	1	35,000/-
3	Sterile connecting device	1	12,000/-
	Pathology		
1	Fully automated urine analyser	1	8,000/-
2	6 part differential cell counter with reticulocyte count & NRBCs	1	25,000/-
3	Handheld non contact rein illumination device	1	5,000/-
	Paediatric ENT		
1	Camera (HD) with light source & monitor	1	30,000/-
2	ENT OPD Unit	1	2,500/-
3	Main Console for coblator & wands	1	10,000/-
	CSSD		
1	Autoclave machine 450ltr	1	15,000/-
2	ETO 4.5cf	1	20,000/-
	Blood Bank		
1	Patient Warming System	4	48,000/-
2	Inline fluid warmet	4	12,000/-
3	Target controlled infusion pump (TCI)	2	6,000/-
4	Anesthesia workstation	1	35,000/-
	Orthopaedics		
1	Spinal cord monitoring system	1	30,000/-
	Pediatric Pulmonology		
1	Flexible Fiberoptic Bronchoscope	1	15,000/-

Tender processing charges: **As per e-procurement website.** Tender Documents may be downloaded from: **08.02.2022**. Last Date for sale of Tender Document: **11.03.2022 upto 3.00 PM.** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **11.03.2022 upto 4.00 PM.** Date and time for Pre-bid Meeting & Queries: **23.02.2022 at 3.00 PM.** Place of Pre-bid Meeting: **Office of Director, IGICH, Bengaluru.** Last Date and Time of Opening of Cover One of Tenders: **14.03.2022 at 4.00 PM.** For further Details visit GoK e-procurement Website: **https://eproc.karanataka.gov.in** or contact e-procurement helpdesk on **080-25501216, 080-25501227.**

Sd/- Director
Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health

DIPR/DDU/YC/3287/2021-22

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com
011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

CAREERWILL IAS
DOWNLOAD CAREERWILL APP
IAS LIVE BATCH (ONLINE)
IAS ASPIRANTS!!
India's First Self Paced Course...
learn at your own speed, time and convenience.
GS FOUNDATION COURSE 2022-23
SESSION STARTS 14th FEBRUARY
ENGLISH MEDIUM
7:00 AM
HINDI MEDIUM
4:15 PM
✓ Permanent Faculty & Fixed Schedule ✓ Conceptual Clarity Along with Factual Information ✓ Exam Oriented approach ✓ Comprehensive Coverage of Syllabus ✓ High Quality Study Material (Pdf Format) ✓ Answer Writing & Doubt Session ✓ Affordable Fees
FEE - ~~₹1,10,999/-~~ — ₹20999/-
We don't just claim to be the best, we indeed are, attend two free classes and decide for yourself
Call us : 9310934121, 9310998566

PHILOSOPHY
DELHI & JAIPUR
FRESH BATCH 23 FEB., 8 AM
LIVE ONLINE/ OFFLINE
* Short Syllabus * Helps in Essay & Ethics
* Very Scoring * Preparation of 1000 Marks
Mitra's IAS
Jaipur : 703, Apex Tower, Lal Kothi; Call 7877532511
Delhi : 39, Pusa Road (Samyak Tower, Opp. Metro Pillar No. 120)
8826469839 / 9560928172 / 45505509

EDUCATIONAL

FREE IAS INTERVIEW
By Recently Selected Officers with 200+ Score
Get All Possible Questions on Your DAF
Exact UPSC Type Interview By the Best Mentors
Send DAF on 7900447900/9910922241 or mail DAF on ensureias@gmail.com

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT TRUST
MARINE DEPARTMENT
Notice for e- Tender
Tender No. G1/1332/2021/ M
Bids are invited online under Two Cover system for Tender for "Chartering of 1 No 40 Ton Bollard Pull tug for five years and extendable for a further period of two years in Chennai Port Trust".
Estimated cost put to tender: Rs.30,67,68,000/- (Excluding Applicable GST)
For details visit websites:
www.chennaiport.gov.in
https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app
-Sd-
Deputy Conservator.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Axis Bank Ltd. that **Mr. Baljeet Dhawan** intends to purchase/mortgage the **Entire First Floor** and a servant quarter on the lower level terrace on Second of **Property bearing no. K-25**, situated at **Kailash Colony, New Delhi** with our client Axis Bank Limited against the financial assistance. Whereas, Mr. Raj Ahluwalia was the owner of above said property by way of Sale Deed dated 30.10.1989 and Will dated 30.09.2000. Unfortunately, Mr. Raj Ahluwalia died and leaving behind **his son Mr.** Goni Ahluwalia as his sole Legal heir (as per Surviving Member Certificate). Now, Mr. Goni Ahluwalia intends to sell the same to **Mr. Baljeet Dhawan.**
If any person(s) having objection with regard to ownership/mortgage of the Said Property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 15 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information is received within 15 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. **Axis Bank Ltd.** will proceed with the mortgage process.
DEEPJYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE
A-13, LGF, South Extn-II, New Dehi-49 # 011-26262610, 11, 12

PUBLIC NOTICE
ENTIRE FREEHOLD PLOT OF LAND BEARING NO. 24, ROAD NO. 'K-11' MEASURING 250.56 SQ. MTRS., SITUATED IN THE RESIDENTIAL COLONY KNOWN AS DLF QUTAB ENCLAVE COMPLEX, (DLF CITY), PHASE-II, GURUGRAM-122001 (HARYANA), IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE SARHAUL, TEHSIL & DISTRICT, GURUGRAM, HARYANA, ALONG WITH OWNERSHIP RIGHTS IN THE PLOT OF LAND UNDERNEATH.
"Be it known to all that my client has agreed to purchase entire freehold plot of land bearing no. 24, road no. 'K-11' measuring 250.56 sq. mtrs., situated in the residential colony known as DLF Qutab Enclave Complex, (DLF City), Phase-II, Gurugram-122001 (Haryana), in the revenue estate of village Sarhaul, Tehsil & District, Gurugram, Haryana, along with ownership rights in the plot of land underneath, [say **'SAID PROPERTY'**] from **(1) Ms. Ratna Desai** D/o late Sh. Deepak Desai and **(2) Ms. Meha Desai** D/o late Sh. Deepak Desai R/o C-15, Nizamuddin West, New Delhi-110013, through her attorney **Ms. Ratna Desai** D/o late Sh. Deepak Desai, who have represented themselves to be absolute and exclusive owners of the said property and have further represented that the said property is free from all disputes, litigations, charges, liens and other encumbrance(s) whatsoever.
Any other person(s) having any claim against, into or upon the said property or any part thereof by virtue of sale, inheritance, agreement, contract, mortgage, lien, charge etc., or otherwise howsoever and of whatsoever nature is hereby required to notify the same in writing along with supporting documentary evidence to the undersigned within 10 days, from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my client shall conclude the sale and any claim and/or objection if any shall be considered as waived and abandoned and shall not be binding upon my client.
AMIT GUPTA (Advocate)
C-13, Pamposh Enclave, New Delhi-48.Tel: 26284741, 26284569

E-Procurement Notice :: Request for Proposals for Consultancy Services
Name of Project : **Assam Inland Water Transport Project (AIWTP)**
RFP Reference no : **IN-IWT-272430-CS-QCBS**
Assignment Title: "Selection of General Consultant for Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society (AIWTDS)"
The Government of India has obtained financing from the World Bank towards cost of the Assam IWT Project. Under the project, State Project Director, Assam IWTD Society invites RFP through National Open Competitive bidding process from eligible consulting firms for the aforesaid assignment. Complete documents of the RFP shall be available on website **www.assamtenders.gov.in**, **http://iwtdirectorate.assam.gov.in** & **www.aiwtdsociety.in.** Intending bidders are required to register at e-tender portal of the Assam Govt. **www.assamtenders.gov.in** and participate through e-tender portal only. **The last date and time of online submission of proposal is on 14/03/2022 at 14:00 HRS (IST).**
Sd/-
State Project Director
Assam IWT Development Society
Email : **dir.iwtds-as@gov.in**
Janasanyog/CF/3267/21

जवाहरलाल नेहरु एल्युमिनियम अनुसंधान विकास एवं डिजाइन केन्द्र
Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India)
Amravati Road, Wadi, Nagpur - 440 023
www.jnarddc.gov.in
JNARDDC

Expression of Interest (EOI)
Director, JNARDDC, Nagpur, invites Expression of Interest from prospective firms for the following.
निदेशक, जे.एन.ए.आर.डी.डी.सी., नागपुर, निम्नलिखित के लिए इच्छुक फर्म से रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति आमंत्रित करता है।

Ref. No.	Description	Date of Uploading EOI
54	Design, manufacture, supply & installation of anode current distribution system for aluminium electrolysis cell	11.02.2022
55	Providing Group Medical Insurance Coverage (Hospital)	10.02.2022

The details can be downloaded from the centre's website **www.jnarddc.gov.in.**
वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-5
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(M)-5
ROOM NO.312, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I
JHANDEWALAN, DELHI-110005
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
PRESS NIT NO.43(2021-22) M-5

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender	E/Money (EMD)	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)	Date of Release of Tender/ Tender Id.	Last Date / Time of receipt of Tender
1.	Shifting/replacement of old 12" dia. (300mm dia.) water line from 150 Double Storey to Andh Vidhyalaya, New Rajender /nagar under EE(West)-II AC-39 Rajender Nagar (Re-invite).	Rs. 37,30,743/-	Rs. 74,700/-	Rs. 500/-	Dt. 08/02/2022 2022_DJB_216322_1	21/02/2022 Upto 3.00 PM
2.	New boring of 5 nos. tube wells in Nehru Nagar, Prem Nagar and Punjab Basti, Anand Parbat AC-24 under AEE Patel Nagar Constituency.	Rs. 26,04,192/-	Rs. 52,100/-	Rs. 500/-	Dt. 08/02/2022 2022_DJB_216322_2	21/02/2022 Upto 3.00 PM
3.	Re-boring of 8 nos. tube wells in Baljeet Nagar, Prem Nagar and Nehru Nagar AC-24 under AEE Patel Nagar Constituency.	Rs. 41,43,099/-	Rs. 82,900/-	Rs. 500/-	Dt. 08/02/2022 2022_DJB_216322_3	21/02/2022 Upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regards can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) **(Satya Veer Singh)**
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1109 (2021-22) **Executive Engineer(T)M-5**

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(E&M)-II
WAZIRABAD WATER WORKS, TIMARPUR DELHI-110054
PRESS NIT NO.39(2021 -22)/EE(E&M)-II
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

NIT No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money(Rs.)	Date of Release of tender in E-Procurement Solution	Last Date / Time of receipt of Tender through E-procurement Solution
39	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Digital Water Level Recorder DWLRs at Various Locations of Delhi including 5 years of O and M for Real Time Ground Water-Level Monitoring	Item Rate	Rs. 290000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Ninety Thousand only) Earnest Money Exempted	Tender ID: 2022_DJB_216139_1 Publish Date 04-Feb-2022 5:45 PM onwards	04-Mar-2022 up to 03:30 PM

NIT along with all terms & conditins is available on DJB website https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) **(Pankaj Rajvanshi)**
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1111 (2021-22) **Executive Engineer(E&M)-II**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
(Training Wing)
Alandur Road, Guindy, Chennai-600 032.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Ref.No.4506/Pur.5/2022 Dt: 09.02.2022
Sealed Tenders in Two cover system are invited from Indian Companies for Creation of infrastructure for the project **"Transforming 71 Government ITIs in Tamil Nadu as Technology Centres with Modern Technologies to Meet the Industry 4.0 Standards".**
The details of Machineries, Equipment, Tools, Software & Hardware to be procured along with specifications are mentioned in the tender documents which can be downloaded from the Government tender website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** or **www.skilltraining.tn.gov.in** at free of cost.

1	Tender inviting authority	The Joint Director (SAMC) O/o Director of Employment and Training, Guindy, Chennai - 32
2	EMD	Refer Tender Document
3	Conditions	As stipulated in the tender document
4	Sale of tender document	**10.02.2022 to 11.03.2022 up to 11.00 AM** (On all working days)
5	Last date for receipt of tender	**11.03.2022** up to 3.00 PM
6	Date, time and place of opening the tender	**11.03.2022** at 3.30 PM Conference Hall, DET, Chennai - 32
7	Pre-bid meeting	**23.02.2022** at 11.30 AM at the above venue

DIPR/661/Tender/2022 **Joint Director (SAMC) / Tender Inviting Authority**
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(C)DR.XI
ROOM NO. 308, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005
Telephone :- 011 -23554487/ Email :- eecdr11.djb@nic.in
NIT No. 05 (2021-22)
(PRESS TENDER)
Stop Corona
(i) Wash Your Hands, (ii) Wear Mask, (iii) Maintain Social Distance

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV) / Amount put to tender	Date of release of tender on e-procurement system	Last Date / Time for receipt of tender through e-procurement system
1.	Upgradation of 70 MGD Wastewater treatment plant at Coronation Pillar and laying of Rising Main from Coronation Pillar to Upstream of Wazirabad in Delhi.	PPP/HAM BASIS	08.02.2022 at 06:00 hours onwards Tender ID : 2022_DJB_216376_1	01.03.2022 upto 15:00 hours

Further details, in this regard, can be seen on Delhi Government web-site https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in. Any further corrigendum / addendum / clarification, if any, will be uploaded on website only.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
ADVT. NO. J.S.V. 1107(2021-22) **Executive Engineer (C) DR-XI**

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES
FIRST ANNIVERSARY

SHRI R. GOPALASWAMY
1931 - 2021
"YOU LIVE IN OUR HEARTS!"
Fondly remembered by:
Family and Friends

For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m.
New Delhi : 011- 43579797
Rate for New Delhi:
(Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines
Extra Line - Rs.160/-)
(B/W Display): Rs.60/Per Sq.cm
(Clr Display) : Rs.70/Per Sq.cm
Log on to
www.thehinduads.com
For Placing Advertisements Online

In memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
011-43579797
from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to
www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

Massive protests in Telangana over PM's remarks

Modi had said the division of erstwhile A.P. did not take place properly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Protesting against the comments made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the division of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh did not take place properly, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) leaders and cadre organised dharnas and rallies at several places across the State. At many places the protests were led by local MLAs while at some places Ministers led the programme. TRS activists wore black shirts as part of protest.

At Jangaon district headquarters tension prevailed as the BJP and the TRS party workers clashed with each other and the TRS activists chased the BJP workers.

Even on social media there was huge protest. With hashtag #ModiEnemyOfTelangana more than 25,000 people expressed their protest within an hour.

At Mahabubnagar, Prohibition and Excise Minister V. Srinvas Goud led the protest. A rally was held with about 5,000 motorcycles in the town.

Endowments Minister A. Indrakaran Reddy led the protests at Nirmal. Addressing the agitators, the Minister said that Telangana was achieved after sacrifices by hundreds of people and Mr. Modi has insulted their sacrifices. He has demanded that the Prime Minister should tender apology to the people of Telangana.

GHMC Mayor Vijayalaxmi Gadwal on Twitter questioned the BJP leaders whether they support the comments made by Mr. Modi.

Strong opposition: TRS supporters burning the effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Hyderabad. ▪ G. RAMAKRISHNA

At Armoor the protest was led by MLA and PUC chairman A. Jeevan Reddy. Bike rally was held by thousands of workers and later effigy of Mr. Modi was burnt.

Agriculture Minister S. Niranjan Reddy said that both the BJP and the Congress were forced to carve out Telangana as the pressure mounted by the public has increased. He said that the BJP has no role in six decades of fight for the separate State, while participating in a programme at Wanaparthy.

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister E. Dayakar Rao alleged that the BJP has conspired against Telangana and the comments made by Mr. Modi were nothing but insulting the people of the State.

Bifurcation issue: Centre for amicable settlement

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that efforts were being made to resolve the issues that had cropped up between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana after the bifurcation of the unified State.

Replying to a question asked by the Bharatiya Janata Party member G.V.L. Narasimha Rao, Mr. Rai said representations had been received from the government of Andhra Pradesh regarding the division of assets as per the A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014.

He said the government of India was striving to build a consensus between the two States to resolve bilateral issues amicably.

"The Ministry of Home Affairs has been holding regular meetings with both the State governments for sorting out the pending issues. So far, 26 review meetings have been held," Mr. Rai said, suggesting that the issues be resolved with the cooperation of both the governments through discussions and mutual consultations.

Apart from questioning what steps had been taken for the division of the assets, Mr. Narasimha Rao sought to know the reasons for the Ministry not seeking advice of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for ordering the division of assets as per Section 47(4) of the Reorganisation Act.

Virtual rallies hit Aligarh retailers' business

COVID, trend of parties procuring election material from Delhi add to their woes

ANUJ KUMAR
ALIGARH

There is a significant drop in business of election material, tents and sound equipment, say owners. ▪ ANUJ KUMAR

Located in Achal Tal, the hub of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supporters in the old city area of Aligarh, Bhuvan Varshney's shop is one spot where Uttar Pradesh's political rivals find equal space. Be it lotus, cycle, or elephant, they all are in business at the shop that deals in election material. However, with the Election Commission imposing restrictions on rallies, there is a significant drop in the business of election material, tents and sound equipment.

"The business is only 10% of what it used to be," said Mr. Varshney, who also deals in stationery.

"It is not just the restrictions; the whole scenario of electioneering is changing. Now, parties procure election material in bulk from Delhi and Surat. It proves economical for them. We are remembered only during the local body elections."

Then, there is the curse of online retail. Mr. Varshney pulls out a stole with a lotus embroidered on it. "Online, it will cost twice the rate I can offer you here. But because of the pandemic, online buying has become a fad in smaller towns as well," he said."And here, as I am a BJP supporter, locals pick up brooches, etc and say, *iske bhi paise loge?* [will you charge for these, as well]," he added.

Across the road, at the sprawling Ramleela Maidan, Rama Tent has a godown next to the election office of BJP candidate Mukti Raja, wife of MLA Sanjeev Raja. "This time, both the wedding and the election season have been curtailed, because of COVID-19," said Kedar Nath Sharma, the manager.

There used to be at least 20 rallies of different parties, Mr. Sharma said, and on an average a tent owner would earn ₹4-5 lakh during the season. According to estimates by the Uttar Pradesh Tent and Banquet Hall Association, its members did business of ₹5 crore during the 2017 poll in Aligarh alone.

"I have to let go my regular employees and pick up daily-wagers from the street when the demand comes." Mr. Sharma is also concerned about candidates' fascination for outsourcing material.

"We can't fulfil the demand for waterproof tents, which are in fashion now," he said. The biggest orders, he added, came from the BJP and the BSP. "As business is poor, no political trend can be gauged through our engagement," he quipped.

The Aligarh city seat usually gets polarised on communal lines and, this time too, it is no different.

If anti-incumbency and discontent in the local unit over the selection of candidate have made things difficult for the BJP, SP supporters are apprehensive that the Muslim candidates put up by the BSP and the Congress might make things difficult for their candidate, former MLA Zafar Alam.

Bengaluru bans protests near schools, colleges

The order will be in effect till Feb. 22

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant issued a prohibitory order under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code within a 200 metre radius of schools, colleges and other educational institutions. It will remain in effect from February 9-22.

"The order was issued in the wake of protests and agitations in certain parts of Karnataka in connection with strict enforcement of dress code in schools and colleges. As the possibility of similar agitations and protests in Bengaluru city cannot be ruled out, it is very essential to initiate proper security measures to maintain law and order," said Mr. Pant in the order.

The order restricts people from holding protests or staging agitations for or against the strict implementation of uniforms near any school, college or educational institution.

On Tuesday tension over the issue of dress code not only spread to more colleges but also took a violent turn on many campuses across Karnataka.

Protests and counter protests over wearing hijab or saffron shawl in classrooms continued throughout the State.

Army rescues hiker stranded on steep hill

23-year-old Babu brought to safety after 45 hours

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA
PALAKKAD

A mountaineering team of the Indian Army rescued a young hiker who was caught in a crevice of a steep rocky hill at Malampuzha, near Kerala's Palakkad, on Wednesday. The hiker, R. Babu, 23, was rescued after 45 hours he perilously clung to life without food and water in the cleft.

The Army move, codenamed Operation Palakkad, brought to a happy end hours of anxiety and prayers that the entire Kerala went through after Babu slipped and fell into the crevice while scaling the Cherad Hill along with two of his friends on Monday.

Army personnel after rescuing Babu (C), who was trapped in a steep gorge in Malampuzha mountains in Palakkad, Kerala for almost two days. ▪ PTI

Although slightly injured, Babu alerted the public about his plight by sharing his picture on the Facebook. Attempts by the NDRF, police, Fire and Rescue Services personnel, forest officials and local volunteers failed as none could reach anywhere near Babu because of the treacherous terrain.

Two Army rock climbing expert teams from Parachute Regimental Training Centre (PRTC), Bengaluru, and Madras Regimental Centre (MRC), Wellington, reached Malampuzha late night on Tuesday and positioned themselves for one of the operations that Kerala applauded with warmth.

When one team climbed the hill along with a group of NDRF and Fire and Rescue Services men, the other provided logistical support from below. Using a rope, one of the soldiers, Bala, descended to the crevice and reached out to Babu with water and food around 8.30 a.m. He was soon lifted to the top of the hill, bringing cheer to the State.

Babu appeared healthy and kissed the Army men in gratitude.

ISRO's Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-04. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ISRO to launch new satellite on Feb. 14

T.K. ROHIT
CHENNAI

After a rather muted 2021, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set for its first launch of 2022 next week.

ISRO plans to place, into orbit, an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-04) on board the PSLV C-52 on February 14.

This will be the first launch for ISRO under the new chairman, S. Somanath.

According to ISRO, the PSLV C-52 is scheduled to launch at 5.59 a.m. from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.

ISRO plans to place the 1,170 kg EOS-04 in a sun synchronous polar orbit of 529 km.

EOS-04 is a radar-imaging satellite, designed to provide high-quality images under all weather conditions for applications such as agriculture, forestry & plantations, soil moisture and hydrology, and flood mapping.

The mission will also carry two small satellites as co-passengers – a student satellite, INSPIREsat-1, from the Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST) in association with the Laboratory of Atmospheric & Space Physics at the University of Colorado, Boulder and a technology demonstrator satellite, INS-2TD from ISRO.

The countdown process of 25 hours and 30 minutes will commence at 4.29 a.m. on February 13, ISRO said.

'*Chintamani*' ban: HC admits implead plea

Bench adjourns hearing by two weeks

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

A Division Bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court comprising Chief Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and Justice M. Satyanarayana Murthy on Wednesday admitted an Implead Petition (IP) filed in favour of the ban imposed on staging of play '*Chintamani*' by G. Chandrasekhar, coordinator of Tirupati-based Sri Kasi Annapurna Vasavi Arya Vysya Vruddhasramam and Nityanna Satram.

He was represented by senior advocate Vedula Venkata Ramana.

Two other Implead Petitions submitted by Devaki Venkateswarlu, president of the Andhra Pradesh wing of International Vysya Federation, and Vijayawada Urban District Arya-Vysya Sangham president Konakalla Vidyadhar Rao, both seeking the ban, were withdrawn as not pressed when the Chief Justice questioned whether such petitions were being filed to thwart the court proceedings.

Artistic freedom

The judges briefly heard Umesh Chandra P.V.G, advocate for the main petitioner, K. Raghu Ramakrishna Raju (Narsapuram MP) who contended that the government could not ban the entire play due to the objectionable portrayal of a character. He cited a Supreme Court judgment which went against attempts to curb artistic freedom.

The court adjourned the hearing by two weeks.

CM defends Sivasankar's right to publish book

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan appeared to stoutly defend senior bureaucrat M. Sivasankar's right to publish his "harrowing" personal history as a "much-vilified" under-trial in the UAE diplomatic baggage gold smuggling case.

Fielding questions at a press conference, Mr. Vijayan said his former Principal Secretary had dwelled in detail about the politically prejudiced line of investigation. To a great degree, Mr. Sivasankar was the victim of a media witch-hunt.

He said some might have felt burned by Mr. Sivasankar's book. Those who had an axe to grind with the author over the autobiographical work had triggered the current controversy. Mr. Vijayan said Mr. Sivasankar had recounted the slander he endured at the hands of the media. The government would examine whether Mr. Sivasankar had permission to publish the work.

Pinarayi Vijayan

When pressed about the headline grabbing interview given by Swapna Suresh, Mr. Sivasankar's acquaintance and a co-accused in the crime, Mr. Vijayan said, "It's a private matter between Swapna and Sivasankar".

'Nehru's indecisiveness prolonged Goa's liberation'

Public has to choose between Cong. and BJP: Amit Shah

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Raising the pitch against the Congress ahead of the Goa Assembly election, BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said had Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership been decisive, Goa would have been liberated in 1947 itself instead of being freed of the Portuguese yoke in 1961.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah meets people during his door-to-door campaign in Bicholim, Goa, on Wednesday. ▪ PTI

In his second campaign tour of the State, which goes to polls on February 14, Mr. Shah said Goa's public has only two options to choose from – the Congress under Rahul Gandhi's leadership or the BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"History is witness that if PM Nehru had acted decisively, then Goa would have been liberated much earlier, in August 1947 itself... India is celebrating its 75th anniversary while Goa its diamond jubilee. A lot of time went in securing Goa's liberation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday raised the issue in Parliament of who was responsible for Goa's delayed liberation," he said at a rally in Bicholim, North Goa, for it's candidate Rajesh Patnekar.

Mr. Patnekar, is a three-term MLA from Bicholim and the current Speaker of the Goa Assembly.

With less than five daysfor the polls, the BJP has unleashed its top guns in Goa. Prime Minister Modi himself will address a public rally on Thursday.

INCOIS carries out coastal vulnerability assessment

V. GEETANATH
HYDERABAD

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has carried out coastal vulnerability assessment for entire Indian coast at States level to bring out an Atlas comprising 156 maps on 1:1,00,000 scales to prepare a Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).

From this CVI, it can be delineated that Gujarat's 124 coastal km is going to get affected or 5.36%, Maharashtra 11 km or 1.22% and then Karnataka & Goa 48 km or 9.54%, Kerala 15 km or 2.39%, Tamil Nadu 65 km or 6.38%, Andhra Pradesh 6 km or 0.55 %, Odisha 37 km or 7.51% West Bengal 49 km or 2.56%, Lakshadweep Islands 1 km or 0.81%, Andaman Islands 24 km or 0.96 km and Nicobar Islands 8 km or 0.97%.

