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

THE HINDU

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
14 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

BYJU'S EXAM PREP | IAS
Comprehensive Preparation Program for UPSC CSE

BYJU'S National Scholarship Test
6th February, 2022 | 11 AM - 1 PM
• Up to 90% Scholarship
• All India Rank & Assessment Reports
• Free Academic Counselling Session

Our IAS 2020 Achievers
RANK 02 Jagrati Awasthi
RANK 08 Kartik Jivani
RANK 13 Gaurav Budania
RANK 14 Karishma Nair
18 Ranks in Top 50 | 36 Ranks in Top 100 | 295 Total Selections

Scan to Register

IN BRIEF

Shots fired at Owaisi's car in U.P.; one arrested

LUCKNOW

Two persons fired bullets at the vehicle of AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday near a toll plaza while he was returning to Delhi after campaigning in U.P.'s Meerut. The MP said he was safe but at least two bullets hit his vehicle.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 8

Blow to regularisation plea of DU teachers

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday said it was not considering regularisation of temporary or ad hoc teachers through a one-time absorption at Delhi University as the University Grants Commission Regulations, 2018, do not have any such provisions.

CITY ▸ PAGE 2

PLUTUS IAS
Optional Subject ANTHROPOLOGY
Online Mode
10th Feb 22
3-4 Month Course Duration
8448440231 www.plutusias.com

Indian diplomats to boycott Beijing games

Selection of PLA's Galwan soldier as torchbearer sparks row

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Terming China's decision to field a People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldier involved in the June 2020 Galwan clashes as the torchbearer for the Winter Olympics Games in Beijing as "regrettable", India announced a diplomatic boycott of the games just ahead of the opening ceremony on Friday.

State broadcaster Doordarshan also announced it will not telecast the opening and closing ceremonies live, where India has one athlete, skier Arif Khan, participating. The decision came after Chinese media reports identified Qi Fabao, a PLA regiment commander who received military honours for the Galwan clashes, where he was injured, as one of about 1,200 runners bearing the torch at a relay in Beijing.

China's decision to field him and New Delhi's announcement of its first ever diplomatic boycott of Olympic Games, are likely to increase India-China tensions that have risen since PLA aggressions along the Line of Actual Control in April 2020.

India had earlier expressed support for the Beijing Olympics, even as more than a dozen countries, led by the U.S. had announced a boycott of the games.

"It is indeed regrettable that the Chinese side has chosen to politicise an event like Olympic," said MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, referring to the media reports. "The Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of India in Beijing will not be attending the opening or closing ceremony of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics," he added.

The Indian Ambassador to China, Pradeep Kumar Rawat is expected to take charge in the next few weeks, and hence the Charge d'Affaires Acquino Vimal is the top diplomat in Beijing at present.

Mr. Vimal and other officials were expected to attend the ceremonial functions at the games.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Tensions spill over

It is the first time that India has announced a diplomatic boycott of the Olympic Games ceremony

WHO ALL ARE BOYCOTTING (SENDING SPORTS TEAM BUT NO DIPLOMATS OR POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES) THE EVENT?

- India (due to Chinese "politicisation" of games, fielding Galwan PLA commander as torchbearer)
- The U.S., the U.K., Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Czech Republic (due to human rights concerns in Xinjiang, Tibet, etc)
- Austria, Sweden (due to COVID-19 protocols)

HC stays Haryana job quota for locals

Industry bodies welcome order; Govt. vows to ensure local employment

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday granted an interim stay on the controversial law for reservation of 75% jobs in private companies, societies and trusts for local Haryana candidates.

While several industrial associations welcomed the order, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala tweeted that the government would continue to fight for employment opportunities for the local youth.

The matter came up for hearing before the division bench of Justices Ajay Tiwari and Pankaj Jain with the petitioners seeking an interim stay on the law that came into force on January 15. The hearing on the matter slated for January 12 earlier was adjourned due to COVID-induced restrictions.

Advocate Tushar Sharma, representing Manesar Industries Welfare Association, one of the petitioners, said the court, granting the interim stay, put only one question to the State as to how they could grant reservation in employment on the basis of a domicile as it violated Article 16 of the Constitution.

Around eight petitioners, including different industrial associations and individuals, moved the court last December against the law, pleading that it was against the provisions of the Constitution and the basic principle of meritocracy that acted as the foundation for businesses to grow and remain competitive. The court had then issued notice to the government seeking a reply.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

> We will continue to fight for employment opportunities of Haryanvi youth
>
> DUSHYANT CHAUTALA
> Haryana Deputy Chief Minister

T.N. Governor returns NEET Bill to Assembly

Govt. convenes all-party meet on issue, promises to pass Bill again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi has returned to the Assembly Speaker a Bill seeking to dispense with NEET-based admissions for undergraduate medical degree courses, the Raj Bhavan said on Thursday.

Within hours of the Raj Bhawan release, the Tamil Nadu government said it would take steps to adopt the same Bill in the Assembly again. To discuss the steps to be taken in this regard, the government also convened an all-party meeting in the Secretariat on Friday.

The Bill adopted by the Assembly in September sought to admit students to UG medical degree programmes on the basis of Plus Two scores.

After a detailed study of the Bill and the report of the high-level committee constituted by the State government, the Governor was "of the opinion that the Bill is against interests of the students specially the rural and economically poor students," a press release from the Raj Bhavan said.

Hence, the Governor has returned the Bill to the Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly on February 1, 2022, giving "detailed reasons, for its re-consideration by the House," it said.

It said the Supreme Court in *Christian Medical College, Vellore Association Vs. Union of India (2020)* also has comprehensively examined the issue specially from the social justice perspective and upheld NEET as it prevents economic exploitation of poor students and was in furtherance of social justice.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

R.N. Ravi

Tactical strike

Syrian rescue workers at the house where IS leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi exploded a bomb that killed him and some of his family members, including women and children, during a counter-terrorism raid by the U.S. special forces at Atmeh in Idlib province, on Thursday. At least 13 bodies were recovered from the rubble, rescue workers said. ▪ AP (REPORT ON PAGE 11)

Air traffic controllers overworked

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Air traffic controllers (ATCOs) at some of the busiest airports in the country such as Delhi are unable to get their mandatory break of 30 minutes after every two hours because of manpower crunch, and at airports such as Guwahati, they work 365 days a year without a day off.

The shortage of staff has also led to women employees being denied childcare leave.

The sanctioned strength of ATCOs in the country is 3,901, against which only 3,162 personnel are employed – a shortage of 19%. And the gap is growing.

FULL REPORT ▸ PAGE 9

SC adjourns Sidhu road rage case

Matter to be heard on Feb. 25; Punjab poll due on Feb. 20

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Punjab Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu in the Supreme Court on Thursday successfully sought the adjournment of a review of a 2018 judgment, which let him off with a ₹1,000 fine in a nearly 34-year-old fatal road rage case.

A Special Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Sanjay Kishan Kaul rescheduled the case to February 25. The Punjab Assembly elections are due on February 20.

Mr. Sidhu's lawyers, advocates P. Chidambaram and A. Karthik, sought time to get further instructions from their client.

They had sought an adjournment of four weeks. Mr. Chidambaram explained that he was asked to appear in the case only hours back and a new advocate-on-record was appointed.

Justice Khanwilkar, in turn, referred to a letter circulated by Mr. Sidhu's side seeking adjournment.

The judge said it mentioned the case was listed "unexpectedly".

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Navjot Singh Sidhu

After strong start, Trinamool staggers from setbacks

The party's promise of 'a new dawn for Goans' is wearing thin as election nears in the coastal State

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Far from heralding a 'new dawn' for Goans, the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress appears to be floundering ahead of the 40-seat Goa Assembly election next month.

The party signalled intent to expand its footprint in the coastal State when former Congressman Luizinho Faleiro – a former Chief Minister and seven-time MLA – joined it.

Mr. Faleiro was promptly made the party's national vice-president and a Rajya Sabha MP. This was followed by an influx of leaders into the Trinamool – from the colourful party-hopper and five-time MLA Churchill Alemao to ex-Congress MLA from Curtorim, Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco, who jumped ship despite the Congress already including him in its first list.

Barely four months later, a number of their earliest 'recruits' – including Lavoo Mamledar, the Trinamool's general secretary Yatish Naik, Doris Teixeira and Mr. Lourenço – have deserted the Trinamool.

Another setback followed when Mr. Faleiro – whose nomination had been announced for the Fatorda seat – backed out at the eleventh hour. He had reportedly been upset with the party brass for announcing his candidacy without consulting him. It also did not help that the 70-year-old had no wish to play a losing hand in the twilight of his political career.

The Trinamool's promise of '*Goenchi Navi Sakal*' [a new dawn for Goans] – as signalled in its campaign song and countless billboard advertisements dotted throughout the State – is wearing thin with several political observers predicting a rout for the party in the February 14 election.

The clearest instance of just how badly the party's Goa campaign was proceeding came last week during the release of its manifesto, which was marked by the conspicuous absence of its ally Sudin Dhavalikar, leader of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party. Grapevine has it that Mr. Dhavalikar, a five-term MLA from Marcaim, deputed his party working president to attend the event because he is miffed with the Trinamool for not considering him as the chief ministerial candidate.

Outsider tag

"Of all parties that are in the fray in Goa, it is the Trinamool that has struggled most to rid itself of the stamp of being an 'outside party'. Given that its MPs Mahua Moitra and Sushmita Dev address the majority of party events, there is confusion among the people as to whether it has a local spokesperson," says Goa-based political analyst and economist Manoj Kamat.

The Trinamool's experiment in Goa has not been backed by a concrete agenda and the party's credibility has been undercut with its aggressive approach against the Congress rather than against the ruling BJP, whom it is professing to supplant.

TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee (right) inducts ex-CM of Goa Luizinho Faleiro (left) into the party. ▪ FILE PHOTO

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
GS CLASSROOM FOUNDATION COURSE 2018 (Included the comprehensive 12 month classes, GS Pre, Mains, Essay and CSAT Test Series, Mini Test, Daily Assignment)
GS 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 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, PDP)
8 AIR JIVANI KARTIK NAGJIBHAI (GS FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM STUDENT, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PDP)
9 AIR APALA MISHRA (ABHYAAS TEST SERIES)
10 AIR SATYAM GANDHI (ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST)
YOU CAN BE NEXT
LIVE / ONLINE CLASSES AVAILABLE
PT 365
1 YEAR CURRENT AFFAIRS for GS PRELIMS 2021 in 60 Hours
ENGLISH Medium | 22 Mar 5 PM
हिन्दी माध्यम | 29 Mar 5 PM
PERSONALITY TEST PROGRAMME
Starts: 15th February
DAF Analysis Session with senior faculty members of Vision IAS
Mock Interviews Sessions with Ex-Bureaucrats/Educationists
Interactive Sessions with previous year toppers & bureaucrats
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
LUCKNOW: 9th Feb | JAIPUR: 15th Feb | PUNE: 31st Jan
HYDERABAD: 15th Feb | CHANDIGARH: 15th Feb
फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2023
DELHI: 1 फरवरी, 1 PM | 15 दिसंबर, 9 AM
लाइव / ऑनलाइन एवं ऑफलाइन कक्षाएँ
DELHI • HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh | CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066
JAIPUR 9001949244 | PUNE 8007500096 | HYDERABAD 9000104133 | AHMEDABAD 9909447040 | LUCKNOW 8468022022 | CHANDIGARH 8468022022 | GUWAHATI 8468022022

Workers living in containers: NHRC asks govt. to take action

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has written to the Delhi government to take "appropriate action" in connection with the wretched living conditions of migrant workers staying in shipping containers placed along a road behind Andhra Pradesh Bhavan in central Delhi.

The commission sent the letter following a complaint by two activists, who cited an article published in *The Hindu* on Sunday about the challenges being faced by the workers.

In the letter to the Labour Commissioner of Delhi, the NHRC said it received the complaint on January 30.

"The authority concerned is directed to take appropriate action within 8 weeks associating the complainant/victim and to inform him/her and to the commission of the action taken in the matter. The case is closed," the letter read. The complaint was filed by two student activists – Aman Banka and Aditya Dubey – according to the letter.

More than 500 migrant workers live in unhygienic conditions in about 50 containers in central Delhi. They are engaged in construction work of government offices – being built by the CPWD through a private company – in the vicinity. This building is being constructed to shift some offices which are affected due to the Central Vista redevelopment project.

Blow to regularisation plea of DU teachers

UGC's 2018 regulations do not have provisions for regularisation through one-time absorption: Ministry

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday said it was not considering regularisation of temporary or ad hoc teachers through a one-time absorption at Delhi University as the University Grants Commission Regulations, 2018, do not have any such provisions.

The question on regularisation of ad hoc teachers at DU was raised in the Rajya Sabha. Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar said the appointment of teaching staff in various colleges/institutions are made by the Governing Body of the college on the recommendation of the Selection Committee envisaged under ordinances of the university in consonance with the eligibility criteria laid down by the UGC. "The UGC Regulations, 2018, do not have any provision for regularisation of services of temporary/ad hoc teachers on permanent basis through one-time absorption," the Minister said.

Ad hoc concerns

- Assistant professors working on ad hoc basis are initially appointed for 4 months. They are given one day notional break after 120 days or before and then their services are renewed.
- Those working on a temporary basis are paid full salary on the UGC pay scale with full allowances and annual increment but are deprived of promotions despite academic experience and achievements
- Since 2010, there has not been any major drive for permanent appointments at DU to fill up the vacancies created due to OBC expansion

Number of temporary/ ad hoc teachers at DU: 4,267

> The non-filling up of permanent positions in Delhi University has now culminated in an abnormal situation where the proportion of ad hoc teachers has surpassed 50% of the total teachers' strength currently working at the university and its constituent colleges
> DELHI UNIVERSITY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

SOURCE: DUTA AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Delhi University currently has 4,267 ad hoc teachers in 66 colleges, with Ramjas having the highest number – 137 – of temporary teachers, the data provided by the Ministry of Education show.

Teachers at DU have had a long-standing demand of regularisation of temporary teachers via one-time absorption. The Delhi University Teachers' Association has sent a petition to the President highlighting the plight of assistant professors working on ad hoc basis at the university and its constituent colleges. The petition states that these employees despite contributing prime years of their lives to teaching at the university have been languishing for a long time due to job insecurity, which demeans the profession and ruins the career of highly skilled, well-qualified and experienced teachers.

Through its petition, the association has made an appeal to the President to issue directions, as the Visitor of the university, to the Education Ministry to consider the demand for absorbing the teachers working on ad hoc/ temporary basis, observing all constitutional provisions of reservation. It adds that to resolve the problem, Delhi University, UGC and MoE together should frame the modalities to absorb these teachers by bringing a one-time Extraordinary Ordinance/ Bill.

"Ad hoc teachers are deprived of all rightful benefits such as annual increments, promotions, medical benefits, leaves, child care leaves, despite performing the same duties as their permanent counterparts. This ad hoc system has denied thousands of teachers of their fundamental right to work with dignity and stress-free lives," the DUTA said.

HC declines plea to allow outdoor sports activity

'Matter to be discussed in DDMA meet'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday declined a plea to permit outdoor sports activity in the Capital amid the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) was looking into the issue.

Justice V. Kameswar said the DDMA was scheduled to hold its meeting on February 4 to further examine the situation.

"The petitioner wants to play tennis. Comparison sought to be made with malls, etc., which has to be seen from a different perspective. They are sources of employment. You won't see this from that perspective. They give sustenance and employment to those attached," the High Court observed.

The Delhi government counsel too said the issue of allowing outdoor sports activity should be left to the DDMA.

The plea had argued that there was no reason why outdoor no-contact sports activity cannot be permitted when cinema halls, malls, restaurants, among others, were allowed to operate at 50% capacity in view of the declining COVID-19 cases.

'Riots accused threatened country's unity'

Prosecution wraps up arguments against combined bail plea of Khalid, others

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Opposing former JNU student leader Umar Khalid's bail plea in the Delhi riots 'larger conspiracy' case, the prosecution on Thursday told a city court that the accused had made all attempts to "threaten the unity, integrity and security" of the country and that it was the public which suffered and not the "conspirators".

Wrapping up his arguments against the combined bail plea of Khalid and several other accused in the case, Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad told Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat that the "conspirators" also "raised questions on the sovereignty of the nation". The prosecutor was justifying the inclusion of Section 15 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act - defining 'terrorist act' - in the case.

"There are deaths and injuries of persons. We have seen there is loss and destruction of public and private property and also disruption of essential services. We have seen there is use of bomb, firearms and lethal weapons," SPP Prasad told the court.

The prosecution added: "None of the conspirators have suffered; it is the public at large which has suffered." To buttress his arguments, he reiterated that 53 persons were killed while 108 policemen were injured, in addition to the loss of public and private property.

'Terror funding'

Referring to the aspect of "terror funding" in the case, Mr. Prasad argued that there was evidence on record showing that former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain was converting money from "white to black".

"It's a very unusual thing to do... We have complete chain of evidence, but I don't think it's relevant at this stage... Since (the) court is seized of the main ED [Enforcement Directorate] matter, what's relevant is how the money was used."

The SPP added that the said money was being used by the accused persons to fund the anti-CAA-NRC protests and was also being "utilised for violence".

The defence will now present its arguments in the case on the next hearing on February 16. Former JNU PhD scholar Sharjeel Imam's bail application will be heard separately on February 7.

DDMA meet today, decision on reopening schools likely

Restaurants, gym owners appeal for relaxation in norms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The decision on reopening schools in the Capital is likely to be taken at a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) scheduled for Friday.

In the last meeting of the DDMA, the Delhi government had recommended the reopening of schools to prevent a learning gap and further damage to the socio-emotional well-being of students. The DDMA had, however, postponed the decision to the next meeting.

With the COVID positivity rate staying below 5%, hotels and restaurants have also requested the DDMA to take a decision on lifting the night curfew restrictions so that they can make up for the losses incurred due to prolonged closures and other restrictions.

The National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) has requested Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal to lift the night curfew and save jobs. "Millions of workers are employed in the restaurant industry. We need urgent support to revive the restaurant sector in Delhi," the NRAI said.

Gym and spa owners, too, demanded that they be allowed to open for business. The Delhi Gym Association asked why the DDMA has not allowed gyms to reopen when everything else has been given the go-ahead. The association said it would stage protests if gyms are not given the permission.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Sh. Arun Khurana Director of M/s Reckon Fasterners Pvt. Ltd., R/o D-1/8, Hauz Khas, New Delhi Also At - 1541/27-A, Krishna Market, Bhagirath Place, Delhi-110006** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No 522131/16, U/s 138 NI Act P.S.: Kashmere Gate, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sh. Arun Khurana** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sh. Arun Khurana** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Sh. Arun Khurana of in case CC No 522131/16, U/s 138 NI Act P.S.: Kashmere Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 04.03.2022.**

By order
Ms. Visvesh
Metropolitan Magistrate (NI Act-06)
(Central) Room No.01,
Court Building Annexe-1
Tis Hazari Court Delhi

DP/1953/N/2022

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Anil** S/o Gopal Paswan R/o Near Dispensary, Khajuri Khas, North East Distt., Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 150/2018 u/s 380/457/411/34 IPC PS. Lahori Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Anil** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Anil** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. have been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Anil** accused of FIR No. 150/2018 u/s 380/457/411/34 IPC PS. Lahori Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **06.04.2022.**

By Order: Ms. Neha Gupta Singh
Metropolitan Magistrate-09, Central,
Room No. 86, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/1936/N/22

Government of Gujarat
Narmada Water Resources, Water Supply and Kalpasar Department
Tender Notice No. 20 (IInd attempt of 2021-22)

1)	Name of work	Supply, manufacturing, fabrication and testing of one set of stop-log gate for main spillway gates and HR gates (2) Replacement of CDU components in hoist mechanism (Radial gate size 49'x37'-10 Nos) at Panam Irrigation Project, Dist. Panchmahal, Gujarat.
2)	Date of Online Tender Submission	02/02/2022 to 21/02/2022 up to 16.00 Hrs.
3)	Last Date of Submission of Physical Document	22/02/2022 to 28/02/2022 up to 18.00 Hrs.
4)	Office Name and Address	Executive Engineer, Irri. Mech. Gate & Store Dn. No:-1, 7th Floor, Block-"C". Narmada Bhavan, Jail Road, Vadodara.-390001.

Any kind of amendments will be published only on online & will be final & binding to all. For further details contact to this office during office hours. Detailed Tender Notice can be seen on **www.nwr.nprocure.com** and on **www.statetender.gujarat.gov.in**

(INF-VAD- 1235 -21-22)

LEASING OF 3.9 TONNE F/SLR COMPARTMENT BY TRAIN NO. 15933 Dn

Tender No.: CMSLRLeasing15933DnT, Dated: 01-02-2022: E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Name of Work :** Leasing of one 3.9 tonne FSLR compartment by Train No.15933 Dn, Amritsar Express from New Tinsukia to Amritsar station on single trip basis. **Advertised Value:** ₹ 90,95,850/-; **Earnest Money**: ₹ 1,00,000/-; Closing at **15:00** on **28-02-2022**. For details visit in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. DCM, Tinsukia
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

U. P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.
Tender Specification No. TD-479/22
Corrigendum No. 2

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the RFP document could not be made available on https://etender.up.nic.in against this office NIT and corrigendum no. 1, for Lease of OPGW Dark Fibers of UPPTCL, published in various leading newspapers under TD-479/22. The RFP document sale and e-bid submission shall now start from 22nd February, 2022 at 10:30 hrs.

RFP which include eligibility criteria, technical specifications, various conditions of Agreement, formats, etc. can be viewed on or before 21st February, 2022 on UPPTCL's website http://www.upptcl.org and can be downloaded from https://etender.up.nic.in for online submission.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

Superintending Engineer, ETDC, 10th floor, Shakti Bhawan Extn,, Lucknow
No.: 436 **Date : 03.02.2022**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION DIVISION POWER HOUSE BHEP-II CHANDERKOTE
Email- xenegenbhep2@gmail.comTel 01998-288052

No: GEN/BHEP-II/1175-77 Dated:28-01-2022
Corrigendum Notice-1

1. Reference E- NIT :- BHEP-II/09 of 2021 Dated:29/12/2021 titled supply of various hydro mechanical spares for 450 MW power house of BHEP-II.

Due to various representations received from prospective bidders regarding clarification/modification in various clauses in the SBD ,the following modification are deemed to be incorporated in the sbd which include:

S.No.	CLAUSE / REFERENCE	EXISTING CONDITION	NEW / MODIFIED CONDITION
1	Limitation of Liability	New clause to be added	The Contractor shall be liable to the Employer, whether under the Contract, in tort or otherwise for any indirect or consequential loss or damage, loss of use, loss of production or loss of profits or interest costs. However, the aggregate liability of the Contractor to the Employer, whether under the Contract, in tort or otherwise, shall not exceed the total Contract price.
2	Delivery Period	The delivery period shall be 60 days from the date of issuance of LOA.	As per the query received from prospective bidder ,some of the items have to be procured and manufactured especially for Baglihar HEP and must be compatible with the existing system and some of the material has to be imported from Europe. Keeping note of this ,the delivery period shall be 5 months from the issue of LOI/LOA.

All other terms & conditions and important dates shall remain same as mentioned in the SBD of the captioned e-nit.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Generation Division , BHEP-II, Chanderkote

DIP/J-5933-P/21

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, साहेबगंज
CORRIGENDUM (तृतीय शुद्धि पत्र)

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सुचना सं0– DWSD/SAHIBGANJ- 23/2021-22, Dt.- 12.01.2022, P.R.No.- 261592 में प्रकाशित निविदा में निम्नलिखित संशोधन किया जाता है।

क0	पूर्व में प्रकाशित	संशोधित
1	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय– 03.02.2022 up to 05.00 P.M	Dt. 07.02.2022 up to 05.00 P.M
2	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, साहेबगंज में अग्रधन की राशि एवं परिणाम विपत्र का मूल्य जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय – 04.02.2022 up to 05.00P.M	Dt. 08.02.2022 up to 04.00 P.M
3	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय– 07.02.2022 up to 05.00 P.M	Dt. 08.02.2022 up to 05.00 P.M

निविदा की अन्य शर्ते यथावत रहेंगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, साहेबगंज।

PR.NO.263111 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22):D

झारखंड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, पाकुड़
शुद्धि पत्र - 02

इस कार्यालय के ई–निविदा सं0 :– DWSD/PKR/20/2021-22 दिनांक – 12.01.2022 जिसका PR No. 261682 Drinking Water and Sanitation (21-22) D है, में निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र0	विवरणी	पूर्व प्रकाशित सूचना	संशोधित सूचना
8	निविदा प्राप्ति की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 03.02.2022 को अपराहन 04.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 07.02.2022 को अपराहन 04.00 बजे तक
9	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, पाकुड़ में बैंक गारंटी एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 04.02.2022 को 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।	दिनांक 08.02.2022 को 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
10	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 04.02.2022, 4.00 बजे अपराह्न ।	दिनांक 08.02.2022, 4.00 बजे अपराह्न ।

* पूर्व में प्रकाशित सूचना को इस हद तक संशोधित समझा जाय एवं निविदा से संबंधित अन्य सूचनाएँ पूर्ववत् यथावत् रहेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, पाकुड़।

PR 263119 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 21-22 (D)

2 more held in Shahdara sexual assault case

18 people have been nabbed so far

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Thursday arrested a man and apprehended a minor girl in connection with the abduction, sexual assault and public shaming of a 20-year-old woman in Shahdara on January 26.