Sea-level rise

While the maps determine the coastal risks due to future sea-level rise based on the physical and geological parameters for the Indian coast, the CVI uses the relative risk that physical changes will occur as sea-level rises are quantified based on parameters like: tidal range; wave height; coastal slope; coastal elevation; shoreline change rate; geomorphology; and historical rate of relative sea-level change, said senior scientist & Group Director T.M. Balakrishnan Nair.

In an exclusive interaction, he pointed out that coastal vulnerability assessments can be useful information for coastal disaster management and building resilient coastal communities. A coastal Multi-Hazard Vulnerability Mapping (MHVM) was also carried out using parameters like sea level change rate, shoreline change rate, high-resolution coastal elevation, extreme water level from tide gauges and their return periods, he explained.

"These parameters were synthesized to derive the composite hazard zones that can be inundated along the coastal low-lying areas due to extreme flooding events. This MHVM mapping was carried for the entire mainland of India on a 1:25000 scale. These maps depict the coastal low-lying areas exposed to the coastal inundation," said Dr. Nair.

AIR supplants Malayalam shows with Hindi

Replacement of popular slots irks listeners

S.R. PRAVEEN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Regular listeners of the All India Radio's (AIR) Ananthapuri FM, available at 101.9 MHz, were in for a bit of a shock this new year as the most popular Malayalam slots in the morning were replaced with content in Hindi.

According to sources in the AIR, over the past few weeks, listeners have been raising their voices against the change in various platforms and through letters. Changes have also been brought about in the main Akashvani channel available in medium wave.

From the beginning of the year, Prasar Bharati began bringing in changes across its regional channels, with some of the popular slots in regional languages replaced by Hindi. While some of the regional programmes were dropped, others were shifted to less popular time slots. The names of the channels have also been changed, with Ananthapuri FM becoming Vividh Bharati Malayalam.

"I used to regularly listen to Ananthapuri FM in the morning. For the past few weeks, the programming have been suddenly changing to Hindi at 9 a.m, which then continues for one hour. There is no other option but to switch off at that time," says Lekshmi, a homemaker.

When *The Hindu* reached out to AIR officials in the State, they said Hindi programmes have been included in two time slots as per directives from higher-ups outside the State. "These changes are part of the new AIR India pattern. They said they wanted one hour each in the morning and evening from our commercial broadcasting service. These are routine changes," said an official who handles programming.

No consultations

However, other sources in the AIR who were more forthcoming said the changes have been made without any consultation at the local level. "This is an institution which is accountable to the public, and hence imposing such changes unilaterally is not right. They went back from making similar changes in Kozhikode and Kochi as there was opposition from listeners, who got political leaders to intervene," a source said.

The programming structure has changed in the main channel available in medium wave too. Some of the programmes in the morning slot, which were a mix of short packages, have been dropped. The time slot for classical music has also been removed, leading to complaints from musicians.

Poet Murukan Kattakada, who took charge as the director of the Malayalam Mission recently, said the move seems to be part of attempts nationwide to impose a monolithic culture by killing all diversity. "As a poet and a lover of the language, it is painful to see such changes," he said.

Empanelled artistes in Karnataka AIR had protested after a similar action there.

Anger in diplomacy

Pak. establishment was behind MNC Kashmir tweets, but India should have shown restraint

The advent of social media has no doubt changed how diplomacy is conducted between countries. Even so, it was surprising that the MEA and the Commerce Ministry put as much energy as they did into ensuring that several multinational companies retracted social media posts their Pakistani distributors had put out last week. The posts, that appeared to be part of a coordinated exercise sponsored by the Pakistani establishment, were put out on February 5 – marked in Pakistan as "Kashmir Solidarity Day" – and contained what New Delhi termed as highly offensive messages calling for "Kashmiri liberation". The Government's outrage was valid, given that these companies, including Hyundai, Toyota, KFC, Pizza Hut, and pharma major Schwabe, also have flourishing businesses in India, and it was strange that private MNCs would post such politically charged messaging at all. However, where a sharp word or even a short statement of disapproval would have sufficed, the Modi government decided to go the whole distance: even summoning the Korean Ambassador while ensuring that Indian embassies took up the issue with other governments. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also raised the matter with his Korean counterpart, who apologised to the Indian people. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal added in Parliament that the original apology by Hyundai India was not adequately "forceful or unequivocal", even as social media consumers in India threatened to boycott products made by the companies concerned.

While the Government might feel it has achieved its purpose by ensuring the companies and governments involved were contrite about the posts, it must also consider the big picture of how its actions, that appear to be at some variance with those of a secure and powerful global player, are viewed in the rest of the world. India's claims over Jammu and Kashmir are strong, and widely acknowledged, and not so fragile that a few social media posts, that appeared only in Pakistan, can dent in any way. Second, holding foreign governments in democratic countries to account for the actions of the local distributors of their private companies could have unforeseen repercussions. It is also worth considering whether the Foreign Ministry's resources are better spent in furthering India's interests than on expending diplomatic capital on short-lived controversies such as the MEA's objection to pop star Rihanna's posts on the farmer protests last year. The apologies and statements thus extracted may prove to be a pyrrhic victory, if one considers that the intentions of those behind the obnoxious posts in Pakistan, aimed at drawing attention to their propaganda on Kashmir, were also met. A quiet word with the MNCs might have worked better than a public display of diplomatic opposition.

The French format

If Normandy Format talks could be convened, it would be a breakthrough for Russia, Ukraine

French President Emmanuel Macron's shuttle diplomacy between Russia and Ukraine is one of the most significant interventions in the crisis ever since tensions started soaring in Eastern Europe. Mr. Macron, who has held talks with Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Moscow and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kiev, has said that both sides remain committed to the Minsk accords (2014-15), aimed at ending the violence between Ukraine and Russia-backed separatists in the east; Mr. Putin assured him that Russia would not escalate the crisis. Put together, these statements offer a path towards calming the Russia-Ukraine tensions. Moscow has issued sweeping demands, including rolling back NATO from Eastern Europe, which the West has rejected. But Russia's key concerns are the growing NATO-Ukraine cooperation and the increasing western presence in the Black Sea. The U.S. had earlier offered dialogue on mutually reducing military drills in the eastern flank of Europe. And what Mr. Macron is trying to do now, through the Normandy Format talks (including France, Germany, Russia, Ukraine), is for a Moscow-Kiev dialogue based on the Minsk protocol, which, in theory, was accepted by both sides.

The crisis has also laid bare the differences within the western bloc on how to deal with Russia. While the Biden administration has threatened to shut down Russia's Nord Stream 2 pipeline in the event of a Russian invasion, the German leadership has been less specific in its response. Germany has barred Estonia, the tiny NATO member that shares a border with Russia, from supplying arms to Ukraine. Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who met Mr. Putin in the Kremlin earlier this month, has said Russia's demands were reasonable. Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who visited Ukraine last week, has offered to host a peace summit. And now, Mr. Macron, who says the West "must respect Russia", has already moved ahead. These varied responses, despite Joe Biden's assertion of unity, show that Europe has less appetite for conflict with Russia. As a continent that experienced two disastrous World Wars and a Cold War, Europe understandably adopts pragmatic realism. But what needs to be seen is whether France and Germany have the diplomatic muscle to calm Russian nerves without making compromises on the continent's security. A starting point could be reviving the Minsk process. The accords call for a general amnesty for the rebels, constitutional amendments giving the breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine more autonomy and the handing over of Ukraine's borders to its army. None of the clauses in the agreement has been implemented. If the Normandy Format talks could be convened and Russia and Ukraine take steps to revive the agreement, it would be a diplomatic breakthrough.

Reviving the 'Kerala Model' of development

Its lustre is fading as there are threats from emerging social and environmental risks, but the question is how

SHASHI THAROOR & VINOD THOMAS

Kerala has long been recognised to have done many things right. For years the darling of development experts, non-governmental organisations and social activists, the 'Kerala Model' seemed to show that impressive levels of human development indicators – in health, education and quality of life, comparable even to some rich countries – could be achieved without a correspondingly high level of income.

A focus on 'failures'

But in the recent past, there has been a new debate on the 'Kerala Model' of development. Are we not guilty of exporting our unemployment and becoming over-dependent on remittances? Can you build high growth and strong human development indicators on such a flimsy basis? Is it sustainable? The focus in the new debates on Kerala seems increasingly on its failures: low employment, low levels of food intake and low incomes, accompanied by high levels of alcoholism and the nation's worst suicide rate.

After decades of robust social spending and participatory governance, the lustre of the Kerala model is now under threat from emerging social and environmental risks. Indeed, there is an irony here: some of the very strengths of Kerala's approach have become sources of vulnerability. For instance, its high life expectancy is translating into a high death rate from COVID-19.

In the face of rising risks, the Kerala model needs to be revitalised. The crucial question is how.

Reflecting the State's social outcomes, Kerala has India's highest literacy rate despite ranking only the ninth-highest in per capita income among 28 States. But as new global risks emerge in areas from health to climate change, Kerala's policies need to be bolstered and new challenges deftly managed. Severely hit by COVID-19, Kerala's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) contracted over 2019-20 and 2021-22, and unemployment, at 9%, is much higher than the 6% national average. The space to revive Kerala's sagging economy is limited because of a high fiscal deficit, around 4% of GSDP.

These difficulties could be meaningfully mitigated by smarter socio-economic investments, attention to good governance, and a far better stewardship of the environment. Kerala can develop as a knowledge economy, improve the quality of higher education and vocational training to meet the requirements of a modern workforce, and build on successes in tourism and hospitality services. All this will create meaningful employment and raise incomes.

Interventions that reach all

Our focus should be on the quantity as well as quality of health and education, and on ensuring that interventions reach all segments of the population. Basic education should continue to be a priority, but it is higher education that presents a pivotal opportunity on the global stage for Kerala – a State with high human capital and high population mobility. Played right, Kerala could become a regional, if not a national, centre for tertiary

THULASI KAKKAT

education in areas such as marine biology, health care, and digital technology, where it has considerable expertise.

Kerala was India's first digital State with the highest share of households with personal computers and Internet connections, mobile phone penetration, and digital literacy. Digital tools are being widely used in Kerala's COVID-19 response – for example, application of India's eSanjeevani, a telemedicine portal, offering psychosocial support for those struggling with the virus or its after-effects. We can build on and expand such approaches, learning, for instance, from Singapore's new generation of health apps and technologies.

Cracks in the health system

Serious gaps are growing in Kerala's health system. A pandemic response that laid a stress on mask-wearing and social distancing and tracing got off to a vigorous early start. But infections and deaths skyrocketed in 2021, partly as the population is highly mobile and also because Kerala let its guard down in key areas of surveillance. Testing, on the other hand, has been widespread, which helped reveal infections more transparently. Sustaining the edge on health care should be high on the policy agenda.

Another strength that needs to be sustained involves institutions, building on the State's grassroots organisation, participatory governance, and a free press. The Public Affairs Index 2020 ranked Kerala as the best-governed large State in 2019 on the basis of 50 indicators reflecting equity, growth and sustainability. Decentralised governance, a strong grass-roots-level network of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), volunteer groups, and Kudumbashree members helped in pandemic management. While there are lessons for others, Kerala needs to be more agile in public expenditure on health and developing local self-delivery systems.

The earth does matter

An asset that has turned into a worrying flash point is the State's rich but fragile ecology that requires heightened protection. Decades of ecological degradation amplified the impact of the 2018 floods in Kerala that took some 483 lives, displaced 14.5 lakh people, and cost over ₹40,000 crore. It is vital that the Madhav Gadgil Committee report is adopted with the minimal necessary modifications to protect vulnerable populations. The ecological disaster across the Western Ghats needs to be confronted and investments made to repair forests, river systems, water bodies, and flood plains. The State needs a bold programme of forest restoration in keeping with the commitments on forest protection from over 130 nations at COP26.

Kerala urgently needs to revive its network of rivers, their tributaries and streams. Sand mining needs to be stopped until the sandy riverbeds are restored. Water management calls for the periodic release of water from the dams, as indicated by the World Commission on Dams. This, together with desilting of dams, could control the quantity of run-off into the dams and the need for sudden releases that exacerbate floods. Kerala's supply of fresh water is being jeopardised by inadequate facilities for water containment. Water quality – and people's health – are hurt by domestic waste and industrial effluents, calling for better water treatment.

Moment for change

A reinvigorated Kerala model will do well to recognise the symbiotic links among social outcomes, environmental management, and participatory governance, and take actions that cut across these areas. It is time for revival. We must open our mental horizons to the world, outgrow our shopworn ideologies and create investment and business-friendly conditions for sustainable development.

One prerequisite for achieving sustainable development would be to change the perceptions of the State in our extremely politicised environment, especially the notorious *hartals* over marginal political issues, which have driven investment away. Political parties can differ on the precise policies and investments needed, but they must come together on a platform that transcends their differences. Sree Narayana Guru famously said, "*matham ethayalum, manushyan nannayalmathi* – whatever his religion, it is enough that a man be good." Similarly, Kerala must say, "*rashtriyam ethayalum, rashtram nannayalmathi* – whatever the politics, it is enough that the country be better."

Shashi Tharoor is Member of Parliament (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram (Lok Sabha). Vinod Thomas is Visiting Professor, National University of Singapore

Revisiting the politics of social justice in Uttar Pradesh

The regime in the State has no road map to genuinely empower the vast majority of marginalised communities

HARISH S. WANKHEDE

The astonishing rise of Hindutva politics, especially in the Hindi belt, has almost relegated the politics of social justice to the back burner. Till recently, it was the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) that emphatically raised the agenda of social justice and also mobilised the lower castes as influential participants in the electoral democracy of Uttar Pradesh. However, in the last Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, it must be noted that the BSP has witnessed a considerable drop in its vote percentage (from 30.43% in 2007 to 22.24% in 2017). And instead, it has been the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that has emerged as a new 'inclusive' party, with a whopping 39% of the vote share. In the current phase of politics and elections, it is the BSP that appears to be inactive and irrelevant.

Key strategy

The right-wing party has been quite successful in engaging and bringing the socially marginalised sections into its fold by executing creative cultural strategies. However, the Yogi Adityanath government has not provided substantive welfare policies to satisfy the quest for social justice or to enable rapid economic development as far as the backward communities are concerned. The recent examples of Other Backward Castes (OBCs) leaders moving away from the BJP is a hint that the socially deprived communities could be disillusioned with the BJP and might lend their support to the Samajwadi Party (SP) that appears to be promising in political terms. Such a shift could reinvent the politics of social justice in the State.

Politics of social justice, limits

B.R. Ambedkar held the view that social justice is not merely a welfare policy framework. Rather, it is a dynamic tool to generate revolutionary political consciousness among socially marginalised groups. In the post-Ambedkar period, it was Kanshi Ram, the founder of the BSP, who reintroduced the agenda of social justice as a transformative political ideology.

Kanshi Ram utilised the ideas of social justice to highlight oppressive caste hierarchies and also inspired marginalised groups to build a robust political opposition. He argued that the national political parties retained their domination over legislative bodies by relegating the lower caste groups as a passive vote bank. He imagined that the socially marginalised communities could be united under a Dalit leadership (as Bahujan) and defeat the traditional ruling castes (often represented as Manuwadis). He proposed that the replacement of the conventional ruling elites by a Dalit-Bahujan collective would bring about a revolutionary change in governance and policy matters.

Imagining the Dalit-Bahujan mass as the ruling class was a radical vision. And forming social and political alliances are the foundational requirements to achieve such goals. However, the stiff social and cultural divisions between

GETTY IMAGES

Dalits and Other Backward Classes disallowed the possibility to organise a unified political front. The current vanguards of social justice politics have been criticised for a deep attachment to specific communitarian identities (like the BSP and the SP are often belittled as being the parties of the Jatavs and Yadavs, respectively) and alleged that the worst-off social groups (such as the Maha-Dalits and most backward castes) are not being given their legitimate space in electoral politics. Ironically, the lower caste parties often hesitate to join hands when it comes to pushing for an agenda of social justice (there is the well-known rivalry between the BSP and the SP) but find comfort in fighting independently or by forming alliances with the parties led by social elites. The right wing exploits the trust deficit between the Dalit-Bahujan groups and mobilises them on distinct cultural fronts.

Right-wing cultural politics

Since 2014, the BJP has launched a powerful rhetoric of development, anti-corruption politics and tapped the euphoria of nationalism that often bewitches aspirational groups and motivates them to support right-wing politics. Most importantly, the maverick top leadership in the BJP effectively controls the ship of propaganda and makes this party a dynamic force among the vulnerable social groups.

The right wing's understanding of social justice is curated under a neo-liberal ideological prescription. It looks down on popular institutional practices to ensure social justice (mainly the reservation policy) as the state's philanthropist distributive mechanism for lending some material doles to the deprived sections. Instead, the right wing underplays lower caste identities as being socially deprived classes and reprimands their assertion for social justice as being a disruptive force against Hinduism. The BJP crafts creative cultural strategies that perpetuate the domination of caste and class elites and motivates Dalit-Bahujan sections to find solace in the assertive communal Hindu identity. The domination of the social elites over political and public institutions is thus legitimised under the rubric of Hindu social harmony.

Importantly, the right wing engages with lower caste groups as a cultural and religious subject and exploits their association with Hindu rituals and traditions. The divisionary caste segments are celebrated as ruminants of Hindu civilisation; a new iconography and social history for each fragment are invented (like the evocation of Suheldev as the legend of the 'Pasi' caste). Such inventions are not only utilised to institutionalise the social ruptures between lower caste groups but also becomes a potent tool to propagate communal hatred against Muslims.

Parties such as the BSP and the SP have aspired to elevate the Dalit-Bahujan masses as the new political elites. Instead, the BJP's Machiavellian cultural politics in Uttar Pradesh have been exploiting caste divisions and relegating the lower caste groups as militant participants in a Hindu 'renaissance' under the aegis of social elites. The Yogi Adityanath regime has no road map to empower the vast majority of impoverished communities from poverty, social discrimination and political powerlessness. In the past, the rhetoric of inclusive growth or of Hindu unity may have impressed socially marginalised groups but such ideas have no power to liberate the poor and the vulnerable sections from their precarious social and class conditions.

A dignified presence

Hindutva's hegemonic cultural politics can be defeated by reinventing the ideology of social justice. The proponents of social justice have to demonstrate substantive accountability towards the vulnerable worst-off groups; and they also have to ensure their dignified presence in the mainstream political process. It is required that Dalit-Bahujan politics craft creative strategies to inspire the most vulnerable sections by building a prudent engagement with the cultural diversities and social identities. A dynamic interplay of social justice and socialism would be a lethal ideological weapon to defeat the communal politics of Uttar Pradesh.

Harish S. Wankhede is Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal

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.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

The NEET debate

The argument that some extend in favour of the National Eligibility-cum-entrance Test (NEET) is that it promotes merit. But one cannot turn a blind eye to the sad reality that it has been promoting the coaching industry that has no scruples when it comes to levying prohibitively high charges which in turn impact the poor and economically marginalised (Editorial page, "'NEET is discriminatory, against social justice'," February 9). The very commercial and profit-oriented intent of such coaching centres is manifest in the expensive and self-promoting advertisements that they publish in the print media. Education has been reduced to a profiteering enterprise. Moreover, any attempt to impose a fit-for-all entrance examination of this kind, without taking into consideration the social, economic and territorial barriers that people are confronted with, violates the very sense of equality.

S. BALU,
Madurai

■ One wonders whether there is a hint in the article of 'pressure' from various owners (political) of private medical colleges who are said to be losing revenue from seats that have to be surrendered to the NEET pool. If there is concern about children from a rural background and government schools being unable to afford coaching, there are ways and means to disseminate training in an equitable manner. There can also be specialised coaching at the higher secondary level. Is it that difficult?

P. UPADHYAYA,
Bengaluru

Counter point

The reality today is that it is the ruling party which is pitting the country itself against democracy. There are examples to substantiate this – events like the toppling of governments in (then) non-BJP States such as Madhya Pradesh and Goa by audaciously effecting defections. In a democracy, when a person captures power, he should ensure governance that also embraces all parties and their leaders.

MANOHARAN MUTHUSWAMY,
Chennai

■ The Prime Minister's response to the Opposition's criticism has been an all-out attack without any remedy for the problems highlighted. The strength of a democracy lies in a healthy debate and respect in Parliament between the people's representatives. People would like to see constructive outcomes from debates, and not personal scores being settled. The Government must acknowledge this reality.

SUBASH BALAKRISHNAN,
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Lata Mangeshkar

The report about Pan Woliu from Beijing being fascinated by the music of Lata Mangeshkar is a perfect example of harmony between diverse nations. The same can be said about Pakistan too where millions there are diehard fans of Lata*ji*. It is politicians who divide us.

C.K. PREM KUMAR,
Kalvakulam, Palakkad, Kerala

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In a front-page story titled "Posts on Kashmir unacceptable: Centre" (February 9, 2022), Osaka Batteries was erroneously referred to as a Japanese company.

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

It's time to take a relook at privatisation

Simply pursuing this path while utilising such proceeds for loan write-offs or populist giveaways will not do

FEROZE VARUN GANDHI

India's fiscal deficit (for the Centre) in FY22 is expected to be 6.8% of the GDP, or in layman's terms about ₹15.06 lakh crore. When considering the debts of States as well, this jumps to about 12.7% of the GDP (as of FY21). In comparison, the budgetary outlay for MGNREGA in FY22 was ₹73,000 crore, while the Ministry of Defence was allocated ₹4.78 lakh crore for FY22. Every year, the shortfall grows wider.

REUTERS

The reality of privitisation

There is consensus that privatisation is the panacea. Policymakers often cite the private sector's ability to grow faster. This may not always be true – studies indicate that the gap in growth (and service) between public sector undertakings (PSUs) with autonomy and private firms is not significant. One study highlighted that the famed British privatisation initiative of British Airways, British Gas, and the Railways led to no systemic difference in performance (T.T. Ram Mohan, February 2021); even now, private British trains can be significantly delayed by "leaves on the line". Evidence on performance after privatisation is even more mixed in developing countries. Of course, there are examples like VSNL and Hindustan Zinc, but growth post-privatisation is often due to multiple factors (for example, better funding under a private promoter versus a starved government budget, a better business cycle). Sometimes, the difference in a PSU's performance (and ability to generate tax revenue) is simply government apathy.

Privatisation as a revenue source has also offered paltry returns. As a state, we have sought to hock our generational wealth in PSUs for the past two decades, with limited success. The Disinvestment Commission, under the Ministry of Industries, was set up in 1996 to provide inputs on which firms to privatise in over a five-10-year period. However, this Commission was dissolved in 1999. A separate Department of Disinvestment was set up under the Ministry of Finance and later upgraded to a full-fledged Ministry in 2001. It was downgraded back to a department in 2004.

Beyond the institutional set-up, privatisation as a policy has also singularly failed to raise significant funds - actual receipts from disinvestment have always fallen significantly short of targets. For example, in FY11, ₹22,846 crore was raised against a target of ₹40,000 crore; by FY20, ₹50,304 crore was raised against a target of ₹1 lakh crore (PRS India, 2021). In total, between FY11 and FY21, about ₹5 lakh crore was raised (that is, about 33% of just FY22's projected fiscal deficit (PRS India, 2021) - some of this, notably through stake sale to other PSUs. Given social and institutional constraints, India's ability to privatise firms will continue to be slow in the future (for example, BPCL's long-awaited journey). Clearly, this is a lever that is unlikely to raise significant revenue. Perhaps it is time to consider other options.

Going forward, outright privatisation (as opposed to stake sale) may not necessarily make sense. Air India aside, a recently held auction of about 21 oil and gas blocks had only three firms participating, of which two were PSUs; 18 blocks ended up with just a single bid. An additional push to privatise 12 rail route clusters attracted interest in just three routes, with only two bidders (again, one of which was a PSU). Meanwhile, in a market on the edge, with interest rate hikes coming, this may also not be the right time.

There is also the challenge of valuation - for example, about 65% of about 300 national highway projects have been recording significant toll collection growth (>15%, since they have been in operation); any valuations of such assets will need to ensure they capture potential growth in toll revenue, as NHAI's highway expansion bears fruit and the economy recovers. Instead, the Maruti model is instructive - the government had a joint venture with the Suzuki Corporation, but ceded control, despite Suzuki having only 26% shareholding, in return for a push by Suzuki for greater exports from India and manufacture of global models in India. Exits from Maruti were conducted in small tranches, ensuring a better valuation for the government. Empirical evidence highlights that stake sales are considered a preferred route (about 67% of all PSU sales in about 108 countries between 1977 and 2000 were conducted via this route), as it gives time to ensure price discovery, allowing improved performance to raise valuations over time,

Beyond revenue raising, there are serious social consequences with privatisation. PSUs have been significant generators of employment in the past, with multiplier effects - there were about 348 CPSUs in existence in 2018, with a total investment of ₹16.4 trillion (Srivastava, Vinay K., March 2021) and about 10.3 lakh employees in Central Public Sector Enterprises (in 2019). A push for privatisation is a push for mass layoffs, in a period of low job creation.

Greater concentration of public assets in select private hands is also a medium-term concern. In India, about 70% of all profits generated in the corporate sector in FY20 were with just 20 firms (in comparison, the situation in FY93 was about 15%). Across sectors, a whiff of oligopoly is emerging - cigarettes continue to be dominated by a single player (with ~77% market share in FY21), paints has one entity with ~40% in FY21, airports now has a new operator with about six airports plus a 74% stake in Mumbai's international airport, while telecom has just three players left. Such concentration, mixed with privatisation of public assets, is likely to lead to higher usage fees (already being seeing in telecom) and inflation, coupled with a loss of strategic control.

Selective PHU reform

Perhaps, another avenue of selective PSU reform could be considered. In China, for the past few decades, growth has been led by corporatised PSUs, all of them held under a holding company (SASAC), which promotes better governance, appoints leadership and executes mergers and acquisitions. Such PSUs that have scaled up are market leaders. In Singapore, the Ministry of Finance focuses on policymaking, while Temasek (the holding firm) is focused on corporatising and expanding its PSUs (for example, Singtel, PSA, Singapore Power, Singapore Airlines) towards a global scale. A PSU with greater autonomy, with the government retaining control via a holding firm, can also be subject to the right incentives (T.T. Ram Mohan, February 2021). Surely, Indian PSUs could aspire to be as large and efficient as the Chinese ones.

The time has come to take a relook at privatisation. Simply pursuing this path, while utilising such proceeds for loan write-offs or populist giveaways in the election cycle will not do. A hunt for immediate revenue should not overshadow the long-term interest of the ordinary Indian.

Feroze Varun Gandhi is a Member of Parliament, representing the Pilibhit constituency for the BJP

Relief for BJP, headache for SP

The two new fronts in U.P. may split votes and provide some relief for the BJP, which has witnessed a stream of exits

URMILESH

The recent resignations of several prominent Other Backward Classes (OBC) leaders from the Yogi Adityanath Cabinet and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have not only dealt a severe blow to 'Hindutva politics' in Uttar Pradesh but have also understood to have galvanised the Samajwadi Party (SP)-led Opposition alliance. The excitement in the Opposition is not without reason, as the BJP in recent times has never witnessed such large-scale resignations, that too in a State where it has been in power with an overwhelming majority. All those who resigned described 'Hindutva politics' as being against the interests of the Dalits and backward classes. The BJP was put in a defensive position. But the formation of two 'Bahujan fronts' seems to have provided respite to the party. The first front, called Bhagidari Parivartan Morcha, was formed by All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Asaduddin Owaisi, Jan Adhikar Party president Babu Singh Kushwaha, and Bharat Mukti Morcha leader Vaman Meshram. Mr. Kushwaha was expelled from the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in 2011 and was also an accused in the National Rural Health Mission scam. The second front, Samajik Parivartan Morcha, was formed by Bhim Army chief Chandrasekhar Azad, MPs Rajkumar Saini and Baburam Pal and others and comprises 35 groups.

Earlier, after his negotiations with Akhilesh Yadav failed, Mr. Azad accused the SP president of insulting him and Dalits by not giving them a respectful number of seats. He then announced that he would contest from Gorakhpur against the Chief Minister. This came as a surprise to the SP as it was already planning to field one of its local leaders against the Chief Minister in Gorakhpur and wanted the support of most of the Opposition parties. It turns out that Mr. Azad did not consult any Opposition party regarding his candidature from Gorakhpur and, meanwhile, also formed a new front.

Political implications

The two new fronts cannot be ignored even if there is no established party involved in them, except the AIMIM. The leaders involved in these fronts have their own caste base and will therefore make a discernible impact. Before discussing their influence, let us first understand a few points about them.

First, it is not a mere coincidence that these fronts were announced only after the resignations of OBC leaders. Second, the leaders of these fronts have justified their actions by referring to the widespread 'nepotism' prevailing in traditional Opposition parties (SP, BSP and Rashtriya Lok Dal) that forced them to look for a 'new path'. Third, the mass base of the leaders of these fronts has never been tested. These parties have not contested all the seats in U.P. earlier. Unlike leaders like Swami Prasad Maurya, who resigned from the BJP due to pressure from his social base, the leaders of these two fronts cannot even claim that their supporters forced them into the decision of forming a separate front. The truth is that most of their supporters wanted them to fight the election by joining larger anti-BJP fronts. When leaders such as Mr. Azad and Mr. Kushwaha tried and failed, they distanced themselves from the larger anti-BJP Opposition alliances with the excuse that they were not given enough tickets.

Mr. Azad contested the Bihar Assembly election in 2020 but this is his debut in U.P. In a way, Mr. Azad is like Mr. Owaisi, who goes anywhere to contest an election irrespective of whether he has any organisation or political base. In Bihar, Mr. Azad joined hands with Pappu Yadav's party. They earned the 'vote katwa' (splitting votes) tag. They contested more than 150 seats together but did not achieve anything. Will Mr. Azad's new front in U.P. just be called 'vote katwa' or will it achieve some political success?

As far as the Owaisi-Kushwaha-Meshram front is concerned, there is speculation already about the political equations of these leaders. Mr. Kushwaha was Minister twice in the Mayawati government, and even went to jail, allegedly for corruption. Cases related to some of these alleged scams are still pending in courts. A few years ago, he left the BSP and joined the BJP. But there was so much dissent about his induction that he had to quit the party. He then wrote to the then BJP president Nitin Gadkari and appealed to him to keep his membership on hold for a while. This shows that he has no ideological disagreement with the BJP. Similarly, Mr. Saini, who has joined hands with Mr. Azad, was a BJP MP from Kurukshetra for many years. Therefore, it is not without solid basis that these two fronts are being considered as a 'political relief' for the BJP and a 'headache' for the SP-led alliance. Whether the voters of U.P. reject these fronts or provide them with some consolation prize remains to be seen.

Urmilesh is a Delhi-based independent journalist and writer, and a former Executive Editor of Rajya Sabha TV. The article was translated from Hindi by Awanish Kumar, British Academy Newton International Fellow, University of Edinburgh

STATE OF PLAY

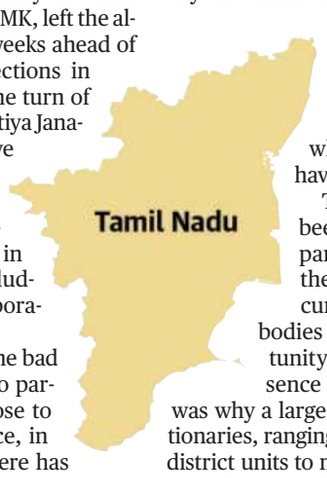
It is advantage DMK and its allies

The DMK-led combine has remained intact while the AIADMK has lost yet another ally

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

Elections make or mar alliances. In recent months, the AIADMK, which was ousted from power in the State in May last year after a 10-year reign, would have realised the value of this saying.

If the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), which fought the Assembly elections together with the AIADMK, left the alliance in September, weeks ahead of rural local bodies elections in nine districts, it was the turn of another ally, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), to leave the coalition in the run-up to the February 19 civic polls, covering 12,838 wards in 649 local bodies, including 21 municipal corporations.



While there was some bad blood between the two parties after the PMK chose to walk out of the alliance, in the case of the BJP, there has been no apparent rancour, even though the development arose as a sequel to the failure in seat-sharing talks. In fact, even when the BJP's floor leader in the Assembly, Nainar Nagenthiran, made a scathing attack against the AIADMK a few weeks ago, the State unit president K. Annamalai immediately sought to make amends with the senior ally. His explanation seemed to have been approved by the AIADMK too, as the party's spokesperson and former Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar asserted that the failure to reach a mutually acceptable accord on the sharing of seats of the urban local bodies had nothing to do with Mr. Nagenthiran's observation.

The main difference between the two parties, which at times called themselves "natural allies", was over the number of seats to be earmarked for the national party. While the AIADMK did not want to go beyond 10% of the seats, the BJP, which was provided with 9% of the wards in the previous local bodies polls, had demanded 20% in general. The AIADMK would have been prepared to give a greater share of seats in Kanniyakumari district, as the DMK did for the Congress, but it was not ready to accommodate the BJP's demands in the Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts in the western region, one of its traditional bastions. However, what remains unanswered is why the Dravidian major chose to adopt such a tough stand despite not having any ally of considerable strength. One possible explanation is that it is desperate to shake off the tag of being the BJP's 'B team', which its adversaries have attached to it.

The BJP, which has been struggling to expand its footprint in the State, views the current round of local bodies polls as an opportunity to make its presence felt. Perhaps, this was why a large number of its functionaries, ranging from secretaries of district units to members of the core committee, preferred to go it alone even before the seat-sharing talks with the AIADMK broke down. One important reason for this is that the party wants to test its real strength in urban areas, where the elections are going to be held.

The eventual political fallout of the development is not hard for anyone to guess. The DMK-led combine has remained intact and if one is to go only by arithmetic strength, its electoral prospects appear bright. But polls are decided not merely on the basis of arithmetic. Political chemistry, inter-party coordination within a formation, and cohesion in the ranks of the lead party of any alliance are equally important. There are reports of discord among the constituents of the front led by the ruling party with regard to seat-sharing. Also, the DMK faced a controversy recently over the distribution of free Pongal gift hampers through the public distribution system. But with the Opposition camp divided, it is now advantage DMK and its allies.

ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

DATA POINT

Can the world champions make the cut?

In the nail-biting Under-19 World Cup final on February 5, India secured the trophy for the fifth time by beating England. But for the two matches missed by captain Y.V. Dhull and vice-captain S.K. Rasheed due to Covid-19, the Indian team largely stuck to the same XI in the tournament. The team did not drop a single game in the series. In an interview with Sportstar magazine, Rasheed said that winning the World Cup is memorable, but he continues to chase his dream of playing for senior Team India in Test cricket. What are the chances of these players making it to the senior team after such a dominating display at a young age? Of the 44 players who were part of the playing XI in the four Under-19 World Cup finals won by India, only 14 players went on to represent the senior team. Of them, only six could play at the international level for a long time.

By **Jasmin Nihalani** and **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

How to read the tables | In the tables, ● indicates player not debuting for the Indian team in any format. ● indicates making a debut but not playing for a long period (minimum 10 Tests or 25 ODIs or 30 T20Is). ● indicates players who entered the senior team and were able to make meaningful contributions. ● indicates players who entered the senior team and have potential to play for a long time

Note | In the table, the years are shortened ('02 indicates 2002). Those who represented the senior team, "last match" indicates the last international match. For others, it indicates the last First Class or List A match

Year won WC: 2000

Name	Debut or not?	Year of debut	Debut in test	Debut in ODI	Debut in T20I	Tests played	ODIs played	T20Is played	Last match
AM Dave	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'06
M Kaif	Y	'00	'00	'02	-	13	125	-	'06
NK Patel	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'15
A Ratra	Y	'02	'02	'02	-	6	12	-	'02
RS Ricky	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'08
Manish Sharma	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'06
RS Sodhi	Y	'00	-	'00	-	-	18	-	'02
SJ Srivastava	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'10
MB Tripathi	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'04
Y Venugopal Rao	Y	'05	-	'05	-	-	16	-	'06
Yuvraj Singh	Y	'00	'03	'00	'07	40	304	58	'17

Year won WC: 2008

Name	Debut or not?	Year of debut	Debut in test	Debut in ODI	Debut in T20I	Tests played	ODIs played	T20Is played	Last match
AK Argal	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'15
SP Goswami	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
Iqbal Abdulla	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
RA Jadeja	Y	'09	'12	'09	'09	57	168	55	'21
S Kaul	Y	'18	-	'18	'18	-	3	3	'19
T Kohli	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
V Kohli	Y	'08	'11	'08	'10	99	258	95	'22
MK Pandey	Y	'15	-	'15	'15	-	29	39	'21
PJ Sangwan	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
TM Srivastava	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'20
SS Tiwary	Y	'10	-	'10	-	-	3	-	'10

Year won WC: 2012

Name	Debut or not?	Year of debut	Debut in test	Debut in ODI	Debut in T20I	Tests played	ODIs played	T20Is played	Last match
AD Nath	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
B Aparajith	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
UBT Chand	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'20
P Chopra	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
Harmeet Singh	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'20
K Passi	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'16
SK Patel	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
Ravikant Singh	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'19
Sandeep Sharma	Y	'15	-	-	'15	-	-	2	'15
GH Vihari	Y	'18	'18	-	-	13	-	-	'22
VH Zol	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'19

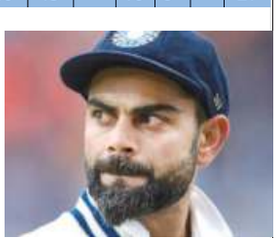
Year won WC: 2018

Name	Debut or not?	Year of debut	Debut in test	Debut in ODI	Debut in T20I	Tests played	ODIs played	T20Is played	Last match
Abhishek Sharma	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
HM Desai	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
Manjot Kalra	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
KL Nagarkoti	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
R Parag	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
IC Porel	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
AS Roy	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
PP Shaw	Y	'18	'18	'20	'21	5	6	1	'21
Shivam Mavi	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'21
Shiva Singh	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	'18
Shubman Gill	Y	'19	'20	'19	-	10	3	-	'21

Yuvraj Singh

Mohammad Kaif

Ravindra Jadeja



Virat Kohli

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 10, 1972

Dangerous message

From an Editorial

President Nixon's observations, in his annual foreign policy message to the U.S. Congress, on the recent Bangla Desh developments will make no contribution to the restoration of friendly relations between his country and ours. On the other hand they can only raise the doubt if he is really anxious at this time, on the eve of his visit to Peking, to work for the reversal of the downward course Indo-American relations have followed since the Bangla crisis erupted. For his latest observations, despite all the overwhelming evidence against his old assumptions that has come to light in the last few weeks, reveal the same old anti-Indian bias plus a few more veiled insinuations against India. He is prepared for "a serious dialogue with India" in the future of Indo-U.S. relations but such a dialogue, it seems, will depend on India "having an interest in maintaining balanced relationships with all major powers" and "on the posture that South Asia's most powerful country now adopts towards its neighbours on the sub-continent." The insinuation here is clearly that India does not now have such "balanced relationships" and that it is in the Soviet camp and that its bona fide vis-a-vis the neighbouring countries are yet to be proved. If India is to prove these bona fides to Mr. Nixon's satisfaction to restore friendly relations with his Administration it would appear to be an impossible task, judging from his present frame of mind which seems firmly made up against India.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEB. 10, 1922

Flogging in jails

Lahore, Feb. 10: The following press communique has been issued: The attention of the Punjab Government has been drawn to an article headed, "A contradiction" which appeared in the issue of *Young India* dated 26th January 1922. From this article it might be inferred that political prisoners have been flogged in the Punjab jails. The Punjab Government desires to deny categorically the implication that political prisoners have been flogged in jails. The prisoners referred to in communique of December 16th were all of them convicted of crimes which were not of political character and the reason for their punishment was contumacious refusal to work and inciting other prisoners not to work. No political prisoner has been flogged for any offence.

FROM PAGE ONE

Battle of the ballot begins in U.P. today

The SP-RLD campaign is banking on the transfer of votes between their core constituencies, especially Jats and Muslims. The alliance is also hoping to leverage the agrarian discontent in the region especially among the sugar cane farmers who have been expressing anger over delay in payment of dues and rising electricity bills.

Though the BJP tried to appease the cane farmers by increasing the purchase price and other measures, its high-octane campaign was filled with communally-loaded issues and rhetoric.

The BJP evoked the memories of the Muzaffarnagar riots. Union Home Minister Amit Shah repeatedly focused on the alleged exodus of Hindu families from Kairana in Shamli through a strident door-to-door campaign.

For many, it will be a battle between identity and economic issues, as well as the contest for the acceptability as the CM face between the incumbent Yogi Adityanath and the main challenger, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Mayawati vote bank

Despite the BSP's falling fortunes, the loyal vote bank of Ms. Mayawati and her tactical candidate selection means that the party will still be a factor in the election.

With the BSP fielding many Muslims in the region, the SP-RLD alliance also faces the task of preventing the division of the all crucial minority votes, while the BSP hopes to add the Muslim votes to its core Jatav base.

Among the district going to the polls is Agra, which has a substantial population of Dalits. In the 2017 election, the BSP had stood second on all nine seats while the BJP won all.

Govt. does not use the phrase 'urban naxals', Minister tells RS

Nityanand Rai says strict action will be taken against left-wing extremism

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that the government does not use the phrase "urban naxals", but when it comes to left-wing extremism (LWE), be it in urban areas or any other place, a vigil is kept and strict action is initiated.

Mr. Rai, during the question hour in the Upper House, said the Maoist ideology had always been inspired by international groups and whenever action was taken against them "some international groups raise objections and come forward to help them". He said: "CPI-Maoist is a part of the Maoist ecosystem."

Mr. Rai was responding to a question by Bharatiya Janta Party's (BJP) Rakesh Sinha who said that "Maoism thriving due to extra parliamentary forces and urban naxals who are sitting in universities and under the garb of journalism are breaking the country". He said that some mainstream political parties were supporting them.

Clear point: Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai speaking in Parliament on Wednesday. • PTI

Mr. Rai's statement on LWE having foreign roots was countered by Communist Party of India's Binoy Viswam. "Unlike right-wing extremism, which has a foreign influence and emanates from Italy and Germany, the LWE has socio-economic roots, it is there due to social deprivation. Is the government aware of the fact? Mr. Viswam asked.

The Minister stated that LWE was a dangerous ideology and under Prime Minister Narendra Modi that ideology was crushed as "he is a messiah of the poor".

Violence dips

In a written reply, Mr. Rai stated that the geographical spread of the violence had also been reduced and only 46 districts reported LWE-related violence in 2021 as compared to 96 districts in 2010.

He said the the number of districts contributing approximately 90% of the LWE violence had come down to 25 districts in 2021. The reply stated that the incidents of LWE violence had reduced by 77% from an all-time high of 2,258 incidents in 2009 to 509 in 2021.

No Cabinet Minister took questions: Cong. leader

'It is the first time in 70 years of RS'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that this was the first time in 70 years that no Cabinet Minister had replied to questions posed by members during the Question Hour.

He later tweeted, "For the first time in 70 years of the Rajya Sabha, today no Cabinet Minister answered questions during Question Hour. The Ministers of State were pathetic – reading out replies already circulated and chanting Modi Chalisa!"

As many as 172 questions were listed for Wednesday, February 9, of which 14 questions were starred questions. Starred questions are to be replied orally in the House by the Ministers concerned, and members can also ask supplementary questions. Though

Jairam Ramesh

there is no stated rule that the answers are to be provided only by Cabinet Ministers, the convention is that starred questions are usually answered by senior Ministers.

On Wednesday, the starred questions for the Ministries of Home Affairs; Education; Road Transport and Highways; and Social Justice and Empowerment, were answered by the concerned Ministers of State.

Budget ignored the poor, say Opposition parties

"Everyone of us knows that in the Budget the poor have been forgotten. In the beginning of the neo-liberalisation age, we heard of a great theory. That theory was the 'Trickle down theory'. But this Budget is a 'trickle up theory'. It is not for the poor. This Budget is for the rich at the top," he said.

Welcoming the Budget, AIADMK member M. Thambidurai said he appreciated the government's efforts to protect the economy during the pandemic. He, however, raised concerns over allocations to the States, saying it was time for the Centre to increase such allocations. He noted that the State governments were yet to get their GST arrears and Tamil Nadu was facing the problem too.

CPI (M) member Elamaram Kareem said the Budget was "anti-people" and that it had failed to address the need of the hour, job-creation.

M. Mohamed Abdulla of the DMK said that Budget imposed 30 % tax on virtual digital transaction asset or cryptocurrency. "For the first time ever in the history of the world, our Union Government is imposing tax without any legislation. There is no Act for cryptocurrency, but there is tax," he said. He added that while sanitary napkins were to be taxed at 12%, the tax on diamond had been reduced to 5%.

Andhra bifurcation

K.R Suresh Reddy of the TRS said the Prime Minister mentioned about the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in his speech on Tuesday.

"What was mentioned by the Prime Minister is something very, very disturbing for the people because it could be possible through a lot of struggle. The Bill was passed by Parliament. Nobody can question the authority of the House. Not even the Prime Minister...if he is so worried about the bifurcation, how many times his government has brought amendments to the Bifurcation Bill here? Did you make any amends in the last eight years? The demands from Telangana and Andhra are continuously coming up. You refuse to chair even a single meeting," Mr. Reddy said.

V. Vijayasai Reddy of the YSR Congress said the Income Tax deductions should be commensurate with the inflation rate.

Language conflict surfaces in Lok Sabha

DMK MP, Piyush Goyal exchange words

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Language problems between members of Parliament again came to the fore in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, with DMK MP A. Ganeshamurthi and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal exchanging words on the issue.

Mr. Ganeshamurthi had, during question hour, asked a supplementary question on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Tamil Nadu. Mr. Goyal said he had missed a part of the question in Tamil and asked the MP to repeat which specific project was being referred to.

"If I ask a question in English, then the Ministers should respond in English only; a member asks a question in Tamil and the Minister replies in Hindi," Mr. Ganeshamurthi remarked, with Mr. Goyal responding that he could answer in Hindi as translation was available for the MP. Mr. Ganeshamurthi got some support from other members who also wanted responses in English to questions put in that language.

Speaker Om Birla asked Mr. Ganeshamurthi to repeat the question and the member asked the same in Tamil. Mr. Goyal then asked Mr. Birla whether there was any rule that a question asked in a language should be replied to in the same language. "I will give the reply in Hindi. I too listened to the translation [of the question]," Mr. Goyal said.

Steps taken to help Kashmiri Pandits: govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that the lands of 610 Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Kashmir had been restored in the past five years.

Replying to a question by BJP's Mahesh Poddar on the subject, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said, "as per the information provided by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, lands of 610 applicants [migrants] have been restored in the last five years." The Minister further added that several measures, including creation of government jobs, had been taken to rehabilitate those who had moved away from the Valley.

BJP and NCP MPs spar during Budget debate

Oppn. remarks baseless: Tejasvi Surya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India may have become independent in 1947 but the country achieved economic independence only in 2014 after Narendra Modi became Prime Minister, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Tejasvi Surya said on Wednesday in the Lok Sabha during the debate on the Union Budget.

Attacking the Opposition for its "baseless arguments" on unemployment, Mr. Surya said that "the dynast and the prince of the Congress party is confusing his political unemployment as the country's unemployment". Countering Mr. Surya, the Nationalist Congress Party's (NCP) Supriya Sule listed BJP members like Pritam Munde, Poonam Mahajan, Heena Gavit, Raksha Khadse, Sujay Vikhe Patil, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Piyush Goyal and Dharmendra Pradhan as heirs of political families.

Intervening in the debate, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman answered a query on fiscal deficit and said that the targeted deficit of 6.9% is a responsible figure during a pandemic year. Ms. Sitharaman, who sat through for most parts of the debate, is expected to reply on Thursday.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) member D. K. Kathir Anand said the Centre had discriminated against southern States while making budgetary allocations.

Bhagwant Mann flags cane dues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In the midst of the campaign for the Assembly polls in Punjab, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief ministerial candidate Bhagwant Mann put in an appearance in the Lok Sabha and raised the issue of sugarcane rates and timely payment of dues to the farmers.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in Lok Sabha, Mr. Mann said, "In Sangrur, we have arrears due to farmers of ₹1.25 crores from last year and ₹20 crore from this year. Sugarcane is an annual crop, so the loss is considerable. I also want to raise the compensation due to families of 743 farmers who lost their lives in the protests."

Congress' U.P. manifesto promises farm loan waivers

Free education for Dalits is another poll pledge

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

A Dalit Home Minister, sub-quota for OBC communities, a scheme to tackle stray cattle menace; and waiving farm loans within ten days of coming to power are some of the promises made by the Congress in its manifesto for the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election.

Party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra released the manifesto, titled "Unnati Vidhan," in the State capital Lucknow on Wednesday. With the focus on farmers, the manifesto promises to waive all farm loans within 10 days of the party coming to power. The Congress also said it will purchase wheat and paddy at ₹2,500 per quintal, and sugarcane at ₹400 per quintal.

The party has also reached out to the Dalit constituency in the State by promising free education from kindergarten to post graduation (KG to PG) to members of the community. If voted to power, the Home Minister of the State will be a Dalit, the Congress said in its manifesto.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra releasing the election manifesto for Uttar Pradesh. • SANDEEP SAXENA

The party has also tried to attract the attention of backward class voters, the largest chunk in the state, by promising a sub-quota of the OBC reservation.

Women have right to decide what to wear, says Priyanka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing protests over the hijab ban in Karnataka colleges, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday said women had the right to decide what to wear. In a tweet with the hashtag #ladkihoonladsaktihoon, the party's campaign theme for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly poll, Ms. Vadra said the right was guaranteed by the Constitution.

"Whether it is a bikini, a ghoonghat, a pair of jeans or a hijab, it is a woman's right to decide what she wants to wear. This right is GUARANTEED by the Indian constitution. Stop harassing women," tweeted Ms. Vadra. Her brother and former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi responded to the tweet with a thumbs up.

Modi confident of BJP victory in all 5 States

The Prime Minister elaborated on his "fake Samajwadi" jibe at the Samajwadi Party in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh and said these parties were concerned about *parivarvad*. Mr. Modi said he had received a letter in the past stating that in the Samajwadi Party there were 45 people from the family who held various positions. "Someone else told me all those of around 25 years of age got the opportunity to contest elections. Is this dynastic politics not a threat for democracy?" he asked.

Slamming Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his attack on the Central government for not issuing clarification on matters such as the India-China dispute and rising unemployment in Parliament, Mr. Modi said that detailed answers were given by the respective Ministries and he had also spoken on some subjects whenever and wherever it was necessary.

Commenting on the farm laws, Mr. Modi said that the three laws over which farmers agitated on the borders of Delhi for almost a year were brought by the Central government for the benefit of farmers and have now been withdrawn in the interests of the country. "I have said earlier also that farm laws were brought in for the benefit of farmers, but have now been withdrawn in the interest of the nation. I don't think this needs to be explained any more. Future events will make it clear why these steps were necessary," he said.

High Court refers hijab petition to larger Bench

It pointed out the judgments of various High Courts and the Supreme Court cited by the litigating parties in support of their contentions on the issue of the right to wear hijabs in educational institutions.

On the request of the advocates representing petitioner-students to permit the petitioners to attend classes wearing hijabs as an interim measure till a larger Bench was constituted, the court said that arguments for an interim order could also be made before the larger Bench. The court also made it clear in its order that it was not recording the arguments made seeking an interim order by the advocates of the petitioners and the arguments of the Advocate-General, who opposed it, as it should not prejudice the larger Bench.

Experts stress on awareness for a safer digital economy

'Compliance, security risk assessment are important'

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

There is a need for Internet users to train themselves on the best practices of cybersecurity and follow dos and don'ts to ensure a safe digital economy, according to experts.

During a webinar organised by *The Hindu* and Fortuner, a cybersecurity company, panellists stressed the significance of personal and organisational online security. They reiterated that user awareness would help with digital transformations in future.

The panellists said that by improving awareness on how to use technology with responsibility, there would be safer Internet; also, data security, application security and network security had remained the common goal for all organisations.

Rajesh Maurya, Vice-President India & SAARC of Fortinet, said, "Organisations

need to train users on how to access data or how to use the network [company-owned cloud solutions or applications]. Compliance and security risk assessment are the important requirements to move forward," he added.

Sameer Ratolikar, CISO of HDFC Bank, said, " The guideline on digital payment security has undergone a massive transformation. Today it talks about securing payment transactions – not only securing applications but also point of sale devices, having proper encryption, decryption mechanisms on your point of sales devices and ATMs," he said.

"While the dos and don'ts of cybersecurity are easily accessible, users need to be well informed about security authentication methods like two factor authorisation and accessing an encrypted website. Training on authentication, forcing users to change passwords often and sending alerts before opening a link are some of the methods that organisations can follow," Mr. Rajesh Maurya said.

"Cyber insurance is coming up in the financial services industry so that there is reasonable coverage for people falling prey to these tactics. Awareness before and during the onboarding of customers must happen. But nothing is complete until the law enforcement agencies come into play. We need cohesiveness to minimise frauds," Mr. Ratolikar said.