With this, the total number of people arrested or detained in the case has gone up to 18. The police also arrested two women in connection with a complaint regarding "harassment and threat" to the sister of the victim.

The victim was abducted, assaulted and paraded by a family which blamed the woman for the death of their minor son. Videos of the incident went viral on social media. The victim's sister claimed that the person who shot all the videos of the atrocities committed on the woman is an 18-year-old cousin of the deceased teenager.

"The girl who made the videos is cousin of the boy who died in November. She dropped out of school after Class X and now helps the family in their business and at home. She was the one giving directions in the video," said the victim's sister.

On Wednesday, the Delhi Commission for Women had issued summons to the police seeking immediate protection for the victim.

Man kills wife over suspicion of affair

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Suspecting his wife of having an extramarital affair, a 26-year-old man killed the woman by hitting her with a pressure cooker and a cylinder on Thursday morning in south-east Delhi's Tughlakabad Extension.

Police officers said the accused, Hasim Khan, surrendered at Govindpuri police station soon after killing his wife, 20-year-old Shaheen.

Based on Hasim's confession, the police rushed to the crime scene and found Shaheen's body on the bed.

An officer said a case has been registered and the accused has been arrested.

EDMC asks doctors to call off strike

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

East Delhi Municipal Corporation Commissioner Vikas Anand on Thursday appealed to doctors and nurses at the civic-body-run Swami Dayanand Hospital to resume their duties.

The doctors and nurses have been protesting since February 1 over non-payment of salaries. "The doctors would be given their salaries for February and March on time. Also, their due arrears will be paid in May," Mr. Anand said, adding that the civic body was facing a fund crunch.

Man held for harassing DU prof. on video calls

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 36-year-old man was arrested from Jodhpur for harassing a Delhi University professor. The man repeatedly called the woman professor and made "obscene" gestures over video calls on WhatsApp, the police said on Thursday.

On January 29, the professor lodged a complaint at Timarpur police station, stating that an unknown person was harassing her. The accused, identified as Dharampal Rai, a resident of Ghazipur, U.P., works as an operator at an RO plant.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said based on the complaint, a case was registered and with the help of a technical team, the suspect was tracked down to Jodhpur.

"The suspect was arrested from an RO plant Salawas village," Mr. Kalsi said. The mobile used in the commission of crime was also recovered, police officers said.

During interrogation, the man allegedly revealed that he used to search Facebook profiles of women at random and, after tracking down their contact numbers, he used send them WhatsApp messages and make video calls.

Coldest February day in 19 years

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ
NEW DELHI

With a maximum temperature of 14.4 degrees Celsius, Thursday was the coldest February day in the Capital since 2003.

The maximum temperature was eight degrees lower than normal as overcast conditions prevailed with strong winds blowing up to 40 kmph.

The minimum temperature was recorded at 11 degrees Celsius, which was three degrees warmer than normal. A few places in the city received light rain as well with the weather station at Safdarjung recording 0.2 mm of rainfall.

The change in weather, the IMD said, was under the influence of a western disturbance and high moisture feeding from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal to north-west India.

The forecast for Friday says "partly cloudy sky with very light rain". The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 17 and 9 degrees respectively.

Timings
DELHI

FRIDAY, FEB. 04		
RISE	07:08	SET 18:03
RISE	09:24	SET 21:23
SATURDAY, FEB. 05		
RISE	07:07	SET 18:04
RISE	09:56	SET 22:20
SUNDAY, FEB. 06		
RISE	07:07	SET 18:05
RISE	10:26	SET 23:17

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	14	11
Safdarjang	14	11
Palam	14	11

Delhi Palam Today
18°C Day will be cool. Night will be cold & hazy. Chances of light rain & thundershower at some places.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
19°C The weather will be dry. Dense fog is expected in cold morning. Day will be cool. Night will be cold with fall in temperature.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

IN BRIEF

Four girls drown

DAMAN

Four girls drowned in a creek on Thursday in Daman, police said. Another girl was rescued. The group had ventured into the creek near Jampore beach for a bath. PTI

Akhilesh, Jayant take on U.P. CM over law and order situation

SP chief refers to gang rape and murder of a minor girl in Bulandshahr

ANUJ KUMAR
BULANDSHAHR

Referring to the alleged gang rape and murder of a minor girl in Bulandshahr. Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav and Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) chief Jayant Singh took on the BJP government for its poor track record on the law and order in the State.

"Like the Hathras case, the family of the victim is complaining that their daughter was cremated by the police at night after putting pressure on them but the Chief Minister is busy praising himself for the law and order," said Mr. Yadav.

The minor died on January 22 in Dibai area of the district. The police said the post-mortem had not confirmed rape and that the girl was shot dead by the boy she was in a relationship with.

The boy, who allegedly tried to kill himself after the incident, has been arrested and is charged with murder and relevant Sections of the POCSO Act.

Roadshow of SP, RLD leaders in Bulandshahr . ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

The case assumed political colour after the family members accused Bharatiya Janata Party's Shikarpur candidate Anil Sharma, a Minister in the Yogi Adityanath government, for providing patronage to the Brahmin boys allegedly involved in the case. Mr. Singh has tweeted about the case, putting pressure on the administration.

In his election speeches, the CM has been targeting Mr. Yadav for his government's poor track record on law and order and shielding the criminal elements.

Mr. Yadav took on the belligerent tone of Mr. Adityanath during election rallies and asked "if he were compressor that would take or reduce the heat of people. A CM should not use undignified words and we would request the Election Commission to take note of it. "We will fight the BJP with bhaichara [brotherhood]. I have been saying all along jo paida kare khaiee wo hai bhajpayi. [the one who creates division is the BJP]".

He also charged the government with ignoring the interests of the farmers as there was no mention of its electoral promise of doubling their income by 2022 in the Budget.

Priyanka arrives

Towards the end of the day, the campaign took an interesting turn when the paths of Mr Yadav's *rath* and Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's SUV, who was campaigning in Anoopshahr and Sikandrabad, crossed in Bulandshahr. Ms. Vadra waived at Mr. Yadav and Mr. Singh and the duo got on top of the repurposed bus and greeted her with folded hands. Smiles were shared and the supporters of both the parties broke into a spontaneous cheer.

Need time to consult stakeholders on marital rape, Centre tells HC

'Govt. committed to protect rights of every woman'

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

In the wake of the High Court seeking clarity on whether the Centre would stick to its earlier stand – against making marital rape a criminal offence – the Centre on Thursday urged the court to defer the ongoing proceedings, seeking time to carry out a consultation process with all stakeholders including all the State governments.

A Bench of Justice Rajiv Shakdher and Justice C. Hari Shankar had earlier this week said that if the Union government does not clarify its stand, the court would go by the earlier affidavits filed by it.

The Bench had remarked that this issue could not be kept hanging.

The Union government had, in an affidavit filed in 2017, stated that criminalising marital rape "may destabilise the institution of marriage" and would become an easy tool for harassing husbands.

However, in an additional affidavit, filed on Thursday, the Centre said that it could assist the High Court "only after a consultative process is undertaken by the Central government with all stakeholders including the State governments".

"The government of India is committed to fully and meaningfully protect the liberty, dignity and rights of every woman who is the fundamental foundation and a pillar of a civilized society," the Centre said.

'Far-reaching affect'

"At the same time, the question involved in the petition may not be treated merely as a question concerning constitutional validity of a statutory provision as the subject matter has and will have very far reaching socio-legal implications in the country. The matter, therefore, needs a comprehensive approach rather than a strictly legal approach," it added.

"The State governments are not before this court. No other stakeholders are before this court other than few affected parties and the Central government," it highlighted.

While the first petition in the case was filed in 2015, the day-to-day hearing commenced in January this year after one of the petitioners mentioned the matter for final hearing. This left, "no time for the Centre government to deliberate upon the issue and implication involved with all stakeholders as such an exercise, by it very nature, takes a reasonable time," the Centre stated in its affidavit.

"Absence of any such consultative process by the executive/ legislature, may result in some injustice to one section or the other," it said.

The High Court will continue hearing the case on Friday.

In India, marital rape is not defined in any statute or law.

Tejashwi slams Nitish over care home incident

Patna High Court takes suo motu cognisance of a viral video of an inmate

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Opposition leader in the Bihar Assembly and Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Tejashwi Yadav on Thursday expressed "shock" over the incident of an inmate of an aftercare home in Gaighat locality of the city alleging sexual abuse after being sedated and tortured physically.

The Patna High Court on February 2 took suo motu cognizance of a viral video in which the inmate, who somehow managed to come out of the aftercare care home earlier, was seen accusing a top official of the home of sexual abuse and other physical torture. The court fixed the next date of hearing on February 7.

In 2019, Bihar was rocked by news of sexual and physical exploitation of 34 girls at a remand home in Muzaffarpur district.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav

"It is a shocking incident which has come three-four days ago of a girl of *Uttar Raksha Griha* [aftercare home] in Patna accusing a top official there of sexual and physical torture. I'll first inquire into the matter in detail and then make my statement on it", said Mr. Yadav upon reaching Patna on Thursday.

He took a jibe at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for the "failure" of his government to identify '*tond wale uncle* [pot-bellied uncle] and *moonch wale uncle* [uncle with moustache]' who allegedly frequented the Muzaffarpur shelter home as accused by the victims in their statement.

A Division Bench of the the High Court comprising Chief Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice S. Kumar asked why there was no FIR lodged into the incident.

'Sexually exploited'

In the video, which went viral on social media on February 1, the girl alleged that she along with other inmates were forced into sexual exploitation after being sedated and physically tortured at the behest of the superintendent of the aftercare home. She also alleged in the video that strangers visited the aftercare home at night and sometimes the inmates were sent with them on the pretext of their relatives and family members. She further alleged that a girl who resisted the harassment was even killed and the incident was termed suicide.

'No FIR registered'

"No FIR has been registered on such a disclosure of the victim. Even more surprising is that the Director General of the Social Welfare Department has conducted an inquiry and only on the basis of the CCTV footage installed in the aftercare home has come to the conclusion that the accusation made by the so-called victim is baseless and false. It does not appear that an inquiry was made with the victim", observed the High Court on February 2.

Earlier, the Social Welfare Department, after conducting an inquiry into the girl's allegation, termed it "baseless".

Court tells youngster to undergo counselling over Clubhouse case

He was member of chat room that saw anti-women remarks

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

As a bail condition, a magistrate court directed a youngster to undergo counselling for general social behaviour and for following netiquettes (norms of behaviour while using social media and other online platforms) in the Club House App case.

Club House is a mobile application which has a group for discussion called Chat Room where objectionable and derogatory remarks were made against women.

On February 1, the court granted bail to one of the accused after finding out that he was falsely implicated and was not Yash Parashar as named in the FIR but Yash Kumar who was only a participant of the Chat Room.

Advocate Akshay Bafna appeared for Yash and contended he is innocent and falsely implicated in the case and has spent 10 days in police custody. He was a member of the Chat Room but he never commented on or hosted anything. The ID used does not belong to him and he has been made a scapegoat.

The court took note of the applicant's name being Yash Kumar and not Yash Parashar. "The specific query was put before investigating officer and prosecutor about the connection of present applicant [Yash Kumar] with a person named Yash Parashar in the FIR. They failed to produce anything on record which will show that the present applicant Yash Kumar and Yash Parashar are the same persons."

In the order made available on Thursday, the court remarked: "It is necessary to mention that this court and everybody coming across various cases found that irresponsible use of social media is rampant. The people and particularly young generation in their teenage ignoring etiquettes and mannerisms are insulting every member of society and every corner of social life including religion, race, gender etc. The immediate attention towards this aspect is necessary ..... and the situation may go out of control as everybody across the world have access to it and a majority of them may attempt to react on their own way ignoring the social norms and morality. The manner of collection of evidence by way of investigation is not in tune with the pace of time."

Tricolour unfurled at Jinnah Tower

STAFF REPORTER
GUNTUR

Amid controversy over renaming the historic Jinnah Tower in the city, Home Minister Mekathoti Sucharita on Thursday unfurled the national flag at the tower in the presence of a large number of MLAs, officials and people, who thronged the busy commercial centre.

"I am happy that our government has given a befitting reply to the communal forces who tried to disturb the communal harmony prevailing in the town for many years. People should realise that no communal force can succeed in its attempts to create a wedge between two communities and destroy the secular fabric," said Ms. Sucharita.

MLC Lella Appireddy said that historic Tower had been an enduring symbol of communal harmony.

Many prefer work over vote in Odisha's hinterland

2 lakh migrant workers likely to miss the upcoming rural polls; elections hold no meaning to them

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

Dusma Sabar in Odisha's Nuapada district has been desperately chasing a labour agent to bring back his son from a brick kiln in Telangana so that last rites of his deceased daughter-in-law could be performed.

His daughter-in-law, Tulsa Sabar, who was contesting in the upcoming rural elections for samiti member post in Badi panchayat, died suddenly on January 24. Mr. Sabar's wife, son and niece are stranded in a brick-kiln in Peddapalli district of Telangana.

If three family members could not come home in such an emergency, where is the guarantee they would be allowed to return home to cast their votes in the Odisha panchayat polls scheduled for February third week?

From the deceased candidate's village, Chantumal, 22 brick-makers are working in other States. They are supposed to return only in June, after panchayat elections are over.

According to civil society organisations, more than one lakh families from five western districts - Balangir, Bargarh, Nuapada, Kalahandi and Subarnapur - migrated mostly to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to work at construction sites and brick kilns. Since their contracts end in June, they are unlikely to come to exercise their franchise now. A conservative estimate5 says around 2 lakh voters may be deprived of this opportunity.

Hollow promises

For Kartik Rana, the brick-maker in Tureikela of Balangir district, the upcoming panchayat polls hold no meaning as it happens every five years without impacting his life and livelihood. He is likely to stay on with his wife and three minor daughters in Tamil Nadu till he earns his full money. He fell into debt after building a kitchen and boundary wall for his home. Now, a month before the elections he took up work outside to be able to dig a borewell. His exit also exposes the government's hollow promises of making irrigation and drinking water available to villagers.

Surendra Rana, 30, had cast his vote in 2017 panchayat elections. But this year he will give it a miss as he has to work for survival and has taken up a job in the brick kiln where Kartik Rana works.

Dolamani Banchor, who filed nomination for Sarpanch posts in Karuamunda gram panchayat in Balangir district, told *The Hindu*, there are about 3,400 voters whose names are registered in voters' list. "But, 1,500 voters will not be able to cast their vote as they are all expected to return in June," he said.

Missing voters

In Karuamunda gram panchayat, Radha Jani's husband, who was elected as a ward member in Andalpur village, has also migrated. Jalandhar Mahakud, a retired teacher who is contesting the election as Sarpanch candidate, said, Tureikela gram panchayat with 5,605 voters would be missing 1,200 of them.

Zilla parishad member candidate Sudarshan Kata faces same predicament. Of the 25,000 registered voters in zone number 11 in Tureikela block, 18,000 voters won't be able to make it.

It is not easy for any migrant worker to take leave and lose three days wages to return home to cast vote. It is not possible for the candidates to fund their travel expenses though there have been instances in the past where candidates made arrangements for the seasonal workers to come and vote in the Assembly and general elections.

"The moment a villager migrates for work, the process of his exclusion begins; they feel disempowered and alienated and also face difficulty in enrolling their names for welfare schemes," said Umi Daniel, head of the migration unit of Aide et Action, an NGO.

'Need for model'

Mr. Daniel said the issue of enabling migrant workers to vote has been debated for long. "There is a need for a model that would help them to cast their vote. For example, the district administrations in all migrant-rich zones can target their employment generation programmes in a way that it does not affect election period," he said.

T.N. moves SC in student death case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Tamil Nadu on Thursday appealed to the Supreme Court to stay a Madras High Court order transferring to the CBI the investigation into the death by suicide of a 17-year-old student in Thanjavur amid a controversy sparked by a private video on social media in which the girl allegedly said she was asked to convert to Christianity.

The State government, represented by advocate Joseph S. Aristotle, argued that there were no grounds before the Madurai Bench of the High Court to hand over the case to the CBI.

Interim orders

Tamil Nadu has challenged a series of interim orders passed by the High Court on January 21, 22 and 24. It has also asked the Supreme Court to set aside the January 31 order transferring the case to CBI and to expunge certain observations made by the single judge, including the one that the police were attempting to "derail" the investigation. The State contended that the interim orders had interfered with the fair and impartial probe.

Actor Dileep moves HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Actor Dileep approached the Kerala High Court on Thursday challenging the further investigation being conducted by the Crime Branch in the case relating to hatching a conspiracy to do away with the investigation officers in the actor sexual assault case.

Celebrating 100 years of Bhimsen Joshi

The life of the legend continues to inspire those who are passionate about music

GIRISH PATTANASHETTI
HUBBALLI

Mention Pandit Bhimsen Joshi and every music lover of Dharwad will tell you a story about him as a maverick boy growing up in north Karnataka towns.

The life of Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, whose 100th birth anniversary is on February 4, continues to be a source of inspiration for many youngsters who are passionate about music.

"It was here that his association with theatre began," recalls Ramakant Joshi, proprietor of Manohar Granthamala, whose father, litterateur and publisher G.B. Joshi (Jada Bharata) took Bhimsen to Bagalkot to act in the play *Nala Damayanti*.

Bhimsen Joshi stayed in Dharwad for around five years.

"During this period, my father arranged the staging of two plays *Bhagyashree* and *Parivartana*, in which Bhimsen Joshi played the lead role and composed the music. These plays were staged in various towns and cities. It was during this period that he met Vatsala, an actor, whom he married later and subsequently shifted to Pune. But, he shared a special bond with Dharwad till the end," Mr. Ramakant Joshi said.

Musicians like M. Venkateshkumar find in Bhimsen Joshi an endless source of inspiration. "The struggle that he faced, the dedication, the commitment towards music always inspires us," Pandit Venkateshkumar told *The Hindu*.

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

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. 29

SilverLine has in-principle nod, claims Kerala Finance Minister

K.N. Balagopal alleges attempts to mislead the public about the K-Rail project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal on Thursday claimed that the SilverLine semi-high-speed rail corridor project had in-principle nod but attempts were being made to mislead the public by creating an impression that no such approvals existed.

Mr. Balagopal told reporters here that pre-investment activities related to the project had been taken up on the strength of the in-principle approval and joint discussions. Quoting letters from the Centre, Mr. Balagopal claimed that the in-principle approval was accorded in December 2019.

The process for obtaining the remaining approvals was on and they were expected soon. People in high positions should refrain from misrepresenting facts and misleading the people.

K.N. Balagopal

In the reply given to Parliament on Wednesday, the Union government pointed out that the detailed project report (DPR) was under examination by the Ministry of Railways, he said.

"The letter reads, 'Sufficient details for technical feasibility are not available in the DPR. Therefore Kerala Rail Development Corporation Ltd (K-Rail) has been advised to provide detailed technical documents such as alignment, alignment plans, particularly of railway land and private land crossing over the existing railway network.' It goes on to add that 'Financial viability will also be examined and firming up after finalisation of technical parameters'," Mr. Balagopal said.

A letter from the Centre in August 2019 stated that the proposal had been examined in the Ministry of Railways and 'the competent authority has accorded in-principle approval for taking up pre-investment activities for the above-mentioned project', he said.

A further letter from the Centre informed the State that at a meeting on October 9, 2020 it was decided that the project implementation agency (PIA) and the Kerala government may engage with the Japan International Cooperation Agency to move forward to finalise the designing of packages which would facilitate co-financing and, in the meanwhile, land acquisition and other clearances may be expedited.

BMC budget focuses on health and infrastructure

It is an estimated 17.70% rise from fiscal 2021-22

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Taking a cue from the Union Budget, the Shiv Sena-ruled Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Thursday presented its budget for fiscal 2022-23 worth ₹45,949.21 crore. Highest outlay of ₹22,646 crore has been earmarked for infrastructure.

The budget, presented by Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal, has estimated a 17.70% rise from the fiscal 2021-22.

The provision of ₹22,646.73 crore for infrastructure works includes speedy completion of major projects like the Coastal Road Project (₹2,200 crore), Goregaon-Mulund Link Road (₹1,300 crore) and ₹2,200 crore for improvement of other roads.

The BMC has also decided to earmark ₹400 crore for widening of the Mithi river and nullahs in Brihanmumbai Phase - II & III and a ₹200 crore provision for rejuvenation of rivers.

Mumbai being worst-hit by the pandemic, the civic body has announced a health budget of ₹6,933.75 crore, which is 15.09% of the total budget. Out of this, ₹400 crore is for 200 Hinduhridaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Health Centers, ₹30 crore for 200 Shiv Yog Kendras, ₹303 crore for standardisation and modernisation of dispensaries and ₹14 crore for early intervention and rehabilitation centre for differently-abled children. Also, ₹1,464.35 crore will be allotted for redevelopment and expansion of municipal hospitals as well as constructing new ones.

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

EDUCATIONAL

VIJETHA IAS ACADEMY
ANTHROPOLOGY
90 DAYS Online Classroom Program — Starting From 9th FEB
60 DAYS Online Daily Answer Writing & Test Series Program — Starting From 9th FEB
7/50, IInd Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi — Admissions Open
011-42473555 | 9650852636 www.vijethaiasacademy.com

KSG An Institute For IAS Exam...
POWER OF CLASSROOM COURSES AT KSG
RACHIT RAJ CSE-2013 — TINA DABI AIR-1 CSE-2015 — SRUSHTI JAYANT DESHMUKH CSE-2018
GS HIGHEST MARKS IN INDIA 3 TIMES IN 5 YEARS
UPSC CSE-2020 RESULTS AT KSG
5 Out of 5
81 Out of 100
165 Out of 200
239 Out of 300
313 Out of 400
388 Out of 500
457 Out of 600
531 Out of 700
563 Out of 761
ANSWER WRITING IS A SKILL
WE WORK ON SKILLING
IT IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR FOUNDATION COURSES
ONLINE FOUNDATION COURSE
KSG Online Learning
QUALITY OF PHYSICAL CLASSES WITH CONVENIENCE OF ONLINE
STARTING FROM 7th FEBRUARY
9868 005599
ADMISSION OPEN
JOIN OUR FREE PRE-PREPARATION PLAN

OFFLINE FOUNDATION COURSE

DATE	CENTRE	CONTACT NO.
28th February	BENGALURU (Chandra Layout)	7619 136 662
11th June	RANCHI (Siromtoli Chowk)	9939 982 007
17th June	DELHI (Vijay Nagar)	9717 380 832
17th June	DELHI (Rajender Nagar)	9811 293 743
20th June	BENGALURU (Koramangala)	7619 166 663
24th June	JAIPUR (Tonk Road)	8290 800 441
11th July	PATNA (Exhibition Road)	7463 950 774
22nd July	BHOPAL (M.P. Nagar)	7509 975 361
25th July	INDORE (Bhawar Kuan)	9893 772 941

8826 612 521 / 8826 632 521 / 8826 002 521
www.ksgindia.com

IAS/PCS
INDIAN ECONOMY GS
www.rameshwarias.com
TARGETED PT-2022 BATCH
ENGLISH MEDIUM
Integrated with ECONOMIC SURVEY & BUDGET
7th Feb.
By- RAMESHWAR
Download APP Rameshwar's IAS — GET Online CLASS
Rameshwar's Path Towards A Bright Future FOR CIVIL SERVICES
A-19, IIIrd Floor, Priyanka Tower, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi- 110009
8750908833, 8750918844

EDUCATIONAL

PRELIMS SPECIAL BATCH-2022
• Complete Coverage of Syllabus
• Includes -15 Full Length Test
• Duration 75 Days
Fee ₹9,500/-
Live / Online / Offline
EMPOWER IAS
011-49409261 847-094-0655
4C/17,Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-60

SITUATION VACANT
GENERAL

VISIONIAS INSPIRING INNOVATION
www.visionias.in
India's leading organization based in Delhi invites passionate individuals for the role of
CONTENT DEVELOPER for GS in
• English Medium
• हिन्दी माध्यम
• English-Hindi Translator (prior experience)
Skills Desired :
✓ Comfortable in translation (English to Hindi)
✓ Work Experience (at least 1 year)
✓ Have written Civil Services (Main) examination
Send your updated resume to
recruitment@visionias.in

MERI COLLEGE OF ENGG. & TECH.
Approved by AICTE and Affiliated to M.D.U., Rohtak
Asanda, Near Sampla, District Jhajjar, Haryana
E-mail: directormericet@meri.edu.in
Website: www.meri.edu.in
M: 8950001287
The Applications are invited for the following positions on regular basis :
TEACHING
1. Professor-01, Associate Professor-02 and Assistant Professor-08 each in the Departments of C.S.E., C.E., M.E. and E.C.E.
2. Assistant Professors-08 each in Management for M.B.A. Course, Assistant Professor in Management for B.B.A. Course, Assistant Professor in Computer Application for B.C.A. Course
Non-Teaching
Librarian-1, Admin Officer-1, Technical Assistant-2, Computer Operator-2, Clerk-cum-Typist-2, Data Entry Operator-2, Library Attendant-1, Lab. Attendant-4, Safai Karamchari-4 and Peon-4
Qualification, Pay Scales and Experience as per AICTE/UGC/MDU Norms.
The Qualification for the posts of Assistant Professor in BBA, BCA and Librarian are NET/Ph.D.
The Candidate who have applied through the Advt. dated 28.11.2021 need not to apply again. Candidates may download the Application Form from Website www.meri,edu.in or obtain from the office of the College on any Working day and Apply to the Chairman of the College by Regd. Post/By Hand or at e-mail directormericet@meri.edu.in along with copy of all testimonials, experience certificates etc. within 21 days. It is Mandatory to send a Copy of Application Form to the D.C.D.C., MDU, Rohtak, Through Regd. Post or by Hand Only.
Chairman TESWS, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

MALIBU ESTATE PRIVATE LIMITED
Site Office: 2nd Floor, Shopping Arcade, Malibu Towne, Sector 47, Sohna Road, Gurugram, Haryana – 122018.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas M/s. Malibu Estate Pvt. Ltd. (the Developer) is in the process to regularize the public services on layout plan of "MALIBU TOWNE", Village- Tikri, Fatehpur, Jharsa & Adampur, Sector-47 & 50 Gurugram, Haryana, over an area admeasuring 204.796 acres (covered in License No. 71 to 75 of 1992 dated 28.10.1992, License No. 4 to 8 of 1993 dated 18.03.1993, License No. 15 to 19 of 1994 dated 08.12.1994, License No. 4 to 8 of 1995 dated 15.11.1995, License No. 36 to 46 of 1997 dated 21.07.1997 & License No. 15 of 2008 dated 31.01.2008).