'Judges mustn't be swayed in favour of death penalty'

Penology has evolved: Justice Maheshwari

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Do not prescribe death penalty with an eye only on the abhorrence of the crime, equally consider factors that can help the prisoner keep his life, the Supreme Court told judges across the country in a verdict on Wednesday.

In a judgment which may become a significant precedent to the anti-death penalty cause, the top court said trial judges should not be swayed in favour of death penalty merely because of the dreadful nature of the crime. They should equally consider the mitigating factors in favour of life imprisonment.

The judgment by a three-judge Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar came in the rape and murder of a seven-year-old. The court commuted the death penalty of the convict to life imprisonment.

Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, who authored the

judgment, referred to the evolution of the principles of penology. Justice Maheshwari said penology had grown to accommodate the philosophy of "preservation of human life".

Justice Maheshwari noted that though capital punishment serves as a deterrent and a "response to the society's call for appropriate punishment in appropriate cases", the principles of penology have "evolved to balance the other obligations of the society, i.e., of preserving the human life, be it of accused, unless termination thereof is inevitable and is to serve the other societal causes and collective conscience of society".

IN BRIEF

CBSE's second term exams from April 26

NEW DELHI

The second term board examinations of the Central Board of Secondary Education for Class 10 and 12 will begin on April 26, according to a notification issued by Controller of Examinations Sanyam Bhardwaj on Wednesday. The complete date sheet will be released soon, it added.

Pak. summons Indian diplomat over hijab row

NEW DELHI

Expressing "extreme concern" over the ban on female students wearing a hijab in Karnataka, and what it called growing "Islamophobia" in India, Pakistan summoned the Indian Charge d'affaires Suresh Kumar to the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday. According to a statement by Pakistan, Mr. Kumar was asked to convey that banning students from wearing headscarves was a "reprehensible act". .

People are suffering due to wrong policies of BJP govt. and are eager to teach it a lesson

MAYAWATI
BSP president

The British held power by pitting one community against the other. BJP is incarnation of the British

LALU PRASAD
RJD president

UTTAR PRADESH

Glowing embers of farmers' agitation in Baghpat

Displeasure over the protesters being ignored simmers in the Jat heartland of Uttar Pradesh, but many remain divided

ANUJ KUMAR
BAGHPAT/ SHAMLI

The defaced electoral advertisement of the BJP candidate from Baghpat reveals the still smouldering embers of the farmers' agitation in the citadel of Chaudhary Charan Singh that his grandson and Rashtriya Lok Dal Chief Jayant Singh is trying to reclaim this election. On Tuesday, the BJP's Chhaprauli candidate Sahendra Singh's convoy was once again pelted with cow dung cakes.

"First they made us sit for a year in the open and now the BJP leaders are keen on embracing us. We can see through the design," said Veerpal Singh, a farmer in Sadiqpur Sinauli.

It is not just the hurt Jat pride. Most of the Jat farmers *The Hindu* spoke to have no love lost for the crossbred or 'American' cattle as they are called, that are now accorded special status under the BJP regime, roaming free and destroying their crops after the strict curbs on slaughter.

"We bought them for higher yield but found that they don't acclimatise to the North Indian summer. They require AC rooms which we can't afford. They easily contract diseases, face frequent abortions and there is a perception that the milk from these hybrid varieties causes gout," said Surendra Singh in Sinauli village.

Local discontent: Sugarcane-laden tractors at the Ramala sugar mill in Uttar Pradesh. Farmers allege corruption in management of the mill. ▪ ANUJ KUMAR

"If it goes to a proper slaughterhouse, we don't mind," chipped in an elderly Baljor Singh.

The threat of Muslims that has been fanned by BJP leaders in their speeches has waned. "If you give a Muslim a choice between a knife and the lotus (BJP's election symbol), he will opt for the knife," said Mr. Singh, who has served in the Army.

"We can defend the country on the border but the BJP can't manipulate us in standing to save other castes by describing Muslim dominated towns in West U.P. as Mini Kairana," said Harendra Singh. "Muslims don't trouble us and if they do we can do their treatment on our own," he said.

At the outer office of the Ramala cane mill, which often finds mention in Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's speeches for quick payment and increased crushing capacity, farmers have hoisted the RLD flag. Pawan Kumar, a farmer from Shamli said Cane Development Minister Suresh Rana hadn't lived up to his promise of ensuring payment in 14 days. "Also, we have heard of corruption in the management of the mill," he charged.

Soon, Ajay Sharma, a young farmer from Budhana drove in, with a BJP flag on the tractor. "The party has given us security otherwise our tractors were looted at night," he said. Mr. Sharma said the BJP followers were not responding to the aggression of RLD workers but the silent voters will press the button for the BJP.

Even some of the Jat farmers who are supporting the RLD back the BJP's development pitch. "Something good has happened," they concede, referring largely to the network of roads that has made their villages easily accessible from Delhi and the improvement in law and order. However, in the same vein, they add, "once Jats decide that something is rotten, there is no space left for reconciliation."

"The government could keep saying that it has reduced the electricity tariff, we know it has been done just before the election. Similarly, police recruitment drives are announced just before the elections. They should be done in a phased manner every year to prevent candidates from going overage," said Nitin Singh, an aspirant.

In Sisana village of Baraut, Dalit farm workers have different views, "We will vote for Behen*ji* but some of us are contemplating shifting to the BJP because of the effective ration drive," said Mange Ram. However, Bhopal Singh contended that the ration was not being given free. "It is like taking out large sum of money from one pocket and putting some of it back in another pocket. It is a Baniya government but Samajwadis are no better. They always try to crush us. Jayant has chosen the wrong party," he said.

For all the BKU bluster that 36 communities came together for the agitation, the Jat farmer could only count on the Muslim voter and on Yadavs and Gurjars who have sporadic influence in the region. "Ye bhateri hain (these are enough)," said Rajendra Singh playing cards at a village in Chhaprauli.

In Kandhala, close to Kairana, Jats and Muslims talk of renewed bonhomie but dig a little and you find that the unity is only EVM deep. "Jats have remembered us when they were cheated by the BJP. We have been scarred for life by making false allegations," said Nasir Khan, an auto mechanic.

"Criminals have no religion. When the extortionists were shot dead by the police, none of us commiserated with the families," he said.

Back in Baraut, Parvesh Ratna, a businessman said, people in the region had the habit to spit even when they had no water to gargle. "Yes, the contest will go till the last over but once the BJP affiliates move in localities, we would hit the last ball out of the park."

Meanwhile, the RLD workers were hoping that Chaudhary Charan Singh appeared in the dream of farmers on the eve of the polling day one more time.

Grassroots groups try to sway voters

From religious symbolism to social semantics, they adopt a range of strategies

ANUJ KUMAR
MATHURA/ GHAZIABAD

"When Krishna-Balram joined hands, they vanquished Kansa. Today, a Haldhar or agriculturist Jat and a *gau palak* or a cow rearing Yadav have come together to eliminate Kansa – that's the arrogance of power!" Madhuvant Chaturvedi, convenor of the Qaumi Ekta Manch, a leftist organisation in Mathura, said while addressing a meeting of farmers in Chhata.

The Manch is supporting the Samajwadi Party (SP)-Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) alliance in the rural constituencies of the district, where a large number of farmers participated in the agitation at the Ghazipur border.

Across western Uttar Pradesh, the Bharatiya Kisan Union, small farmer groups and leftist organisations are drumming up sentiments against the BJP.

"The way they understand it," Mr. Chaturvedi said of the imagery he created in public meetings for garnering support for Akhilesh Yadav and Jayant Singh. This goes with the SP chief's attempt to appropriate Krishna as his family deity. Over the years, Mr. Chaturvedi said, the BJP had brought so much religious imagery into the campaign that its opponents needed a pushback in a similar syntax, referring to the BJP's refrain of '*Jo Ram ko layen hain, hum unko layenge*' (those who brought Lord Ram, we will bring them to power) that subtly equates Prime Minister Narendra Modi with King Dashrath of the *Ramayan*.

Supporting role: Madhuvant Chaturvedi addressing a meeting for the Rashtriya Lok Dal candidate in Chhata. ▪ ANUJ KUMAR

Mr. Chaturvedi links the leadership's hubris with the party not addressing the real issues of unemployment and inflation, and goes on to add how two young men [Akhilesh Yadav and Jayant Singh] from western U.P. were taking on the might of the State's east [the CM and both Deputy CMs]. In focused meetings with farmers in his village near Ghaziabad, Rajveer Singh, vice president of the BKU's State unit, explained how the BJP was spreading conservatism in the name of *palayan* (exodus) and "love *jihad*". The two planks form the base of the party's social campaign in this election.

"I am a farmer but I shifted my residence from Raeespur to Ghaziabad so that my children could get a better education. Is that exodus? Today, my daughter is a doctor and has spent eight years away from me for her education. Is it fair of me to force her to accept a partner of my choice?" he said.

Another senior BKU leader said, the way the name of Jayant Singh was being repeatedly used by top BJP leaders, even the fence-sitters had realised that their "true" leader has regained political strength. "If Jayant was so fit for the BJP, why was he *lathi*-charged in Hathras? All this is being underlined," he said.

Campaign resonance

In the villages of western U.P., the RLD's *bhaichara* (brotherhood) campaign has found resonance in villages. BKU workers, many of whom are RLD supporters, sport green caps with *bhaichaara* embossed on it. But it has remained largely limited to Jat-Muslim amity and hasn't been as strongly pushed for the Jat-Jatav bond. Observers said this could affect the SP-RLD's prospects in the Agra-Mathura-Hathras belt, where the Jatavs retain the aggression that they acquired during the Bahujan Samaj Party's rule.

Even groups like the Bharatiya Kisan Sangathan that do not always stand by the BKU are earnestly spreading the message to vote in large numbers for issues that concern farmers.

"Though we don't always agree with the objectives of the BKU, we do feel that farmers should rise above caste and religion as a unit and vote for real issues. If it hurts the BJP's prospects, so be it," said Rajendra Yadav, national president of the BKS.

Balancing act

Riding the wave: Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi riding a motorcycle during a roadshow in Jalandhar on Tuesday. ▪ PTI

Communal focus eclipses failing economy, joblessness in Uttarakhand

Inflammatory rhetoric at Haridwar Dharma Sansad has sidelined key problems of man-animal conflict, migration and environmental destruction in the State

NAMITA SINGH
DEHRADUN

The Dharma Sansad organised in December last year in Haridwar made national headlines for its hate speeches against a particular community. A few days ago, a morphed image portraying Congress CM hopeful Harish Rawat as a Muslim cleric was shared on social media platform Twitter.

While the BJP accused Mr. Harish Rawat of "appeasement politics", the Congress has accused the saffron party of playing the "polarisation" card in this election. In the meantime, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi performed Ganga Aarti in Haridwar during his recent visit to the State which has been dubbed as "soft Hindutva".

As a result, less than a week ahead of polling, the Uttarakhand battle has taken on religious colour and the real issues like man-animal conflict, migration from the hills and environmental degradation have been sidelined.

Loss of lives

Of the State's 70 seats, around 34 constituencies are located in the hills where human-animal conflicts are a serious concern, leading to loss of life on both sides. With 70% of Uttarakhand under forest cover, communities living in the hills are prone to animal attacks, particularly during the monsoons.

As per the data till December 2021 with the State's Forest Department, the total number of deaths due to animal attacks was around 900 and those injured was close to 5,000 in the last two decades. The toll on wildlife too has been high as 1,500 leopards have been killed in the same period along with 471 elephants and 166 tigers. Although the Forest Department claims to have attempted to check the incidents of man-animal conflicts, there is no satisfactory result.

Interestingly, officials in the Forest Department link the conflict to widepsread migration of people from the hills. "The number of dogs and goats are decreasing in the villages," said a source in the Department. According to the source, hill districts like Pauri, Almora, Pithoragarh, Champwat and Rudraprayag, which are witnessing migration, are also facing the brunt of conflict with wildlife in the State.

BJP national president J.P. Nadda addresses a public meeting at Ramlila Maidan in Augustmuni on Wednesday. ▪ PTI

"Issues like polarisation and appeasement will automatically disappear after the elections are over. The State's local issues have much to do with the governance. So, we have to see how much work is done by the next government to address these issues," said Anoop Nautiyal, founder of an NGO Social Development for Communities (SDC) Foundation.

Also missing from the election discourse is the impact of increasing number of natural calamities in the State. Most of the State lies in eco-sensitive zones. The flash floods in Raini Village in Chamoli district last February had washed away many people and a hydroelectric project (Tapovan Vishnugad project).

In October, the State witnessed heavy rainfall causing landslides and road blocks and the death over 70 persons in rain-related incidents.

Even as the ruling BJP highlights the ongoing all weather road projects connecting the Char Dham – Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri – the poor condition of roads connecting villages in the hill areas has so far not become a major political issue in this election. There are also issues like largescale hill cutting, dumping of debris into streams and rivers, and felling of trees posing a serious threat to the environment and local people.

And this is all happening in the eco-sensitive zones of the Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary, the Rajaji National Park, the fragile Valley of Flowers among other sensitive locations. The unchecked work on multiple projects has resulted in increasing incidents of landslides and flash floods in the Himalayan State with accompanying tremendous loss of lives and property.

Ghost villages

The National Statistical Office (NSO) survey for October-December 2020 quarter found that 27% of the people in Uttarakhand are unemployed, higher than the national average of 25%. Lack of basic facilities like education, healthcare and employment are forcing young people from Uttarakhand to move to the plains.

According to the report of the State Migration Commission, around 60% of the population from the hills has migrated to the plains. Almost 1,700 villages have been declared Ghost Villages (abandoned villages) as development has remained confined to the plains. While the contribution of industries to SGDP has increased to 49%, it has not stopped migration from hills.

Political analyst S.M.A. Kazmi says, "The basic issues have always been ignored in this State whenever elections are there. Emotional issues take over. Medical facilities are so poor that some of the district hospitals don't even have Cesarean facilities. The BJP is trying to implement the "Hindutva" formula everywhere but Congress is also promoting soft Hindutva."

POLLPOURRI

A unique manifesto

IMPHAL

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav has said the BJP is preparing a "unique" election manifesto for the upcoming Manipur polls and will "not make any promise that will not be translated into action". Mr. Yadav, the BJP's in charge of the polls in the Northeastern State, said the saffron camp has held discussions with various stakeholders and set up a committee to draft the manifesto. ""The BJP will win two-third seats of the Manipur Legislative Assembly. The central board of the party will decide who will be the CM," Mr. Yadav said at a press conference here on Tuesday. **PTI**

Spouse for spouse

LUCKNOW

The BJP has replaced several candidates with their spouses for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. In Amethi, the BJP has declared former MP Sanjay Sinh as its candidate in place of his first wife and sitting MLA Garima Singh. In 2017 , the seat witnessed a battle between Ms. Singh and Ameeta Sinh, Mr. Sinh's second wife. The SP's nominee and then Minister Gayatri Prasad Prajapati was considered the main contender but the friendly fight between the SP and the Congress, which had fielded Ms. Ameeta, proved costly for him as the BJP won the seat. Mr. Sinh and Ms. Ameeta quit the Congress after the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and joined the BJP. Ironically, the SP, too, has fielded a spouse for the seat. Maharaji Prajapati, Mr. Prajapati's wife, has been nominated after the latter was recently sentenced to life in a rape case. In Ballia Nagar, the BJP has fielded its State vice-president Daya Shankar Singh, whose wife Swati Singh, a Minister in the U.P. government, was dropped for the Sarojini Nagar constituency in Lucknow. The seat had proved to be an embarrassment for the party as both husband and wife vied for it. The BJP eventually declared former joint director of ED Rajeshwar Singh as its candidate in Sarojini Nagar.

Sunil Jakhar snubbed: BJP

CHANDIGARH

The BJP on Wednesday hit out at the ruling Congress in Punjab on its former State president Sunil Jakhar quitting active electoral politics in the run-up to the the Assembly elections. "Mr. Jakhar has quit active politics and this was primarily because he was refused the Chief Ministership of Punjab for being a Hindu, something that, from his own admission, has hurt him badly," said Union Minister and BJP in-charge for Punjab, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. "At the same time, let us set the record straight... a majority of the Sikh MLAs had supported Mr. Jakhar for Chief Ministership," he said. It owes an explanation to the people of Punjab, he said.

Women's share

In the 2017 Assembly elections, the share of women candidates did not cross the 10% mark in any of the five poll-bound States. The share of women MLAs crossed the 10% mark only in Uttar Pradesh. At the same time, about 50% of voters in all these States were women

States	% of women voters	% of women candidates	% of women MLAs
Goa	51	8	5
Punjab	47	7	7
Manipur	51	4	7
Uttar Pradesh	46	10	11
Uttarakhand	47	10	7

IN BRIEF

Pak. drone drops RDX, bomb-making items

NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday recovered over four kg of RDX (research department explosive), a pistol and bomb-making items that were dropped in two packets by a drone that flew from Pakistan into an Indian farm along the Punjab border. A spokesperson said troops fired after they heard a "buzzing sound of a suspected flying object" around 1 a.m. in the Gurdaspur sector. A search let to the packets, he said. PTI

SC grants pre-arrest bail to Mamata's poll agent

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted anticipatory bail to S.K. Supiyan, who was election agent to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the 2021 Assembly poll, in a murder case investigated by the CBI. "However, the appellant will have to fully cooperate with the CBI," said a Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Abhay S. Oka. Appearing for Mr. Supiyan, senior advocate Kapil Sibal said the CBI was trying to implicate his client for "political reasons".

Trinamool has an easy win in two municipalities

KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Wednesday won two civic bodies — where elections were due on February 27 — without any contest. The Opposition parties failed to put up any candidate on a majority of the wards in these municipalities, making it a cakewalk for the Trinamool. February 9 was the last day for filing nomination papers for polls to 108 civic bodies. The two municipalities that the Trinamool won are Sainthia in Birbhum and Budge Budge municipality in South 24 Parganas.

India's mRNA vaccine likely by April

Data from human trials likely to be presented for evaluation by Feb.-end; 4,000 volunteers recruited

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Data from human trials of India's first homegrown mRNA vaccine against coronavirus are likely to be presented to authorities for evaluation by the end of the month, and company officials are aiming to roll out the product before April, two senior scientists connected to the Department of Biotechnology told *The Hindu*.

The mRNA vaccine being developed by Pune-based Gennova Biopharmaceuticals is currently in phase 2/3 trials to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of the candidate vaccine in healthy subjects. Around 4,000 volunteers have been recruited for the trial.

India has so far approved at least six vaccines that can be manufactured locally but only two – Covishield and Covaxin – have been administered to over 99% Indians. Globally, mRNA vaccines have been at the vanguard of inoculation programmes in the U.S. and Europe because they exploit recent advances in molecular biotechnology and are said to be quicker to manufacture than older, well-established vaccine design principles.

Safety step: Women waiting for COVID-19 vaccine outside a health centre in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. ▪ K.R. DEEPAK

A limitation of the mRNA vaccines, or those made by Pfizer and Moderna, was that they were required to be stored in sub-zero conditions – a tough proposition in a country where such a degree of refrigeration is limited in availability. However, the prospective Gennova vaccine can be stored in ordinary refrigerators, the makers of Gennova have claimed earlier. The mRNA vaccine, can also purportedly be tweaked to be effective against newer variants, but so far, all the vaccines developed – including the prospective Gennova vaccine – have been customised to the original SARS-CoV-2.

Gennova has been funded with ₹125 crore from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

One official said that the company had faced challenges in recruiting volunteers because, to evaluate the vaccine's efficacy, it would be necessary to find volunteers who had neither been vaccinated nor exposed to the virus. Several serology surveys have shown 70%-90% of adults and children have been exposed to the virus, and hence express antibodies on being tested since March 2020.

"From what I know, the company is ready to roll-out the vaccine by March or April and will be approaching the Drug Controller General of India soon," said Govindraj Padmanabhan, who chairs a vaccine committee of the DBT and has closely followed developments in the vaccine space.

Sanjay Singh, CEO, Gennova Biopharmaceuticals, did not respond to text messages for comment.

As of Wednesday, India has administered over 171 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

Health Ministry figures suggest that while 77% of the eligible adult population in India are fully vaccinated, 95% have received at least one COVID-19 jab. Over 65% of adolescents in the 15-18 years category have also received their first dose. In those vaccinated, close to 86% have received Covishield while nearly 14% have availed Covaxin.

66,871 new COVID-19 cases recorded

Active cases down to 8.1 lakh

THE HINDU DATA TEAM
CHENNAI

The country recorded 66,871 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday. The total number of infections has reached 4.24 crore and active cases have come down to 8.1 lakh.

The figures are based on the State bulletins released until 10 p.m. on Wednesday. However, Ladakh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura, Sikkim, Jharkhand, and Lakshadweep had not yet released data for the day.

Kerala tops chart

Kerala recorded 23,253 infections on Wednesday, followed by Maharashtra (7,142) and Karnataka (5,339).

On Wednesday, 1,210 deaths were recorded in India, higher than the average levels recorded last week. The total number of recorded fatalities has reached 5,06,515.

Kerala reported the most deaths with 854 fatalities (627 were from a backlog), followed by Maharashtra (92), and Karnataka recorded 48 deaths.

On Tuesday, 15.7 lakh tests were conducted (the results for which were made available on Wednesday). The test positivity rate (the number of cases detected per 100 tests) was 4.2%.

As of Wednesday, 93.7% of the eligible population has been vaccinated with at least one dose, while 72.8% have received both doses.

In the 15-17 years age cohort, 82.9% of the population has received its first dose. Altogether, 95,47,82,439 first doses, 74,21,16,797 second doses, and 1,53,09,103 booster doses have been administered across India.

Suicides due to job loss highest in 2020: Centre

3,548 cases reported in lockdown year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over 16,000 people committed suicide due to bankruptcy or indebtedness while 9,140 people ended their lives due to unemployment between 2018 and 2020, the Ministry of Home Affairs informed the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

As many as 9,140 people ended their lives due to unemployment, the highest number of such cases – 3,548 were reported in 2020, the year a lockdown was imposed in the country due to COVID-19 and large-scale job losses and economic slowdown were reported in many sectors.

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said 5,213 people committed suicide due to bankruptcy or indebtedness in 2020, 5,908 in 2019 and 4,970 in 2018. A total of 3,548 people committed suicide due to unemployment in 2020, 2,851 in 2019 and 2,741 in 2018, he said replying to a written question.

To a question by Samajwadi Party's Sukhram Singh Yadav, the Minister said the government had launched a number of programmes for employment and income generation for the citizens such as the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana to incentivise employers for creation of new jobs along with social security benefits.

'More women got maternity benefit'

Total beneficiaries under PMMVY is more than the indicative target, says Irani

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The number of beneficiaries who enrolled for the maternity benefit programme, called Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), exceeded the government's target of 51.7 lakh per year in each of the last three years, Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani told Parliament on Wednesday.

"The total number of beneficiaries enrolled during each of the last three financial years under the PMMVY is more than the indicative target," the Minister said in the Rajya Sabha in response to a question from Trinamool Congress member Sushmita Dev. The reply did not provide the exact number of enrolments.

Aid for new mothers: Under the scheme, women get ₹5,000 in three instalments after her first delivery. ▪ FILE PHOTO

The PMMVY scheme was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a televised address to the nation on December 31, 2016. It provides a benefit of ₹5,000 in three instalments to a woman for her first living child upon meeting certain conditions. This is meant as partial compensation for loss of wage during her pregnancy so that she can get proper nutrition.

The scheme is only for those women who are not employed by the Central or State governments or a Public Sector Undertaking and don't receive similar benefits under any law. It is clubbed with the Janani Suraksha Yojana scheme which provides nearly ₹1,000 for institutional births so that altogether mothers get ₹6,000 in maternity benefit.

The scheme has been criticised for under-funding and failing to cater to all targeted beneficiaries. Activists also call the scheme illegal as it violates the National Food Security Act, 2013 under which all mothers, and not just mothers of the first living child, should get a maternity benefit of ₹6,000.

ED seizes ₹288 crore in loan app case

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The competent authority under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) has confirmed the seizure of ₹288 crore made by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Chinese-owned PC Financial Services Private Limited.

The ED seized the balance in bank and Payment Gateway funds worth the money through three seizure orders issued last year.

The action was taken as a part of a probe against several non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and Fintech companies, which were providing online instant micro-loans using mobile apps. They were accused of extorting high rates of interest from customers by misusing their personal data and issuing threats to them.

During the investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the agency also found alleged FEMA violations by PC Financial Services, an NBFC that provides instant personal micro loans through its mobile application 'Cashbean'.

The ED said the company was ultimately beneficially owned by Chinese national Zhou Yahui. Its foreign parent companies brought foreign direct investment worth ₹ 173 crore for lending business. Within a short span, the company made foreign outward remittances worth ₹429.29 crore to Chinese-controlled foreign-related firms, said the agency.

Over 40% of teaching posts in IITs vacant: govt.

Data show poor representation for reserved groups

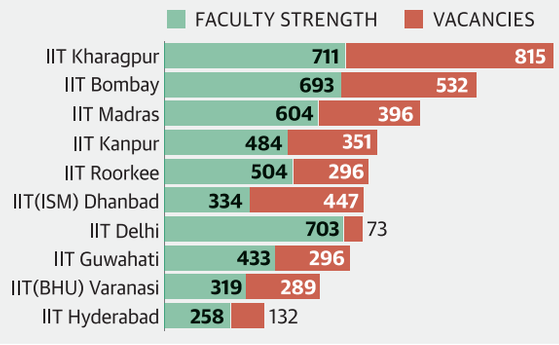
STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

Over 40% of teaching posts in all 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are vacant, according to data provided by the Ministry of Education in the Lok Sabha to a question raised by Congress member Shashi Tharoor.

According to the data, while 6,511 teaching faculty are working in the IITs, 4,370 posts are vacant.

The data once again highlighted the poor representation of faculty from reserved categories. Only 12% of the 6,511 teaching staff are from Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). The Ministry did not provide category-wise breakdown of the faculty strength. However, an earlier reply submitted in December 2021 showed that there were only 32 faculty members from ST, 183 from SC, and 462 from OBC communities. As per the reservation policies, the SCs, STs, OBCs, and the EWS should be provided a reservation of 7.5%, 15%, 27% and 10% respectively. This would mean that ideally at least 59.5% of the faculty must be from reserved categories.