Necessary facilities of 33/11 KVA Electric Substations, DG Sets, Pump Rooms, UGT Water Tank and Sewage Treatment Plants have been provided as part of the development and subsequent upgradation. These facilities were duly approved by the authorities, but not marked on the layout plan as it was not mandatory at that time. These facilities are obviously critical for an uninterrupted flow of services in the township and for the betterment of the whole township.

In accordance with the process, a request has been made to DTCP to get these facilities marked on the layout plan. A copy of the proposed Layout Plan bearing drawing no. DTCP/5626 Dated: 28.09.2016 approved-in-principle by the DTCP, Chandigarh, Haryana, marked with these facilities is available at Malibu Estate Pvt. Ltd. office & also on our company's website www.malibutoneggn.com, in accordance with the directions vide letter dated 27.01.2022 given by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh, in compliance of the order dated 25.01.2021.

However, please feel free to file objection, if any, in the office of "Senior Town Planner, Sector 14, HUDA Complex, Gurugram, Haryana", within 30 (thirty) days of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the above stated proposed Layout Plan.

For **Malibu Estate Pvt. Ltd.**
Place: Gurugram | **Date:** 03.02.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tirpit Thakur S/o Late Shri Dhaneshwar Thakur R/o T-265 E Chirag Delhi New Delhi-110017 permanent address: Village and Post-Nakti Via-Rajnagar Distric-Madhubani Bihar-847235, has disowned and debarred my Son Jitendra Kumar Thakur S/o Tirpit Thakur, Daughter in Law Rakhi Jha D/o Satyanarayan Jha and W/o Jitendra Kumar Thakur and Grand daughter Divyanshi Thakur D/o Jitendra Kumar Thakur and Nancy Thakur D/o-Jitendra Kumar Thakur from all her movable and immovable properties, If anybody deals with them, he/she will do so at his/her own risk, cost and consequences.

In future, if there is any legal dispute with them, then there will be no responsibility of me and my family.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of **"JAI JAWAN KISAN NAUJAWAN SANVIDHAN PARTY".** The office of the party is located at Village Vahanpur, Post-Kailora, Hathras Jn. District-Hathras U.P. 204102 This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi of its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951- Name address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows:

President- Mr Suryakant Singh S/O Shri Mahaveer Singh, Vill-Vahanpur, Post-Kailora, Hathras In District - Hathras, UP - 204102, Mob-9897854728

General Secretary- Mr. Braj Mohan S/O Shri Netrapal Singh, Vill Barauli, Post- Dariyapur, District - Hathras UP-204102, Mob-9760407478

Treasurer - Mr. Puneet Kumar S/O Shri Bhupendra Kumar Vill & Post-Baghraya, District - Hathras UP-204102 Mob-8800802835

If any one has any objection to the registration of **"JAI JAWAN KISAN NAUJAWAN SANVIDHAN PARTY".** They may send their Objection with reasons there of, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large are hereby informed that Sh. Saurabh Agarwal & Sh. Sunil Kumar Agarwal claims to be the absolute & undisputed leasehold owner and in possession of **Flat No.404 on Fourth Floor, Tower - Jellypalm-D, "Omaxe Palm Green", at Plot No.GH-02, Sector-MU, Greater Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.**, on the basis Sub-Lease Deed registered dated 21.05.2014 executed by Greater Noida Authority (as Lessor) and M/s Omaxe Buildhome Pvt. Ltd. (as Lessee) in their favour.

Now, **Sh. Lalit Kumar & Smt. Monika Pal** proposes to purchase the aforesaid flat from Sh. Saurabh Agarwal & Sh. Sunil Kumar Agarwal by availing the loan facility from our client **ICICI Bank Ltd.** against the security of aforesaid flat.

Any person(s) claiming any rights, title or interests whatsoever, in and over the aforesaid flat or any part thereof through sale, exchange, mortgage, gift, trust, inheritance, bequest, possession, lease, lien, easement or otherwise may lodge his claims/objections with documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned, **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice, as otherwise **Sh. Lalit Kumar & Smt. Monika Pal** shall proceed towards the purchase transaction with good faith, as if there are no subsisting claims/objections, and all such claims/objections not filed in time shall be deemed to have been waived & given up and shall not be binding on them & our client **ICICI Bank Ltd.**

Mohd. Raees (Advocate)
D/4458/2015
R & P Legal
Advocates & Legal Consultants
I-1693, Cittaranjan Park, New Delhi -110019
Mobile No: 9654708907
Ph. 011-46063838, 41018803 Extn.106

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING
UTTAR PRADESH, 6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW.

No. ME-3/2022/ 286 — Lucknow, Dated: 03rd February, 2022

The Time Schedule of Second Round of Online Counselling of UP NEET PG-2021

The Time Schedule for the Admission through Online counselling in the State Uttar Pradesh for Government/Private Medical College/Institutions/Universtites for Postgraduate Courses (MD/MS/Diploma) is as follows:-

Date of Online Registration (MD/MS/Diploma)	4th February 2022 (From 2:00 PM) To 7th February 2022 (Till 2:00 PM)
Date of Security fee deposition	4th February 2022 (From 2:00 PM) To 8th February 2022
Expected date of Declaration of Merit List	08th February 2022
Date of Online Choice Filling	11th February 2022 (From 2:00 PM) To 14th February 2022(Till 2:00 PM)
Declaration of result of seat allotment	15/16th February 2022
Date for downloading allotment letters and admission date	17th February 2022 to 21st February 2022 (Except Sunday & Government Holidays)

- Registration fee & Security fee should be submitted by Debit card/Credit card / E-challan.
- For PH Candidates, please see the Government of India Notice dated 01-12-2021, the above notice contains the list of centers which will issue the Disability Certificate. The Notice dated 01.12.2021 of Government of India has also been displayed on the departmental website www.dgme.up.gov.in
- Candidates should register separately for MD/MS/Diploma & DNB course, and security fee deposited separate for each course.
- Candidates registered in first round of counselling are not required to register again.
- Those Candidates who have registered in first round but not submitted security fee, will have to submit security fee, to be eligible.
- Candidates allotted government medical college should report to allotted college and complete admission process and do their duties.
- Candidates allotted Private medical college should report to Nodal center and complete admission process, after that report to admitted college and do their duties.
- For further important and detailed information kindly visit the website. https://upneet.gov.in & www.dgme.up.gov.in

Director General

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown **S/o** Unknown, **R/o** Unknown **Age:** about 35 to 38 years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Normal, **Face:** Oval, **Wearing:** Light yellow coloured shirt, brown coloured pant and bare foot, was found dead near T Point, Tanga Stand, Qutab Road, Sadar Bazar, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved at the Mortuary of Subzi Mandi for identification. In this regard a **DD No.26A, u/s 174 Cr.PC dated 18.01.2022** has been lodged at P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO
P.S.Sadar Bazar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23512411, 23512412
Mob.: 8750870124

DP/1945/N/2022

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.PC.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Sanjay Kumar Sharma, Purchase Officer Saree Mahal Bhawana Fashions** R/o 94, G.T. Road, Near Choudhary Mor, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh has committed (or is suspected to has committed) the offence in **CC No. 1684/2017 U/S 138 NI Act** PS Lahori Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sanjay Kumar Sharma, Purchese Officer Saree Mahal Bhawana Fashinos** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sanjay Kumar Sharma, Purchese Officer Saree Mahal Bhawana Fashinos** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sanjay Kumar Sharma, Purchese Officer Saree Mahal Bhawana Fashinos** of No. **CC No. 1684/2017 U/S 138 NI Act** PS Lahori Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 13.04.2022.

By Order
Neha Gupta Singh
Metropolitan Magistrate
Central Room No. 268
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/1939/N/2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
REMOTE SENSING & AERIAL SURVEYS
VASUDHA BHAVAN, KUMARASWAMY LAYOUT, BANGALORE-560111
Phone : 080-26662574/26662565, **Fax:** 080-26662574/26662595
E-Mail : hodrsas@gsi.gov.in, ddggp.rsas@gsi.gov.in

No. D-34/04/2017-18/45 Vol.III — **Date:03/02/2022**

e-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, The Deputy Director General & HOD, Remote Sensing and Aerial Surveys, Geological Survey of India, Vasudha Bhavan, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore invites Bids in Two Bid System through Government e-market (GeM) (www.gem.gov.in) from reputed and prudential supplier / Company / firms / institutions / Consortium / JV Company etc. for **"Engaging Airborne Survey Providers for Heliborne Magnetic and Time-domain Electromagnetic Aero-geophysical Surveys"**

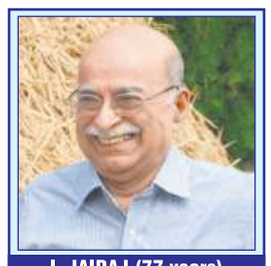
For participation and further details please visit GeM Portal (www.gem.gov.in) and http://www.gsi.gov.in

Dy.Director General & HOD
RSAS, GSI, Bangalore

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

N.S.RAMASWAMY (88), Retired Assistant Controller - Maintenance, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 15-01-2022. Address: New No: 245 Old No: 108, Apt # 7, Residency Apart ments, Alwarpet, Chennai – 600018. Contact: 9940669240



I. JAIRAJ (77 years)
former Director, Gordon Woodroffe, ex-Director, TVS Dynamic
passed away after a brief illness on 3rd Feb 2022.
The perfect gentleman, much loved husband and father, adored grandfather, and cherished friend.
Deeply mourned by
Nirmala, Siddharth, Bharath, Priya, Chitra, Dhruv, Manav, Maitreyi.
Ph: 9841285026

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

झारखण्ड सरकार
जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
खरकई नहर प्रमण्डल, आदित्यपुर
(eekcdadi.icha@gmail.com)

अल्पकालिन ई० निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (तृतीय कॉल)

निविदा आमंत्रण (तृतीय कॉल) सूचना संख्याः– WRD/IGC/KCD-Adityapur/IFB-03/2021-22 दिनांक :–31.01.2022

1.	कार्य का नाम	सरायकेला–खरसावाँ जिला के गम्हरिया प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत जिलिंगगोड़ा गाँव के सामने खरकई नदी पर वीयर तथा इन्टेक वेल का निर्माण कार्य
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू0 में)	रू0 10,00,00,000.00 (रूपये दस करोड़) मात्र
3.	परिमाण विपत्र का मुल्य (रू0 में)	रू0 10,000/- (रूपये दस हजार) मात्र
4.	अग्रधन की राशि (रू0 में)	रू0 10,00,000/- (दस लाख) मात्र
5.	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	365 दिन
6.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 03.02.2022 अपराहन 5:00 बजे।
7.	वेबसाईट से निविदा डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 03.02.2022 अपराहन 5.00 बजे से 10.02.2022 अपराहन 5:00 बजे तक।
8.	निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाईन प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 03.02.2022 से 18.02.2022 अपराहन 5.00 बजे तक
9.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 22.02.2022 अपराहन् 5:00 बजे
10.	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता	ई0 कुमार अरविन्द, कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, खरकई नहर प्रमण्डल, आदित्यपुर
11.	ई0–निविदा आमंत्रण सेल का हेल्प लाईन न0	0657-3510191
12.	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का दूरभाष संख्या	09431166643

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in देखें।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
खरकई नहर प्रमण्डल, आदित्यपुर

PR 263120 Water Resource (21-22)_D

NOTICE

Plot No G11/12 was registered in the name of Ms Sarla Baijal W/o Basant Kumar Baijal R/o G11/12, DLF City Phase 1, Gurugram who has expired on 27/07/2021 and has left no Will of any kind and left her following surviving legal heirs: Sharad Baijal, Rajat Baijal & Sonia Tiwari and besides them there are no other heir to inherit the estate of the deceased now the names of all legal heirs as above being noted in DLF's record in respect of captioned plot. If anybody has any objection to this, he or she may approach Ms/ DLF Ltd or the undersigned within 21 days of publication of this notice.

Lex Allianz
459A, 16, Old Railway Rd,
opp. District Courts, Civil Lines,
Gurugram, Haryana 122001

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

PONDICHERRY INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES will destroy the medical records of patients OP and IP who have not visited the institution, OPD records till 15/01/2022 and IPD records till December 2014. The process of destruction will begin from one month after the date of this publication. If any of the above information scheduled for destruction is pertaining to you and you would like the information provided to you, kindly give a written request at the Medical Records Department at Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences(PIMS) with proof of identification (Aadhar, Election ID card, Passport, PAN card or Ration Card).Digitized copy of destructed OPD and IPD records will be available. **For any query or further information patients can contact : MRD at PIMS 0413-2651246 & 2651244 & 2651250.**

Medical Superintendent
Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences

TENDERS

TENDER NOTICE

TAURUS Officers' Institute, Delhi Cantt-110010

(1) Tender for outsourcing of security services at Taurus Officers' Institute (TOI), Delhi Cantt-110010 are invited.

(2) Tender forms are available at Taurus Officers' Institute, Delhi Cantt from 1000 hrs, 05 Feb, 2022 till 1800 hrs, 19 Feb, 2022. Non-refundable tender fee of Rs. 500/- to be deposited in the form of Cash/Demand Draft drawn in favour of 'Taurus Officers' Institute' for issue of tender.

(3) A Pre-bid conference will be held on 21 Feb, 2022 at Taurus Officers' Institute.

For more information Contact: 011-25692659

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.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of **(a)** Desktop Computers, **(b)** 11 Mts/365 Kgs PSCC Poles to Siddipet, **(c)** Providing SMS Alerts and **(d)** 33 KV Polymer Insulators (B & S) to the consumers of TSSPDCL on e-Procurement platform.

For further details of each item above, please visit **www.tssouthernpower.com, www.tender.telangana.gov.in**

Phone: 040-23431319, 1035, 1033, 1026, 1360 — **Sd/- (U. BALA SWAMY)**
R.O. No.: 2634-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 — **Chief General Manager (P & MM)**

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Delhi Government stands with all the families who lost their loved ones to COVID-19

Ex-gratia assistance under Delhi Disaster Response Fund

- As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India it has been announced by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority that an ex-gratia assistance of Rs 50,000/- will be given to the families of the deceased under Delhi Disaster Response Fund. Visit edistrict.delhigovt.nic.in to avail the application form.

- The application form can also be availed and submitted in the concerned district or area of the deceased person. To download the application form and directives, please visit revenue.delhi.gov.in and ddma.delhigovt.nic.in

- Those who have already availed 50,000/- under Delhi Government's 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Parivar Arthik Sahayta Yojana' need not apply again. The additional ex-gratia assistance will be released on the basis of already available data of such applicants.

Issued in public interest by Delhi Disaster Management Authority

DIP/Shabdarth/D/0200/21-22

Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Government of NCT of Delhi

A ND-NDE

Winter is here

The games in China have taken on political significance, domestically and globally

On the eve of the opening of the Winter Olympics in Beijing on Friday, India announced a diplomatic boycott of the games. The MEA said no Indian official will be present at the opening or closing ceremonies of the games, which run from February 4 to 20. The decision for an official boycott of the games – a lone Indian athlete who qualified, skier Arif Khan, will still take part in both the games and in the opening ceremony along with support staff – followed China's move this week to choose a PLA commander as one of the participants of the traditional torch relay. The commander was involved in the June 15, 2020 clash in Galwan Valley. He was subsequently given military honours by Beijing. The MEA said the commander's participation in the torch relay was "regrettable". Until this week, New Delhi was considering having its top diplomat in Beijing attend the games. Only in November, India joined Russia in expressing support for the games, following a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Russia, India and China. If India, dealing with its own long list of problems with China and a continuing standoff along the Line of Actual Control, had initially planned to not involve itself in the politics surrounding the games, Beijing's torch relay changed that calculus. The broader context of the selection of the PLA commander is an on-going campaign by China to publicise Galwan and highlight the "bravery" of PLA troops.

India's statement of support for the games in November had come amid the U.S. and its allies announcing a diplomatic boycott because of rights violations in Xinjiang, where minority Uighurs have been sent to "reeducation" camps. China first denied the existence of the camps, but later said they were for "vocational training". China denounced the diplomatic boycott by around a dozen countries – which India has now joined albeit for different reasons – as "politicising" the games. It is another matter that Olympic Games, through history, have been inherently political events. For host nations, holding a successful games carries the promise of burnishing the legitimacy of the government of the day. The games within China have certainly taken on particular political significance domestically, in the context of the country's battle against COVID-19. Last month, President Xi Jinping noted that the 2022 Olympics would be "the first international multi-sport event to be held as scheduled since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic". The underlying message is that the successful holding of the games amid the pandemic is another example of the superiority of the Chinese political model, which has been highlighted as a sharp contrast especially with how the U.S. handled the pandemic. Last year, the IOA added the word "together" to the official Olympic motto of "faster, higher, stronger". If that is certainly a laudable aspiration, it is clear that as far as the Olympics are concerned, the politics is never far away. That will certainly be the case in Beijing as the latest games, both on and off the ski slopes, begin.

A disjointed response

Regulatory clarity on crypto assets should have accompanied the tax on traders' profits

One of the most striking moves in the Union Budget's taxation proposals for 2022-23 is the introduction of a taxation regime for virtual digital assets – evolving manifestations of cryptocurrencies, codes and non-fungible tokens. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has proposed to tax all profits from transactions in such assets at 30% along with the applicable surcharge and cess, and a 1% tax to be deducted by buyers while trading in any virtual digital asset beyond a threshold. While the tax on profits will apply from April 1, 2022, which officials said will not preclude profits already booked before that date from the tax liability, the TDS provisions aimed at creating a transaction trail for the tax authorities, will kick in from July 1. While trading profits will be taxed at, according to crypto industry players, a higher rate compared to other jurisdictions, no deductions will be allowed on account of setting off losses from such trading or from any other capital losses. The only deduction permitted would be the cost of acquiring the asset. The term 'property' under the I-T Act is being expanded to include virtual digital assets so that such assets received as a gift shall be taxable except when received from relatives. However, the taxation regime by itself, Ms. Sitharaman has emphasised, does not grant legitimacy to the trade in these currently unregulated assets. A consultation process is underway, which will determine the legal position of such assets.

This provides some relief for the growing flock of crypto investors. The Government may still not consider them fully legit, yet the tax regime indicates the hard option of an outright ban that was signalled in the nomenclature of a proposed crypto law last year is off the table. Listed first for Parliament's monsoon session, then again in the winter, that legislation is also now off the agenda. All this time, India's youth, who the Prime Minister worried were being lured by crypto players' misleading ads, continue to be swayed, with no norms brought in place to rein in such ballyhoo, and no regulatory watch. Whether this case is different from collective investment and plantation schemes that were belatedly regulated is ponderable. The delay in arriving at a decision also pre-empts Indian start-ups and innovators from developing products and ideas that can be scaled up globally given the nature of these assets. In November, the Government had indicated a forward-looking approach to crypto market oversight. It is time those words are matched with a clear regulatory framework soon instead of ambiguous waffling and dithering.

A border move that will only bolster China

The attempt to delink the strategically important area of Depsang from the ongoing Ladakh border crisis is worrying

SUSHANT SINGH

After the 1962 Sino-India War was over, the Indian Army was confronted with the problem of bodies of around 190 Indian soldiers lying in areas around 8 kilometres to 16 kilometres inside the Chinese 1960 claim line in Ladakh. Collecting the bodies of the fallen soldiers after the war through mutual consent is an established military practice, and the Indian Red Cross wrote to its Chinese counterpart in April 1963. The Chinese turned down the request, stating that the bodies had been properly buried, and there was no need to send any Indian parties into disputed areas. As most Indian soldiers were to be cremated, not buried, the issue was again taken up with the Chinese. In August, the Chinese agreed to carry out the cremation and hand over the ashes to the Indian Red Cross.

When the Indian Red Cross requested that Indian representatives be present during the ceremony, the Chinese cancelled the arrangements altogether. In its memo on September 16, 1963, the Chinese Foreign Ministry accused the Indian government of trying to lay claim to these territories through this device.

While cancelling these arrangements, the Chinese Foreign Ministry insisted that the Indians who died at their posts in Ladakh were 'invaders' and not defending their 'motherland'. Earlier, after overcoming the stiff Indian resistance at Rezang La, memorialised in the Hindi film, *Haqeeqat*, and at Gurung Hill, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had buried the bodies of five Indian soldiers – wooden posts with the inscriptions in Chinese and English, 'The Corpses of Indian Invaders'. The purpose of the elaborate exercise was to deny any legitimate Indian presence and claim over these areas in future negotiations. If Indian soldiers had died defending their motherland, then it was an area in Indian possession and control – that would belie the Chinese claim over the territories in Ladakh. Its efforts to create facts on the ground to bolster its 'historical' claim underline the extent of Chinese enterprise in asserting its territorial claims.

Delinking Depsang

It thus comes as a surprise that in a recent television interview, the Indian Army Chief, General M.M. Naravane, argued that "out of the five or six friction points (in Ladakh), five have been solved". 'Friction point' is an Indian euphemism for points of Chinese ingress into hitherto India-controlled territory in Ladakh, where this control is exercised by the Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) through regular patrols to the claimed areas. These 'friction points' are Depsang, Galwan, Hot Springs, Gogra, North bank of Pangong Tso, Kailash Range and Demchok. By asserting that only one of the friction points is remaining to be resolved – he was referring to Hot Springs or PP15, the only one discussed in the last round of talks with the Chinese – he implicitly ruled out Depsang as an area to be resolved. This attempt to delink the strategically important area of Depsang from the ongoing Ladakh border crisis is worrying. It may suit the domestic political agenda of the Narendra Modi government of proclaiming an early end to the crisis, but it has long-term strategic consequences for India.

Depsang is an enclave of flat terrain located in an area the Army classifies as Sub-Sector North (SSN), which provides land access to Central Asia through the Karakoram Pass. A few kilometres south-east from the important airstrip of Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), the Chinese army has blocked Indian patrols since early 2020 at a place called Y-junction or Bottleneck, denying it access to five PPs: PP10, PP11, PP11A, PP12 and PP13. A joint patrol of the ITBP and Army would

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

patrol these five PPs approximately once a month. Y-junction is around 18 km on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control, even though the Chinese claim line lies another five kilometres further west, to the east of Burtse town. Satellite imagery from November 2021 confirms Chinese deployments at the Y-junction: two PLA Ground Force camps with six infantry fighting vehicles split between two positions while a small Indian Army forward camp is stationed 1.2 km west of the Y-junction.

Stand-off in 2013 and patrols

The Indian forward camp is the new patrol base, with a permanent patrol deployed there, that was created after a 22-day long stand-off at Y-junction in April 2013. Since then, it has observed and stopped Chinese patrols from moving further to the Indian side, but a PLA patrol had still managed to get up to around 1.5 km short of Burtse in September 2015. Essentially, till the current blockade, the Indian side was able to access the five patrolling points, asserting Indian control, while the PLA had been denied access to its claim line since the late 2000s. That status quo has been disturbed since early 2020.

Since the Ladakh border crisis came to light in May 2020, a section of the security establishment has tried to bury any conversation about Depsang. Media reports attributable to 'sources' have labelled it a 'legacy issue,' suggesting that the crisis has continued since April 2013. The 2013 stand-off was resolved diplomatically after negotiations led to reversal of an Indian ingress and bunker construction on the Chinese side in Chumar, while the PLA stepped away from the Y-junction. Lt. Gen. K.T. Parnaik (retd.), the then Northern Army Commander, has confirmed "resort(ing) to a quid pro quo, as we did during the Depsang intrusion in 2013. Early response creates leverage."

Former Ladakh Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Rakesh Sharma (retd.) was categorical in asserting that "patrolling had continued, as planned, since [the] April/May 2013 stand-off" and "to now state that we were not able to reach our LOP since 2013 as [the] PLA was blocking our movement, is pure heresy". The fact that specific major general-level talks for Depsang were held with the Chinese on August 8, 2020 proves that it is part of the ongoing crisis. A 22-day stand-off in 2013 generated much public and media outrage but a 22-month long blockade of patrolling rights in the same area now has been greeted with silence.