Many slots to fill | As many as 4,370 posts are vacant in 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the country. A look at the vacancies in some IITs



Among the older and bigger IITs, IIT (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad had 57.2% of posts vacant, followed by 53.4% in IIT Kharagpur. IIT Delhi was the exception with just 9.4% of the posts vacant. However, it had one of the lowest representation of faculty from reserved groups (6.5%). IIT Bombay had the poorest representation with just 3.8% of its 693 faculty from reserved categories.

Mr. Tharoor's questions were about the vacancies, student-to-faculty ratio and the measures being taken to fill the vacancies. The Ministry, in its reply, pointed to the ongoing special recruitment drive under "mission mode" from September 2021 to September 2022 to fill the vacancies under the reserved categories.

However, the special recruitment drive has already come under criticism as the problems posed by the flexible cadre structure in IITs have not been addressed. As per the flexible cadre structure, the sanctioned faculty strength is not fixed at each category, viz. assistant professors, associate professors and professors but only at the overall level.

India bans drone import to help domestic sector

Exceptions given for R&D, defence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday banned the import of drones with immediate effect, except for research and development, defence and security purposes.

The move aims to promote made-in-India drones, a statement from the Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry notified the Indian Trade Classification (Harmonised System), 2022 on Wednesday effecting the prohibition of drones for import. The Ministry of Civil Aviation said that while exceptions were provided for R&D, defence and security, importing drones for these purposes will require "due clearances". However, import of drone components will not need any approvals.

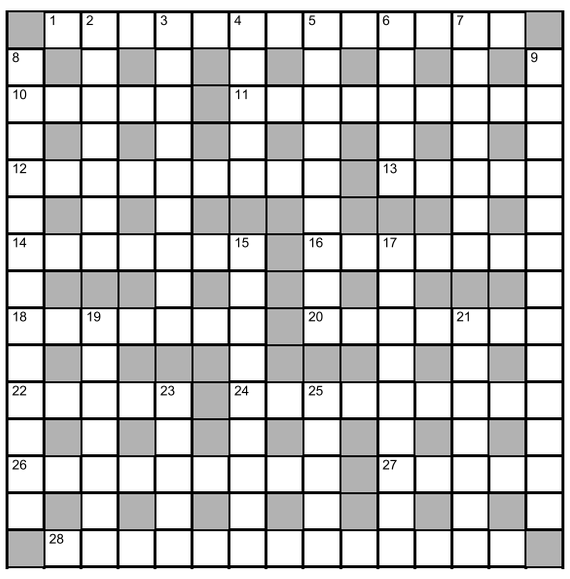
Last year, the Ministry notified liberalised drone rules with the aim to encourage R&D and to make India a drone hub. The government also approved a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for drones and their components with an allocation of ₹120 crore for three financial years.

TH CROSSWORD + 13476

(set by Arden)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 Colander's background as coach (5-8)
10 US city home had that completely uncovered (5)
11 Time to command, time to go – so, destroy (9)
12 Unusual amount set for unusual person (3,3,3)
13 Country fare, as they say (5)
14 Horse returned – in fact was stripped completely (7)
16 Dispatched from top to bottom, urge for saving (4,3)
18 Tips of blade fixed to any rifle (7)
20 Choose time to behead this tragic heroine (7)
22 Reorient others about orient (5)
24 She fills troubled hearts, gets some sea food (9)
26 Do away with another timeline involving America (9)
27 Check all around school compound (5)
28 Breaking up – after shock of cavilling (4-9)

DOWN

2 A boy with racket becomes a folk hero (7)
3 Great dane trained to serve some refreshments (3,6)
4 Someone modest enough to accept a dictator as boss (5)
5 Perhaps can create some resistance to flow (9)
6 European connection – heads from India, Russia, Italy, Spain and Hungary assembled (5)
7 Check out old compound (7)
8 No limits in freestyle wrestling (2,5,6)
9 Hang around sweetheart, this device will stitch your clothes (6,7)
15 A match stopped by wet conditions – this will record when it happened (4,5)
17 Shopping malls, rate is suspect (5,1,3)
19 That's correct, knife was smuggled into the religious school (7)
21 What one does with new clothes exchanged in store? (5,2)
23 He has a go right in the bank (5)
25 Sticky stuff found in diesel emissions (5)

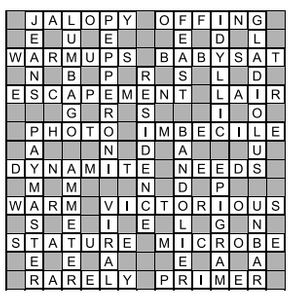
SUDOKU

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

No.SS5344 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13475



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Moola – Hanuman's star

As in the case of every nakshatra, Moola also has a mantra. The mantra's prayer goes thus: "Let us worship Moola, and be blessed with sons, who will always be successful, like brave warriors." The deity for this star is Nrrti. It is a rakshasa devata. When a homa is done to the star Moola, Nrrti goes away without harming us. If we worship Nrrti, then we will be rid of the fear of enemies.

Kaalika Purana describes Nrrti. Nrrti holds a khadga (sword) and a shield, has knotted hair, is tall and wears a black garment. The vahana of this devata is a donkey. There are two mantras for Moola, said V.S. Karunakarachariar, in a discourse. The first one says that Moola gives us daylight always. What this means is that it gives us a good life. Crimes committed during the day are fewer than those committed under cover of darkness. So, saying that it is daylight always means that doing a homa for this star, keeps us on the straight path. The second mantra says that this star ensures that we do not lose focus, and never lose sight of the goals we have set ourselves in life.

A classic example of such commitment is seen in the case of Hanuman, who was born in the star Moola. Having decided to cross the ocean to find Sita, he was offered rest and food by the mountain Mynaka. But Hanuman politely refused the offer, for he had a task on his hands, and he did not want anything – whether it was personal comfort or hunger to delay him. So, unmindful of rest or hunger, or thirst, Hanuman went his way. And his goal was not easy to attain. Many were the obstacles that came his way, and many a hurdle he had to cross. But his determination saw him through. No one else would have been able to locate Sita, for who would have had Maruti's will power and strength?

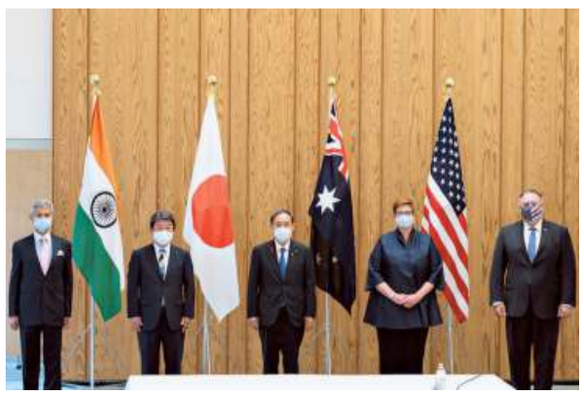
Quad Ministers set to meet in Australia

Jaishankar will join other Foreign Ministers to discuss cooperation on vaccines, tech and security

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will begin a visit to Australia on Thursday and attend a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Quad (India, Australia, United States, Japan), which is expected to discuss cooperation on vaccines, technology and regional security issues including related to China.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Friday's Quad meeting, during Mr. Jaishankar's first visit to Australia as EAM, will see the four ministers "exchange views on regional strategic issues given their shared vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region." "The Ministers will review ongoing Quad cooperation and build on the positive and constructive agenda announced by the Leaders at the two Summits in 2021, to address contemporary challenges such as the COVID pandemic, supply chains, critical technologies, climate change, infrastructure, etc.," the MEA said.



Brushing up ties: The meeting would also discuss the 'challenges that China poses'. ▪FILE PHOTO

Mr. Jaishankar will also hold a dialogue with his Australian counterpart Marise Payne. The visit will be followed by a trip to the Philippines on February 13. India and the Philippines last month signed a landmark $375 million deal for the supply of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. The MEA said the visits would "impart further momentum to bilateral relations with our key partners in the Indo-Pacific, Australia, and the Philippines, which is also a leading member of ASEAN."

While the MEA statement did not mention China, U.S. officials said ahead of the meeting that the Quad would discuss "challenges that China poses". "The Quad is an informal grouping of like-minded democracies who share many interests, principles, and values vis-à-vis the kind of region that we want to live in – a region based on a rules-based order in which all countries big and small follow the rules, a region in which disputes are resolved peacefully, and in which countries have the freedom to make their own sovereign choices," Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink said, adding that the four Foreign Ministers "will discuss challenges to that order and to those values" and "part of that discussion will relate to the challenges that China poses to those values and to that rules-based order in a number of sectors".

'Cold war mindset'

China reacted sharply to that statement on Wednesday, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian saying the U.S. "despite its ruined democratic brand still forces other countries to accept its democratic standards and cobbles together cliques by drawing the ideological line". Of the Quad, he said China "hopes the U.S. and other countries concerned will grasp the trend of the times, adopt a proper mindset and discard the Cold War mentality" and "contribute more to regional peace, stability and prosperity instead of putting a strain on the relations between regional countries".

The Quad Foreign Ministers meet is expected to lay the groundwork for the second Quad leaders summit likely to take place this summer. In September last year, the four leaders, meeting in Washington for the first time, laid out an ambitious agenda for the grouping, from cooperating on vaccines to regional infrastructure and critical technologies such as 5G.

The four countries pledged to donate more than 1.2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses globally and produce at least 1 billion doses by the end of 2022. In March last year, the four countries also set up a new critical and emerging technologies group focusing on 5G, technical standards and technology supply chains. Also in the works is a joint initiative to "identify vulnerabilities" and "bolster supply-chain security" for semiconductors.

Quad is not a security alliance, says Blinken

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

The U.S. has reiterated that the Quad is not a security alliance. On his way to a minister-level meeting in Melbourne , U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken had highlighted aspects of the group comprised of India, the U.S., Australia and Japan, saying the Quad was bolstering maritime security and "pushing back against coercion" in the region.

"The Quad is becoming a powerful mechanism for delivering, helping to vaccinate a big part of the world and getting a lot of vaccines out there, strengthening maritime security to push back against aggression and coercion in the Indo-Pacific region, working together on emerging technologies and making sure that they can be used in positive ways, not negative ways, and an increasingly broad and deep agenda," Mr Blinken said as per remarks released by the State Department.

"The Quad is not a security or military partnership. The Secretary was referring to one of many activities/platforms the Quad supports as part of our shared approach to the Indo-Pacific. Its purpose is to advance cooperation on key priorities in specific sectors that is consistent with international law and promotes our shared values and underpins peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region," a State Department spokesperson told *The Hindu* which had sought a clarification on the secretary's remarks on Wednesday.

"We work to support the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight, peaceful resolution of disputes, democratic values, and territorial integrity through open dialogue and information sharing on a diverse set of issue areas, including Maritime Security," the spokesperson said.

China's challenges to the "rules based order" and democratic values will feature in the Quad's agenda, U.S. diplomat for East Asia and Pacific, Daniel Kritenbrink told reporters last week.

Missile targets in Syria come under attack

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JERUSALEM

Israel launched strikes against targets in Syria early on Wednesday, hitting anti-aircraft batteries in response to a missile fired from Syria, the military said.

Sirens were sounded in the northern Israeli Arab city of Umm Al-Fahm after the Syrian missile launch but it exploded in mid-air, the Israel Defense Forces tweeted.

"In response to the anti-aircraft missile launched from Syria earlier tonight, we just struck surface-to-air missile targets in Syria, " the military said.

Syrian state media said the country's air defences had been activated against Israeli fire "in the vicinity of Damascus".

"Our aerial defences confronted the enemy's missiles and shot some of them down," the Syrian news agency *SANA* said.

SANA said one soldier was killed and five others wounded.

McConnell slams GOP for censuring riot critics

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

U.S. Senate Minority (Republican) Leader Mitch McConnell on Tuesday criticised the Republican National Committee (RNC) for censuring Republicans Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger, members of the House of Representatives, for being part of a House panel that is investigating the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol by a mob of Trump supporters. The party had censured the lawmakers for participating in the "Democrat-led persecution" of those engaged in "legitimate political discourse."

"The issue is whether or not the RNC should be sort of singling out members of our party who may have different views from the majority. That's not the job of the RNC," Mr. McConnell told reporters on Tuesday. He characterised the January 6 attack as a "violent insurrection" that sought to block the peaceful transfer of power after a "legitimately certified election." Mr. McConnell had voted last May against the establishment of a bipartisan commission to look into the attack.

The Republicans have their eyes on taking back majorities in the House and Senate in the midterm elections in the autumn, and influential members of the party are concerned that relitigating the 2020 elections could detract from this goal. Others are firmly in the camp of former U.S. President Donald Trump. "If we want to win the elections in November, there are better things for us to be focused on," the Senate's No.2 Republican said, according to a report from Reuters.

'Legitimate discourse'

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy defended the use of the RNC's language ("legitimate political discourse"), telling CNN that the language referred to the January 6 committee issuing subpoenas to lawmakers who were not in Washington on January 6 last year. Mr. McCarthy said that those who caused damage on that day should be imprisoned. The January 6 House committee is weighing subpoenaing Mr. McCarthy after he refused to voluntarily talk to them about his communications with Mr. Trump and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows in the lead up to and on January 6 2021.

Over 700 individuals have been arrested in connection with the attacks.

Russia sees 'positive signals' ahead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

The Kremlin said on Wednesday there were "positive signals" for the resolution of the Ukraine crisis following a meeting of the French and Ukrainian leaders in Kiev.

French President Emmanuel Macron met his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday amid a flurry of European diplomacy aimed at defusing fears that Moscow could invade Ukraine.

"There were positive signals that a solution to Ukraine could be based only on fulfilling the Minsk agreements," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, referring to accords signed in 2015 between Kiev and pro-Russia separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Lending support: Spanish Minister Jose Manuel Albares, left, and Ukrainian Minister Dmytro Kuleba in Kiev. ▪REUTERS

He added, however, that there was no indication from Mr. Zelensky that Ukraine's authorities were ready to "quickly" do what "Kiev should have done long ago".

Ukraine said on Wednesday that a European diplomatic push aimed at averting a feared Russian invasion of the ex-Soviet state was working.

"The situation remains tense but under control," Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told reporters after talks with his Spanish counterpart Jose Manuel Albares.

"Without exaggeration, Russia is trying to take revenge for the Soviet Union losing the Cold War, which is why today, we are talking about defending the entire security architecture of Europe," Mr. Kuleba said.

Iran's missile puts Israel, U.S. bases within range

The missile has 'high accuracy'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN

Iran unveiled a new missile on Wednesday with a reported range that would allow it to reach both U.S. bases in the region as well as targets inside its archfoe Israel.

State TV reported that the missile uses solid fuel and has a range of 1,450 kilometers (900 miles). It is called the Khaibar-buster, a reference to a Jewish castle overrun by Muslim warriors in the early days of Islam.

The report said the missile has high accuracy, is manufactured completely domestically, and can defeat missile shield systems.

Israel's closest point to Iran is some 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) away.

The report comes as negotiations continue in Vienna to revive Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers. Iran, which has long said it does not seek nuclear weapons, insists its missile program is only a deterrent.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
GROUND WATER DEPARTMENT
NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT
E-TENDER NOTICE IFB No: *TSGW/NHP/2021-22/PZ/6564*

Following online tender is invited by the Ground Water Department, Govt. of Telangana from eligible bidders under National Competitive Bidding (NCB).
Details - Lot-IB : Construction of 168 Nos Piezometers (Bore wells) with protection works in parts of 07 Districts of Southern Telangana Region viz., Gadwal, Narayanpet, Mahabubnagar, Wanaparthy Nagarkurnool, Nalgonda, and Sangareddy districts. **Lot-V :** Construction of 89 Nos of Piezometers (Bore wells) with protection works in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Hyderabad under Purpose Driven Study Area.
Important Dates - *Start Date of Download:* 10/02/2022 (10.30 hrs) ***Date of Pre-bid Meeting:*** 16/02/2022 (11.30 hrs) ***Last Date of Submission:*** 11/03/2022 (15.00 hrs).
The details of IFB will be available on *https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app (Tender Id No.* 2021_GWDTS_672387), *https://gwd.telangana.gov.in* and *http://nhp.mowr.gov.in* websites.
Sd/- Director & Nodal Officer, NHP
Ground Water Department
R.O. No. : 2661-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 Date: 09-02-2022

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED NCR REGION ALWAR
Manu Marg ALWAR(RAJ.) E-Mail-ace.alw.phed@rajathan.gov.in
No-6212-28 Date-2-2-2022
NOTICE INVITING BID (Nit No.46-55/2021-22)
Bids for Work of construction of sources, rising main pipelines, internal village distribution pipeline and FHTC including one year Defect Liability period of Village Gwalda, Belaka, Chandoli, Nanglasedu-Nadanhedi-Dilawarpur, Itarana-Palka, Leeli, Khareda, Jatiyana, Ismailpur, Bahadurpur Patti Meeran-Bahadurpur Patti Katla under JJM in the jurisdiction of PHED Division Bhiwadi (NCR)/ Rural Dn. I NCR Alwar are invited from interested bidders upto 05:00 PM on Date 03.03.2022. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and https://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.
UBN:-**PHE2122WSOB13091, PHE2122WSOB13092, PHE2122WLOB13093, PHE2122WSOB13094, PHE2122WSOB13095, PHE2122WSOB13096, PHE2122WSOB13098, PHE2122WSOB13101, PHE2122WSOB13103, PHE2122WLOB13105**
Aditya Sharma
Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/1464

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara-691 583, Kollam, Kerala, India
Phone: 91476-2686722 to 733 (12 Lines),
Fax: 91-476-2680101. E-mail: contact@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com
CIN-U14109KL1972SGC002399
TENDER NOTICE
Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** or **www.kmml.com**.

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2022_KMML_472795_1	For the Supply of 1100 V Grade, armoured Control Cable PVC insulated copper Conductor
2	2022_KMML_472428_1	For the Supply of POWER CONTROL CENTRE
3	2022_KMML_472084_1	For Fabrication and supply of Bottom Shell segment for Chlorinator D203
4	2022_KMML_471508_1	For the Supply of CS PIPE
5	2022_KMML_471268_1	For the Supply of PLATE INCONNEL
6	2022_KMML_472077_1	For fabrication and Supply of Condensate Coolant Cooler E336
Chavara 09.02.2022		s/d DGM(Mtls) For the Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd
7	2022_KMML_470895_1	Supply, erection and commissioning of 10 MT Double Grider EOT Crane for Magnesium Recycling Plant Project at Titanium Sponge Plant(TSP) ,KMML
8	2022_KMML_471502_1	Detailed project report preparation for effluent treatment plant of capacity 6000 KLPD for TiO2 pigment production plant at KMML
9	2022_KMML_473107_1	For replacement of existing effluent line with PVC pipe 315 mm dia from MS Gate inside KMML premises up to road crossing point near MS Unit
10	2022_KMML_471999_1	Global tender for Design, Manufacturing, Supply & Commissioning support of fully automatic arm turning TiO2 Pigment Stretch Wrapping Machine at U-400 of KMML, Sankaramangalam, Chavara, Kollam, Kerala, India
Chavara 09.02.2022		s/d HOU(TP/TSP) For the Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Sillimanite

Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society
Government of Andhra Pradesh
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
2nd Call - Selection of Reputed Agency(s) for Operation & Maintenance of Four (4) Secondary Food Processing Units in Andhra Pradesh on Lease, Operate, Transfer Model for a Block Period of 15 Years
Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society (APFPS) through this Request for Proposal (RFP) is inviting Bids from interested agency(s) for the Selection of Reputed Agency(s) for Operation & Maintenance of below mentioned Four (4) Secondary Food Processing Units in Andhra Pradesh on Lease, Operate, Transfer Model for a Block Period of 15 Years as per the terms and conditions laid down in the RFP.
(1) Operation & Maintenance of Dried Honey Dipped Banana Processing Unit at Pulivendula, YSR Kadapa district.
(2) Operation & Maintenance of Mango Jelly Processing Unit at Peddapuram, Kakinada, East Godavari district.
(3) Operation & Maintenance of Cocoa Processing Unit at Jannampeta (V), Pedavegi (M), Eluru, West Godavari district.
(4) Operation & Maintenance of Dehydration of Fruits & Vegetables Unit at Kapatrala (V), DevanaKonda (M), Kurnool district.
Interested Agencies are requested to access the RFP documents individually at the below mentioned link and send the applications on or before the due date as mentioned in the respective document(s).
The RFP document along with the Project information can be accessed from **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in from 10-02-2022.**
For queries, please write to: fps-ap@nic.in, apfps@yahoo.com,
Contact: Mr. Bharat, Ph: 6309501007; Mr. NLB Pantulu, Ph: 9703851169;
Mr. Rahul Reddy, Ph: 9634506369; *Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, APFPS*

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER, DR. S.N.MEDICAL COLLEGE & ASSOCIATED GROUP OF HOSPITALS, JODHPUR
Shastri Nagar, Residency Road, Jodhpur (Raj).342001 Phone:-0291-2434374
E-mail:principal.drsnmc.jod@rajasthan.gov.in, prmedelg-jod-rj@nic.in
No.F.6()Store/SNMC/JU/2021-22/5933-36 Dated:3.02.22
NOTICE INVITING BID No.27/2021-22(E-tender)
Bids for various equipments, for use in Dr. S. N. Medical College and Attached Hospitals, Jodhpur are invited from interested bidders 11.02.2022 up to 11:00 A.M. (for Item No. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 11) and 14.02.2022 up to 02:00 P.M. (for item No. 1, 3, 8, 9, 10, 12, & 13). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and also be seen at http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in of the state procurement portal and https://education.rajasthan.gov.in/dsmcjodhpur# departmental website.
UBN Number :-
SMC2122GLOB00331, SMC2122GSOB00332, SMC2122GLOB00333, SMC2122GSOB00334, SMC2122GSOB00335, SMC2122GSOB00336, SMC2122GSOB00337, SMC2122GLOB00338, SMC2122GLOB00339, SMC2122GLOB00340, SMC2122GSOB00341 SMC2122GLOB00342, SMC2122GLOB00343
(Dr. S.S.Rathore)
Principal & Controller
DIPR/C/1528

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No: Re-27/2021-22/SE/PHC/MVPA
KIIFB-TRAN_II - WRD025-31 DRINKING WSS TO PAINGOTTOOR PANCHAYATH IN ERNAKULAM DISTRICT - Package I
- **EMD: Rs. 500000 ● Tender fee: Rs. 15000**
- **Last Date for submitting Tender: 03-03-2022, 04:00 pm**
- **Phone: 0485 2835637**
- **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

KWA-JB-GL-6-1029-2021-22 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Muvattupuzha

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No.417, Pantheon Road, Chennai-600 008. Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259
Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in, E-Mail: mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in
Sealed Tenders are invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai – 600 008, from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria indicated in the bidding document for the supply of **Maternal and Child Health Nutrition Kit under rate contract system** for two years from the date of acceptance.

Sl. No	Description	Tender Reference	Tender document cost	Tender document sale period	Last date and time for receipt of tender	Date and time of opening
1	Tender for the Supply of **Maternal and Child Health Nutrition Kit to TNMSC Ltd., under rate contract system** for two years from the date of acceptance	013/M(P)/MCHN-KIT/ TNMSC/2021, Dated. 10.02.2022	Rs.5,575/-	10.02.2022 to 14.03.2022	15.03.2022 upto 10.30 AM	15.03.2022 at 11.30 AM

The Tender Documents can be purchased at TamilNadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., on any working days as per schedule indicated above on payment by way of Demand Draft in favour of TamilNadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai, payable at Chennai, either in person or by post. The tender documents are not transferable.
Alternatively, the tender document can be downloaded from the websites of **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** and **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** at free of cost.
DIPR/659/Tender/2022
General Manager (Drugs)
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Forest
Integrated Development Project of Source Sustainability and Climate Resilient Rain Fed Agriculture.
Forest Road, Solan-173212, H.P.
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
IDP, Solan H.P. invites Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) from Indian consulting agencies for **Hiring of Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant [Firm] for Concurrent and Ex-post Program Evaluations** of **the Project.**
The REoI Document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objectives & scope of work and evaluation criteria etc. can be downloaded from the project website www.hpidp.org
Last date for submission of REoI is 24/02/2022 upto 11:00 hrs
Executive Director
Integrated Development Project,
Forest Road, Solan-173212 (H.P.)
HP / 0701/2021-2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC),
Construction & Maintenance Group (CMG)
Antariksh Bhavan, Bengaluru-94 Ph:080-22172614
E-tender Notice No.: HSFC/CMG/CAP/C/e/22/2022-23 Date: 09.02.2022
BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
On behalf of the President of India, Online Item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

Title of work	**Construction of building for test facility at ISRO Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru (Civil, PH & Mechanical works)**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 1582.29 Lakhs**
Period of Completion	**12 Months**
EMD	**Rs. 25,82,290/-**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 10.02.2022, 11:00 Hrs. to 02.03.2022, 23:00 Hrs.**
Bid clarifications	**From 10.02.2022, 11:00 Hrs. to 03.03.2022, 16:00 Hrs.**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 10:30 Hrs on 04.03.2022**
Due date and time of opening of tenders	**On 04.03.2022, 14:30 Hrs.**

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting e-tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be down loaded from website **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**
Sd/- Group Director, CMG, HSFC

RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
Regd. office: I Floor, Samparka Soudha, Opp. Orion Mall, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru–10
Mob. – 6364890835, 6364890811 CIN: U60100KA2000PLC028171 Email: gmcivil3@kride.in
e-TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of the Work	Value
1	K-RIDE/DL/01/2022 Date 08.02.2022	Yesvantpur – Channasandra and Baiyyappanahalli – Hosur Doubling Projects: Flash Butt Welding of news/second hand 60kg/52kg/260R Rail/Panels at site using rail cum Road Mobile Flash Butt welding plant including USFD testing of welded joints	**1.73 Cr.**
2	K-RIDE/DL/02/2022 Date 08.02.2022	Yesvantpur – Channasandra and Baiyyappanahalli – Hosur Doubling Projects: Welding of 52kg/60 kg (UIC)/260R Rails by Alumino Thermit SKV process including Supply of Welding Portions as approved by RDSO	**1.68 Cr.**

Last Date for submission of bid 14.03.2022
For details, visit: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and **www.kride.in**
Sd/-
General Manager/Civil/Projects (K-RIDE)
DIPR/DDU/3268/SPAN/2021-22

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, FAX No. 0471-2945647),
E-mail : edrugs@kmscl.kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616
No.KMSCL/ED/390/2021 **Date : 09.02.2022**
RE-TENDER NOTICE
Online bids are invited from **manufacturers/direct importers/ loan licensees** on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of Folic Acid Tab IP for Anemia Mukt Bharat for the year 2021-22.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/FA TAB/RT/2022/002 Dtd. 09/02/2022	1

The last date and time of online uploading of tenders will be 24.02.2022, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 02.03.2022, 11.00 am. Tender documents can be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.**
(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

MARKET WATCH

	09-02-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	58,466	1.14
US Dollar	74.84	-0.13
Gold	48,403	0.48
Brent oil	91.62	1.22

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	733.45	15.65
Asian Paints	3228.35	12.00
Axis Bank	803.85	5.30
Bajaj Auto	3563.55	104.90
Bajaj Finserv	16257.80	268.65
Bajaj Finance	7117.35	62.35
Bharti Airtel	719.35	10.45
BPCL	375.60	-1.80
Britannia Ind	3517.35	43.90
Cipla	968.25	20.20
Coal India	168.60	8.65
Divis Lab	4329.45	51.90
Dr Reddys Lab	4368.75	46.80
Eicher Motors	2625.65	36.50
Grasim Ind	1739.70	21.90
HCL Tech	1180.90	18.95
HDFC	2435.35	20.75
HDFC Bank	1497.60	35.75
HDFC Life	600.20	-0.25
Hero MotoCorp	2728.85	56.90
Hindalco	542.30	15.50
Hind Unilever	2277.65	13.30
ICICI Bank	802.80	10.30
IndusInd Bank	967.15	29.45
Infosys	1737.30	20.00
Indian OilCorp	121.05	-0.30
ITC	230.15	-1.10
JSW Steel	663.05	2.95
Kotak Bank	1835.00	17.20
L&T	1888.80	13.20
M&M	840.20	8.15
Maruti Suzuki	8949.45	350.00
Nestle India Ltd.	18135.05	47.90
NTPC	135.05	0.05
ONGC	163.95	-3.00
PowerGrid Corp	209.35	-0.70
Reliance Ind	2383.50	27.45
SBI Life	1125.70	-5.45
State Bank	535.25	3.90
Shree Cement	25466.15	702.15
Sun Pharma	886.45	-7.65
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	700.20	3.10
Tata Motors	501.25	8.50
Tata Steel	1222.35	2.75
TCS	3760.55	17.10
Tech Mahindra	1454.80	20.60
Titan	2484.80	41.15
UltraTech Cement	7504.05	82.70
UPL	770.50	11.85
Wipro	568.95	8.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 09

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.61	74.93
Euro	85.31	85.68
British Pound	101.34	101.78
Japanese Yen (100)	64.64	64.92
Chinese Yuan	11.73	11.78
Swiss Franc	80.77	81.16
Singapore Dollar	55.58	55.82
Canadian Dollar	58.81	59.07
Malaysian Ringitt	17.83	17.91
Australian Dollar	53.52	53.75

Source:Indian Bank

GST reset report to be in by April

Group of Ministers led by Bommai could review 18% rate on health insurance too

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A ministerial panel under the GST Council is expected to submit its recommendations on the reset of GST rates and slabs by April, and may review the tax levies on health insurance and restaurants as part of the exercise, a top Finance Ministry official said on Wednesday.