Depsang's importance

The Army has always identified Depsang plains as where it finds itself most vulnerable in Ladakh, devising plans to tackle the major Chinese challenge. SSN's flat terrain of Depsang, Trig Heights and DBO – which provides direct access to Aksai Chin – is suited for mechanised warfare but is located at the end of only one very long and tenuous communication axis for India. China, in turn, has multiple roads that provide easy access to the area. This leaves SSN highly vulnerable to capture by the PLA, with a few thousands of square kilometres from the Karakoram Pass to Burtse, likely to be lost. Nowhere else in Ladakh is the PLA likely to gain so much territory in a single swoop.

SSN lies to the east of Siachen, located between the Saltoro ridge on the Pakistani border and the Saser ridge close to the Chinese border. On paper, it is the only place where a physical military collusion can take place between Pakistan and China – and the challenge of a two-front war can become real in the worst-case scenario. If India loses this area, it will be nearly impossible to launch a military operation to wrest back Gilgit-Baltistan from Pakistan.

Theoretically, Depsang is also seen as a viable launchpad for a mechanised force-based military offensive launched by India inside Aksai Chin, if the Army has to fulfil Union Home Minister Amit Shah's parliamentary vow of getting back Aksai Chin from China.

Danger of delinking

The biggest danger of delinking Depsang from the current border crisis in Ladakh, however, is of corroborating the Chinese argument, which invalidates the rightful Indian claim over a large swathe of territory. In sparsely populated areas like Ladakh, with limited forward deployment of troops, the only assertion of territorial claims is by regular patrolling. By arguing that the blockade at Y-junction predates the current stand-off – a 'legacy issue' that goes back years – the Chinese side can affirm that Indian patrols never had access to this area and thus India has no valid claim on the territory. Already living with the disadvantage of being a lesser power *vis-à-vis* China, this argument further weakens India's hand during negotiations in Ladakh.

This will be akin to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement during the all-party meeting in June 2020 that no one had entered Indian territory, which ended up bolstering Chinese position during the talks. India cannot afford to repeat that blunder again and lose its land. As was demonstrated by China in the aftermath of the 1962 War, there should be no holding back in painstakingly asserting one's claims when it comes to safeguarding the territory. Denial of truth for domestic political gains, in this case, will certainly be to the detriment of India's strategic interests.

Sushant Singh is Senior Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research

The curious case of Meghalaya's COVID-19 relief package

Audits, transparency and citizen-centric accountability need to be a part of fund support and disbursement

RAKSHITA SWAMY & ANGELA RANGAD

Every COVID-19 wave in India has brought us face to face with the dire precarity of life and livelihood for India's vast numbers of unorganised workers, and the inadequate response of the state and society to their plight. The latest global OXFAM inequality report highlights how India's billionaires have grown dramatically in numbers and wealth, while 84% have reduced income and 4.6 crore working people have plummeted into acute poverty. It provides damning indicators of how poor the state response has been in terms of relief and social sector expenditure during this period. The delivery systems of the meagre amounts that have been allocated by the Centre and State governments, therefore, become even more important. A massive public audit of a gratuitous relief scheme in Meghalaya for unorganised workers provides important lessons about the critical importance of transparency, public participation, and peoples monitoring for those who have had to bear the brunt of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

When the Government of Meghalaya announced relief for workers affected by the COVID-19 lockdown through the Chief Minister's Relief Against Wage Loss (CRAWL) scheme, it was welcomed by many. But this announcement came without necessary details. There was no notification outlining the quantum of financial support. There was no published scheme, or guidelines with minimum norms for identifying beneficiaries, and verifying their eligibility. Nevertheless, the state of economic desperation led a large number of people to apply for the assistance.

RTI and response

Unfortunately, people had no way to check whether their application for support had been successful or not. Payments began trickling into the bank accounts of some of the applicants, but even they were confused about the amount of support they were supposed to get. Some unions of unorganised sector workers such as street vendors and domestic workers immediately brought this to the attention of the government, but not much was done. In October 2020, a local civil group, Thma U Rangli-Juki (TUR), filed an RTI application asking for the list of unorganised workers to whom payments had been made. This information should have been mandatorily and proactively disclosed in the public domain by the State government as mandated under Section 4, RTI Act.

The response to the RTI was provided in December 2020 with details of around 1,60,000 people and transfers. The response also seemed to indicate that the scheme for financial assistance to unorganised workers facing a wage loss was worth ₹2,100, and to construction workers registered under the Building and Other Construction Workers (BoCW) Act was ₹5,000. The unions decided to widely disseminate this information over WhatsApp, community

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

websites, and through local electronic news channels. The RTI response was subsequently also converted into a searchable digital database with the help of Graamvaani, a social tech company, via a dedicated site called hokmeghalaya.in. This enabled people to ascertain whether and how much money they had been transferred as per government's records, with the option provided of filing a grievance with the Chief Minister's Office if they contested the Government's claim. Using IVRS, calls were also made to 1,35,617 people to inform them that as per the Government's record, ₹2,100 or ₹5,000 had been transferred to their bank account.

What an audit showed

This virtual "public audit" and facilitation exercise was carefully planned and carried out by civil society groups and workers' unions using digital technology at a time when COVID-19 restrictions made physical verification impossible. The results were an eye-opener. Out of 11,509 people who responded to the IVRS calls, only 13% stated that they received the full amount that was mentioned in the RTI response; 47% received nothing, in spite of the Government records showing ₹2,100 having been transferred to each of them. Nearly 8,000 people submitted individual grievances to the Chief Minister's Office and the Labour Department. Thousands of others searched through the RTI data and submitted their grievances. This was a process that should have been carried out by the Government, which was far better resourced, and duty bound to check on whether the money had reached the beneficiary. Instead, the Government became defensive and refused to accept or even engage with the findings. Faced with a deadlock of mounting dissatisfaction among workers who had not received their benefit, and the Government's attitude of denial and obfuscation, the unions and civil society groups organised a public hearing in Shillong on World Human Rights Day, in December 2021, to draw additional focus to the issue.

Need for responsibility

Chaired by Justice Madan B. Lokur, a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, the four-hour public hearing was an example of the democratic potential and social ethos of Meghalaya and its people. Over 200 workers gave up another day's wages, and came armed with their bank passbooks and labour cards to show that the money had not been credited in their bank accounts more than a year after it was due. The issue was about the need to get answers. Regrettably, as Justice Lokur noted, the Department of Labour boycotted the public hearing. Faced with such a situation, civil society groups have now approached the Legal Services Authority to pursue and enforce independent mechanisms of grievance redress and accountability.

This exercise has implications beyond Meghalaya. The Centre and various State governments have collected and spent thousands of crores, including the use of District Mineral Foundation Trust Funds, disaster relief funds, Compensatory Afforestation Management Funds Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds, etc. for "relief payments" with almost no disaggregated information in the public domain. Expenditures made by governments under these various funds for COVID-19 relief have not been subject to either statutory audits of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India or institutionalised social audits, and necessary grievance redress platforms are conspicuous in their absence.

This assertion, demanding transparency, and citizen-centric accountability cannot be seen as an isolated movement in a small State. Rajasthan too for instance has an ongoing movement and campaign demanding an accountability law, which is drawing support. This is a demand by marginalised groups to be acknowledged and heard, raising pointed questions that apply to all, and demanding precise answers in order to make democratic participation meaningful. The strong human assertion emerges from the pain and the ruins of a crisis, but it has creative implications for all. It is eventually about the power and the dignity of democratic citizenship – and once again, it is our most marginalised who are showing us the way.

Rakshita Swamy is with the Social Accountability Forum for Action and Research (SAFAR). Angela Rangad is with Thma U Rangli-Juki (TUR)

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

Need for change

When the Central government introduced a Bill to raise the age of marriage of women to 21 years it was widely appreciated but the key issue of consensus was neglected. Marital rape is a dark reality we all have to accept (Page 1, "Process on to amend criminal laws: govt.", February 3). The most important aspect about the empowerment of women is consensus and when it is made a crucial aspect of our society it not only ensures the foundation of a progressive nation but also boosts the morale of half of the population of our country which is women. Today, the most challenging aspect a woman faces is still being seen as a symbol of sexual oppression which has to change.

RATNARAJ JAIN,
Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh

■ Marital rape shows how ingrained partiarchy is in our society but also how we need to reboot our society and culture altogether. The importance of consent needs to be taught in schools. We can only hope that the Government comes up with a law which is gender neutral, taking care of the concerns of men and women.

TANYA DHILLON,
Hoshiarpur, Punjab

Governors and States

The role of Governors in non-BJP ruled States is a matter of concern as old as our democracy! The examples of Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Maharashtra speak volumes. The government of the day gave the impression that it would ensure good governance. But alas!

K. NEHRU PATNAIK,
Visakhapatnam

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the story about industry experts welcoming the boost given to the mental healthcare sector in the Union Budget (Feb. 2, 2022), the reference to Indian Institute of Technology, Bangalore, should be corrected to read as International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB).

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Does the Budget deliver on reforms?

PARLEY

The government has focused more on providing private goods than public goods

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for FY2022-23 in Parliament on Tuesday at a time when the economy continues to recover from the pandemic. This is the ninth full Budget of the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi which was elected to power in 2014 promising to deliver 'minimum government, maximum governance'. In a conversation moderated by **Prashanth Perumal J.,** *Sanjeev Ahluwalia and Shruti Rajagopalan discuss how well the latest Budget delivers on that promise. Edited excerpts:*

Sanjeev Ahluwalia
is an adviser at the Observer Research Foundation

Shruti Rajagopalan
is an economist at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University

Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

How well has this Budget delivered on the government's original promise of 'minimum government, maximum governance'?

Sanjeev Ahluwalia: 'Minimum government, maximum governance' is a difficult objective to achieve in India, where the government is so prevalent at all levels of polity. I think a great deal of progress has certainly been made by the Modi government to formalise and measure improvements in governance. But whether or not this government pushes forward the agenda of 'minimum government' is a little more difficult to gauge because of the circumstances. There is a coordinated shift towards bigger governments across the world than you would have thought normal, say, a couple of decades back when deregulation was in vogue. Also, don't forget that there is a great deal of increased protectionism across the world, not just in India. India is just following the trend and there are some geopolitical concerns that also feed into whatever actions the government takes. We are continuing to take strides towards becoming a more private sector-oriented economy. Some legal changes have been made recently which aim to provide greater certainty to private investors. At the very least, there's nothing in the Budget that detracts from what we have done in the past.

Shruti Rajagopalan: I differ from Sanjeev on this. My version of 'minimum government, maximum governance' is to think about what the role of the state is. If I were to think about a minimum state, it would be some version of a night-watchman state, which provides public goods such as law and order and leaves the rest to the private sector. On this account, I have largely been disappointed with this government. Instead of providing public goods, the emphasis has been to provide private goods more efficiently. So, for instance, the emphasis has been to provide subsidised LPG and build toilets for certain groups. But these are not your classic public goods. Second, I don't see a major rollback in economic controls, although I do think the government tries to streamline them. For instance, instead of going to multiple different windows to get your clearances, now you only need to go to one window or two windows. But that is still very much an attitude of the economics of control. Third, the idea of 'minimum government' would mean systematically rolling back the footprint of the public sector. But this government has simply not had a good record on disinvestment. Air India has been a big win in terms of privatisation. But largely, when it comes to the big promise that was made to privatise a lot of underperforming public sector organisations, I don't see much headway being made.

The Finance Minister mentioned that thousands of laws and compliances have been either repealed or reduced over the last few years. What impact has this had on the ground?

SA: Along with the repeal of all these various constricting regulations, and the single-window approach, there has been a general trend of, for instance, criminalising what should be civil offences. But one of the great pushes that the government has been able to do is to digitise government processes. While there are privacy concerns, digitisation does facilitate easier clearances. It speeds up the process although there's the risk of some environmental clearances being given without due consideration just to stick to the timetable. So, there are downsides and upsides to almost every intervention. But there is no doubt that a good successful effort is being made in making government processes available to the public, in making sure that the public is able to participate in those processes, and in making government interventions as painless as possible.

SIVA SARAVANAN S.

SR: Streamlined laws are better than non-streamlined laws. But let's take labour law consolidation. There was a big fuss made by the government that it is going to streamline labour laws, and it's going to be easier to hire and fire labour. Many different laws were streamlined into four, but there was no real change in the content of the labour laws themselves. Are firms better off when they need to look in four places for all the relevant rules as opposed to in 30 different places? Absolutely. But that's not the only cost that a firm faces. The real problem is the way labour relations are controlled in India. The country makes it so costly to hire labour that firms simply don't want to hire labour. We've either pushed hiring of labour to middlemen or into the informal market. Or we have pushed systems towards more capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive industry. My fear with the talk of streamlining and digitisation is that the effective control that the government has on private people contracting with each other is just too high.

Second, even in all the streamlining, we end up criminalising most civil offences and we don't have the state capacity to enforce these criminal penalties. So, what happens is you get a very discretionary state. There are going to be some very over-enthusiastic or politically opportunistic bureaucrats who are going to come down on some individuals with the full weight of the rulebook. And in most cases, non-enforcement or just looking the other way is the norm. Neither of those things bodes well for any sensible economic regime, which requires certainty and predictability. I don't think this Budget has paid enough attention to that problem. So, while streamlining and digitisation are great, we need a moment like 1991, with a complete dismantling of government regulation.

> **Atmanirbhar Bharat is protectionist. I don't think it's conducive to growth at all.**
>
> SHRUTI RAJAGOPALAN

How do you see the government's approach towards cryptocurrencies in the Budget and the introduction of the digital rupee?

SA: People are making vast amounts of money out of cryptocurrencies, so the government wants a share of it. The lure of raising more revenue has forced the government to recognise that crypto exists. I think it's a good thing for the government to have recognised a phenomenon that already exists, and try and tax it because it should be taxed, and hopefully the government will try and mainstream it. Digital currency is simply an efficiency-enhancing mechanism, where you reduce the cost of hard cash management and circulation and gradually shift towards settling payments digitally.

SR: I think in the process of making crypto income taxable, the government has let the cat out of the bag that it no longer intends to ban it. So, to that extent, this is a welcome move. My take has always been that, if it understands the underlying mechanism of blockchain technology, it would understand that it can't be banned. So, you'd rather keep it integrated with the rest of the economy so that everyone can gain from it instead of driving it underground. Second, the government has capitalised on this moment to raise some tax revenue but I still think it needs to have some underlying policy framework for how it thinks about crypto because the original reason it wanted to ban crypto was that it's too volatile. So, you have to choose: is it too volatile, in which case you have to carefully think about allowing losses to be carried forward along with taxing income, or do you want to capitalise on the profits? Either way, the policy has to be coherent.

And regarding the digital rupee, I don't see it as competing with other cryptocurrencies, in the sense of it being completely decentralised and no one individual or entity being able to control or increase the money supply. But I do think that if the government doesn't have a coherent policy on the rest of the crypto market, that will kill the digital rupee before it's born because nobody is going to invest in just the digital rupee without a really thick crypto market which has a large number of buyers and sellers.

Last, it doesn't look like the Indian digital rupee is going to be the global standard in the crypto market. If India wants to prevent other countries like China from becoming dominant in that market, it should allow a very thick and vibrant crypto market with a lot of other cryptocurrencies which are not controlled by the government.

What do you think of the Finance Minister's comment that public expenditure will "crowd in" rather than "crowd out" private investment? Also, what do you make of the Budget's emphasis on Atmanirbhar Bharat?

SA: We are never sure of our domestic competitiveness and wary of the fact that our markets could be taken over by overseas competitors. So, while Atmanirbhar in its essence is meant to be self-reliance, a great deal of it right now is really just providing domestic protection as an incentive to investors who may want to shift their production processes from other locations in the world to India. So, Atmanirbhar is not really something that is seeking to enhance competitiveness, which is really the best way of becoming a resilient economy. It's seeking more to provide the nascent industry argument that we need to protect domestic industry and protect MSMEs, which have been doing badly during the pandemic. I hope that once we get into more normal times, these domestic protection measures will be withdrawn gradually and we will open industry out to more competition.

Regarding public investment crowding-in private investment, as a statement it sounds fine. Of course, if public investment was to produce better infrastructure and long gestation projects, that would be wonderful for the private sector. But if public investment is going to try and substitute for private goods production, then I don't think we have the firepower for it. It would mean that we would, in the short term, be crowding out the private sector because we would be borrowing. Public schemes to de-risk private investments are more interesting.

SR: Atmanirbhar Bharat is protectionist. I don't think it's conducive to growth at all. A good growth statement would have been announcing a commitment to slowly reducing tariffs year after year and then reaching a particular target. The Modi government with the Atmanirbhar slogan and the 'Make in India' slogan is more protectionist than ever before. Plus, tariffs on capital goods basically increase the cost of everything else that's produced in the economy.

On your second issue of crowding out or crowding in, I have two points there. One, I think investments in health and education have been completely missing in this Budget. In fact, the outlays have actually reduced but those are the kinds of investments in standard public goods that have a long-run effect of crowding in other private investment. I think infrastructure investment is not the worst thing, but I don't see the multiplier of attracting private investment to be that high. There is a second issue to consider. When the government is not able to raise enough revenue, and it commits to borrowing, it is in fact crowding out the private sector's ability to cheaply borrow in the market. So, if you think of gross fixed capital investment as a whole, gross fixed private capital investment is just going to drop.

NOTEBOOK

Muting the media

Recent developments in Hong Kong serve as a reminder of the freedoms we take for granted

ANANTH KRISHNAN

Sometime last month, a curious disclaimer began appearing at the bottom of every opinion page article published in *Ming Pao*, one of Hong Kong's most iconic and widely read newspapers. The newspaper, the disclaimer said, had "no intention to incite hatred, discontent, or hostility against the government or other sections of the population".

The reason for the move was fairly obvious. In the past year, Hong Kong's most outspoken media outlets have collapsed like dominoes in the wake of the passing of a new national security law that lists stiff penalties for "subversion" and other offences. In June last year, the widely read tabloid *Apple Daily* ceased publication after its founder was jailed, its offices were raided and its senior staff were arrested.

The *Stand News* followed in the end of 2021, after seven people connected to the online publication were charged with spreading seditious material. That same week, another independent outlet, *Citizen News*, abruptly announced it would close its website and pull down all its content.

Since the 1997 handover, Hong Kong has been ruled under a 'one country, two systems' model. The Basic Law guaranteed Hong Kong freedoms that are denied on the mainland. The freedom of the press was one of them.

After the *Stand News* arrests in December, the Hong Kong Journalists Association said it was "deeply concerned that the police have repeatedly arrested senior members of the media and searched the offices of news organizations containing large quantities of journalistic materials within a year." The association "urged the government to protect press freedom in accordance with the Basic Law."

That many Hong Kong reporters have little faith in that happening seems clear. In January, journalist Viola Zhou reported how in recent months many have quit their jobs. Some are driving taxis while others are running fried chicken restaurants. Noting the remarkable change in fortunes of what was one of Asia's most vibrant media environments, Zhou wrote how the former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin once quipped of Hong Kong's famously intrepid reporters that they "asked naive questions but, in their pursuit of stories, ran faster than anyone else."

I had first-hand experience of that quality during the pro-democracy protests in 2019, which brought millions of Hongkongers to the streets and frequently descended into violence between the police and the protesters. The protests, calling for universal suffrage and direct elections, were one reason that prompted Beijing to pass the national security law.

Wherever there were clashes, there were multiple reporters at the scene, often only with smartphones in hand. One video clip stayed in my memory. It showed one lone reporter running towards a tear gas shell, trying to capture the moment on camera, even as protesters ran for cover. I heard from many reporters that they believed that it was their constant presence that ensured that even after months of protests and no shortage of violence, there were remarkably no fatalities from direct police action.

Readers may shrug at these developments, increasingly immune to the dribs and drabs of news about changes in Hong Kong. Yet the significance of developments in Hong Kong extends beyond China.

For one, a vital source of news reporting on China now stands under a cloud. Hong Kong's media often reported on topics that their colleagues on the mainland cannot touch. That may soon no longer be the case.

More broadly, the changes in Hong Kong's vibrant media landscape also serve as a reminder of the fragility of freedoms that we sometimes take for granted. All it took was the passing of one law, as well as targeted raids on select establishments. The rest, very quickly, came to heel.

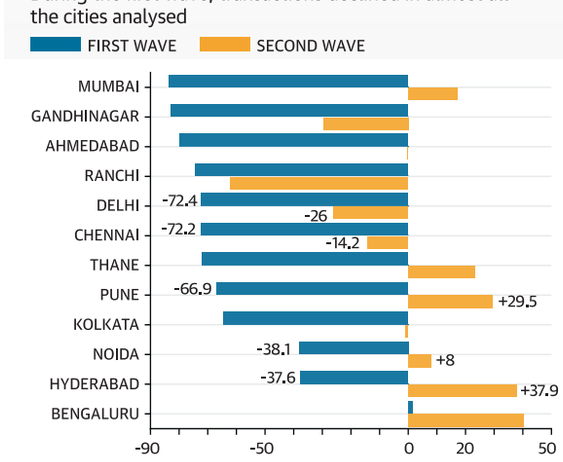
ananth.krishnan@thehindu.co.in

DATA POINT

COVID-19 impact on housing: Demand dipped but prices remained high

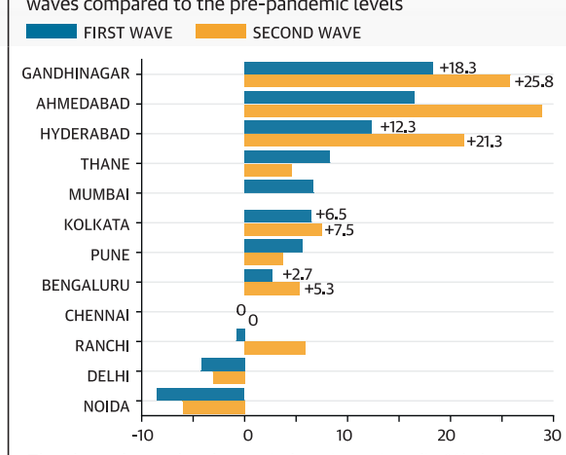
During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of houses bought or sold decreased significantly. While demand dropped due to a decline in income levels, construction also reduced due to severe movement restrictions and lack of labour during the first wave. The reduction in both demand and supply led to a sharp decline in housing transactions. The number of houses sold did recover to pre-pandemic levels during the second wave in some cities due to pent-up demand and reduced interest rates on home loans. However, despite a significant decline in housing transactions, the prices of houses did not fall in most major cities. In fact, they increased in many major cities

1 TRANSACTIONS FALL | The chart shows the change in housing transactions (in %) during the first and second wave compared to the pre-pandemic levels. During the first wave, transactions declined in almost all the cities analysed



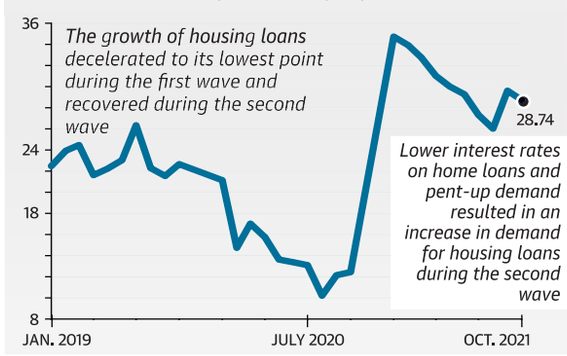
However, during the second wave, transactions increased in several cities such as Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru compared to the pre-pandemic levels. In cities where transactions declined, the fall was much lower than the first wave

2 PRICES UNAFFECTED | Interestingly, housing prices did not follow the same trend as transactions during the first two COVID-19 waves. Despite the fall in demand, housing prices increased in several cities during the two waves compared to the pre-pandemic levels

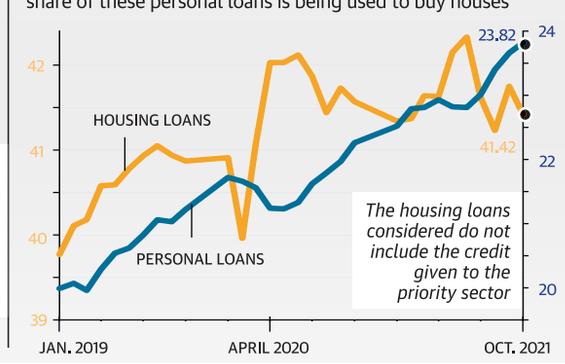


The chart shows the change in housing prices (in %) during the two waves compared to the pre-pandemic levels

3 HOUSING LOANS RISE | The chart shows the change in disbursement of housing loans (in %) during the first and second wave compared to the pre-pandemic levels



4 HOUSING DEMAND | The chart shows the % of personal loans in the total loans disbursed (right axis) and the % of housing loans within the personal loans category (left axis). Both the shares are rising. This indicates that banks are lending more personal loans than before. Also, an increasing share of these personal loans is being used to buy houses



SOURCE: ECONOMIC SURVEY 2021-22. DBIE-RBI | NOTE: FIRST WAVE: APRIL-JUNE 2020, SECOND WAVE: APRIL-JUNE 2021

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 4, 1972

Recognition of Bangla Desh

New Delhi, Feb. 3: The next few days will witness intense diplomatic activity in various world capitals for stabilising Bangla Desh's hard-won freedom through a better international understanding of its basic policies and aspirations. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is flying to Calcutta on Saturday, accompanied by a team of senior officials to welcome Sheikh Mujibur Rehman on his first official visit to this country and discuss all aspects of Indo-Bangla Desh relations with him. The British Government today informed all concerned that it would be announcing its recognition of Bangla Desh to-morrow on the eve of Sir Alec Douglas Home's arrival in Delhi on Saturday afternoon. About a dozen European and other countries are expected to follow suit during the next two or three days creating a snowballing effect. There is likely to be some delay in the case of countries like France and Italy, which have already accepted in principle the emergence of Bangla Desh as an independent nation, but are anxious to delay their *de jure* recognition a little longer to give Pakistan a reasonable breathing spell to reconcile itself to the new realities of the situation. The big issue now is no longer a matter of recognition by the rest of the world community, since by this weekend enough countries will have accepted Bangla Desh in one form or the other as a sovereign State to make the continued refusal by a few totally irrelevant to its emergence as a free nation.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 4, 1922

Forced conversion

The forced conversion of Hindus in Malabar has been a disturber of the conscience not only for the Hindus, but even for Muslim leaders and indeed for all who realise the import of Hindu-Muslim unity. Here and there leaders of Muslim opinion have expressed their dissent from the crude proselytising method of the ignorant Moplah but there is still a murmured discontent among many sections of Hindus, especially in Malabar, who do not conceal their feeling that Muslim leaders have not done all they can to restore confidence. This grumbling will now be removed, let us hope, by the action of the Central Khilafat Commitee, regarding which a telegram is published elsewhere. A move is being made to get a fatwa of the leading Muhammedan Ulemas declaring definitely against all forced conversions.