The group of ministers, led by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S. Bommai, has been tasked with reviewing and rationalising GST rates on several goods and services as well as revisiting the multiple tax rates currently levied under the indirect tax regime.

'Temper expectations'

Noting that the committee would 'likely give its report within one or two months', Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj, however, sought to moderate expectations about a significantly lower rate regime by citing States' concerns about the outlook for revenue given that they would stop receiving GST Compensation from July.

Tough task: GoM will need to balance a need to lower rate on some items with concern about revenue shortfall. ▪ PICHUMANI K

Responding to industry suggestions to pare the high 18% GST rate on health insurance, he advised them to flag the issue to the Bommai ministerial committee.

"I take that point. I have myself worked in the insurance side and somewhat understand what you are saying but the only thing we need to see is that we don't go the way some of the developed nations have gone, where the health costs go up not just because of inflation but because of insurance," Mr. Bajaj said at an interaction with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Proposals from the restaurant industry to revert to a higher tax bracket with input tax credits instead of a 5% GST without credits, as well as a request to reduce the GST Compensation Cess levied on coal, could be taken up at the GST Council, the official suggested.

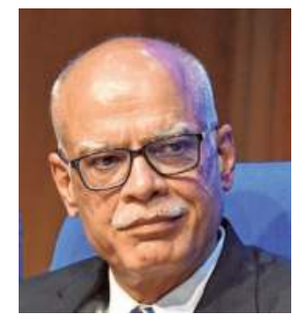
"I appreciate that the GST rate on some items need to be brought down to bring equity and parity with others, but there is also a need to look at the other side... States are going to face a massive shortfall of funds, maybe exceeding ₹1 lakh crore overall, so we need to look at that aspect as well," he pointed out.

'Customs Act change is aimed at securing sensitive trade data'

Bajaj says data sold on dark web; can redo Bill's wording

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government is open to rephrasing the Finance Bill provisions criminalising the publication of certain export and import data, to assuage concerns, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said on Wednesday, stressing that the changes were made in response to pleas from traders and several ministries.



Tarun Bajaj

"On the criminal liability for publishing of customs data... we have received this request from ministries, exporters and importers who are very much concerned about their personal data in terms of supplier, commodity, and the prices, is actually on the dark Net and is being sold illegally by some people," he pointed out. A new section, 135AA, is proposed to be inserted into the Customs Act, which could lead to up to six months' imprisonment and fines up to ₹50,000 for persons publishing any information relating to the value or classification or quantity of goods exported from, or imported into, India. "That is what we want to check. I have told my people that if the wording of that is raising some concerns, we will assuage the concerns; the intention is nothing to the effect that data on aggregate basis cannot be published," he clarified at an interaction hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Mr. Bajaj also flagged the need to overhaul India's capital gains tax regime. "For real estate, the period is 24 months; for shares, it is 12; for debt, it is 36. We really need to work that out... A lot needs to be done, but whatever is done will create losers and gainers, making it difficult," he said.

SC to hear Amazon plea against HC stay on Feb. 23

Arbitral hearings in Future row halted

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to consider a plea by Amazon against a Delhi High Court stay on proceedings before a Singapore arbitral tribunal against Future group's ₹24,500 crore proposed deal with Reliance.

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana issued notice to the Future group's Future Retail Limited (FRL) and Future Coupons Pvt. Ltd. (FCPL). The Bench listed the case for hearing on February 23.

When the hearing began with senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam, for Amazon, introducing the case, the CJI referred to how the media had blown out of proportion

his oral remarks addressed to Amazon on February 8, when the U.S. company had sought permission to file written statements in a case in which the judgment was already reserved.

Amazon and Future have been locked in a legal tussle after the U.S. firm dragged the latter to the Singapore International Arbitration Centre in October 2020.

Expect an increase in telecom tariffs in 2022: Bharti's Vittal

'Eyeing ₹300 ARPU over a few years for respectable ROCE'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Another round of telecom tariff increases is likely in 2022, Gopal Vittal, MD and CEO (India and South Asia), Bharti Airtel, said on Wednesday, adding that the company would not hesitate to be the first to make a move in this direction.

"I do expect a tariff hike sometime in 2022. I don't think it's going to happen for the next three to four months... of course, it's got to be determined by the competitive dynamic and by what happens to the other players, but we wouldn't hesitate to lead it just as we have as we've done in the recent past," Mr. Vittal said on

Gopal Vittal

an analysts' call. Bharti Airtel had in November raised prepaid tariffs by up to 25%.

Noting that the pricing in India was 'abysmally low' when compared with other markets, including sub-Saharan Africa, Bangladesh or Indonesia, Mr. Vittal added that the company hoped to achieve average revenue per user (ARPU) of ₹200 preferably in 2022 itself. "And then [it] kind of settles in the next few years at ₹300, which is really modest and a good level, which can then turn a return on capital [employed - ROCE] of upwards of 15%."

For the quarter ended December 2021, the company reported an ARPU of ₹163.

He added that while recent reforms by the government were game-changing, more was needed. "High levies on the industry need rationalisation. Equally, the reserve prices for 5G spectrum must be lowered so that it is viable for us to purchase spectrum," Mr. Vittal said.

Budget capex not as high as it sounds: Crisil

'Increase was offset by a cut in IEBR'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Credit rating agency Crisil on Wednesday said that the capital expenditure spelt out in the FY23 Union Budget was "not as high as it sounds".

It, however, added that considering that governments usually tend to cut capex during a crisis, the Centre has maintained focus on growth-spurring initiatives amid the pandemic.

The research wing of the agency said excluding the ₹1-lakh crore loans to States for capex included in the headline figure of ₹7.50 lakh crore or 2.91%, the actual spend in FY23 will dip to 2.58% of GDP, which is barely at par with the revised estimate of FY22. Crisil also

Excluding the ₹1-lakh cr. loans to States, the actual spend in FY23 will dip to 2.58% of GDP

pointed out that the overall number showing an increase had been 'offset' via a reduction in internal and extra budgetary resources (IEBR), which bucket funds the capex of central public sector enterprises.

The IEBR has been budgeted at 1.82% of GDP, lower than the pre-pandemic average (FY18 to FY20) of 3.33%, it said. The overall central capex for FY22 – the sum of effective budgetary capex and IEBR – would remain at 5.96% of GDP, the same as pre-pandemic average between FY18 and FY20.

IN BRIEF

Amazon unveils season 2 of start-up programme

NEW DELHI

Amazon India on Wednesday announced the second season of its Global Selling Propel start-up accelerator programme that aims to support early-stage start-ups. The participants stand a chance to win an equity free grant of $1,00,000.

Aurobindo Pharma Q3 net slides 80% on costs

HYDERABAD

Aurobindo Pharma reported an 80% fall in consolidated net profit to ₹604.29 crore for the third quarter ended December compared with a year earlier. "Performance was impacted by high input and freight costs," said vice-chairman and MD K. Nithyananda Reddy. Revenue from operations fell 6% to ₹6,002 crore. The firm declared an interim dividend of ₹1.50 per share.

DRL unveils Vasostrict generic in U.S.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) on Wednesday unveiled its authorised generic version of Par Pharmaceutical's Vasostrict (vasopressin injection, USP) vials in the U.S.

The Vasostrict brand market had U.S. sales of about $878.5 million for the most recent twelve months ended December, the company said, citing IQVIA Health numbers.

Vasopressin is indicated to increase blood pressure in adults with vasodilatory shock. DRL's Vasopressin Injection, USP, comes in a carton of 25 single-dose vials each containing vasopressin 1 mL at 20 units/mL, it said in a release.

Sundaram Clayton Q3 net falls 57% to ₹16 crore

Firm names Gopalan as chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Sundaram-Clayton Ltd. reported a 57% decline in standalone net profit for the third quarter ended December to ₹16 crore.

Revenue from operations increased by 15% to ₹427 crore. The results also included exceptional item of ₹10.79 crore (interest income of ₹13.74 crore and one-time cost associated with voluntary separations ₹2.95 crore), the company said in a regulatory filing.

The company announced the appointment of R. Gopalan as chairman with effect from April 1.

He replaces Venu Srinivasan, who will continue to be the MD designated as chair-

Venu Srinivasan

man emeritus. K. Gopala Desikan has been appointed as director and group chief financial officer.

The board announced an internal restructuring exercise to unlock value for shareholders and to ensure greater focus on each of the business verticals.

Nykaa's Q3 PAT falls over 57% to ₹29 cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

FSN E-commerce Ventures, which operates under the Nykaa brand, reported a more than 57% decline in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) to ₹29 crore in the third quarter ended December 31, 2021.

The company had registered a PAT of ₹68.9 crore a year earlier.

Consolidated revenue from operations during October-December 2021 increased about 36% to ₹1,098.36 crore, from ₹807.96 crore.

Consolidated gross merchandise value grew 26% on a quarter-on-quarter basis and 49% year-on-year to ₹2,043.5 crore in the December quarter.

Bosch to invest ₹2,000 cr. in India in next five years

Posts 26% rise in Q3 net to ₹235 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Technology and services supplier Bosch said it would invest a total of ₹2,000 crore in India, in the next five years, in addition to the ₹8,000 crore it had already pumped into the country over the past decade.

"We will continue our contribution by investing over ₹1,000 crore for the localisation of advanced automotive technologies in the next five years," said Soumitra Bhattacharya, MD, Bosch Ltd. and president, Bosch Group in India.

"We will also invest an additional ₹1,000 crore towards expanding digital platforms," he added.

Bosch posted third-quar-

Soumitra Bhattacharya

ter net profit of ₹235 crore, a 26.3% increase from ₹186 crore in the year-earlier period.

Revenue from operations rose 2.6% to ₹3,109 crore. The increase was largely attributed to growth in the aftermarket business, the company said.

India, ASEAN in talks to start FTA review

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India is in discussion with the 10-nation bloc ASEAN for initiating the review of the FTA (free-trade agreement) in goods between the two regions to seek more market access for domestic products, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

The market access issues and trade barriers being faced in ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries and China are being regularly taken up with individual countries through bilateral engagements, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

Three seeds exit in the second round

Vukic, Grenier, and Celikbilek ousted

BENGALURU OPEN

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

It was a day of upsets at the Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger on Wednesday as three of the top-five seeds lost in the second round.

While Croatian qualifier Borna Gojo defeated third seeded Australian Aleksandar Vukic 7-5, 6-3, Chun-hsin Tseng of Chinese Taipei sent fourth seeded Frenchman Hugo Grenier packing, 6-1, 6-4. Belgian Kimmer Coppejans ousted fifth seed Turk Altug Celikbilek 7-6(12), 6-3.

In doubles, the Indian pairs of Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan-Purav Raja, Saketh Myneni- Ramkumar Ramanathan and Sriram Balaji-Vishnu Vardhan progressed to the last eight, joining the Yuki Bhambri-Divij Sharan combine.

The results (second round):

Borna Gojo (Cro) bt Aleksandar Vukic (Aus) 7-5, 6-3; Chun-hsin Tseng (Tpe) bt Hugo Grenier 6-1, 6-4; Kimmer Coppejans (Bel) bt Altug Celikbilek (Tur) 7-6(12), 6-3; Gabriel Decamps (Bra) bt Gian Marco Moroni (Ita) 6-2, 5-7, 7-6(3).

Doubles: Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja bt Gojo & Dimitar Kuzmanov (Bul) 6-4, 6-7(2), [10-8]; Saketh Myneni & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Markos Kalovelonis (Gre) & Toshihide Matsui (Jpn) 6-3, 6-3; Sriram Balaji & Vishnu Vardhan bt Mathias Bourgue (Fra) & Kimmer Coppejans (Bel) 4-6, 6-4, [10-3].

Easily done: Chun-hsin took out Grenier in straight sets. ▪ SUDHAKARA JAIN

RACING

It's Aachen vs. Silver Dew in Shivamogga Plate

BENGALURU: Aachen and Silver Dew may fight out the finish of the Shivamogga Plate (1,200m), the main event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Feb. 10) (advanced rom Saturday, Feb. 12).

False rails (average width of 7m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 MAHI PLATE (DIV. III), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-15 p.m.: 1. Ultimate Striker (2) Md. Habeeb 61, 2. Silent Trigger (3) Prabhakaran 58, 3. Speaking Of Skies (12) Arshad 58, 4. Sir Jersey (7) Antony 57.5, 5. Altair (8) Arvind Kumar 57, 6. Niche Hemp (1) Jagadeesh 57, 7. Paradise Beckons (1) S. Shareef 57, 8. Altamonte (6) Vivek 56, 9. Baroness (4) Sai Kiran 56, 10. Smile Around (5) Ajeet Kumar 56, 11. Song And Dance (11) Shreyas Singh 53.5 and 12. Prime Star (9) P. Surya 52.

1. SIR JERSEY,
2. ALTAIR,
3. ULTIMATE STRIKER

2 BHIMA PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2-45: 1. Katana (6) Trevor 61, 2. Caesars Palace (4) S. Shareef 60, 3. Allabouther (2) S. John 58.5, 4. Marco Polo (1) L.A. Rozario 57, 5. Candlelightqueen (9) Arshad 56, 6. Elite Agent (5) K. Sai Kiran 55.5, 7. Skyfire (8) P. Surya 54.5, 8. Secret Source (7) Vinod Shinde 52 and 9. Commandpost (3) Rajesh Kumar 50.

1. KATANA,
2. ALLABOUTHER,
3. CANDLELIGHTQUEEN

3 MAHI PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 3-15: 1. Red Lucifer (9) Shreyas Singh 62.5, 2. Quiet Style (3) Salman Khan 61, 3. So You're Here (7) Md. Habeeb 61, 4. Southern Chrome (2) Jagadeesh 61, 5. Chain Of Thoughts (6) Mark 60, 6. Areca Angel (11) Rajesh Kumar 59.5, 7. Crimson Heart (8) S. Saqlain 59.5, 8. Chisox (1) L.A. Rozario 59, 9. Lady Supremos (4) M. Naveen 59, 10. Lightning Charlie (5) Darshan 58.5, 11. Phoenix Surprise (12) Nazerul 58 and 12. Santorini Secret (10) Arshad 54.5.

1. PHOENIX SURPRISE,
2. CHISOX,
3. LIGHTNING CHARLIE

4 VALLEY OF FLOWERS PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 3-45: 1. Mega Success (3) Vivek 60, 2. Exalted Dream (7) Prabhakaran 59.5, 3. Limited Edition (8) Anjar 59.5, 4. Noble Ruler (4) Neeraj 59.5, 5. The Adviser (6) Arvind Kumar 58.5, 6. Knotty Princess (2) Jagadeesh 58, 7. Sea Blush (5) Nazerul 58, 8. Striking Melody (10) Darshan 58 and 9. Top Dancer (9) S. John 58.

1. TOP DANCER,
2. LIMITED EDITION,
3. MEGA SUCCESS

5 SHIVAMOGGA PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 4-15: 1. Aachen (4) Salman Khan 62, 2. Silver Dew (5) Neeraj 61, 3. Galactical (2) Trevor 57.5, 4. Schafenberg (3) Indrajeet 55.5, 5. Wings Of Desire (1) Arshad 55.5, 6. Dr Logan (6) S. Shareef 53.5, 7. Baltimore (7) S. Saqlain 52 and 8. Golden Vision (8) Vinod Shinde 50.

1. AACHEN,
2. SILVER DEW,
3. GALACTICAL

6 VALLEY OF FLOWERS PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-45: 1. The Strength (6) Darshan 60.5, 2. Mystic Eye (1) Antony 60, 3. Osiris (2) Ajeet Kumar 59, 4. Peyo (7) Suraj Narredu 58.5, 5. Own Legacy (4) Neeraj 57.5, 6. Rorito (8) Mark 57.5, 7. Perfect Empress (9) P. Surya 53.5, 8. Augusto (10) S. Shareef 52.5, 9. High Opinion (3) Nazerul 52.5 and 10. Princess Jasmine (5) Md. Habeeb 52.

1. PEYO,
2. OWN LEGACY,
3. MYSTIC EYE

7 MAHI PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-15: 1. Apollo Light (8) P. Surya 62.5, 2. Bul Bule Hind (5) Siddaraju P 62.5, 3. Elite Crown (7) L.A. Rozario 62.5, 4. Frederico (2) Anjar 62.5, 5. Handsome Mover (12) A. Qureshi 62.5, 6. Devils Magic (1) Jagadeesh 62, 7. Chantra Kanta (4) Salman Khan 61, 8. Compliance (9) S. Shareef 61, 9. Domina (10) S. John 61, 10. Don's Den (11) S. Saqlian 61, 11. Gold Gray (3) Darshan 61 and 12. Hoofed Wonder (6) Saddam H 61.

1. DOMINA,
2. HANDSOME MOVER,
3. DEVILS MAGIC

Days best: **TOP DANCER**
Double: **KATANA – PEYO**
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7
Treble (i): 2, 3 & 4; (ii): 5, 6 & 7.

Prasidh's fiery spell vanquishes West Indies; India seals series

The lanky speedster returns a career-best four for 12 while Suryakumar top scores with 64, his highest in ODIs; Rahul chips in with 49

WI IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR
AHMEDABAD

Suryakumar Yadav and Prasidh Krishna's best individual performances in ODIs set up India's second facile win in as many outings and sealed the fate of the three-match series versus the West Indies on Wednesday.

Riding on Suryakumar's second ODI fifty and his rebuilding act with vice-captain K.L. Rahul, India recovered after being pegged back by the Windies' pacers to score 237 for nine at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

Found wanting

Prasidh then overshadowed the visitors' pace quartet with an opening spell that broke the back of the Windies line-up, led by Nicholas Pooran in the absence of Kieron Pollard. Thanks to Prasidh's fiery spell, Windies batters were found wanting yet again as they folded up for 193 in 46 overs.

Captain Rohit Sharma opened with Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur, instead of Prasidh. With Shai Hope and Brandon King seldom being troubled, Prasidh was introduced in the eighth over. The lanky pacer, consistently touching the 140kph mark, struck twice in his first seven balls.

Off his third delivery, Prasidh extracted additional bounce as King's attempted slash resulted in a nick to Rishabh Pant. Off the first ball of his second over, he got one to rise and jag away just a bit to catch Darren Bravo's edge en route Pant's gloves.

Shamarh Brooks and Hope tried to get Windies back into the game before the latter lofted Yuzvendra Chahal straight to Suryakumar at wide long-on.

Having bowled an impressive spell of 4-2-3-2, Prasidh was given a break. But even before Pooran could settle down, Rohit recalled Prasidh into the attack and the pacer responded by forcing the Windies captain to edge to slip.

When Shardul's short-ball ploy against Jason Holder succeeded in the 22nd over to leave Windies reeling at 76 for five, the writing was on the wall. Deepak Hooda earned Brooks' scalp in his first over in international cricket. The all-rounders then delayed the inevitable, with Odean Smith showing his big-hitting prowess against the pacers.

It was fitting that Prasidh finished the game off by trapping Kemar Roach lbw with a length ball. Earlier in the day, India sprung a surprise by promoting Rishabh Pant as Rohit's opening partner. Ishan Kishan made way for Rahul, who was moved to the middle-order. While Rohit chased one outside off from Roach and edged behind, Smith, who came in for Pollard, dismissed Kohli who edged a fuller ball to the 'keeper. Pant then top-edged a pull off a short ball that was way outside off-stump.

Suryakumar and Rahul rescued the team with a 91-run association that was dominated by the latter while the former was content rotating the strike. Just when the duo looked like shifting gears, Rahul hesitated midway through a second run and was run out for 49. However, Suryakumar and Hooda's sensible batting helped India get to a total that proved beyond West Indies' reach.

Letting it rip: Prasidh broke the back of the West Indies innings. ▪ SPORTZPICS/BCCI

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Hope b Roach 5 *(8b)*, Rishabh Pant c Holder b Smith 18 *(34b, 3x4)*, Virat Kohli c Hope b Smith 18 *(30b, 3x4)*, K.L. Rahul run out 49 *(48b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Joseph b Allen 64 *(83b, 5x4)*, Washington Sundar c Joseph b Hosein 24 *(41b, 1x4)*, Deepak Hooda c Hosein b Holder 29 *(25b, 2x4)*, Shardul Thakur c Brooks b Joseph 8 *(15b, 1x4)*, Mohammed Siraj c Hope b Joseph 3 *(5b)*, Yuzvendra Chahal (not out) 11 *(10b, 1x4)*, Prasidh Krishna (not out) 0 *(3b)*; Extras (b-2, lb-2, w-2, nb-2): 8; Total (for nine wkts. in 50 overs): 237.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-9 (Rohit, 2.6 overs), 2-39 (Pant, 11.1), 3-43 (Kohli, 11.6), 4-134 (Rahul, 29.4), 5-177 (Suryakumar, 38.5), 6-192 (Washington, 41.6), 7-212 (Shardul, 45.6), 8-224 (Siraj, 47.3), 9-226 (Hooda, 48.1).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Roach 8-0-42-1, Joseph 10-0-36-2, Smith 7-0-29-2, Holder 9-2-37-1, Hosein 6-0-39-1, Allen 10-0-50-1.

WEST INDIES

Shai Hope c Suryakumar b Chahal 27 *(54b, 3x4)*, Brandon King c Pant b Prasidh 18 *(20b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Darren Bravo c Pant b Prasidh 1 *(3b)*, Shamarh Brooks c Suryakumar b Hooda 44 *(64b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Nicholas Pooran c Rohit b Prasidh 9 *(13b, 1x6)*, Jason Holder c Hooda b Shardul 2 *(10b)*, Akeal Hosein c Pant b Shardul 34 *(52b, 3x4)*, Fabian Allen c Pant b Siraj 13 *(22b, 1x6)*, Odean Smith c Kohli b Washington 24 *(20b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Alzarri Joseph (not out) 7 *(15b)*, Kemar Roach lbw b Prasidh 0 *(6b)*; Extras (lb-5, w-6, nb-3): 14; Total (in 46 overs): 193.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-32 (King, 7.3), 2-38 (Bravo, 9.1), 3-52 (Hope, 16.2), 4-66 (Pooran, 19.4), 5-76 (Holder, 21.6), 6-117 (Brooks, 30.5), 7-159 (Allen, 38.5), 8-159 (Hosein, 39.2), 9-193 (Smith, 44.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Siraj 9-1-38-1, Shardul 9-1-41-2, Prasidh 9-3-12-4, Chahal 10-0-45-1, Washington 5-0-28-1, Hooda 4-0-24-1.

Toss: WI; **MoM:** Prasidh.

India won by 44 runs to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in three-match series.

Third and final ODI: February 11, *Ahmedabad, 1.30 p.m.*

Rohit's praise flatters Prasidh

AMOL KARHADKAR
AHMEDABAD

India captain Rohit Sharma referred to Prasidh Krishna's 9-3-12-4 as one of the best spells of fast bowling in India. The rookie pacer was flattered by the compliment.

"That was something very flattering for me because he has been playing cricket for a lot of time, and coming from him, I am very happy," he said.

"The plan was pretty simple. Hit good lengths, good lines and bowl in the area where the batters needed to push out for scoring runs or block it, so I tried to do my best."

Odean Smith, the all-rounder who was impressive in both the departments after replacing captain Kieron Pollard, attributed the top-order's inability to occupy the crease as the prime reason for the West Indies falling short. "I must say it was a difficult wicket to bat on, but in the Indian innings two guys stayed out there, batted time and scored runs," Smith said.