FROM PAGE ONE

Indian diplomats to boycott Beijing games

However, the MEA had said no political or high level representation would be sent from Delhi.

Prasar Bharti chief Shashi Shekhar Vempati also tweeted that "consequent to the announcement by the MEA", Doordarshan's sports channel would not telecast the Olympic ceremonies, as planned earlier.

The Chinese decision to publicly honour the military commander for involvement in the deadly clashes in the Galwan valley, where 20 Indian soldiers, and at least four Chinese soldiers (far higher according to media reports) were killed, is seen as a deliberate insult to New Delhi, which came despite the fact that the Modi government had decided not to join western boycott calls over human rights concerns. In November 2021, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had hosted a virtual Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral meeting which issued a joint statement where they "expressed their support to China to host Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games."

Meanwhile Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, Presidents of five Central Asian republics Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are due to attend the opening ceremony on Friday.

The Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Mr. Khan would meet Mr. Xi and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and conclude a number of bilateral agreements.

High Court stays Haryana job quota for locals

Deepak Maini, secretary-general, Federation of Indian Industry, Haryana Chapter, hailed the stay order as "good news for the world of business".

"The FII welcomes the order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and expresses its gratitude. Jobs in private sector should only be granted only on the basis of merit," said Mr. Maini.

Indian Staffing Federation (ISF), a representative voice to the Indian staffing industry with over a hundred organised staffing companies employing around one million contract workers across India, also welcomed the decision.

"The court order will allow Haryana Government to reconsider the appeal from industries and companies to scale up the skills of youth, infrastructure and economic development, which would create sustainable and long-term employment opportunities within the state. Legislations like the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act are unnecessary barriers, which impact both economic and employment growth in the state," said Lohit Bhatia, president, ISF.

Mr. Chautala said the government would analyse the court order along with the legal experts and take the next legal step to ensure the implementation of the law.

T.N. Governor returns NEET Bill to Assembly

"After examining the observations made by the Governor, the government would initiate all steps to explain the clear picture on NEET and adopt this [NEET exemption] Bill again in the Assembly," the State government.

Listing out the reasons for moving the Bill in the House and adopting it before sending it to the Governor, the government said the Governor's reasons to return the Bill were "not acceptable to the people of Tamil Nadu."

Another release issued later in the evening said that Mr. Stalin has written to 13 political parties represented in the State legislature to take part in the meeting scheduled on February 5.

SC adjourns Sidhu road rage case to Feb. 25

The court clarified the case was not listed "unexpectedly" and was already mentioned in the weekly advance list of cases prepared by the court registry.

The court, however, did not entertain a request by senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, appearing for the family members of the man who died in the incident, to post the case in two weeks.

"The notice was issued in the case in September 2018... All this while you did not do anything, now you suddenly want to," the Bench asked.

BJP keeps up attack on Rahul

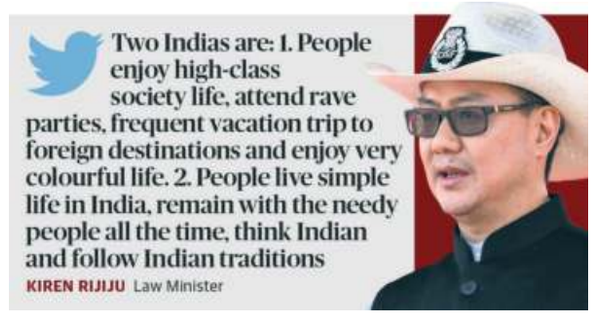
Law Minister says Congress leader seems to think he is the king of India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The BJP continued to attack Rahul Gandhi on Thursday over his speech in Parliament, with Union minister Kiren Rijiju saying the Congress leader used to behave like India's "yuvraj" and now thinks that he is its king.

BJP vice president Baijayant Jay Panda mocked him saying that the "king of comedy is increasingly turning out to also be the prince of darkness".

"Yes, of course the Constitution defines India as a union of states. No issue there, but to extrapolate from that to say India is 'not a nation' is not merely ludicrous, but downright sinister," he said.



Gandhi had on Wednesday said the Congress smashed the idea of a king in 1947, but now it has come back and the ruling dispensation had created two Indias – one for the poor and the other for the rich.

Rijiju reacted to it saying that there was indeed two Indias and one of them includes those who go on foreign trips and "rave parties".

"Two Indias are: 1. People enjoy high-class society life, attend rave parties, frequent vacation trip to foreign destinations and enjoy very colourful life. 2. People live simple life in India, remain with the needy people all the time, think Indian and follow Indian traditions," he said in a tweet.

The Law Minister added, "Earlier he used to behave like India's 'Yuvraj' and now he thinks he is the 'King' of India!"

BJP spokesperson and Bihar government minister Shahnawaz Hussain also targetted Gandhi.

"Rahul Gandhi says that we have made huge strategic mistakes in J&K and in our foreign policy. Is he saying that going after terrorists and lifting of article 370 is a wrong policy? Why does he support the propaganda of Pakistan?" he said.

Stalin thanks Rahul Gandhi for his speech

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday thanked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi "on behalf of all Tamils" for his speech in Parliament, expressing the idea of Indian Constitution in an emphatic manner.

"You have voiced the long-standing arguments of Tamils in Parliament, which rest on the unique cultural and political roots that value self respect," Mr. Stalin tweeted.

Mr. Gandhi on Wednesday said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) could never ever rule over the people of Tamil Nadu.

U.S. says it does not endorse remark on foreign policy

State Dept. spokesperson reacts to Rahul's comments

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

The U.S. has said that it does not endorse Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's contention that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign policy strengthened the Pakistan-China relationship and that it was for the countries in question to speak for themselves.

"I will leave it to the Pakistanis and the PRC to speak to their relationship. I certainly would not - would not endorse those remarks," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said when asked for a reaction to Mr. Gandhi's comments in Parliament on Wednesday. The former Congress president and MP had said that the government's foreign policy had brought China and Pakistan together.

'We provide choice'

Mr. Price also said that there was no requirement as far as the U.S. was concerned for other countries to choose between America and China and that the U.S. valued its relationship with Pakistan.

"We've made the point all along that it is not a requirement for any country around the world to choose between the United States and China. It is our intention to provide choices to countries when it comes to what the relationship with the United States looks like," Mr. Price said in response to a question on whether Pakistan was working closely with China because it felt "abandoned" by the U.S.

"Pakistan is a strategic partner of the United States. We have an important relationship with the government in Islamabad, and it's a relationship that we value across a number of fronts," he said.

Former Cong. chief reiterates his stand

He launches projects in Raipur

SOBHANA K. NAIR
RAIPUR

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, in the course of a day-long visit to Raipur, launched a financial assistance scheme for landless labourers named after his father – 'Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhoomihin Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana' (RGGBKMNY).

Rahul Gandhi

During his address at Raipur, Mr. Gandhi reiterated his statement in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday attacking the BJP for dividing the country into "two Indias" – one for the rich capitalist friends of the Government and another for the majority who are struggling for their basic needs.

He also laid the foundation stone for a memorial with an eternal flame, named 'Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti', which has been designed to resemble Delhi's India Gate and the Amar Jawan Jyoti.

The entire city was decorated for Mr. Gandhi's visit. The party went all out organising music and dance programmes all along the road from the airport leading to the venue of the public meeting.

His visit assumes importance because of a six-month long feud between Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo. Mr. Deo, cited the formula of rotational tenure which he claimed was agreed upon in 2018, when the Congress won the State after a gap of 15 years.

Mr. Baghel's camp sees Mr. Gandhi's visit as rejection of this formula. Mr. Gandhi, on his part, gave no such indication. Papering over the differences that had spilled out in the open, Mr. Deo referred to Mr. Baghel as his "captain".

Mr. Gandhi said that although the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) want the rule of only one ideology in the country, it can never happen. These internal divisions created by the BJP have left India weak, giving a walkover to China.

Apart from launching the scheme named 'Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhoomihin Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana' (RGGBKMNY), Mr. Gandhi laid the foundation stone for a memorial with an eternal flame, named 'Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti', to be built in Mana Camp area here for soldiers and security personnel martyred in the line of duty. He also laid the foundation stone of 'Gandhi Sevagram' ashram to be built in Nava Raipur.

Under the RGGBKMNY, registered labourers in rural areas who do not possess agricultural land will be given financial assistance of ₹6,000 per year in three installments.

Devas shareholders move another arbitration

SC had upheld NCLAT order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Devas shareholders have launched new arbitration proceedings against the government of India after the Supreme Court had last month upheld the NCLAT order for winding up Devas Multimedia.

On Wednesday, the shareholders served the government the notice of arbitration under the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (1976) (UNCITRAL).

The shareholders are seeking compensation commensurate with the award of $1.3 billion from the International Chamber of Commerce and have demanded that since Devas Multimedia has been wound up, the government of India must pay the award directly to the claimants.

They seek that India "make full reparation to each of the Claimants for the injury or loss to their respective investments... including damages of no less than Claimants' share of the amount of the ICC Award and Judgment."

"The government of India's audacious scheme to expropriate Devas has real and certain consequences. Soon the government will be liable for the massive award now owed by Antrix. There is no escape; only continued expensive misery. The costs are rising for Prime Minister Modi and his government," said Matthew D. McGill, lead counsel for the Devas shareholders.

The Supreme Court had upheld the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order winding up Devas Multimedia Private Limited. The National Company Law Tribunal had ordered winding up of Devas on May 25, 2021 on a petition by Antrix. This was affirmed by NCLAT on September 8, 2021.

Why is Modi silent over hate speech in Haridwar: Digvijaya

Tax the super rich, the Cong. MP demands in Rajya Sabha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Thursday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on the Haridwar Dharma Sansad (religious conclave), where calls were made for genocide against Muslims last year. Mr. Singh said "super rich tax" should be imposed on corporates and business person who made a fortune during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Talking point: Congress leader Digvijaya Singh in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. • PTI

Mr. Singh, who was speaking in the Rajya Sabha on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, said "the diversity seen in India cannot be found anywhere else." "At a Dharam Sansad held at Haridwar, people were asked to pick pistols, genocide calls were given. The Prime Minister tweets even if someone hurts their thumb, but did not say anything about this hate speech," he said.

Accusing the government of being a "suit boot sarkaar" (government of the rich), he observed that since 2014, the share of direct tax decreased from 55.39% to 46.43% and indirect tax increased from 44.61% to 53.57%. "This means you are taxing the rich less and taxing the poor more... Why don't you impose a 'super rich tax' on people whose wealth increased during the pandemic," he asked.

Ripun Bora of the Congress noted that the economy was devastated by the pandemic and the income of 84 crore people had come down drastically but President's address did not mention anything about them.

"Jawaharlal Nehru created 33 PSUs, Lal Bahadur Shastri- 5, Indira Gandhi- 66... Atal Bihari Vajpayee- 17, but in the past eight years PM Modi did not create a single PSU, but has privatised 23 PSUs," he said.

Pegasus, jobs come up in LS debate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Pegasus spyware, special status for Bihar and protests over unemployment were among the key issues that figured in the Lok Sabha on Thursday during the debate on Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

Taking part in the debate, Congress MP from Tamil Nadu Manickam Tagore said when Prime Minister Narendra Modi replies to the debate next week, he should state whether he had purchased the Israeli spyware during his visit to the country earlier and if he had 'authorised' its use against politicians and journalists among others.

BJP ally Janata Dal (United) leader Rajiv Ranjan Singh urged the Prime Minister to grant special state status to Bihar, saying the move will provide more jobs through rapid industrialisation.

Decoding the Budget with *The Hindu BusinessLine*

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The 2022-23 Budget has been delivered. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has laid down her priorities clearly. The focus is on reviving growth and fiscal consolidation will happen, but not in a hurry.

The Government of India has given a massive push for capital expenditure in bid to lay the foundation for a rapid pace of economic growth and also with a hope that it will crowd-in private capex. After many years, there is a possibility that all four engines of growth -- public consumption, government spending, private capex and exports -- may fire in unison. If that happens, the Indian economy will register a rapid pace of growth.

Has this Budget given the necessary impetus for it?

When does the government see a revival in private investments? Will lack of demand side stimulus come in the way? How does the government plan to tackle the skewed recovery post-pandemic? Where does it see the bond yields, which are on the boil after government announced a large gross borrowing for FY23?

To discuss all this and more, *The Hindu BusinessLine* is holding its annual `Decoding The Budget' panel discussion. Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan will be discussing the salient aspects of the Budget with a panel of experts which include R. Seshasayee, Vice-Chairman, Hinduja Group; R. Dinesh, MD, TVS Supply Chain Solutions; Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM and D.K. Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor, Ernst and Young. The discussion will be moderated by Raghuvir Srinivasan, Editor, *The Hindu BusinessLine*.

The event, to be held in the virtual format this year, is brought to you in association with Bank of Baroda Credit Card, Hitachi India and BSE.

To watch the discussion at 4 p.m. on February 5, please register at https://bit.ly/BLPBED.

Shots fired at Owaisi's car in U.P.; one arrested

AIMIM leader says EC must order probe

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Two persons fired bullets at the vehicle of AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday near a toll plaza while he was returning to Delhi after campaigning in western Uttar Pradesh's Meerut.

The MP said he was safe but at least two bullets hit his vehicle. Mr. Owaisi tweeted a picture of his car with two bullet holes near the mudguard. He stated that the Election Commission must order a probe.

The Hapur police, under whose jurisdiction the incident happened at the Chhajarshi toll plaza in Pilkhuwa, said they arrested one suspect. The weapon used in the firing was also recovered, said SP Hapur Deepak Bhuker. Two persons were involved in the incident, he said, adding that teams had been formed to nab the second suspect.

Asaduddin Owaisi

The arrested person was identified as Sachin, a resident of Gautam Buddha Nagar, said ADG Law and Order Prashant Kumar. He was apprehended on the basis of video footage, he said.

Sachin was being questioned to find out the motive and involvement of others, he said.

78,264 Central government recruitments made in 2021-22

Number of vacancies stood at 8.72 lakh on March 1, 2020

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government recruited 78,264 people in Central Ministries and departments in the financial year 2020-21. On March 1, 2020, the total number of vacancies in central government offices stood at 8.72 lakh, the Ministry of Personnel informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions was replying to a question from Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut. In a written reply, the Minister provided details of recruitment made through three major recruiting agencies--Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) in the Central government from financial years 2018-19 to 2020-21.

The reply stated that in the years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, the total number of recruitments made was 38,827, 1,48,377 and 78,264 respectively – a total of 2,65,468 appointments. Out of the 2.65 lakh people who were appointed in the said period, 13,238 were recruited by the UPSC, 1,00,330 by the SSC and 1,51,900 by the Railways.

In 2020-21, the UPSC recruited 3,609 people, the SSC 68,891 people and the Railways hired 5,764 people.

The reply stated that the number of vacant posts as on March 1, 2018 was 6,83,823, in 2019 it was 9,10,153 and in March 2020 the number of vacancies stood at 8,72,243.

In response to another question by Mr. V. Sivadasan about the number of Group A and Group C posts that remain unfilled, the Minister said that as on March 1, 2020, there were 21,255 Group A and 7,56,146 Group C positions that were vacant.

"The details regarding persons engaged through outsourcing by various Ministries/Departments as per their requirement are not maintained centrally," the reply stated. It added that filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. "Government issues instructions to all the Ministries from time to time to fill up the posts," it said.

IN BRIEF

Does Governor call you, Mamata asks officer

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday took another swipe at Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar by reprimanding a police officer during an administrative meeting in Kolkata. "Does the Governor call you? Even if he does, you don't have to worry," she told SP, Purba Medinipur district.

ED attaches ₹268.66 cr. assets in bank fraud case

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹268.66 crore of Agnite Education Limited and others in connection with a bank fraud case. The accused persons parked the funds taken from the State Bank of India in the form of assets in Austria, Thailand and Bangladesh. It is alleged that Agnite Education Limited and Teledata Marine Solutions took loans to the tune of ₹479 crore from the bank.

SP promise to restore pension scheme buoys govt. employees

Several lakh staff have been demanding a rollback of the market-linked NPS

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

"Until we give him an opportunity, how will we know," asks Asha Pandey, a teacher at a government school in Varanasi, intrigued by Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav's election promise that he would restore the old pension system (OPS) for retired State government employees and teachers if voted to power.

Ms. Pandey feels that if government employees demanding restoration of the old pension scheme do not vote the SP this time, the issue might evaporate as the ruling BJP has indicated that it favours the continuation of the National Pension Scheme (NPS). "Nobody else is talking about it, so we must give the SP a chance [to form government and fulfil its promise]," she said.

Mr. Yadav's promise of restoring the OPS has stirred the interest of several lakh government employees and teachers in the State who have been demanding it for many years. They feel the OPS provides them more social security than the NPS and had launched a movement for it during the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government. The Adityanath regime has not yet presented a convincing counter to the SP's poll promise.

Poll promise: Akhilesh Yadav and Chaudhary Jayant Singh talking to the media in U.P. on Thursday. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

According to estimates given by employee unions and the SP, the OPS would benefit between 11-13 lakh employees. Dinesh Sharma, president of U.P. Teachers Federation, says the demand for restoring OPS is a "big issue" in this election.

Mr. Yadav said he had consulted financial experts on how a corpus fund could be created for implementing the OPS.

However, not everybody is convinced about the feasibility of the restoration of the earlier scheme. Purnesh Narayan Singh, president of the teachers union in Siddharth University, welcomed the SP's move but stresses why Mr. Yadav did not take any step towards it while in power from 2012 to 2017.

The NPS was introduced by the Centre from 2004 and then implemented by the State government on April 1, 2005. Under the OPS, a retired employee received a defined amount as pension calculated as 50% of the salary at retirement plus other hikes and benefits. The employee gets an assured amount irrespective of how much contribution was made towards her pension over her working life. Under the NPS, the pension value depends on the corpus saved by the employee at the time of retirement and is subject to rise or fall in investment value.

U.P. voters must punish BJP for betraying farmers: SKM

'Mission U.P. will be against BJP, not for any other party'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Farm unions belonging to the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) have issued an appeal to voters in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand to punish the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the upcoming Assembly elections for "betraying" farmers.

At a press conference on Thursday, SKM leaders said Mission U.P. would be carried out against the BJP, not in favour of any other party. However, the SKM's Punjab leaders said they would not campaign for or against any party in their State, but would hold all parties accountable to farmers' interests.

"This anti-farmer BJP government needs to be punished in the elections," said Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait, listing the Centre's failure to pay minimum support prices (MSP) to all farmers or set up a promised MSP committee, the lack of farmer-centric policies in the Union budget, delayed payments to U.P.'s sugar cane farmers, and the problem of stray cattle as among the issues at stake. "When they come seeking your vote, ask them why they have betrayed farmers on these issues," he said.

SKM leaders have said they would hold all parties to account on behalf of farmers. ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

This is also the theme of a pamphlet being distributed across western Uttar Pradesh which is the SKM's main campaign tool, given that mass rallies are not being allowed by the Election Commission. "The BJP government does not know the difference between constitutional and unconstitutional. This party understands only one language – vote, seat, power," says the pamphlet which also raised the issues of assaults against protesting farmers, and the failure to punish Minister of State Amit Mishra Teni for his alleged role in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

Back AAP for Goa's future, says Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER
PUNE

A day after making his candidates sign legal affidavits pledging not to 'betray' the Goan electorate, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal exhorted the supporters and voters of other political parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress, to vote for the AAP in the upcoming Assembly polls for the sake of future of the coastal State.

Arvind Kejriwal ▪

Run by Goans

Mr. Kejriwal, who is on a four-day tour, refuted the BJP's claims that the AAP is a 'Delhi-based' party, stressing that the AAP in Goa was run by Goans and not by anyone in Delhi.

"I am not asking supporters and voters of the BJP, the Congress or any other party to join the AAP. Please remain in your respective parties, but for your own sakes, of that of your family and the future of Goa, vote for AAP this one time," he said while talking to reporters in Panaji.

Congress denied Sunil Jakhar CM post for being a Hindu: AAP

'Party conspiring to divide people by giving religious colour'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Ahead of Punjab Assembly elections, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday accused the Congress of playing politics around caste and religion and conspiring to divide the people by giving a religious colour to the politics of Punjab.

Reacting to Punjab Congress leader Sunil Jakhar's statement about Chief Minister selection, AAP Punjab affairs co-in-charge Raghav Chadha said the biggest example of the Congress' caste and religion politics is that senior Congress leader Sunil Jakhar was not appointed as Chief Minister of Punjab just because he is Hindu, even though he had support of 42 MLAs.

42 backers

Mr. Chadha said Mr. Jakhar recently stated that 42 MLAs agreed on his name in the Congress MLAs' meeting held after the removal of Captain Amarinder Singh from the post of Chief Minister. According to Mr. Jakhar, the Deputy Chief Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa had support of 16, Preneet Kaur 12, Navjot Sidhu 6 and Chief Minister Channi had the support of only two MLAs.

Mr. Chadha said it is very shameful that the Congress dropped Mr. Jakhar from the Chief Minister race just because he is Hindu and appointed Mr. Channi as their CM who only had the support of two MLAs. "

'Just two options'

Mr. Chadha said the Congress is only using Mr. Jakhar's name for Hindu votes. "The Congress is giving only two options to the people to choose their Chief Minister face – one Navjot Singh Sidhu and the other Charanjit Singh Channi, why was Mr. Jakhar not an option? he quipped.

₹316 cr. worth seizures made in Punjab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Liquor, psychotropic substances and cash amounting to ₹316.66 crore, held in violation of the model code of conduct, were seized in election-bound Punjab till February 2.

Punjab Chief Electoral Officer S. Karuna Raju on Thursday said surveillance teams had seized 29.63 lakh litres of liquor worth ₹16 crore. "Similarly, the enforcement wings have recovered psychotropic substances worth ₹278.58 crore, besides confiscating unaccounted cash of ₹20.47 crore," he said. As many as 1,215 vulnerable hamlets had been identified, he said.

'No reform planned for common electoral roll'

Minister says States to make amends

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday told the Rajya Sabha that the Centre was not planning on amending the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to enable a common electoral roll and simultaneous elections to all electoral bodies in the country.

Asked by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Kirodi Lal Meena if such an amendment was in the works, Mr. Rijiju's written reply stated: "No sir".

However, the Minister said a meeting chaired by the Cabinet Secretary with Chief Secretaries of various States was held on September 3, 2020, "related to the use of common electoral rolls in the elections to local bodies".

The reply stated that "certain concerns were raised" at the meeting but there was consensus that "State governments are required to make changes in their legislations to adopt the electoral rolls for Parliamentary and Assembly elections for use in local body elections".

Asked what the main objective of the proposal was, Minister said, "the Common Electoral Roll would reduce the cost and effort involved in the process of preparing separate electoral rolls."

India's air traffic controllers overworked, understaffed

House panel called for urgent steps to fill vacancies

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Air traffic controllers (ATCOs) at some of the busiest airports in the country such as Delhi are unable to get their mandatory break of 30 minutes after every two hours because of manpower crunch, and at airports such as Guwahati, they work 365 days a year without even a day off. The shortage of staff has also led to women employees being denied childcare leave.

The sanctioned strength of ATCOs in the country is 3,901, against which only 3,162 personnel are employed – a shortage of 19%. And the gap is growing. The matter was raised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture that tabled the government's action taken report and its recommendation on Wednesday.

An ATC tower at the IGI Airport in New Delhi.

The panel expressed "serious concern" that these vacancies should be filled urgently. It had said the huge vacancies of ATCOs "will adversely affect the work output by putting them under immense stress, compromising the safety of flight operations."

The Ministry of Civil Aviation said it was in the process of hiring 519 ATCOs and expected to complete the process by March 31.

Those part of discussions within the Airports Authority of India (AAI) say that with several unused airports being revived under UDAN (regional connectivity scheme) in tier-2 and tier-3 cities and development of new airports like Jewar and Bhogapuram, another estimated 300 to 500 ATCOs need to be hired immediately.

To cope with the current shortage, ATCOs at many airports have to work extra hours.

FUA benefits far below govt. estimates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Airlines have reported savings of only ₹131 crore in fuel costs from efficient "airspace management" instead of the projected savings of ₹1,000 crore annually.

"The airlines have indicated cumulative savings of about ₹131 crore due to implementation of Flexible Use of Airspace (FUA). Further, about 34,000 tonne carbon footprint saving has been reported by various airlines," the Ministry of Civil Aviation told Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture. It had sought to know the actual savings from the initiative. The report doesn't specify the time period over which these savings were made.

SC protects Punjab MLA from arrest

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday protected Punjab's Lok Insaaf party MLA Simarjit Singh Bains for a week in a case of alleged rape. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana pulled up the State government, expressing its dissatisfaction to Advocate General D.S. Patwalia about its conduct in the prosecution of the case.

The court also berated Mr. Bains' lawyer, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, whether he has read the contents of a counter petition filed by the alleged victim against the MLA.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, मदुरै
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Madurai (Tamil Nadu)
Under PMSSY Division Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
JIPMER, Puducherry - Mentor Institute

No.JIP/AIIMS(Madurai)/CF/2022 Date: February 4, 2022

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Madurai, an Autonomous Institute of National Importance is one of the new AIIMS and an apex healthcare Institute established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). JIPMER, Puducherry has been designated as the Mentor Institute for AIIMS, Madurai.

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling the following faculty post **on contract basis** for AIIMS, Madurai given as under:

Sl. No.	Department	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
1	Anatomy	1 (UR)	1 (OBC)
2	Biochemistry	1 (UR)	1 (UR)
3	Community and Family Medicine	1 (UR)	1 (UR)
4	Physiology	1 (OBC)	1 (UR)

The details regarding pay scale, age, qualification, experience and other terms and conditions etc. for the above posts are available on **www.jipmer.edu.in** and **jipmer.edu.in/aiims-madurai**

The last date for receipt of filled in application is **February 18, 2022 (Friday) till 4.30 P.M.**

Executive Director
AIIMS, Madurai

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICER
KURNOOL, ANDHRA PRADESH.

Notification No.07/NHM/2020.

Recruitment Notification under NHM

As per the orders of the CH&FW and MD, NHM, A.P., Vijayawada, certain Medical and Para Medical posts are being filled under NHM programme to work in Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh State through walk-in-interview. The complete details are available in Kurnool District website: **https://kurnool.ap.gov.in**. The eligible and interested candidates are requested to attend for walk-in-interview in the Office of the District Medical and Health Officer, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, with their filled in Application Form (in the proforma available in Kurnool District website: **https://kurnool.ap.gov.in**) with all relevant certificates as specified in the detailed notification from **03.02.2022** to **09.02.2022** between **11.00 AM to 5.00 PM.**

Sd/-
DM&HO,
Kurnool.

Sd/-
Joint Collector (VWS&D),
Kurnool.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
Bangalore - 560012.
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
Advertisement No. R(HR)Temp-01(HC)/2022

Walk-in-Interview for the position of 03 **Authorized Medical Officers on contract basis** in the Health Centre at the Institute will be conducted on **15.02.2022** at **10 am** at the Health Centre. The interested candidates are requested to visit the Institute website for further details: **https://iisc.ac.in/positions-open/**

Date: 04.02.2022 **Sd/-, REGISTRAR**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, JODHPUR
Tel. 0291-2651700 E-mail : rj_cejod@nic.in

No.CE(P)/PHED/Ju/21-22/14322-366 Date: 12-1-2022

Notice Inviting Bid (NIB No. 24/2021-22)

Bid for **Execution of works related to "Parallel Carrier System to RGLC (RGLC Phase-III) from 1121 RD of IGMC including 10 years O&M after 1 year defect liability period"** is invited from interested bidder up to 14:00 hrs, 17/02/2022. 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 http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in and http://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in.

UBN : PHE2122WLOB11821
NIB Code :- PHE2122A5430
DIPR/C/1164

(Neeraj Mathur)
Chief Engineer Project
PHED Jodhpur

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-40/14570/2021-22 **Date:02.02.2022**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e–Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Class-II & above Contractors (Electrical) registered in KCEI who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the works of **Improvements, Repair, Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights on annual contract system at Hebbal, Belagola, Koorgalli, Belawadi, Hootagalli and Kallahalli Industrial Area of Mysuru District and Hebbal 2nd Phase, Industrial Area of Mandya District & Kushalanagar Industrial Area of Kodagu District under Mysuru Zone.**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **28.02.2022 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in 08.02.2022 onwards.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 1

DIPR/DDU/JA/3201/2021-22

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(A wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)

BESCOM invites tender through e-procurement for the following.

Enquiry No: BESCOM/DGM(SG&EV)/BC-53/ 2021-22/ENQ-16 dated: 03.02.2022 for **"Providing EV Charging Stations at BESCOM owned premises across BESCOM."** Issue of Bid Documents: **07.02.2022 at 17:00 hrs onwards.** Last Date for Bid Submission: Up to **21.02.2022 at 17:00 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Documents: **23.02.2022 at 11:00 Hrs.** Last Date for submission of Queries through e-portal: **Up to 14.02.2022 at 17:00 Hrs.** Pre- bid meeting on **15.02.2022 at 11:00 Hrs through Video Conference.**

The Bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the e-procurement portal from the website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (SG&EV), BESCOM

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED NCR CIRCLE ALWAR
Manu Marg ALWAR(RAJ.) E-Mail- sencr.alw.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No.- 4199-4211 Date- 24/01/2022

NOTICE INVITING BID (Nit No. 62-85/2021-22)

Bids for Works of Construction of Source, PLJ of Rising Main & Distribution Pipe Line with FHTC, Reservoir for various villages under P.S. Tijara are invited from interested bidders upto 05:00 PM on Date 02.03.2022. 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:-
PHE2122WSOB12405, PHE2122WSOB12406, PHE2122WSOB12407, PHE2122WSOB12408, PHE2122WSOB12409, PHE2122WSOB12410, PHE2122WSOB12411, PHE2122WSOB12412, PHE2122WSOB12413, PHE2122WSOB12414, PHE2122WSOB12415, PHE2122WSOB12416, PHE2122WSOB12417, PHE2122WSOB12418, PHE2122WSOB12419, PHE2122WSOB12420, PHE2122WSOB12421, PHE2122WSOB12422, PHE2122WSOB12423, PHE2122WSOB12424, PHE2122WSOB12425, PHE2122WSOB12426, PHE2122WSOB12427, PHE2122WSOB12428

L.P. Bairwa
Superintending Engineer

DIPR/C/1071

WHO site shows India without J&K, says MP

'Arunachal also marked separately'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress MP Santanu Sen on Thursday said in the Rajya Sabha that the World Health Organization's COVID-19 website showed a map of India without Jammu and Kashmir, prompting Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu to tell Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to "take note of it".

Speaking during Zero Hour, Dr. Sen said: "As a COVID warrior, I often search the international data through the WHO site. On January 30, while searching... I saw that the map of India showed blue colour and surprisingly, Jammu and Kashmir was coloured separately. When I clicked on the blue part, it showed the data of India. Surprisingly, when I clicked the yellow part it showed the data of Pakistan."

WHO's COVID-19 website showed a map of India without J&K.

Dr. Sen was referring to covid19.who.int, the WHO's dashboard for COVID-19 case data.

He added that one part of Jammu and Kashmir was in a different colour and showed data pertaining to China when clicked.

He said Arunachal Pradesh was also demarcated separately.

Third wave saw an increase in number of younger in-patients

Vaccination offered significant protection, says ICMR head Balram Bhargava

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The third COVID-19 surge saw younger in-patients with lesser proportions of all symptoms (and mainly sore throat), lesser use of drugs, and significantly improved outcomes, said the Health Ministry on Thursday.

"Deaths reported were significantly lower (10%) in the fully vaccinated, where 91% of those who died had co-morbidities, as opposed to deaths in the unvaccinated (21%), where 83% of the deceased had co-morbidities. This goes to prove that vaccination offers significant protection," head of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Balram Bhargava, said.

Dr. Bhargava explained that the comparative demographic and clinical study of the two COVID-19 waves indicated the Omicron surge saw younger inpatients – 44 years as opposed to 55 years earlier – whereas a comparison of co-morbidities stood at 46% versus the 66% earlier, and sore throat was reported in 29% as opposed to 16% patients earlier.

Staff to be deployed for the U.P. Assembly poll registering for the COVID-19 precaution dose, in Prayagraj on Thursday. • PTI

Another significant data was released at the weekly Health Ministry press conference. It said present data indicated that unlike the evidence seen during the earlier surge, with the current variant, surgery is safe and not associated with higher chances of complications or deaths in COVID-19 positive patients. "Therefore, patients who need surgery need not be denied surgical intervention presently," Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Health Ministry, said.

He added that though there is currently a decline in COVID-19 cases reported in the country, there were still 15,33,921 active cases as of Thursday. Responding to a question on India having passed the peak of the third wave, he said that that while there is seeing a decline in cases, "We don't want to use words like wave and peak. There are still some areas where cases are increasing. COVID management strategies still need to be implemented because, overall, we are still seeing a high number of cases."

School reopening: States to decide on parents' nod

Education Ministry modifies norms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

States and Union Territories can decide whether schools are required to take the consent of parents or guardians before allowing in-person classes for students, said the Ministry of Education on Thursday.

Announcing this at the weekly Health Ministry conference the Education Ministry said that the school reopening guidelines/standard operating procedure (SOP) were reviewed in the light of the various orders issued by Ministry of Home Affairs from time to time and extensive vaccination coverage including teaching and non-teaching staff working in schools/educational institutions.

It said that schools are fully open in 11 States/Union Territories partially open in 16 States/Union Territories and closed in 9 States/Union Territories. The guidelines stressed a smooth transition of students from home-based schooling to formal schooling by way of teaching bridge courses and identification of students based on learning levels, the introduction of large-scale remedial programmes to mitigate learning loss, and ensuring emotional well-being of students and teachers.

Students following social distancing protocol before entering classes.

4,984 cases against MPs, MLAs: report

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Nearly 5,000 criminal cases against Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies have been pending in courts across the country for more than five years, showing that a growing number of persons with criminal antecedents are occupying seats in Parliament and the State Assemblies, a report in the Supreme Court has said.

"Despite a series of directions by this court and continuous monitoring, as many as 4,984 cases are pending out of which 1,899 cases are more than five years old," the report, filed by the Supreme Court's amicus curiae Vijay Hansaria and advocate Sneha Kalita, revealed.

Steady growth

The report flags the steady growth of the presence of criminality in the highest portals of legislature."The total number of cases pending as on December 2018 were 4,110; and as on October 2020 were 4,859. Even after disposal of 2,775 cases after December 4, 2018, the cases against MPs/MLAs have increased from 4,122 to 4,984. This shows that more and more persons with criminal antecedents are occupying the seats in Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies," the report said.

The report urged the court that it was of "utmost necessity that urgent and stringent steps are taken for expeditious disposal of pending criminal cases".

Supreme Court dismisses plea to postpone GATE 2022 exam

Interference could cause chaos for students, says Bench

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a plea made by aspirants to postpone the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) examination 2022 due to COVID-19, saying interference merely 48 hours before the scheduled examination would create a potential for "chaos and uncertainty" for students.

"Postponement of GATE exam 2022 barely 48 hours before the scheduled date is replete with a potential for chaos and uncertainty for students who have registered for the exam," a Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud observed in a short order dismissing the petition.

The court said there was no "overarching situation for the court under Article 32 of the Constitution to supplant the duties and functions of the regulatory authorities to hold the examination".

The Bench said that after a "considered perspective of the position" and considering the circumstances while dealing with the issue, the court should not interfere in academic matters.

The students, represented by advocate Pallav Mongia, said there was complete lockdown in various States such as J&K. The virus had spread widely in States such as Kerala, which had imposed a lockdown during the weekend. The lives of students were at risk. They sought the examination to be rescheduled by a month.

Justice Chandrachud observed that there would never be an "absolutely clear situation" under the circumstances, and the court would not want to intervene and create havoc in the future of the students because the virus was dominant in some of the States. The Bench said the examination was notified months back and the students should have prepared for it.

Active cases breach 15 lakh mark; 1,056 deaths recorded

Country records 1.47 lakh fresh COVID-19 cases

THE HINDU DATA TEAM
CHENNAI

The country recorded 1,47,527 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday. The total number of infections has reached 4.18 crore, and the active cases have crossed the 15 lakh mark.

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

Kerala recorded 42,677 infections on Thursday, followed by Karnataka (16,436) and Maharashtra (15,252).

On Thursday, 1,056 deaths were recorded in India, considerably higher than the average levels recorded in the last week. The total number of recorded fatalities has reached 4,99,686.

A COVID vaccination drive under way at a centre in New Delhi on Thursday.

Kerala also reported the most deaths with 601 fatalities (441 were from a backlog), followed by Maharashtra (75) and Karnataka recorded 60 deaths.

On Wednesday, 15.6 lakh tests were conducted (the results for which were made available on Thursday). The test positivity ratewas 9.4%.

As of Thursday, 93.1% of the eligible population has been vaccinated with at least one dose, while 70.9% have received both doses. In the 15-17 age cohort, 69.9% of the population have received their first dose. Altogether, 94,80,77,736 first doses, 72,28,77,980 second doses, and 1,32,94,459 booster doses have been administered across India.

Andhra Pradesh logged 4,605 new COVID-19 positive cases while the virus claimed 10 lives in the last 24 hours.

Two COVID-19 deaths each were reported from Anantapur, Kadapa and Kurnool districts.

Bengal civic body polls on February 27

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Election to 108 municipalities across 20 districts of the State will be held on February 27.

West Bengal State Election Commission on Thursday issued a notification giving details of the election process including nominations, scrutiny and withdrawal of candidatures.

Last day for filing nomination papers for the polls is February 9 and the election process shall be completed by March 8, the notification said.

About 95 lakh voters will be able to exercise their franchise to elect ward representatives and mayors to the 108 civic bodies. With the notification, the model code of conduct has come in force in these municipalities.

Chandrayaan-3 set for launch in August

It is a follow-up to Chandrayaan-2 launched in 2019

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

India plans to execute the Chandrayaan-3 mission this August, Minister Jitendra Singh told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Though the government had stated that the mission was scheduled for 2022, this is the first time that a specific month has been announced.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission is a follow-up of Chandrayaan-2 of July 2019, which aimed to land a rover on the lunar South Pole.

It was sent aboard the country's most powerful geosynchronous launch vehicle, the GSLV-Mk 3. However, lander Vikram, instead of a controlled landing, ended up crash-landing on September 7, 2019, and prevented rover Pragyaan from successfully travelling on the surface of the moon.

Had the mission been successful, it would have been the first time a country landed its rover on the moon in its maiden attempt.

"Based on the learnings from Chandrayaan-2 and suggestions made by the national level experts, the realisation of Chandrayaan-3 is in progress. Many related hardware and their special tests are successfully completed. The launch is scheduled for August 2022," Mr. Singh said in reply to a query from Ravneet Singh and Subburaman Thirunavukkarasar who wanted to know what delayed the mission.

The Minister attributed them to "pandemic linked" delays and a "reprioritisation" of projects.

The last major satellite launches by the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) were the Earth Observation Satellite-3 in August last and the Amazonia satellite in February.

The ISRO has planned 19 missions until December consisting of eight launch vehicle missions, seven spacecraft missions and four technology demonstrator missions.

The ISRO has been allotted ₹13,700 crore for this financial year, nearly ₹1,000 crore more than it spent last year.

Hologram of Netaji switched off

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A group of Trinamool Congress MPs on Thursday protested in front of the canopy at India Gate where the hologram of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose that was unveiled recently had been switched off, saying that he had been blacked out.

Senior Culture Ministry officials said the hologram had been switched off due to the rain which could lead to a short-circuit.

Mufti slams Karnataka govt. over hijab ban

It legitimises marginalisation, she says

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Former J&K Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday condemned the Karnataka government-run school's move to bar students wearing hijab (a veil covering face) and said it was an attempt at "legitimising the marginalisation of Muslims".

"The government cannot thrust its decision on different religions as every religion has its own teachings. Nobody can be forced to refrain from following religious obligations," she said. She said India is a country of diversity, "but there is an attempt to impose one language, one dress, which is not possible.

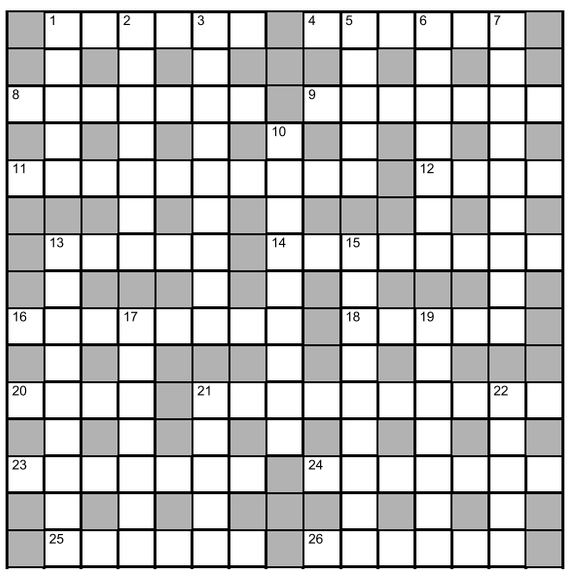
"We get to see women in Rajasthan hiding their faces under loose veils too," she said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13471

(set by Afterdark)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 One ball, perhaps extra, no wicket, leading spinner continues... (6)
4 ... again a four, scooped out from the middle. Ash takes one away, point takes that (6)
8 Musician's room is tiny primarily... (7)
9 ... nonsense, squalor and dirty inside (7)
11 Plant is wet, can rot at the tip and messy in the centre (10)
12 British spy, a rascal (4)
13 When in exercise, have a dish (5)
14 Bill correct about copyright and registered license (8)
16 Realm of prince set aside (8)
18 Good to keep husband in a corner (5)
20 Fish is excellent after a sip of drink (4)
21 Observer is extremely stale, yet news is hot (10)
23 Project release certain in the absence of leader (7)
24 Home practice by a dentist at last (7)
25 Goal on time, great manoeuvre (6)
26 Makers of maggi in a huddle (6)

DOWN

1 Heads to alternate recreational establishment near Adyar ground (5)
2 Sells in counterfeit – complaint (7)
3 Relaxed about locks and furniture (4,5)
5 Apartments of Abdul & Azeefa kept dogs at the rear end (5)
6 Honour for nurse? Excellent (7)
7 Greeting inmates assembled in a compound (9)
10 A line of verse her ex-mate created (9)
13 Somehow entrap men, reaching stable (9)
15 Applicant will be able to meet after head of department interviews first (9)
17 It's warm, husband sacrificing place for wife in retreat (7)
19 Company insists no limitations to incorporate (7)
21 Eaglets, young, really indisposed, exasperated at the top of nest (5)
22 Say, Tamil Nadu Express (5)

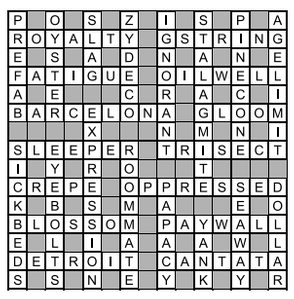
SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS5338 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to puzzle 13470



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Bhakti in Thirumurai

The Panniru Thirumurais have fostered bhakti and conveyed the experience of God to one and all in a simple and direct manner. A study of the Thiru Tondar Puranam, which is the original name for Periya Puranam, is sure to help one to assimilate the true value of bhakti which lies in the commitment and involvement that has to take root in one's inner being, pointed out Sri Mu Murthy in a discourse.

For instance, we get an idea of what devotion is from Cheraman Peruman Nayanar's high principles that govern his noble outlook and one is motivated to emulate his way of life. In addition, Cheraman Peruman has taught us about the practice of devotion. Each one has to ask what bhakti means to him. Generally devotion begins as worship of God when one engages in prayer, meditation, pilgrimages to temples, etc, which are outward forms of worship and are nevertheless necessary as initial steps. But one has to rise above these and intuitively perceive the formless aspect of God as the essence of omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence.

Cheraman Peruman is a literary genius as well and has three excellent works to his credit wherein he showcases the glories of Siva and the manifestations of His grace. The verses couched in beautiful Tamizh diction convey the truth that God attainment is not easy. It is a demanding process and each soul has to forge its way through various stages to reach the goal, oneness with Him. He adopts the Nayaki bhava to symbolically represent the yearning of the soul for the Lord. The eager soul awaits the arrival of the Lord. But the wait is endless. Will the Lord come as promised? Is He really hard hearted that He is not aware of the soul's helpless plight? If there is true love and devotion, God is sure to come is the message in these works.

IS chief blows himself up amid U.S. raid

Qurayshi exploded a bomb as U.S. forces approached his safe house in Idlib; 13 people were killed

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

The leader of the Islamic State (IS/ISIS), Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, died in a U.S. counterterrorism operation in Idlib province, in northwestern Syria, President Joe Biden announced on Thursday. The death is a serious blow to the terrorist group, whose capabilities have been severely degraded and dispersed, since coalition forces destroyed their 'caliphate' about three years ago.

"Last night at my direction, U.S. military forces successfully undertook a counterterrorism operation. Thanks to the bravery of our Armed Forces, we have removed from the battlefield Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi – the leader of ISIS," Mr. Biden tweeted.

Speaking at the White House on Thursday morning (Washington DC time), Mr. Biden said: "We all remember the gut wrenching stories, mass slaughters that wiped out entire villages, thousands of women and young girls sold into slavery, rape used a weapon of war," and that "this horrible terrorist leader is no more".

Big blow: Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, with the national security team, monitoring the raid, in which Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi (inset) was killed; a helicopter that suffered mechanical failure and was destroyed by U.S. forces near the site. ▪AFP

On January 10, the group had attacked a prison in the northeast Syrian town of Hasakah, which houses at least 3,000 IS prisoners, in an apparent attempt to set them free. Mr. Biden also said the U.S. counterterrorism operation sent a strong message to terrorists around the world. "We will come after you and find you."

The American press reported that Qurayshi exploded a bomb that killed him and some of his family members, including women and children, as U.S. special forces were approaching them. Qurayshi's predecessor, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, had also killed himself using a suicide vest under similar circumstances in October 2019.

Thirteen people, including six children and four women, were killed in the Idlib raid, according to early reports carried by the Associated Press.

Reports also said there was a two-hour gun-battle after U.S. forces landed in helicopters and targeted a house outside Atmeh, near the Syira-Turkey border in Idlib.

Mr. Biden – whose administration was under fire for the killing of innocent civilians, including children, in a drone strike in Kabul in August – said the Americans knew that Qurayshi had surrounded himself with children and women, so U.S. Special Forces were deployed, at greater risk, rather than using an airstrike for the operation.

The Pentagon released a statement saying there were no U.S. casualties. Mr. Biden thanked the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, in addition to U.S. forces and their families.

The White House and Mr. Biden tweeted a photograph of the President, Vice-President and others at a desk, apparently watching a screen – the White House said it was a shot of them watching the counterterrorism operation.

Jaffna fishermen hold protest opposing Indian trawlings

2 Sri Lankans were killed 'in a clash' with Indian fishermen

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Scores of northern Sri Lankan fishermen on Thursday took to the streets, blaming Indian fishermen for the recent death of two Jaffna fishermen "in a clash" at sea. The agitating fishermen protested the continuing use of the bottom trawling fishing method by Indian fishermen, "ravaging" their seas.

Fishermen confronting Minister Douglas Devananda, seeking action against Indian trawlers. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Long-festering tensions between fishermen in Sri Lanka's Northern Province and Tamil Nadu have escalated in recent weeks, following two clashes mid-sea on January 27 and 29, when Indian trawlers reportedly rammed into smaller Sri Lankan fishing boats.

Days later, the bodies of two fishermen from Jaffna peninsula were recovered, according to Annalingam Annarasa, who leads the Federation of Jaffna District Fishermen's Cooperative Society Unions.

The current flashpoint has not only escalated an old conflict but has also set back proposed talks among fishermen and ongoing bilateral attempts to find a solution to the crisis. In the long history of the Indo-Lanka fisheries conflict, Tamil-speaking fishermen on either side of the Palk Strait have rarely resorted to physical attacks on each other, although the Sri Lankan Navy has often been accused of attacking and killing Indian fishermen. In 2021, five fishermen from Tamil Nadu died in the Palk Strait.

"After the bodies of two of our fishermen were found recently, everyone is outraged and very concerned. Today, we protested outside the Governor's Secretariat, the Jaffna district Secretariat, and the residence of the Indian Consul General here, demanding that bottom trawling, which is the cause of all these problems, is immediately stopped," Mr. Annarasa told *The Hindu*.

Sri Lanka banned bottom trawling in 2017, and the following year, imposed hefty fines on foreign vessels engaging in illegal fishing in its territorial waters. While the moves deterred Indian fishermen for some time, Sri Lankan fishermen, over the last two years, yet again flagged an increase in trawlers sighted along their coast.