IN BRIEF

'Bavaria Express' steams to third straight gold

YANQING (CHINA)

Germany extended their domination of the luge track in Beijing on Wednesday as Tobias Wendl and Tobias Arlt won the men's doubles title for the third straight Winter Games.

Wendl and Arlt, nicknamed the 'Bavaria Express', again defended their Olympic title with a combined time over the two heats of 1m 56.554s. AFP

Ahmedabad IPL team to be called Gujarat Titans

NEW DELHI

The Ahmedabad team of the Indian Premier League will be called Gujarat Titans, the franchise announced on Wednesday.

The franchise, owned by private equity firm CVC Capital and to be led by India all-rounder Hardik Pandya, said the name was chosen to pay tribute to the state's rich cricketing legacy. PTI

Rauf and Masood in Pakistan squad

LAHORE

Pakistan named fast bowler Haris Rauf in its 16-man squad for next month's three-Test home series against Australia while recalling opening batter Shan Masood, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Wednesday.

The squad: Babar Azam (Capt.), Mohammad Rizwan, Abdullah Shafique, Azhar Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Nawaz, Nauman Ali, Sajid Khan, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood and Zahid Mahmood.

Man. United held by Burnley, out of top four

LONDON

Manchester United dropped out of the Premier League's top four after a damaging 1-1 draw against struggling Burnley, while Newcastle boosted its survival bid with a crucial 3-1 win against Everton on Tuesday.

The results: Newcastle 3 (Holgate 37-og, Fraser 56, Trippier 80) bt Everton 1 (Lascelles 36-og); West Ham 1 (Bowen 68) bt Watford 0; Burnley 1 (Rodriguez 47) drew with Manchester United 1 (Pogba 18).

Saluting the champions

Hogging the limelight: The India under-19 players and support staff were felicitated during the second ODI between India and West Indies in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. ▪ COURTESY: GCA

Raiders deliver for Yoddha

PKL-8

ANI
BENGALURU

Raiders Pardeep Narwal and Surender Gill helped UP Yoddha beat Tamil Thalaivas 41-39 in a ProKabaddi League Season 8 match on Wednesday. Gujarat Giants edged out Telugu Titans 34-32 in another contest.

Raiders from both teams secured Super 10s in a high-scoring game that was decided in the final minute.

Thalaivas matched Yoddha throughout the contest, but lack of All Outs cost it dear eventually. Manjeet scored a Super 10 (13 points) for Thalaivas. There was nothing to separate the sides with five minutes remaining as both sets of raiders slowed down the pace. Though Manjeet picked up a Super 10 for Thalaivas, its defenders, especially M. Abishek, made too many errors to hand Yoddha a three-point lead with a minute to go. That proved decisive.

India women lose the plot against Kiwis

INDIA IN NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
QUEENSTOWN

Batting let India down as it suffered an 18-run defeat to host New Zealand in the one-off women's T20 International here on Wednesday.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana did not play and her absence was badly felt.

Rookie Yastika Bhatia, who opened in place of Smriti along with young Shafali Verma, scored a run-a-ball 26 (2x4, 1x6).

The opening stand was worth 41 in 6.3 overs and that turned out to be highest for India.

Shafali was not at her best as she contributed just 13 off 14 balls. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who made 12 from 13, also looked off-colour.

S. Meghana, who top-scored for India with a 30-ball 37 (6x4), added 34 with Richa Gosh (12) for the fourth wicket.

Once Meghana was out, there was a batting collapse and the visiting side could only reach 137 for eight in 20 overs.

Earlier, experienced all-rounder Deepti Sharma and Pooja Vastrakar scalped two wickets apiece to help India restrict New Zealand to 155 for five after Harmanpreet opted to field after winning the toss.

For New Zealand, captain Sophie Devine (31 off 23 balls) and her opening partner Suzie Bates (36 off 34) scored the bulk of the runs. The duo gave the home side a flying start, adding 60 for the opening wicket.

Flying start: Devine, along with opening partner Bates, set the tone, adding 60 in 7.5 overs. ▪ TWITTER#NZVSIND

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND

Suzie Bates b Rajeshwari 36 *(34b, 2x4)*, Sophie Devine c Sneh b Deepti 31 *(23b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Amelia Kerr c Shafali b Pooja 17 *(20b, 1x4)*, Maddy Green c Poonam b Deepti 26 *(20b, 3x4)*, Lea Tahuhu c Shafali b Pooja 27 *(14b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Brooke Halliday (not out) 7 *(6b)*, Katey Martin (not out) 9 *(3b, 2x4)*; Extras (lb-2): 2; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-60 (Devine, 7.5 overs), 2-80 (Bates, 11.2), 3-102 (Amelia Kerr, 14.4), 4-123 (Green, 17.3), 5-140 (Tahuhu, 18.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Pooja 4-1-16-2, Simran 2-0-26-0, Rajeshwari 4-0-39-1, Poonam 4-0-34-0, Deepti 4-0-26-2, Sneh 2-0-12-0.

INDIA

Yastika Bhatia b Amelia Kerr 26 *(26b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Shafali Verma c Green b Amelia Kerr 13 *(14b, 2x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur b Jess Kerr 12 *(13b)*, S. Meghana c Bates b Tahuhu 37 *(30b, 6x4)*, Richa Ghosh b Devine 12 *(9b, 2x4)*, Pooja Vastrakar c Bates b Jensen 10 *(9b, 1x4)*, Sneh Rana c Martin b Jensen 6 *(9b)*, Deepti Sharma (not out) 3 *(3b)*, Simran Bahadur b Jess Kerr 10 *(6b, 2x4)*, Poonam Yadav (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-6): 7; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 137.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-41 (Yastika, 6.3), 2-42 (Shafali, 6.5), 3-67 (Harmanpreet, 10.5), 4-101 (Meghana, 14.5), 5-107 (Richa, 15.5), 6-120 (Sneh, 18.1), 7-122 (Pooja, 18.3), 8-136 (Simran, 19.5).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Jess Kerr 4-0-20-2, Rowe 2-0-18-0, Tahuhu 4-0-27-1, Amelia Kerr 4-0-25-2, Devine 3-0-21-1, Jensen 3-0-25-2.

Toss: India; **Player-of-the-match:** Tahuhu.

New Zealand won the one-off T20I by 18 runs.

Next match: First ODI: February 12, Queenstown, 3.30 a.m. IST.

Jugraj fashions India's big win over South Africa

Scores hat-trick in his second match

Dilpreet. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Jugraj. ▪ TWITTER

PRO LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
POTCHEFSTROOM

Young drag-flicker Jugraj Singh, playing his second international match, performed a hat-trick as India hammered hosts South Africa 10-2 in the FIH Pro League on Wednesday.

Jugraj converted three penalty corners in the fourth, sixth and 23 minutes, while Gursahibjit Singh (24th, 36th) and Dilpreet Singh (25th, 58th) scored a brace.

The others to find the target were Harmanpreet Singh (2nd), Abhishek (12th) and Mandeep Singh (27th).

South Africa scored through Daniel Bell (44th) off a penalty corner and a field strike from Richard Pautz (45th).

India dominated the contest, earning as many as 12 penalty corners and racing to an 8-0 lead at half-time .

After the change of ends, India extended its lead but South Africa showed some fight towards the end of the third quarter, scoring two goals in quick time. Dilpreet scored his second goal of the day with a fierce reverse hit from the top of the South African circle to make it 10-2 in favour of India.

The result: India 10 (Harmanpreet 2, Jugraj 4, 6 & 23, Abhishek 12, Gursahibjit 24 & 36, Dilpreet 25 & 58, Mandeep 27) bt South Africa 2 (Bell 44, Pautz 45).

Defenders quell Heroes' challenge

Stellar show by Villalboa, Meehan and Angamuthu

PVL

SPORTS BUREAU

Ahmedabad Defenders recorded its second win scoring a hard-fought 12-15, 15-11, 10-15, 15-12, 15-11 win over Calicut Heroes in the Rupay Prime Volleyball League championship at the GMC Balayogi Stadium (Gachibowli), Hyderabad, on Wednesday.

In a contest where there was little to separate the two teams, the first set saw an intense struggle to take control. The Calicut side's Jerome Vinith, played a lead role in putting the team ahead with some telling smashes and lovely placements and M.C. Mujeeb complemented his effort.

Ready for the kill: Defenders' Shon T. John sets himself up for a smash. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Trademark smashes

The second set too saw the teams trade lead till the scoreline read 9-all before the combine of Rodrigo Villalboa and Ryan Meehan coming up with splendid blocks for Defenders. This gave the ever-consistent Angamuthu the liberty to essay his trademark smashes from the corners even as defence was equal to the task.

Heroes won the third set with Ajith Lal again the lead performer and N. Jitin, Mujeeb and Jerome combining well.

In the fourth, Defenders led right through with a slender margin before breaking away. The combination of Angamuthu, A. Muthuswamy and Shon T. John was just too good to thwart the striking prowess of someone like Ajith Lal.

In the final set, Defenders went on the offensive led by the fiery 'player-of-the-match' Angamuthu.

There was a chance for Heroes to come back into the match after clinching the super point when Manoj of Defenders served into the net to reduce the scoreline 11-12 for Heroes but they failed to capitalise.

The result: Ahmedabad Defenders bt Calicut Heroes 12-15, 15-11, 10-15, 15-12, 15-11.

Thursday's match: Ahmedabad Defenders vs Hyderabad Black Hawks, 7 p.m.

Ortiz 'tricks as Goa routs Chennaiyin

ISL 2021-22

SPORTS BUREAU

Jorge Ortiz was on song, scoring a brilliant hat-trick, as FC Goa put on a clinical performance to thrash Chennaiyin FC 5-0 in the Indian Super League at Tilak Maidan on Wednesday.

The Gaurs made the two-time champion look like an amateur side and had the match sealed within the first half, taking a 4-0 lead with Ortiz scoring twice.

It looked like a training session for Goa as it passed the ball around without trouble and found spaces easily.

Goa took the lead in the sixth minute when Aiban Dohling produced a good run on the left flank and sent in a perfect cross to Makan Chothe who powerfully volleyed it into the goal.

In the 20th minute, Dohling was again in action as he sent in another brilliant pass from the byline to Chothe. Though the shot was defended, Ortiz caught the rebound to make it 2-0.

Twenty minutes later, Ortiz got his second goal of the evening when Anirudh Thapa tried to block a pass from Alberto Noguera only for the ball to loop up and fall in front of Ortiz to shoot past the keeper.

Hitman: Ortiz was on the prowl for Goa against Chennaiyin. ▪ FOCUS SPORTS/ ISL

To add insult to injury, just before half-time, Narayan Das tried to head away a dangerous ball from Noguera into the box only to put it into his own goal.

The break did not bring any change of fortunes for Chennaiyin as Dohling once again was in action, setting up a pass for Ortiz who did the rest to complete a personal milestone on a great day for his side.

The result: Chennaiyin FC 0 lost to FC Goa 5 (Makan Chothe 6, Jorge Ortiz 20, 41, 53, Narayan Das 45-og).

IN BRIEF

Giannis Antetokounmpo powers Bucks' win

LOS ANGELES

Giannis Antetokounmpo compiled 44 points as the visiting Milwaukee Bucks extended its winning streak to four games with a 131-116 win over the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA on Tuesday.

The results: Phoenix 114 bt Philadelphia 109; Atlanta 133 bt Indiana 112; Boston 126 bt Brooklyn 91; Memphis 135 bt LA Clippers 109; New Orleans 110 bt Houston 97; Dallas 116 bt Detroit 86; Denver 132 bt New York 115; Milwaukee 131 bt LA Lakers 116; Minnesota 134 bt Sacramento 114; Orlando 113 bt Portland 95.

Rasheed credits success to Laxman, support staff

India U-19 vice-captain says the players were fortunate to have people like Kanitkar and Bahutule to guide them

Shows his mettle: Rasheed was one of India's star batters in the Under-19 World Cup with a 94 in the semifinals and a 50 in the final. ▪TWITTER/BCCI

CRICKET

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

"Hold a cricket bat, close your eyes, keep visualising the bowlers whom you are likely to face on the cricket field and do shadow practise."

Vice-captain of victorious Indian under-19 team in the recent World Cup in West Indies, Shaik Rasheed, said this advice from the cricketing great and now NCA Director V.V.S. Laxman made a huge difference to his batting in the semifinals and the final.

Difficult times

"After the first league match, I tested positive. There were too many negative thoughts. Was finding it difficult to handle the situation.

But, Laxman sir (who was with the Indian team during the World Cup) kept talking to all of us (whoever tested positive) during quarantine daily and kept encouraging," Rasheed recalled in an exclusive chat with *The Hindu*.

"I should say we were fortunate to have such wonderful support staff which includes head coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar and bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule. I remember even Kanitkar sir telling me 'We don't look to you to score runs. We would love to see you stay at the wicket as long as possible'," 18-year-old Rasheed said.

"I owe everything to my father. He never ever made me feel uncomfortable. Whatever I asked, he always provided despite the financial problems," Rasheed said.

"No. There was never ever a thought of quitting cricket because of the poor financial background of my family. Me and my father always felt cricket is the way out for us," he said.

"I am always grateful to ACA, J. Krishna Rao sir (Mangalagiri ACA Residential Academy), MSK sir and Bharat anna (wicketkeeper-batter K. Srikar Bharat). They all ensured that I didn't miss anything in continuing my passion in my early days," the young cricketer said.

First priority

On his own batting, Rasheed said his first priority was to stay as long as possible and not think too much about individual goals. "For me, team's win is always important," he said.

What next? "Hoping to be in the Ranji Trophy squad as I have been called to join the State team's preparations in Vizianagaram ACA Sports Complex. Looking forward to doing well and keep scoring and then, of course, play for India seniors one day," he said.

TV PICKS

PVL: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 3, 7.30 p.m.
Pro Kabaddi: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 1.15 a.m. (Friday)

TTFI revises calendar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Having had to reschedule the National championships in various categories due to rising cases of COVID-19 last month, the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) has now announced the revised calendar. The Senior Nationals will be held from March 20 to 27 (Shillong) while the Junior & Youth Nationals will be held (Alappuzah) from March 28 to April 3.

Other events: The cadet & sub-junior Nationals (Indore, Mar. 10-15); Para Nationals (Indore, Mar.17-19); Central Zone National-ranking (Indore, Mar. 7-9).

Kerala women in last eight

SPORTS BUREAU
BHUBANESWAR

Defending champion Kerala and Railways posted their second straight win in their respective groups and entered the women's quarterfinals of the 70th National senior volleyball championship on Wednesday.

Tamil Nadu and Railways men also made the last-eight grade.

The results (league):

Men: Delhi bt UP 29-27, 25-19, 25-18; Punjab bt Uttaranchal 22-25, 25-16, 25-17, 25-22; Maharashtra bt Puducherry 25-21, 25-20, 25-21; AP bt JK 25-22, 25-13, 25-16; Odisha bt MP 23-25, 25-23, 25-21, 25-16; Railways bt Rajasthan 33-31, 23-25, 26-24, 25-18;TN bt Kerala 25-19, 25-22, 25-21.

Women: Kerala bt HP 25-17, 25-15, 25-13; Telangana bt Ladakh 25-10, 25-8, 25-13; Puducherry bt Uttaranchal 20-25, 25-22, 25-14, 26-23; Railways bt West Bengal 25-12, 25-19, 25-16; Chandigarh bt Delhi 25-17, 26-24, 25-18.

Subhas Bhowmick's autobiography released

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The autobiography of the distinguished football player and coach Subhas Bhowmick, titled *Goal*, was released by former great Shyam Thapa, here on Wednesday. Also present in the function were the late coach's son Arjun and daughter Maitrayee.

Bhowmick, who was suffering from kidney ailment, lost a battle with COVID infection, passed away on January 22, barely a week before the planned release of the book at East Bengal club.

Thapa, Bhowmick's teammate in the Indian team that won bronze in the Bangkok Asian Games in 1970, recounted the fearless attributes that made the latter a game changer on many occasions. Having seen Bhowmick closely as a teammate at the height of East Bengal's dominance in the 1970s, Thapa stressed on the remarkable manner the former asserted himself on the field both as a player and later as a coach to inspire many notable wins.

The 251-page book, co-authored by journalist Supriyo Mukhopadhyay and written in Bengali, contains glimpses of the colourful life of Bhowmick, who embraced fame and controversy in equal measure. *Goal*, published by Deep Prakashan, is priced at ₹270.

'IPL auction is a level playing field'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

Delhi Capitals' talent search head Saba Karim feels it's a level playing field in this year's IPL auction as all teams will look for the right mix of capped, uncapped and overseas players leading to a "healthy atmosphere" for domestic cricketers.

"We need to be extremely fluid and flexible. To have that core factor involved not only helps Delhi Capitals but also other teams because you get seven domestic players in the eleven," Karim was quoted a saying in a media release.

"You need to have right kind of mix between the capped and uncapped players, and on top of that, you have those four foreign-

Saba Karim. ▪FILE PHOTO

ers. It's a level playing field. All the teams would vie to spot the right kind of domestic talent."

Delhi Capitals retained four players – Rishabh Pant, Axar Patel, Prithvi Shaw and Anrich Nortje.

Emphasising the key building blocks of an auction strategy, Karim said, "The four retained players form the base of our team, and in addition to that, we need to look at some more match-winners, who can fill up the vacant slots and then overall we can have a complete kind of a side.

"We need to first have a strategy in terms of the core element, which is needed to become a successful side. But, before that, it is equally important to understand the composition of your eleven."

"It's very important to have that kind of exchange of ideas with them because whatever we as a scouting team offer, will come in handy and become extremely effective if it has synergy with the head coach and the captain, so in that sense, it's been excellent.

Dipika to participate in World doubles

SQUASH

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

Dipika Pallikal will be taking part in an international tournament – the World doubles championships from April 5 to 9 in Glasgow –after a gap of more than three years.

The former World No. 10, who had twins last October, will be pairing with Joshna Chinappa in Glasgow.

The last time the pair took part was in the 2018 Commonwealth Games when it bagged a silver.

"Dipika, Joshna (Chinappa) & Saurav (Ghosal) had training sessions over the last few months at ISTA in Chennai. Based on Dipika's past performance we have included her in the World doubles.

"There will be a selection trials here on April 14 to pick the team for CWG & Asian Games in consultation with our new foreign coach Chris Walker," Cyrus Poncha, Secretary of Squash Racquets Federation of India, told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

The team:

Men's doubles: Vikram Malhotra & Ramit Tandon.

Women's doubles: Joshna Chinappa & Dipika Pallikal.

Mixed doubles: Saurav Ghosal & Dipika; Vikram & Joshna.

Foreign coach: Chris Walker.

Yubarani spoils Sathwika's birthday

Beats her in three sets in first round; Sandeepti takes out Smriti

ITF WOMEN

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
JHAJJAR

Qualifier Yubarani Banerjee knocked out fifth seed Sathwika Sama, who was celebrating her birthday, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2, in the first round of the $15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at the Joygaon Academy on Wednesday.

In a battle of wits that lasted two hours and 10 minutes, after early morning rain had delayed the proceedings, Yubarani played with intensity to get the better of a fighting Sathwika.

In the decider, Yubarani ran away with the match from 1-1 to 5-1, but failed to serve it out. However, she broke Sathwika at love in the eighth game to close out the contest in style.

"I had on lost on my birthday long ago. I know how it feels," said Yubarani, as she acknowledged Sathwika's strong game.

Focused game: Yubarani played with intensity to get the better of Sathwika. ▪KAMESH SRINIVASAN

In the pre-quarterfinals, Yubarani will meet fellow-qualifier Sandeepti Singh Rao who settled into a good rhythm to beat Smriti Bhasin.

Returning from a knee injury, Sandeepti has been slowly regaining her strong game under the guidance of coach Ankit Patel.

Another qualifier, Avishka Gupta, fought on even terms against Sahaja Yamalapalli who pulled through to a 7-5, 6-4 victory in just over two hours.

Top seed Zeel Desai eased past qualifier Anjali Rathi and will face Elena Jamshidi of Denmark in the second round.

Soha Sadiq, who played robustly to get past the energetic game of qualifier Ishwari Matere,will face fourth seed Vaidehi Chaudhari next.

In doubles, Sudipta Kumar and Riya Uboveja beat the third seeds Nidhi Chilumula and Saumya Vig 6-4, 6-3 to make the quarterfinals.

The results:

Singles (first round): Zeel Desai bt Anjali Rathi 6-2, 6-4; Punnin Kovapitukted (Tha) bt Shria Atturu 6-3, 6-0; Sandeepti Singh Rao bt Smriti Bhasin 6-4, 6-2; Yubarani Banerjee bt Sathwika Sama 6-2, 2-6, 6-2.

Akanksha Nitture bt Sudipta Kumar 6-2, 6-3; Soha Sadiq bt Ishwari Matere 6-3, 6-3; Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Avishka Gupta 7-5, 6-4; Anna Ureke (Rus) bt Pratyusha Rachapudi 6-1, 6-1.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sudipta Kumar & Riya Uboveja bt Nidhi Chilumula & Saumya Vig 6-4, 6-3.

Vaidehi Chaudhari & Mihika Yadav bt Arthi Muniyan & Niditra Rajmohan 7-5, 6-2.

McLaren extends Norris' contract

LONDON: Formula One team McLaren signed Lando Norris on a four-year contract extension that locks the youngster in through the 2025 season. The 22-year-old Norris is entering his fourth full season of F1 competition. His progression has been steady – improving from 11th in the standings in 2019 as a rookie to sixth overall last season.

DELHI ROUND-UP

Dream Chasers wins

Anshul Negi claimed four wickets and Priyanshu Arya took three as Dream Chasers CA (DCCA) defeated Sporting Club by 139 runs to lift the second Ratan Lal Saini tournament.

The scores: DCCA 213/6 in 40 overs (Anindo Naharay 45, Agastya Singh 41) bt Sporting Club 74 in 25 overs (Anshul Negi 4/12, Priyanshu Arya 3/20).

Ronit sizzles

Man-of-the-match Ronit Berry scored a 74-ball 136 to help KC Academy (KCA) beat GS Harry Academy (GSHA) by 66 runs in the fourth Vijay Saini memorial tournament.

The scores: KCA 276/6 in 40 overs (Ronit Berry 136) bt GSHA 210/9 in 40 overs (Mirdul Arya 43, Kunwarpreet 42).

Madhur, Nirbhay shine

Madhur Yadav top-scored with 65 while Nirbhay Dagar claimed three wickets as Sethi Sports beat UGC Academy by seven wickets in RV Sports u-16 tournament.

The scores: UGCA 139 in 34 overs (Aaryush Bawa 53, Nirbhay Dagar 3/18) lost to Sethi Sports 141/3 in 27 overs (Madhur Yadav 65, Parikshit 40).

Lakshmi Gowda enters quarterfinals

Top seed Aman moves up in boys' section

ITF JUNIORS

SPORTS BUREAU
NEW DELHI

Second seed Lakshmi Gowda beat Jolene Fernandes of Canada 6-4, 7-5 to reach the girls' quarterfinals of the ITF grade-4 junior tennis tournament in Kathmandu on Wednesday.

Lakshmi was joined by Saumrita Verma and Sahana Sanjeev in the quarterfinals.

In the boys' section, top seed Aman Dahiya reached the quarterfinals, along with Muni Ananthmani, Daksh Prasad and Kriish Tyagi.

The results (pre-quarterfinals):

Boys: Aman Dahiya bt Siddhartha Lama (US) 6-1, 6-0; Muni Ananthmani bt Yakup Uzunel (Den) 6-3, 7-6(3).

Hayden Khoo Menon (Mas) bt Viswasenan Navaneethan 6-0, 6-1; Min Jae Kim (Kor) bt Pratyaksh 6-1, 6-2; Daksh Prasad bt Arunava Majumder 7-6 (1), 6-2.

Kriish Tyagi bt Rayan Sajjid 6-3, 6-3; Meethre Barot (US) bt Cahir Warik 7-5, 6-4.

Girls: Saumrita Verma bt Presha Shanthamoorthi 6-4, 6-2.

Monika Stankiewicz (Pol) bt Ishi Maheshwari 6-1, 6-0; Sahana Sanjeev (US) bt Hannah Nagpal 6-2, 6-4.

Hanna Telzynska (Pol) bt Vihana Shresta 6-0, 6-1; Yifei Huang (Chn) bt Charmi Gopinath 6-0, 6-0.

Lakshmi Gowda bt Jolene Fernandes (Can) 6-4, 7-5.

Government of Karnataka
Department of Mines & Geology
#49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bangalore-560001 E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in

No. DMG-17012/6/2022/2021-22 **Date: 09.02.2022**
C. No. 688996

NOTIFICATION AND NOTICE INVITING TENDER
"Invitation of bids for grant of Composite Licence for Limestone Blocks"

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 11 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 and amendments notified thereunder, the Government of Karnataka is conducting auction for grant of Composite Licence for the following limestone blocks:

S. No.	Name of the block	District	Mineral	Concession Area (in Ha.)
1.	Chittapur SW Limestone Block	Kalburgi	Limestone	438.00
2.	Satanur Limestone Block	Kalburgi	Limestone	503.32
3.	Sulahalli Limestone Block	Kalburgi	Limestone	502.13

Any person, firm or company who satisfies the eligibility criteria can participate in the auction. Technical and financial bids for the above listed blocks are invited online. Apart from the online Technical Bids, bidders will have to submit duly executed original physical copies of their Technical Bids to the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka.

Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd **(http://www. mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp)**.

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves at the above website. On successful registration, bidders will obtain login ID and password, which are necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and summary of the block shall be available free of cost at the website of MSTC Limited **(http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp)**.

For participating in the bidding process, the registered bidders will have to purchase the block specific tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd by paying **Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rs. Two Lakh Only)** + GST.

The sale of tender document shall commence from 10th February 2022. Last date for sale of tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd is **25th March 2022**. Last date for submission of Technical Bids plus the Initial Price Offers at the website of MSTC Ltd is 17:00 hours IST on **07th April 2022**. Physical copies of the Technical Bids must reach the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka on or prior to 17:00 hours IST on **07th April 2022**.

Sd/-
Director

DIPR/DDU/Zen/R.O:3305/2021-22

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

TENDER NOTICE

Online digitally signed e-tender in two bid system (both technical and financial bid) are invited by Superintendent, Silchar Medical College & Hospital (SMCH), Silchar - 788014, for appointment of Security Service Agency at SMCH from experienced and reputed security service agencies. Bid document can be downloaded from Government e-procurement portal **https://www.assamtenders.gov.in** from 10/02/2022 at 2:00 P.M. and last date of bid submission is 11.03.2022 at 12 P.M.