"Both our governments and fisher leaders have been talking about this for more than a decade now, where is the solution? We are willing to speak to Tamil Nadu fishermen, but only on the condition that they immediately stop using bottom trawling, which has severely impacted marine resources in the Palk Strait and all our livelihoods that depend on them," Mr. Annarasa said.

Northern Sri Lankan fishermen voiced frustration over their Tamil Nadu counterparts for stubbornly persisting with the destructive bottom trawling method, despite their repeated appeals. They also blamed the Sri Lankan Navy for inadequate action against violators, and Sri Lankan authorities for failing to implement laws passed specifically to address the problem.

Political support

Significantly, many in Sri Lanka's Tamil polity – that rarely confronts Tamil Nadu owing to war-time solidarity and support – have joined the fishermen's struggle over time.

In October 2021, Tamil National Alliance legislators M.A. Sumanthiran and Shanakiyan Rasamanickam led a large sea rally, demanding that laws against bottom trawling be strictly implemented. Earlier this week, Tamil National People's Front Leader and Jaffna MP Gajen Ponnambalam led a protest against Indian trawlers and Sri Lanka's Fisheries Minister Douglas Devananda, also an MP from Jaffna district.

Addressing the agitating fishermen in Jaffna on Thursday, Mr. Sumanthiran strongly condemned the actions of Indian fishermen. "First, they [Indian fishermen] scooped out our marine resources with their bottom trawlers, then they came and destroyed our fishermen's nets, and now they are coming for our fishermen's lives," he said.

'Russia deploys more troops in Belarus'

NATO: 30,000 combat troops are in Ukraine's northern neighbour for joint drill

REUTERS
KIEV/BRUSSELS

NATO said Russia had stepped up deployments to Ukraine's northern neighbour Belarus in recent days and was expected to have 30,000 troops there for joint exercises this month.

The Russia-Belarus exercises, running until February 20, have provided Moscow with cover to further increase forces near Ukraine at a time when the United States and Britain have warned that Moscow may be gearing up for war.

Ukraine's Defence Minister said Russia had currently massed a total of 1,15,000 troops near Ukraine's borders.

Russia denies planning to invade Ukraine and has described the Allied Resolve exercises with Belarus as a rehearsal in repelling external aggression. It has not disclosed the size of its forces there but says they will withdraw after the drills.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said: "Over the last days, we have seen a significant movement of Russian military forces into Belarus. "This is the biggest Russian deployment there since the Cold War, with an expected 30,000 combat troops" as well as Spetsnaz special operations forces, SU-35 fighter jets, S-400 air defence systems and nuclear-capable Iskander missiles, he said.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu arrived in Belarus on Thursday to inspect Russian and Belarusian troops and was due to meet Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko, Interfax news agency said.

Meanwhile, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, after meeting his counterpart in Kiev, reiterated that Ankara was ready to do what it can to resolve the Ukraine-Russia crisis and offered to host a meeting of the country's two leaders.

G.L. Peiris to visit India from Feb. 6

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister G.L. Peiris is scheduled to visit New Delhi between February 6 and 8, official sources told *The Hindu*, even as India extends emergency financial support to the island nation amidst a severe economic crisis.

"Minister Peiris is scheduled to travel to India, this would be his first visit to Delhi after he assumed charge as Foreign Minister in August 2021 [in a Cabinet reshuffle]," an official said, declining to comment on meetings scheduled during the visit, coming amid frequent high-level bilateral talks.

A January 6 tweet from External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said: "Greeted FM G.L. Peiris of Sri Lanka in the New Year. A reliable friend, India will support Sri Lanka in these difficult times. Agreed to remain in close touch." The Foreign Ministers met in New York in September, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

Early in December 2021, Sri Lanka's Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa was in New Delhi, when he sought comprehensive assistance from India to help Sri Lanka cope with depleting foreign reserves and shortages of essentials, including food, medicines, and fuel. India expedited assistance to Sri Lanka after a deal to jointly develop the Trincomalee Oil Tank Farms was signed on January 6, 2022.

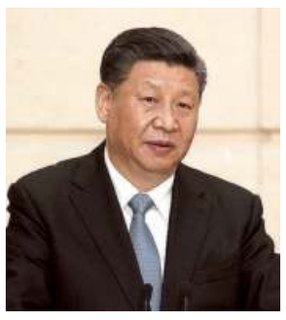
Putin, Imran at Olympics opening

Russian President lauds relations with China ahead of meeting with Xi Jinping

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

Beijing on Friday will become the first city to host both the summer and winter Olympic Games with a grand opening ceremony set to launch the fortnight-long event. Chinese President Xi Jinping will declare the games open in a ceremony at the Bird's Nest National Stadium, which was built for, and launched, the summer Olympics in 2008 as well. Also as in 2008, the lavish opening ceremony is being directed by the renowned Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou.

In a video address to the International Olympic Committee on Thursday, Mr. Xi said the world was "entering a new period of turbulence and transformation and facing multiple challenges" under "the combined impact of changes unseen in a hundred years and a once-in-a-century pandemic". The theme for the games, he said, was "Together for a Shared Future", building on the "One World, One Dream" theme from 2008.



Xi Jinping

Among foreign leaders in attendance at Friday's opening will be Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, five Presidents from Central Asia, President Halimah Yacob of Singapore, President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi of Egypt and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. and the U.K. are among a dozen countries that announced a "diplomatic boycott" of the games – their athletes will, however, participate – because of human rights violations in Xinjiang. India on Thursday said it would not be officially represented at the opening and closing ceremonies.

Mr. Putin, in an article published in China's official Xinhua news agency, said Russia "highly appreciates that the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination, entering a new era, has reached an unprecedented level and become a model of efficiency, responsibility, and aspiration for the future".

"Foreign policy coordination between Russia and China is based on close and coinciding approaches to solving global and regional issues," he said. "Our countries play an important stabilising role in today's challenging international environment, promoting greater democracy in the system of international relations to make it more equitable and inclusive."

Mr. Putin noted both were "actively cooperating on the broadest agenda within BRICS, the Russia-India-China framework, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as well as other multilateral frameworks." Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said Mr. Khan will meet with Mr. Xi and Premier Li Keqiang and "will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations.

'Exposure to a single nasal droplet can cause COVID'

Infection first appears in throat: study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Exposure to a single nasal droplet may be sufficient to cause COVID-19 infection, according to a landmark trial in the U.K., in which healthy volunteers were intentionally given a dose of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

The collaborative study is the first in the world to perform detailed monitoring over the full course of COVID-19, from the moment a person first encounters SARS-CoV-2, throughout the infection to the point at which the virus is apparently eliminated. Among several key clinical insights, researchers found that symptoms start to develop very fast, on average about two days after contact with the virus.

They also found that infection first appears in the throat, infectious virus peaks about five days into infection and, at that stage, is significantly more abundant in the nose than the throat.

The team also found that lateral flow tests are a reassuringly reliable indicator of whether infectious virus is present – whether they are a likely to be able to transmit virus to other people.

The findings, published on *Nature*'s pre-print server and which have not yet been peer-reviewed, detail the outcomes in 36 healthy, young participants with no immunity to the virus.

The study shows that experimental infection of volunteers is reproducible and resulted in no severe symptoms in healthy young adult participants.

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC)
Medical Department, Pimpri, Pune-18

Request for Proposal (RFP) for
Selection of Social Investor to Improve Healthcare Service Delivery in PCMC through the Social Impact Bond Route

E-Tender Notice No.02-2022-23

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal (PCMC) manages primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities having an aggregate bed capacity of about 1500 beds. PCMC has identified 'outcomes' to improve its healthcare facilities and it intends to achieve these outcomes with private sector participation through the Social Impact Bond (SIB) route. The estimated cost of the project is about Rs 80 crores and duration of work is 3 years.

In that context, PCMC invites interested entities having experience as envisaged in the RFP document, to submit their proposal. Interested entities can download the RFP document from the website **https://mahatenders.gov.in.** Interested entities shall make online payment of Rs. 70,560 (Rupees seventy thousand and five hundred and sixty only) towards the cost of RFP document and bid security/ earnest money deposit of Rs 40 lakhs at the time of submission of its proposal through the e-tendering system.

An online pre-bid conference will be arranged on **18/02/2022**. The login/ joining details of the pre-bid conference is provided in the RFP document. The last date of submission of bid will be **21/03/2022.**

Sd/-
Rajesh Patil
Commissioner
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation

Advt.No. 1397

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (P) 4
DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
ROOM NO. 29, B-BUILDING, JHANDEWALAN, NEW DELHI-110005.
Phone: 09650094325
E-mail Id:- djbwaterbody@gmail.com
PRESS NIT No. 24/WB-I/2021-22
"STOP CORONA, WEAR FACE MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD)	Tender Fee	Date of Release of tender in E-Procurement Solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date/Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
01	Providing laying and jointing treated effluent water rising main from Narela STP for rejuvenation of Tikri Khurd Village lake	3,49,31,948/-	6,99,000/-	Rs. 1500/-	02.2.2022 2021_DJB_215870_1	24.2.2022 At 03:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1080 (2021-22) **A.C.E.(P)-4**

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE DY. SE(WB)-II
C/o ACE (WB)-II, 3rd Floor, Varunalaya Ph-I,
NEW DELHI-110005
Email:eewb2djb@gmail.com
NIT NO.5/ DY.SE (WB)-II(2021-22)
"STOP CORONA, WEAR FACE MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD)	Tender Fee	Date of Release of tender in E-Procurement Solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date/Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
1	Supply of treated effulent from Mehrauli STP to DLF Chhattarpur,Satbari & Radhey Mohan Drive Farm houses under ACE(E&M)-I.	Rs. 14,42,28,170/-	Rs. 24,43,000/-	Rs. 1500/-	02.2.2022 2022_DJB_215898_1	24.2.2022 At 03:05 PM
2	Supply of 1.0 MGD treated effluent from Narela STP to Bakoli/Bakhtawarpur Farm Houses under ACE(E&M)-I	Rs. 3,93,50,714/-	Rs. 7,88,000/-	Rs. 1500/-	02.2.2022 2022_DJB_215898_2	24.2.2022 At 03:05 PM
3	Providing and laying 400 mm dia D.I. pipe And construction of pumping station for supply of treated effluent from Ghitorni STP to Aya Nagar Forest under ACE (E&M)-I	Rs. 12,69,67,541/-	Rs. 22,70,000/-	Rs. 1500/-	02.2.2022 2022_DJB_215898_3	24.2.2022 At 03:05 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1082 (2021-22) **Dy. S.E (WB)-II**

DELHI JAL BOARD
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VIII
SEC. 16-D, PAPPANKALAN; N. DELHI. 110075
PRESS N.I.T. No. 16/ EE(SDW)VIII/ (2021-22)
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

S. No.	Name of work	Estimate Cost in Rs.	E/Money in Rs.	Tender fee in Rs.	Date of release of tender in e procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e procurement solution
1	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Floating aerators at Najafgarh drain & Supplementary drain with 2 years DLP and 5 yrs of operation and Comprehensive Maintenance	1191512120/-	2000000/-	1500/-	Tender ID: 2022_DJB_215865_1 Date 02.02.2022	08.03.2022 at 03:00 P.M.

PRESS N.I.T. No. 16/ EE(SDW)VIII/ (2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimate Cost in Rs.	E/Money in Rs.	Tender fee in Rs.	Date of release of tender in e procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e procurement solution
1	Comprehensive Maintenance Contract for Realtime Online Monitoring System installed at various STP's under DJB for a period of 5 years	6,13,20,000/-	12,30,000/-	1500/-	Tender ID: 2022_DJB_215882_1 Date 02.02.2022	08.03.2022 at 03:00 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at (https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in)
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) **(J.C Garg)**
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1081 (2021-22) **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VIII**

DELHI JAL BOARD:GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(E&M)-I
CHANDRAWAL WATER WORKS NO.01, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-110054
PRESS NIT No- 21(2021-22)/EE(E&M)-I
"STOP CORONA, WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

NIT No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of release of Tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/Time receipt of Tender through e-procurement solution
21.2	Electrification of 3 Nos. of DJB Parks at Majnu Ka Tila(Aruna Nagar) and Other Various Sites of Delhi Jal Board under the command of Chandrawal Water Works. (Re-Invited)	Item Rate	1,95,000/-	Tender Id: 2022_DJB_215737_2 Publish Date 01-Feb-2022 10:00 AM onward	14-Feb-2022 up to 12:15 PM
21.3	Operation & maintenance for 04 nos. Water Softener Plants installed at NDMC area for the period of one year	Item Rate	185000/-	Tender Id: 2022_DJB_215737_3 Publish Date 01-Feb-2022 10:00 AM onward	14-Feb-2022 up to 12:15 PM

NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on DJB website https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1079 (2021-22) **Executive Engineer(E&M)-I**

MARKET WATCH

	03-02-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	58,788	-1.29
US Dollar	74.88	-0.06
Gold	47,902	0.13
Brent oil	89.3	-0.22

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	732.50	-12.70
Asian Paints	3203.00	5.30
Axis Bank	799.55	-4.55
Bajaj Auto	3621.10	86.10
Bajaj Finserv	16348.10	-357.90
Bajaj Finance	7110.65	-136.80
Bharti Airtel	721.65	-3.40
BPCL	377.05	-5.05
Britannia Ind	3562.40	-58.65
Cipla	952.75	0.95
Coal India	161.30	-2.55
Divis Lab	4262.45	42.80
Dr Reddys Lab	4374.65	-40.70
Eicher Motors	2670.85	1.10
Grasim Ind	1732.70	-45.40
HCL Tech	1156.75	-14.20
HDFC	2527.80	-85.15
HDFC Bank	1515.35	-15.85
HDFC Life	634.40	-9.75
Hero MotoCorp	2781.50	79.10
Hindalco	512.65	-1.30
Hind Unilever	2298.15	-29.75
ICICI Bank	808.95	-4.80
IndusInd Bank	958.35	-17.00
Infosys	1738.55	-48.55
Indian OilCorp	124.65	0.20
ITC	234.45	2.30
JSW Steel	653.15	-6.70
Kotak Bank	1909.05	-33.55
L&T	1933.65	-49.05
M&M	856.20	-13.15
Maruti Suzuki	8593.65	78.40
Nestle India Ltd.	18306.60	-194.05
NTPC	136.65	-4.50
ONGC	167.50	-3.80
PowerGrid Corp	211.30	-2.70
Reliance Ind	2352.75	-30.80
SBI Life	1185.20	-34.90
State Bank	540.10	0.30
Shree Cement	24800.90	-464.55
Sun Pharma	883.55	-7.10
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	738.10	-4.35
Tata Motors	504.50	-1.90
Tata Steel	1166.60	-0.90
TCS	3824.60	-31.60
Tech Mahindra	1454.30	-28.65
Titan	2474.95	10.95
UltraTech Cement	7375.35	-65.65
UPL	773.50	-12.45
Wipro	578.25	-9.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 03

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.66	74.98
Euro	84.21	84.57
British Pound	101.17	101.61
Japanese Yen (100)	65.05	65.33
Chinese Yuan	11.74	11.79
Swiss Franc	80.91	81.27
Singapore Dollar	55.35	55.60
Canadian Dollar	58.74	59.02
Malaysian Ringitt	17.83	17.93
Australian Dollar	53.13	53.36

Source:Indian Bank

CCI fines 5 tyre makers

CHENNAI

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has fined five tyre makers and ATMA ₹1,788 crore for 'cartelisation'.

No rationale for lowering 30% tax on crypto profits: Bajaj

'Centre open to resolving genuine problems arising from new tax regime'

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

The government is open to resolving genuine problems and reservations of crypto-trading players arising from the new taxation regime for virtual digital assets, but is of the firm view that there is no economic rationale for lowering the proposed 30% tax on profits from crypto assets' trading.

While a review of the 1% tax deducted at source (TDS) rate for all virtual assets' trades could perhaps be considered, top Finance Ministry officials pointed out that even investments in equity and debt instruments which create value for the economy, involve the levy of a Securities Transaction Tax.

Await norms: The introduction of the tax is not indicative of any regulatory regime, says Revenue Secretary Bajaj. ▪AFP

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj strongly backed the 30% rate and said there was no reason to tax these assets lower than what anyone else pays on their income. "The ultra-rich pay 42% taxes including surcharges," Mr. Bajaj told *The Hindu*. "It's not as if some economic value is created or the country's GDP is growing (from crypto trading). If you are speculating and don't find it feasible, stop doing it," he said, adding that the Centre didn't need to encourage such trading even though it may take a fresh look at the 1% TDS rate.

"If there are any reservations on which we agree, that the legislation needs to be straightened out, then... we will work that out," said Central Board of Direct Taxes chairman J.B. Mohapatra.

"You should not take any message about regulatory regime from this tax. Till the... regime is in place, from the tax point of view, we are not concerned if you can do derivatives or intraday trading on this," Mr. Bajaj said.

'FY23 may see govt. borrow ₹600 bn less'

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

The Indian government may reduce by as much as ₹600 billion its planned record market borrowing of ₹14.95 trillion for the next fiscal year, two government sources said.

The sources said the latest bond switch conducted by the government with the central bank at the end of January was not factored into Budget estimates.

The reduction could be announced before the end of March,they said. India's 10-year bond yield had risen on Wednesday to a more than two-year high, largely in reaction to the latest borrowing plan, which was more than 40% higher than the borrowing slated for this year.

Jan. PMI reflects further easing in services activity

Business confidence hits 6-month low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's services sector activity moderated further in January as new business rose at a noticeably slower rate amid the escalation of the pandemic, reintroduction of restrictions and inflationary pressures, a monthly survey showed on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index fell to 51.5 in January, from 55.5 in December, pointing to the slowest rate of expansion in the six-month sequence of growth.

According to survey participants, demand was restricted by the fast spread of the Omicron variant and the reinstatement of curfews in parts of the country.

The spread of the Omicron variant affected demand. Resultant concerns led to job shedding

Companies became increasingly worried that growth would be harmed by the intensification of the pandemic, reintroduction of curbs and inflationary pressures. Business sentiment remained positive but slipped to a six-month low.

"Concerns about how long the current wave of COVID-19 will last dampened business confidence and caused job shedding," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit. "Firms were also alarmed about price pressures," she added.

'COVID hit 300 of 403 regional air routes'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has said that as many as 300 of the 403 routes operationalised under the regional connectivity (RC) scheme of the government have been hit following the pandemic.

In four rounds of bidding carried out in the past five years, as many as 948 routes have been awarded.

"Among 403 routes that have commenced operations, nearly 300 routes have been affected due to poor demand on account of COVID-19 situation," the Ministry of Civil Aviation had told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture that tabled its report on Wednesday.

Banks act against FRL for missing payments

Future Retail's loans classified as NPA

REUTERS
MUMBAI

Lenders to Future Retail have started classifying loans to the firm as a 'non-performing asset' after the retailer missed payments to the banks, they told the Supreme Court in a filing.

The lenders also said they would be required to provision ₹80-90 billion in their books on account of the default by the retailer.

"Lenders have already classified/begun classifying the loan account of FRL as a non-performing asset (NPA) since the payment was not made within" the stipulated time, they said in the filing.

FRL declined comment.

Being classified as an NPA will raise financial troubles for FRL, which has for

months tried to sell its retail assets to rival Reliance Industries, but failed to do so because of legal challenges from its partner Amazon.

Citing its dispute with Amazon, FRL last month challenged its lenders in the top court to avoid facing insolvency proceedings or being classified as a defaulter, after it missed making certain payments on its loans.

CUMI to buy two German abrasives firms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

CUMI Abrasives GmbH, Germany, (CAG) a step down, wholly owned subsidiary of Carborundum Universal Ltd. (CUMI), has announced the buyout of two abrasives companies in the European country.

CUMI said on Thursday that CAG had entered into a share purchase agreement with RHODIUS Abrasives, Germany, to buy 100% stake for an enterprise value of ₹464 crore to enhance technology and geographical access. Deal completion is expected by the end of March.

Earlier, CUMI announced the buyout of the main assets of AWUKO Abrasives Wandmacher Gmbh & Co. for €8 million.

'LIC's embedded value set at over ₹5 trillion'

Metric will establish market valuation

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

State-run Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) embedded value has been finalised at more than ₹5 trillion ($66.82 billion), a government official who is overseeing what is expected to be the country's largest IPO said on Thursday.

Investors are waiting for the Centre to indicate LIC's embedded value – a measure of future cash flows in life insurance companies and the key financial gauge for insurers – when it releases the initial public offering (IPO) draft prospectus, expected in a matter of days.

The embedded value will help establish the market valuation of LIC and determine how much money the

government raises in the flotation. That will be crucial for the government to help meet its divestment targets and keep its fiscal deficit in check.

"I would say the embedded value could be more than ₹5 trillion," Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), told Reuters.

SF Holdings Q3 net rises 22% to ₹34 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Sundaram Finance Holdings Ltd. (SF Holdings) has posted a 22% rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹33.63 crore for the third quarter ended December.

Total revenue grew 21% to ₹17.21 crore. Dividend received from portfolio firms more than doubled to ₹29.38 crore, the firm said.

SF Holdings primarily operates as a holding company owning a portfolio of automotive businesses. As a result, dividend from portfolio companies forms a substantial part of the financial results. SF Holdings sold a 1.5% stake in Sundaram Clayton Ltd. for a total gain of ₹24.66 crore.

The board declared a special dividend of ₹1.

TV PICKS

Tata Open Maharashtra: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 1 p.m. onwards
U-19 World Cup: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 3, 7.30 p.m.
Pro Kabaddi: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. onwards

IN BRIEF

Dinwiddie powers short-handed Wizards

LOS ANGELES

Spencer Dinwiddie delivered a triple-double of 14 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists to power the short-handed Washington Wizards to a 106-103 NBA victory over Philadelphia 76ers in NBA action on Wednesday.

The results: Pacers 118 lost to Magic 119; 76ers 103 lost to Wizards 106; Celtics 113 bt Hornets 107; Knicks 108 lost to Grizzlies 120; Rockets 115 bt Cavaliers 104; Mavericks 114 lost to Thunder 120 (OT); Kings 112 bt Nets 101; Jazz 108 bt Nuggets 104; Lakers 99 Trail Blazers 94. AFP

Senegal makes second straight final

YAOUNDE

Senegal, which was the runner-up at the last edition in 2019, struck three times in the last 20 minutes to book its place in Africa Cup of Nations final as it beat Burkina Faso 3-1 in Wednesday's semifinal here. Abdou Diallo shot home from close range after a corner in the 70th for the first and a strike from Bamba Dieng doubled Senegal's lead six minutes later. Blati Toure pulled a goal back to make it 2-1 in the 82nd but Sadio Mane added a final flourish five minutes later.

The result (semifinal): Senegal 3 (Diallo 70, Gueye 76, Mane 87) bt Burkina Faso 1 (Toure 82). REUTERS

Bengaluru Feb. 12 races advanced to Feb. 10

BENGALURU

The stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club at a meeting held on Thursday decided to advance the 22nd race day, February 12, to February 10 due to administrative reasons.

Kohli gave energy, Rohit will give calmness, says Irfan

Feels former was the best captain India has ever had in Tests

CRICKET

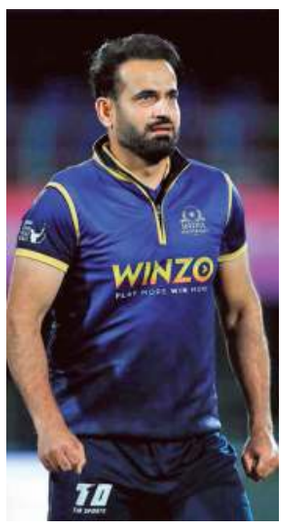
P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Irfan Pathan believes Virat Kohli could still contribute a lot to the Indian cricket team in a leadership role though he has quit captaincy.

"He is not the captain, but as long as he is in the team, he is a leader," the former India all-rounder said. "He will help the new captain to do the right thing."

Irfan, who played for the India Maharajas at the Legends League Cricket that concluded here on Saturday, said that Kohli was the best captain India ever had in Tests and not in terms of just the results.

"He sent out the right messages and he took the team's fitness to another level," he said. "Going forward, I am sure he will help out others, especially Rohit Sharma. Every captain con-



Irfan Pathan. ▪LLC

tributes in unique fashion. Kohli had his energy, Rohit will give you calmness."

Good job

Irfan feels the BCCI has done a good job during the pandemic. "It is commendable that they organised both the Vijay Hazare and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy tournaments and that too with so many teams," he said. "And we have people like Rahul Dravid in decision-making roles. I had suggested last year to him that we should turn the Under-23 age-group into Under-25 so that the youngsters don't lose their two years."

Irfan is glad that Deepak Hooda has been picked for India's ODI team against the West Indies.

"I remember him coming to the Moti Bag Stadium along with his father and I started practising with him," he said. "What he did in the last two years speaks a lot about his character. He has nice wrists, he is a gun fielder and match-winner."

Great platform

Irfan said he enjoyed playing at the Legends tournament. "It is a great platform for former players," he said.

(The writer was in Muscat at the invitation of Legends League Cricket).

Kingfisher Ultra Indian Derby on Feb. 6

Unbeaten wonder filly Miracle in the fray for blue riband event

VINAYAK M. ZODGE
MUMBAI

The Kingfisher Ultra Indian Derby (Gr. 1), which occupies the pride of place as the blue riband event in the Indian racing calendar, will be staged at the Mahalaxmi race course here on Sunday (Feb. 6).

This year will mark the 80th successive running of this prestigious event and the seventh straight year of Kingfisher Ultra being associated with the Royal Western India Turf Club (RWITC).

Spectators allowed

As per the new guidelines announced by the Government of Maharashtra, RWITC has received the necessary approval to conduct racing with spectators following Covid protocols.

Sixteen races have been framed for the derby weekend (Feb. 5 and 6) with the total prize money for the Indian Derby being ₹1,75,00,000, including a winner's purse of ₹1,05,00,000.

The added attraction on derby day will be 'Race Ka Raja' lucky draw announced by the RWITC. Punters will get a chance to win a Honda Shine Bike by placing a bet of ₹1000 & above on a single ticket in the Win Pool of the derby to enter the lucky draw.

One can bet of ₹500 & above on a single ticket in the Win Pool of the PLAY.RWITC.COM Million and enter a lucky draw to win a 43" Samsung Smart TV.

On Saturday, a bet ₹500 & above on a single ticket in the Win Pool of the Smasher Trophy can win a Samsung smartphone.

A field of 11 runners will face the starter this year. Among them, Pesi Shroff's wonder filly Miracle is untouchable. Her eight wins from as many starts has five Classics including the Indian Oaks (Ladies Derby) where she put to rest any doubts of her staying ability by triumphing over 2,400m in a decisive manner.

Zuccarelli, another horse from Shroff's yard, which won the Bangalore Derby in great style, may pose a threat.

Bengaluru-based trainer Rajesh Narredu's ward A Star Is Born, who beat Zuccarelli by a long neck in the Indian 2000 Guineas, maintains his winning form and is a strong contender in the coveted event.

Kingston should come good in feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer K. Satheesh's ward Kingston, who ran a close second to Stunning Force in his last start, should make amends in the G. Vasudeva Reddy Memorial, the feature event of Friday's (Feb. 4) races.

1 **BHUPALPALLY PLATE** (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.30 p.m.: 1. Alpine Girl (7) Kiran Naidu 56, 2. Ashwa Morocco (1) Antony Raj 56, 3. Barbet (8) S.S. Tanwar 56, 4. Bellagio (6) Akshay Kumar 56, 5. Lights On (9) Nakhat Singh 56, 6. Meridia (3) R. Ajinkya 56, 7. Role Model (5) P. Gaddam 56, 8. Roshanara (2) Ashad Asbar 56 and 9. Virangna (4) N.B. Kuldeep 56.
1. BELLAGIO, 2. MERIDIA, 3. LIGHTS ON

2 **JANGAON PLATE** (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 2.00: 1. Bangor On Dee (1) Md. Ismail 56, 2. Carlisle (5) Akshay Kumar 56, 3. Fast Track (9) Kiran Naidu 56, 4. Golden Inzio (3) Aneel 56, 5. Great Guns (2) R. Ajinkya 56, 6. Jack Daniel (6) Nakhat Singh 56, 7. Protocol (10) Abhay Singh 56, 8. Resurgence (7) Kuldeep Singh 56, 9. Rovaniemi (4) S.S. Tanwar 56 and 10. True Icon (8) Gaurav Singh 56.
1. CARLISLE, 2. TRUE ICON, 3. JACK DANIEL

3 **FALAKNUMA CUP (DIV. II)** (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.30: 1. Indie (9) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Muaser (5) Nakhat Singh 58, 3. Mireya (2) Kuldeep Singh 57, 4. Sweet Melody (7) C.P. Bopanna 54.5, 5. Nolan (4) R. Ajinkya 53.5, 6. Quality Warrior (11) Ashad Asbar 53.5, 7. Royal Support (1) Santosh Raj 52.5, 8. Fly Tothe Stars (6) Khurshad Alam 52, 9. Sport On Fire (10) Rafique Sk. 52, 10. Horse O' War (3) P. Gaddam 51.5 and 11. Dizizdtymtowin (8) Rupal Singh 50.
1. INDIE, 2. MUASER, 3. NOLAN

4 **RANGAREDDY PLATE (DIV. II)** (1,200m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.00: 1. The Special One (11) Rohit Kumar 60, 2. Rhythm Selection (2) Md. Ismail 58.5, 3. Indian Temple (3) Rupal Singh 57.5, 4. Sun Dancer (4) Kiran Naidu 57.5, 5. Hashtag (5) Gaurav Singh 56, 6. Royal Pal (1) Abhay Singh 55.5, 7. Flamingo Fame (12) Santosh Raj 54.5, 8. Golden Forza (9) Aneel 53.5, 9. Lifetime (14) Khurshad Alam 53, 10. Prime Gardenia (7) Nakhat Singh 52, 11. Destine To Be (6) Ashad Asbar 51, 12. Lorena (10) G. Naresh 51, 13. N R I Blue (13) Rafique Sk. 51 and 14. Aibak (8) Surya Prakash 50.5.
1. HASHTAG, 2. RHYTHM SELECTION, 3. N R I BLUE

5 **FALAKNUMA CUP (DIV. I)** (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.30: 1. Pacific Command (1) Akshay Kumar 61.5, 2. Char Ek Char (2) Ajeeth Kumar 60, 3. Paladino (6) Afroz Khan 57.5, 4. Southern Act (4) Abhay Singh 56, 5. Call Of The Blue (5) Gaurav Singh 53.5, 6. Truth And Dare (9) R. Ajinkya 53, 7. Dream Jewel (11) Rupal Singh 52.5, 8. Alluri's Pride (10) Rafique Sk. 52, 9. Sye Ra (8) G. Naresh 52, 10. First In Line (3) Surya Prakash 51.5 and 11. Smolensk (7) Santosh Raj 51.5.
1. PACIFIC COMMAND, 2. TRUTH AND DARE, 3. CHAR EK CHAR

6 **RANGAREDDY PLATE (DIV. I)** (1,200m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.00: 1. Max (12) N.B. Kuldeep 60, 2. Mind Reader (11) R.S. Jodha 59.5, 3. Bedford (13) Kiran Naidu 58, 4. Sandown Park (9) Afroz Khan 57.5, 5. Once More (2) Gaurav Singh 56.5, 6. Sacred Lamp (14) Abhay Singh 55.5, 7. Nearest (10) Kuldeep Singh 54.5, 8. Soul Empress (6) Aneel 54.5, 9. Thunder Road (3) Akshay Kumar 54, 10. Dunkirk (7) Surya Prakash 52.5, 11. Queen Blossom (5) Rupal Singh 52, 12. Explosive (8) B.R. Kumar 51.5, 13. Theo's Choice (1) Koushik 51.5 and 14. Ayur Tej (4) Rafique Sk. 50.5.
1. THUNDER ROAD, 2. DUNKIRK, 3. SACRED LAMP

7 **G. VASUDEVA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP** (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.30: 1. Menilly (11) Santosh Raj 60, 2. Kingston (12) Nakhat Singh 57, 3. All Time Legend (8) Antony Raj 54, 4. Amyra (10) Afroz Khan 54, 5. Shazam (5) D.S. Deora 54, 6. Angelita (2) Ajeeth Kumar 53, 7. City Of Bliss (1) Koushik 53, 8. Lifes Song (6) Akshay Kumar 53, 9. Rising Queen (9) Abhay Singh 53, 10. Lockhart (3) B.R. Kumar 52.5, 11. Mark My Word (7) C.P. Bopanna 52.5 and 12. Gregor Clegane (4) Aneel 52.
1. KINGSTON, 2. MENILLY, 3. LIFES SONG

8 **MANCHERIAL PLATE** (1,200m), 5-y-o & upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 5.00: 1. Bedazzled (8) Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Blazing Jupiter (9) Deepak Singh 60, 3. Dead Centre (12) Khurshad Alam 60, 4. Loch Stella (10) R.S. Jodha 60, 5. Look Of Love (1) Gaurav Singh 60, 6. Stark (13) Surya Prakash 60, 7. N R I Ruby (2) Santosh Raj 59.5, 8. City Queen (6) G. Naresh 56.5, 9. Rhine (11) B.R. Kumar 56, 10. Hip Hop (14) C.P. Bopanna 55.5, 11. Southern Lady (3) Afroz Khan 55.5, 12. Starwalker (7) Md. Ismail 55.5, 13. Acadian Angel (4) Rupal Singh 53.5 and 14. Paree (5) Rafique Sk. 53.5.
1. BEDAZZLED, 2. BLAZING JUPITER, 3. STARK

Day's Best: **THUNDER ROAD**

Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8. Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8. Tanala: All races.

Speedster claims Stayers Trial Stakes

BENGALURU: Speedster (Suraj up) won the Stayers Trial Stakes, the feature event of the races held here on Thursday. The winner is owned and trained by Mr. Warren Singh. Suraj won three races on the day.

1. **INDRAVATI PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 6-y-o & over: **ELITE AGENT** (Sai Kiran) 1, Fierce Fighter (P.P. Dhebe) 2, Konichiwa (Mark) 3 and Akasi (A. Qureshi) 4. 4-1/4, 1-1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m, 30.70s. ₹25 (w), 13, 17 and 32 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 67, FP: 105, Q: 82, Trinella: 985 and 624, Exacta: 6,073 and 3,123. Favourite: Elite Agent. Owner: The Estate Of Late R.R. Byramji. Trainer: Narayana Gowda.

2. **SPLENDID ROLE PLATE** (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only (Terms): **RAVISHING FORM** (Suraj) 1, Philosophy (Shane Gray) 2, Yukan (Akshay K) 3 and Aguila (Kiran Rai) 4. Not run: Forty Niner. 2-1/4, 5 and 7-3/4. 1m, 08.14s. ₹12 (w), 11, 10 and 12 (p), SHP: 20, THP: 31, FP: 26, Q: 22, Trinella: 29 and 14, Exacta: 115 and 109. Favourite: Ravishing Form. Owners: Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Mrs. Anasuya Gupta & The Estate Of Late R.R. Byramji. Trainer: Parvati Byramji.

3. **INDRAVATI PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 6-y-o & over: **LIFEISAMIRACLE** (Vishal Bunde) 1, Aferpi (S. John) 2, Black Whizz (Dhanu Shing) 3 and Birchwood (Naveen Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, 2 and 2. 1m, 30.27s. ₹26 (w), 14, 21 and 10 (p), SHP: 47, THP: 40, FP: 139, Q: 94, Trinella: 797 and 263, Exacta: 45,028 and 19,297. Favourite: Lifeisamiracle. Owners: Mr. Naresh Kumar Pawar and Mr. M. Venkatarama. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

4. **KADAMBI FALLS PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: LORD FRANKEL (Shane Gray) 1, Sensational Gray (Darshan) 2, Queen Regnant (Vishal Bunde) 3 and Southern Power (Nazerul) 4. 4-3/4, 3-1/4 and 2-1/2. 1m, 28.41s. ₹55 (w), 15, 14 and 20 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 54, FP: 282, Q: 103, Trinella: 1,371 and 808, Exacta: 10,273 and 8,806. Favourite: Hope Island. Owners: Mr. S. Padmanabhan, Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, Bachhawat Farms Pvt Ltd & Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

5. **HASSAN PLATE** (2,000m), rated 40 to 65: **ANTIBES** (S. John) 1, Grey Channel (Dhanu Singh) 2, Green Channel (S. Saqlain) 3. Not run: Peluche. 1 and Hd. 2m, 17.87s. ₹14 (w), 10 and 34, SHP: 22, THP: 16, FP: 27, Q: 18, Trinella: 16 and 10. Favourite: Antibes. Owners: Diamond Band Racing Syndicate Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. Shiven Surendranath, Mr. Kersi H. Vachha, Mr. Haider Soomar & M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

6. **STAYERS TRIAL STAKES** (2,400m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): **SPEEDSTER** (Suraj) 1, Automatic (A. Qureshi) 2, Salazaar (S. John) 3 and Towering Presence (Akshay K) 4. 7, 5-1/2 and 11. 2m, 35.73s. ₹55 (w), 27 and 48 (p), SHP: 75, THP: 37, FP: 592, Q: 161, Trinella: 499 and 160, Exacta: 2,493 and 1,959. Favourite: Salazaar. Owner and trainer: Mr. Warren Singh.

7. **RAICHUR PLATE** (1,200m), rated 40 to 65: **KNIGHT IN HOOVES** (Suraj) 1, Alberetta (L.A. Rozario) 2, Brunhild (P.P. Dhebe) 3 and Thousand Words (Arshad) 4. 4, 1 and 3/4. 1m, 14.43s. ₹17 (w), 11, 25 and 14 (p), SHP: 70, THP: 52, FP: 157, Q: 114, Trinella: 300 and 90, Exacta: 997 and 532. Favourite: Knight In Hooves. Owner: Mr. Daulat Chhabria. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

8. **KADAMBI FALLS PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: **SMITHSONIAN** (Vishal Bunde) 1, In A Breeze (Trevor) 2, Twinkle Feet (Arshad) 3 and Shining Rock (P. Surya) 4. 1-1/4, Lnk and 2-1/4. 1m, 28.31s. ₹134 (w), 34, 18 and 20 (p), SHP: 60, THP: 50, FP: 709, Q: 179, Trinella: 4,481 and 1,921, Exacta: 16,637 and 5,347. Favourite: Shining Rock. Owner and trainer: Mr. Aravind Ganapathy.

Jackpot: ₹8,587 (five tkts.); Runner-up: 214 (86 tkts.); Treble (i): 181 (33 tkts.); (ii): 2,023 (five tkts.).

USA routs Honduras

REUTERS
LOS ANGELES

The U.S. men's national team did what it needed to do in defeating Honduras 3-0 in a CONCACAF World Cup qualifier on Wednesday in Minnesota.

Weston McKennie in the eighth minute and Walker Zimmerman in the 37th helped the Americans to a 2-0 halftime lead. U.S. star Christian Pulisic scored three minutes later to make it 3-0.

The results: At Kingston: Jamaica 0 lost to Costa Rica 1 (Campbell 62). **At St. Paul, Minnesota:** USA 3 (McKennie 8, Zimmerman 37, Pulisic 68) bt Honduras 0.

At San Salvador: El Salvador 0 lost to Canada 2 (Hutchinson 66, David 90+4). **At Mexico City:** Mexico 1 (Jimenez 80) bt Panama 0.

India thrashes Australia, enters final

Bowlers join the party after Dhull and Rasheed set the platform for an imposing total

U-19 WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
OSBOURN

Skipper Yash Dhull gave a glimpse of his rare talent with a well-paced hundred as powerhouse India reached a fourth consecutive Under-19 World Cup final with an emphatic 96-run win over Australia here on Wednesday.

Record target

Dhull struck a sublime 110 off as many balls and shared a game-changing 204-run stand with deputy Shaik Rasheed (94, 108b) to fire India to a formidable 290 for five after opting to bat.

The Indian bowlers then bowled Australia out for 194 in 41.5 overs.

Pacers Rajvardhan Hangargekar (0/26) and Ravi Kumar (2/37) were impressive in the PowerPlay before spinners Nishant Sindhu (2/25), Vicky Ostwal (3/42) and Kaushal Tambe (1/32) dominated the middle overs.

Record four-time champion India faces England in the final on Saturday.

Chasing a record target, Australia lost in-form opener Teague Wyllie cheaply with Ravi Kumar trapping him in front off his first legitimate ball. Campbell Kellaway (30) and Corey Miller (38) forged a 68-run stand before perishing in the space of six balls

Left-arm spinner Ostwal took a return catch for his second wicket to make it 119 for six in 30 overs, shutting the door on the opposition.

Dhull was impressive with his captaincy too, introducing part-time offie Raghuvanshi ahead of the left-arm spinners. Raghuvanshi delivered the breakthrough by trapping Miller.

Resilient: The Indian youngsters have pulled together through some difficult times. ▪TWITTER/ICC

- **Final:** India vs England at North Sound, Saturday, 6.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

India: 290/5 in 50 overs.
Australia: Campbell Kelaway c Sindhu b Ostwal 30, Teague Wyllie lbw b Ravi Kumar 1, Corey Miller lbw b Raghuvanshi 38, Cooper Connolly c Rasheed b Sindhu 3, Lachlan Shaw b Ravi Kumar 51, Nivethan Radhakrishnan b Sindhu 11, William Salzmann c & b Ostwal 7, Tobias Snell b Ostwal 4, Jack Sinfield st Bana b Tambe 20, Tom Whitney run out 19, Jack Nisbet (not ut) 0; Extras (lb-1, w-9): 10, Total (in 41.5 overs) 194.
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-71, 3-73, 4-83, 5-101, 6-119, 7-125, 8-167, 9-178.
India bowling: Hangargekar 7-1-26-0, Ravi Kumar 6-0-37-2, Bawa 3.5-0-20-0, Tambe 6-0-32-1, Raghuvanshi 3-0-11-1, Ostwal 10-0-42-3, Sindhu 6-0-25-2.
India won by 96 runs to enter the final.

- In the playoff match for the fifth place on Thursday at North Sound, Pakistan scored 365/3 in 50 overs against Sri Lanka after having been asked to bat

Skier Arif Khan eyes a top-30 finish

To take part in slalom and giant slalom

WINTER OLYMPICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

While India enforced a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics commencing on Friday, the nation's hopes will still rest on skier Arif Khan. Hailing from Kashmir, Arif will participate in two events and is aiming at a modest top-30 finish in the showpiece event.

The 31-year-old, the lone Indian participant in the quadrennial event, secured his berth in a qualifying event in Dubai last year.

"To be honest, if you want to be a medal contender, you require at least 10 years of training and preparation, (need) to have (decent) budget and funding, only then it's possible to be in medal contention," said Arif recently.

"I have been training over a couple of years seriously and my expectation is to be make in world's top 30. To be in top 30 is like medal winners in the world," added Arif, who will take part in the slalom and giant slalom. His events will take place on February 13 and 16.

Arif Khan...ready for action. ▪NISSAR AHMAD

Manager tests negative

Meanwhile, a day after testing positive for COVID-19, the manager of the Indian contingent Mohammad Abbas Wani returned negative results in two re-tests conducted in the last 24 hours, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) said on Thursday.

India begins training

WI IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

India's squad, barring the trio that has been diagnosed with COVID-19, began its preparation for the three-ODI series versus West Indies in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

With Shikhar Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer and Ruturaj Gaikwad having been sidelined along with back-up bowler Navdeep Saini and three support staff members for the first two ODIs, all the other members underwent an additional RT-PCR test ahead of the first scheduled practice session ahead of Sunday's series-opener.

Mayank joins squad

While the squad led by Rohit Sharma trained at the Narendra Modi Stadium, opener Mayank Agarwal began his mandatory three-day quarantine after joining the squad on Thursday.

Sunday's opening match will be India's 1000th ODI.

'Rasheed destined to make it big'

He has the makings of a fine all-rounder, says MSK Prasad

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Seventeen-year-old Shaik Rasheed may have had a disappointed walk back to the pavilion after missing what looked a thoroughly deserving century (94) against Australia in the Under-19 World Cup semifinal on Wednesday.

But, it is obvious that the Guntur-born Andhra cricketer, who is also the India vice-captain, didn't disappoint his mentor and former BCCI senior selection panel chairman M.S.K. Prasad.

"From the day I saw him, I never had any doubt about him making it big. He has all the qualities of a wonderful, all-round cricketer – has great passion for the game and is extremely hard-working," MSK told *The Hindu* a day after captain Yash Dull, who scored a brilliant century, and Rasheed helped India drub Australia in the semifinal.

Rasheed with Dravid. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With his father, who worked in a fertiliser shop and did some odd jobs, realising that Rasheed had the talent and backing him, the young cricketer had the liberty to fully concentrate on his game, MSK recalled.

MSK said Rasheed was the product of the ACA residential academies project. During his stint as Director of ACA (Cricket Operations) he ensured every district in Andhra Pradesh had a full-fledged cricket academy and ground with all facilities.

UK stint

Going further back, Prasad said since Rasheed was a gifted cricketer, he was sent to the UK for special training at the age of 13 as ACA then had a tie-up with Cricket Beyond Boundaries started by Dr. Sameer Pathak.

In fact, Rasheed stayed in the UK for a couple of months and even played local league matches at Barnard Castle.

"That was possible because of our then ACA secretary Dr. G. Gangaraju and the academy mentor Kinjal Suratwala," he concluded.

Ganguly looks forward to COVID-free days

Admits running the Board has been challenging in the 'tough circumstances'

SHAYAN ACHARYA
MUMBAI

Sourav Ganguly does not believe heading the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has been more challenging than captaining India. But he admits the 28-month stint has been "under tough circumstances due to COVID-19."

Ganguly, however, is optimistic that things will improve. In a chat with *The Hindu*, Ganguly shares his thoughts on various issues. *Excerpts*

Finding a window for the Ranji Trophy

We missed one year of Ranji – the 2020-21 season. It is the most important tournament in India, and we have always wanted to organise it. But these last two years, I don't think it has happened in anybody's lifetime.

The sanctity of the bio-bubble in view of players testing positive in Ahmedabad

I think these things happen (testing positive) since the players come from different places. There is the possibility that a few might test positive. Once this wave subsides, it should be fine. Once the players [complete the mandatory quarantine] and enter the bubble, there should not be any problem.

Ganguly was optimistic that things would improve. ▪FILE PHOTO

The Board's plans for this edition of the IPL

It will be held in India this year, until and unless COVID-19 hits the roof. We are looking at Mumbai and Pune. We will take a call on knockout stage venues later.

On Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara

They are very good players. Hopefully, they will go back to the Ranji and score a lot of runs.

Plans to improve standards at the NCA

We have put everything in place. (V.V.S.) Laxman and Rahul (Dravid) work together. There are coaches working alongside them. The U-19 coaches, too, work with the NCA and some of them are currently with the team at the World Cup. A new NCA facility is being built, the construction will start probably this month. It will take 18 months to finish.

Women's IPL and more women's Tests

Yes, they will (on women playing more Tests). The Women's T20 Challenge will be back this year in May. We will host the IPL and hopefully we will host a bigger women's IPL once the number of women players goes up.

Pink-ball Test during the Sri Lanka series

Yes, the pink-ball Test will be happening, in Bengaluru. We have not decided on all the venues yet.

On India's 1,000th ODI – against the West Indies at Ahmedabad on Sunday

I was captain for India's 500th ODI (against England at Riverside in Chester-le-Street, July 4, 2002). It is a big moment for Indian cricket, but unfortunately, the match will be played without a crowd. The series, too, will be played in empty stadiums.

Expectations from Team India in 2022 and 2023 with two ICC World Cups lined up

I don't want to put the pressure of expectations on them. I just wish them all the very best. I They are a great side, who will always be contenders and I hope they play well.

Pruned Ranji Trophy to begin on Feb. 17

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

Defending champion Saurashtra has been clubbed with domestic powerhouse Mumbai in Group D, while Tamil Nadu will enter as the second-seeded team in Group H in a curtailed edition of the Ranji Trophy, set to commence on Feb. 17 at nine venues. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah confirmed the groups, venues and the tournament format in a letter to all its affiliated units on Friday.

The BCCI, after considering the possibility of letting top teams as many assured games as possible, has decided to revise the format. Each of the nine group table-toppers will qualify for the knockouts.

Besides the playing conditions, Shah informed that the detailed match schedule will "soon" be communicated along with COVID-19 guidelines. The BCCI has confirmed that the teams will have to enter their respective bisecure hub on Feb. 10.

The Hindu understands that the three league games will be scheduled from Feb. 17 to 20, Feb. 24 to 27 and March 3 to 6. Kolkata will host the pre-quarterfinal from March 12 to 15.

The quarterfinals, semifinals and the final will be played from May 30 to June 26.

The groupings

- **Elite Group A (at Rajkot):** Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya
- **Elite Group B (at Cuttack):** Bengal, Baroda, Hyderabad, Chandigarh
- **Elite Group C (at Chennai):** Karnataka, Railways, Jammu & Kashmir, Pondicherry
- **Elite Group D (at Ahmedabad):** Saurashtra, Mumbai, Odisha, Goa
- **Elite Group E (at Thiruvananthapuram):** Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Services, Uttarakhand
- **Elite Group F (at Delhi):** Punjab, HP, Haryana, Tripura
- **Elite Group G (at Haryana - Gurugram and Rohtak):** Vidarbha, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Assam
- **Elite Group H (at Guwahati):** Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh
- **Plate Group (at Kolkata):** Bihar, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh

China dethrones Japan, meets Korea in final

ASIAN CUP

LAVANYA LAKSHMI NARAYANAN
PUNE

Japan's bid for a hat-trick of Women's Asian Cup titles came crumbling down after the defending champion was knocked out by China 4-3 on penalties in the second semifinal.

After being tied 1-1 at the end of regulation time and 2-2 in extra time, Japan missed two chances in the penalty shootout to crash out.

Riko Ueki starred for Japan with a brace while Wu Chengshu and Wang Shan Shan scored for eventual finalist.

China, which has not won this title since 2006, will face Korea in the final on February 6 in a bid to clinch a record-extending ninth crown.

Earlier, Korea beat the Philippines 2-0 to enter the final for the first time in five attempts.

Korea drew first blood with Jo So-hyun scoring with a strong header off a corner in the fourth minute.

The lead was doubled in the 33rd minute when Son