Superintendent
Silchar Medical College Hospital
Silchar. Assam. PIN - 788014

Janasanyog /C/11845/21

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
(Remunerative Project Cell)
1st Floor, Udyog Sadan,
419, Patparganj Indl. Area, Delhi-110092
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. AC/RP Cell/EDMC/2022/D- 588 **Dated: 04.02.2022**

East Delhi Municipal Corporation invites tenders for inviting expression of interest for temporary allotment of surface parking sites under jurisdiction of EDMC.

Activity: Date of uploading of tender documents, **Date & time:** 04.02.2022

Activity: Last date of submission of bids, **Date & time:** 24.02.2022 till 01:00 PM

The tender documents containing detailed terms and conditions can be Obtained/downloaded from EDMC website i.e. **www.mcdonline.nic.in** (EDMC Portal) or department notice board and online apply through **www.etenders.gov.in** portal.

Sd/-
(S.L. Balyan)
Assistant Commissioner
RP Cell, EDMC

R.O. No.58/DPI/EDMC/2021-22

EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

THE HINDU

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Text & Context

FOLLOW US:
thehindu.com
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Cash seizure in U.P.

6.38 In ₹ crore, the "unaccounted cash" seized by the Noida Police ahead of the elections in poll-bound Gautam Buddh Nagar of Uttar Pradesh. Over one lakh litres of illicit liquor and 177 illegal firearms have also been seized from the western district since the model code of conduct was implemented on January 8, officials said on Wednesday. Challans under CrPC sections 107 and 116 have been issued to 22,287 such people, while 695 have been bound under CrPC section 110(G). PTI

Charges against police

1,439 The number of personnel belonging to the seven central police organisations who are facing criminal charges. About 200 others have also been slapped with corruption charges, Union Minister Nityanand Rai said on Wednesday. He added that among those who were facing criminal charges, 481 belonged to the BSF , 401 belong to the CRPF , 325 belonged to the Sashastra Seema Bal, and 273 were from the Central Industrial Security Force. PTI

Steel sales rise

20 The percentage rise in steel sales reported by Jindal Steel and Power in January 2022. Sales volume increased year-on-year to 6.95 lakh tonnes, as compared to 5.81 lakh tonnes in January 2021, the company said. Marginal improvement in rake availability during January, resulted in export shares rising to 31%, from 28% in December last year. Managing Director V. R. Sharma said that the Government's push in infrastructure and increase in outlay for capital expenditure will support growth for steel, cement and related sectors. PTI

Covid cases decline

17 The percentage by which global COVID-19 case counts have declined in the last week according to WHO. The weekly epidemiological report from the U.N. health agency, released on Tuesday, shows that the Omicron variant is increasingly dominant, making up nearly 97% of all cases tallied by the international virus-tracking platform known as GISAID. Just over 3% were of the Delta variant. The WHO reported more than 19 million new cases of COVID-19 and under 68,000 new deaths during the week from January 31 to February 6. PTI

A delayed dream

16 The number of years American snowboarder Lindsey Jacobellis had to wait to get her gold medal at the Winter Olympics after the "shocking silver" she earned in Italy in 2006. Alone in the clear, Jacobellis could have practically crawled to the finish line in 2006. Back then, a 20-year-old Jacobellis, grabbed her board on the second-to-last jump before the finish line. Inexplicably —and some say inexcusably —she fell and settled for a silver. Now 36, she finally earned her gold in China. This was Lindsey's fifth Olympics. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The coups in West Africa and the regional response

What have been the reasons for the rising number of military takeovers in Africa and West Africa in particular?

THE GIST

- Between 2020 and 2022, there already have been 6 successful military coups and 3 failed ones. Burkina Faso became the fourth country to be suspended by the African Union for the breakdown of democracy by such coups after Guinea, Mali and Sudan.
- In Burkina Faso, the military takeover in January 2022 took place after months of unrest due to anti-Government protests demanding the resignation of President Kabore. The unrest in Burkina Faso has been attributed as a fallout of the violent conflict organised by jihadist groups in Mali that began in 2012, that has since engulfed the entire Central Sahel region. President Kabore's regime used the military to quell the jihadist groups in the country, but with several instances of militant abuse and violent massacres happening, the jihadist threats only grew with some civilian support leading to the eventual takeover.
- The Economic Community of West African States announced sanctions on Mali seeking to discourage further coups, but this did not deter the coup in Burkina Faso. Regional and international actors should focus on reforms that could help governance in these countries rather than just military strategies.

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

The story so far: In the 35th African Union Summit featuring the heads of State and governments, the head of the AU's Peace and Security Council, Bankole Adeoye raised concerns over the increasing wave of military coups in the continent, especially in West Africa. This had led to an unprecedented number of member States being suspended from the bloc recently.

What has been the trend with coups in Africa recently?

Just a few weeks prior to the Summit, Burkina Faso became the fourth country to be suspended by the African Union after President Roch Marc Christian Kabore's regime was toppled by soldiers. Earlier, Guinea, Mali and Sudan were also suspended because of similar putsches that had occurred in the respective countries.

This set of recent coups in the continent reversed a falling trend in military coups over the years. A report in the BBC quoted research by Central Florida and Kentucky Universities to point that the number of successful coups fell from 26 in the 1960s to 18 in the 1970s to 22 in the 1980s to 16 in the 1990s to 8 in the 2000s to 8 in the 2010s, but between 2020 and 2022, there have already been 6 successful military coups. The corresponding numbers for failed attempts were 15 in the 1960s, 24 in the 1970s, 17 in the 1980s, 23 in the 1990s, 14 in the 2000s, 9 in the 2010s and 3 so far between 2020 and 2022.

Clearly the AU has been alarmed by the increasing frequency of military coups in the continent and have raised concerns about the rising number of suspensions of countries that have experienced these.

What explains the recent military coups in West Africa?

The reasons for the military coups that occurred recently in two of the three countries, Mali and Burkina Faso are related.

In Burkina Faso in West Africa, the military takeover in late January 2022 took place after months of unrest due to anti-Government protests demanding the resignation of President Kabore. A report by the International Crisis Group (ICG) detailed that after these demonstrations took a violent turn in Ouagadougou and Bobo Diolasso, the country's two largest cities, a group of soldiers demanded the replacement of the chief of staff and director of the National Intelligence Agency besides the need for more troops to fight against jihadist groups that had wreaked terror in the region and for relief and care for wounded soldiers.

Within a couple of days, these actions by the soldiers turned into a putsch with their forcing President Kabore to sign a handwritten resignation letter and the formal takeover of power by a new junta called the Patrotic Movement for Safeguard and Restoration (MPSR). These moves were similar to what transpired in Mali where armed forces staged a mutiny and captured power from president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in August 2020.

The unrest in Burkina Faso has been attributed as a direct fallout of the violent conflict organised by jihadist groups in Mali that began in 2012 that has since escalated and engulfed the Central Sahel region encompassing Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. A UNHCR briefing in January 2022 by its spokesperson mentioned that 2.5 million people had fled their homes following the conflict with 2.1 million of them displaced by late 2021. The total number of internally displaced people in Burkina Faso alone has risen to 1.5 million by the end of 2021. The conflict in Burkina Faso peaked when a series of massacres took place including in Solhan in June 2021 when 160 villagers were killed. The fact that pro-coup crowds gathered in Ouagadougou to support the junta's putsch suggested that there was deep discontent with President Kabore's regime as the army waded in to capture power. Military coups have also not been uncommon in Burkina Faso. The ICG report points out that military regimes have held power in 48 out of 61 years since the country's independence.

President Kabore's regime sought to use the military to quell the jihadist groups in the country that included both local and regional militias, but with several instances of militant abuse and violent massacres happening, the jihadist threats only grew with some civilian support. After a lull in the violence following a ceasefire with two major jihadist groups, the violence returned in a brutal fashion with one outfit, the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM) in particular being responsible for it. With several people affected by the violence and security forces complaining about the lack of adequate Government support, the regime's popularity waned and this soon led to the coup.

The Guinean coup d'état occurred on 5 September 2021 when forces led by military leader Mamady Doumbouya captured the President Alpha Conde after gunfire in the capital city, Conakry and announced the dissolution of the Government and the Constitution. In Guinea's case, Mr. Conde, the country's first democratically elected President had changed the Constitution by referendum to allow him to continue for a third term. This move had precipitated protests in the country which led to a Government crackdown on the protestors as well as an economic crisis. Yet again the military took advantage of a crisis to capture power and announced the dissolution of institutions and the Constitution.

How have regional and international actors reacted to these coups?

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) announced severe sanctions on Mali on 9 January, 2022, seeking to discourage further coups, but this did not deter the coup in Burkina Faso. Experts believe that the three new military regimes in Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso, will now seek to coordinate ties among themselves to resist pressure from the ECOWAS and other international actors. The suspensions by the AU were also to put pressure on the juntas to call for a return to democratic institutions and a constitutional order. ECOWAS would be the nodal authority that will strive to engage the new leaders in a dialogue process to seek a faster transition away from military rule.

The French led military intervention in Mali has sought to help the State defeat its jihadist threats but tensions have risen between the post-coup Government and the mission. With a purely military approach to tackle the jihadist threat not paying dividends in terms of halting the conflict, international actors would need to consider a course correction that focuses on reforms that could help governance in these countries in West Africa rather than just military strategies.

Reign of chaos: People gather in support of a coup that ousted President Roch Kabore, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on January 25, 2022. REUTERS

EXPLAINER

Understanding the new Central Media Accreditation Guidelines

How has the earlier policy been amended? What are the provisions under which a journalist's accreditation may be withdrawn?

ANURADHA RAMAN

The story so far: The Government has issued a slew of rules for the media under a new policy on accreditation for journalists. The Central Media Accreditation Guidelines-2022 have outlined the conditions for withdrawal of accreditation if a journalist acts in a manner prejudicial to the country's security, sovereignty and integrity, friendly relations with foreign states, public order or is charged with a serious cognisable offence. Most of the provisions are drawn from Article 19(2) of the Constitution which prescribes the restrictions to free speech guaranteed to every citizen of the country and are understood to serve as guidelines for the press and media.

How is this different from the past?

For one, the guidelines prepared by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are more in the nature of proscriptions rather than prescriptions. In laying down the conditions for withdrawal of accreditation, they serve more as censorship rules rather than guidelines. Previous guidelines were more general in nature and did mention that accreditation would be withdrawn if found to be misused. In the new guidelines, there are 10 provisions under which accreditation to a journalist can be withdrawn.

How are they proposed to be implemented?

As per the guidelines, the Government of India shall constitute a committee called the Central Media Accreditation Committee chaired by the Principal DG, Press Information Bureau (PIB), and comprising up to 25 members nominated by the Government to interpret the guidelines for withdrawal of accreditation.

Why are these guidelines a matter of concern?

In 2020, the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (RSF) ranked India 142nd among 180 countries on the World Press Freedom Index 2020. Though freedom of the press is not explicitly stated in the Constitution, the ambit of freedom of expression under Article 19 of the Constitution has been generally interpreted as having laid down the template for a free press in the country with subsequent pronouncements of courts ensuring it. These guidelines, point out experts, carry the threat of coming in the way of the functioning of a free media. Besides, they carry the risk of delegitimising reports, especially of an investigative nature. Any report critical of the Government could now be seen as prejudicial to the interests of the country and it will be left to the interpretation and discretion of the Central Media Accreditation Committee to read the guidelines and decide what is defamatory while denying accreditation to a journalist.

How do journalists get accredited?

A journalist with a minimum of five years as a full-time working journalist can apply for accreditation to the PIB, a process that is completed after a mandatory security check from the Ministry of Home Affairs. Any journalist working with a newspaper which has a daily circulation of 10,000; news agencies with at least 100 subscribers and digital news platforms with 10 lakh unique visitors can apply.

Accreditation helps in access to government offices and to special events and functions organised by the Government of India. Some Ministries like Home and Defence and Finance allow access only to accredited journalists.

Have there been attempts in the past to regulate the media?

Several attempts have been made by successive governments to keep the media in check by proposing guidelines more in the nature of censorship. As recently as 2018, the PIB, which functions under the I&B Ministry, had proposed a Fake News Guidelines under which accreditation could be cancelled if the journalist was seen as peddling content that was fake. This was seen as a move by the Government to counter other independent media outlets who had called out the Government and the political leadership for putting out fake content. The order was withdrawn under pressure. More recently the Government proposed a series of rules under the IT Act to check digital news content.

State Governments like Kerala and Rajasthan had come out with their own versions of proposed rules which were withdrawn under pressure and criticism. The most infamous move to control the press before the advent of private news channels was by former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi when he proposed the Defamation Bill in 1988. Under pressure from a unified media and several sections of the public, the Bill was withdrawn.

THE GIST

- The Government has issued The Central Media Accreditation Guidelines-2022 which outline the conditions for withdrawal of accreditation if a journalist acts in a manner prejudicial to the country's security.
- The new rules in laying down the conditions for withdrawal of accreditation, serve more as censorship rules rather than guidelines. This is concerning as the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (RSF) ranked India 142nd among 180 countries on the World Press Freedom Index 2020.
- In 2018, the PIB, had proposed a Fake News Guidelines under which accreditation could be cancelled if the journalist was peddling content that was 'fake'. This was seen as a move to counter independent media outlets who had called out political leadership for putting out fake content.

No refuge: Migrant workers and their families walking to return home on the Mumbai-Nasik Highway on May 11, 2020. ▪ROY CHOWDHURY A

FROM THE ARCHIVES

No relief for the nowhere people

Policy responses to the migrant crisis reinforce the idea of two Indias

THE GIST

■ The labourers — men, women and children — are the classic nowhere citizens of India. They have no rights and entitlements in the areas in which they work and are also denied entitlements in the villages to which they belong. They have been invisible in policy discourse and there are no firm estimates of their numbers. Data from the National Sample Survey and the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) show that these migrant labourers are mainly from rural areas and belong to the poorest socio-economic classes. They form the largest section of child, bonded and trafficked labour.

■ The lockdown has exposed India's labour market which operates through informal employment relations. We know that nearly 81% of wage workers even in non-agricultural sectors do not have any contract with their employers and enjoy no security of tenure. With the Government's sudden lockdown, wages for jobs already carried out remain unpaid. The Government side-stepped its major responsibility of paying compensatory wages to the informal workers during the lockdown. As the migrant workers tried to move to their homes, the Government responded with a strict clampdown on State and inter-district movement.

■ India needs a unified labour market and universal social security system which can ensure security, safety, and dignity to all workers.

RAVI SRIVASTAVA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a statement in the Lok Sabha accused the opposition and the Delhi State government of forcing migrants out of their workplace States and into their hometowns which according to him, increased the spread of the COVID-19 virus in these areas. This has led to strong reactions and bitter counter arguements on social media. In this article dated May 4, 2020, Ravi Srivastava explains how migrant labourers with no social security nor tenured work faced the entire brunt of the sudden nationwide lockdowns.

Jamalo Makdam, 12, died on April 18 walking back from the chilli fields of Telangana to her home in Chhattisgarh. She and a group of other workers decided to return home on foot, as many migrant workers did, after losing their jobs, incomes and even accommodation following the announcement of a nationwide lockdown. Her journey ended in death, possibly due to electrolyte imbalance and exhaustion, said health officials.

In the past month, migrant workers have died, been lathi-charged, herded into shelters with minimum facilities, sprayed with dangerous chemicals, and denied entry into their home villages by the dominant elite. These reports and images have seared our conscience.

No rights and entitlements

The labourers – men, women and children – are the classic nowhere citizens of India. They have no rights and entitlements in the areas in which they work and to whose prosperity they contribute. Being from the poorest and the socially discriminated groups, they are also denied entitlements in the villages to which they belong. Not surprisingly, they have been invisible in policy discourse. There are no firm estimates of their numbers. Estimates prepared by this author and updated from time to time suggest that short-term and circular migrants in the informal wage economy could number 60-65 million. About 40% of these migrants work in the construction sector and 15% in agriculture. The rest are engaged in manufacturing, transport, and other services. With accompanying family members, their numbers would not be less than 100 million. About half these labourers are inter-State workers. We exclude in this estimate longer-term circular migrants who also work in the informal wage economy and as self-employed workers in the urban economy.

Data from the National Sample Survey and the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) show that these migrant labourers are mainly from rural areas in poor regions and States, and belong to the poorest socio-economic classes. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes are over-represented among them. They form the largest section of child, bonded and trafficked labour. They predominate in activities that are characterised by three Ds – dirty, dangerous, and difficult – and consistently face a fourth D – discrimination. Nearly 70% of migrants work in urban and peri-urban areas in and around growth centres in States in the north, west, and south of the country. Industry and employers are bemoaning, for the first time, the fact that activities in a number of crucial sectors and industries will not see revival without these workers.

The lockdown imposed by the Government has exposed the deep fault lines in India's labour market which operates in a sea of growing informal employment relations. We know that nearly 81% of wage workers even in non-agricultural sectors do not have any contract with their employers and enjoy no security of tenure. Many do not even know their final employer. The IHDS tells us that half the migrant labourers are hired through contractors. Their condition shows the dismal state of implementation of labour regulations, particularly with respect to inter-State migrants.

With the Government's sudden lockdown decision, wages for jobs already carried out remained unpaid. A large percentage of migrants remained saddled with debt taken as advances from their employers, contractors, or landlords. The Government's announcement of a tepid relief package on March 26 did not address any of the concerns of this section as the frail social security net largely does not cover them. Crucially, the Government side-stepped its major responsibility of paying compensatory wages to the informal workers for the lockdown, putting this onus on employers who are already hit hard by the lockdown.

As the migrant workers tried to move to their homes, the Government responded with a strict State and inter-district lockdown and ordered placing migrant workers in quarantines-cum-shelters, and the detention of workers who remained on the move. In a status report submitted to the Supreme Court on March 31, the Government argued that the movement of these workers to rural areas constituted a serious risk of spread of COVID-19, a fact that has remained unsubstantiated.

By the end of the first week of April, the Government submitted that about 6.3 lakh workers were in shelters run by governments in different parts of the country, while another 4.5 lakh were in shelters run by NGOs and others. Nearly 10 million workers were receiving food assistance through governmental and non-governmental sources. About 5 lakh to 6 lakh workers had reached their source States. As a matter of fact, reports from the ground suggest that a large proportion of intra-State migrants had trudged back home so the total returnees was probably closer to 25 million. At present, with about a million migrant workers in shelters or quarantines, at least 20 million such workers are still stranded at worksites or living in hovels. Most of these, as successive surveys attest, have not been able to avail of any food or cash assistance, and are on the brink of starvation.

Shifting the burden

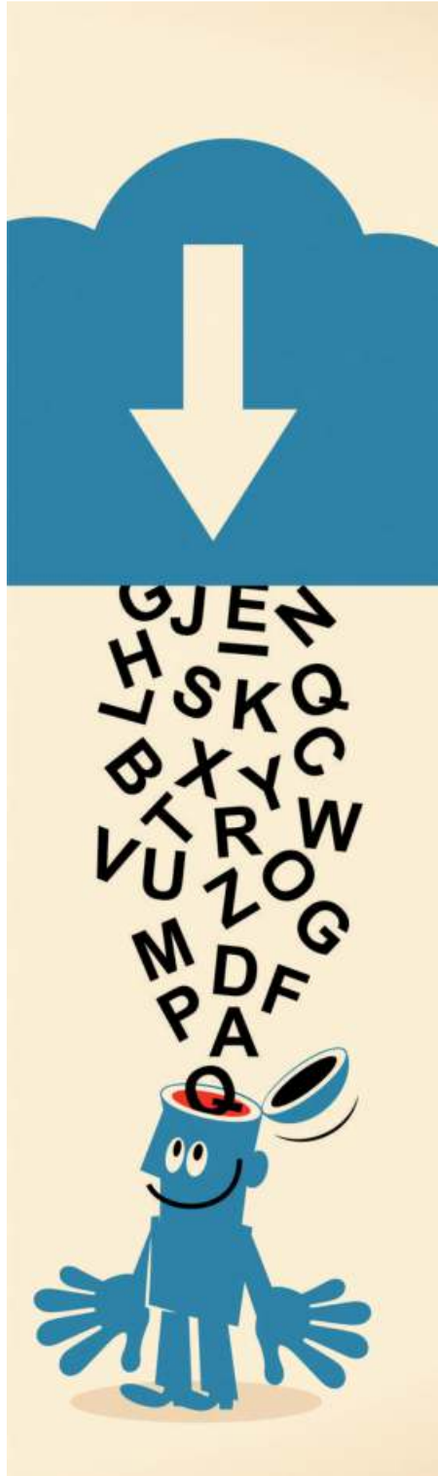
On April 19, the Indian government issued a standard operating protocol on movement of stranded labour, permitting the movement and employment of stranded migrant workers in worksites only within the States in which they were involuntarily detained in shelters. On April 29, the Central government issued another notification finally permitting stranded labourers and populations to travel inter-State to their homes only by buses. On May 1, the Railways were permitted to run special trains for migrants with coordination and costs being borne by the States and, in some cases, fares being paid by the hapless migrants. The receiving States, it must be pointed out, are precisely those which have the weakest fiscal capacity. The ensuing confusion and delay has also increased the plight of the migrants.

It goes without saying that it must be the responsibility of the Centre to coordinate the movement of the stranded populations by trains, air and buses, and to provide adequate resources, not only for transportation, but also for wages and food requirements of all such workers whose loss of jobs and incomes followed the national lockdown.

The fight against the pandemic can only be built on a vision of a society that is inclusive, equitable, and non-discriminatory.

India needs a unified labour market and universal social security system which can ensure security, safety, and dignity to all workers. Pandemics do not recognise artificial walls between living spaces and work spaces, and both have to be able to provide basic amenities and access to health security to all. However, it seems that current policy responses to the crisis and towards the migrants are still embedded in a short-sighted framework that recognises and reinforces the idea of two Indias.

Ravi Srivastava, former Professor of Economics at JNU, is now honorary Director of the Centre for Employment Studies, Institute for Human Development, Delhi



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"You went to Coimbatore last week, isn't it sir?"

"Yes, I did. I had some work there. You seem to know all about my movements. Incidentally, your use of 'isn't it' in this context is not correct. You tend to say "isn't it' after every statement. But there are some rules regarding this. 'He is going' is a statement. You can say. 'He is going, isn't he?' *Isn't he* is called a question tag. The question has been tagged on to the statement made earlier. A tag, as you know, is a label pinned to something. A question tag is added to a statement. If the statement is in the affirmative, the question tag should be in the negative. Example:

Ram is a fine fellow, isn't he?

If the statement is in the negative, the question tag should be in the affirmative.

Ram is not going there, is he? It is not good, is it?

I will give some more examples. You yourself will be able to see that there is a regular pattern in all these.

They are not coming, are they?; They are coming, aren't they?; Jane was unhappy, wasn't she?; Jane wasn't unhappy, was she?; She can come, can't she?; They have money, haven't they?; Ram came last night, didn't he?; He wants coffee, doesn't he?; He doesn't want coffee, does he?; You shouldn't borrow it, should you?; You should go there, shouldn't you?; It is a nice house, isn't it?; He will go, won't he?; He will not go, will he?; You have received it, haven't you?; He has come, hasn't he?; He drinks a lot, doesn't he?; He drank a lot, didn't he?.

"Question tags are used in conversation. Only the contracted forms like 'Isn't', 'can't', 'won't' are used in tag questions. The question actually is not a question. It seeks your approval. That's all. When you write, you must put a comma before the tag question. By the way 'comma' has two m's. With a single 'm', it will go into a coma".

"Coma reminds me of a friend of mine, sir. He was admitted to hospital last week. He was really dangerous. Now he is better".

"I am happy to hear he is better now. I hope he win be all right soon. By the way, no one is dangerous when he is ill. I suppose what you meant was your friend's condition was dangerous. People can be dangerously ill. They are not dangerous. It is not the individual but the illness that is dangerous. We pray that they come out of danger. I hope you understand. I'll pray for you friend's speedy recovery".

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye".

"Goodbye"

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

THE DAILY QUIZ

The nominations for the 94th Academy Awards ceremony, scheduled to be held on March 27, have been announced. Test yourself on the nominees for this year.

1 This film has secured 12 nominations, including Best Picture, and its director has become the first woman to be nominated for best director twice. Name the film and the director.

2 Thanks to nominations for best picture and original screenplay, which actor-filmmaker has become the first person to be nominated in seven different Oscar categories but is yet to win, however?

3 A new retelling of this romantic drama that won 10 Oscars six decades ago has got seven nominations and its legendary director has toted up nominations 18 and 19. Name the film and the director.

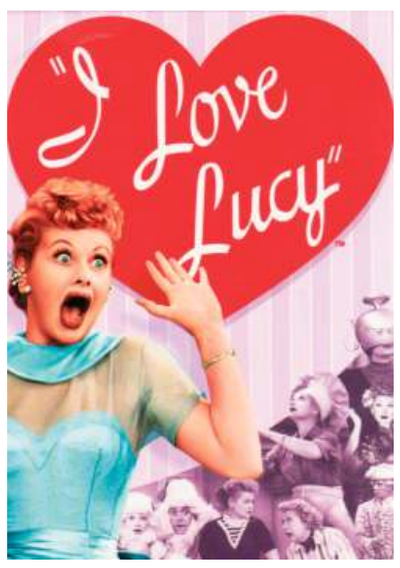
4 Will Smith has been nominated for Best Actor for essaying the role of the parent of which legendary sporting siblings?

5 What does the title CODA, the comedy-drama film that has been nominated for three Oscars, stand for?

6 Name the number by Billie Eilish and Finneas O'Connell that has been shortlisted for Best Original Song Oscar.

7 A couple who have been married since 2010 are in the running for the Best Actor and Actress honours albeit for roles in different films. Name the two.

8 One of the films for 'Best International Feature' is from a country neighbouring India. Name the flick and the country.



◄ Which film that shows the relationship between the leading stars of this classic sitcom has got three nominations? ▪IMDB

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. 'International Lawn Tennis Challenge' was played between USA and Britain (British Isles), 2. Design and crafting of the wonderful trophy, 3. France and Great Britain with 10 triumphs each, 4. South Africa as India gave a walkover because of the former's apartheid policy, 5. Roy Emerson, 6. Nicola Pietrangeli (Italy), 7. Play for two countries. The trio has also donned Hong Kong colours, 8. Spanish footballer Gerard Pique, 9. Australia's Harry Hopman, who won the cup an unmatched 16 times (as player-coach).

Only respondent to get all the answers correct: Sriraam Kalingarayar

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan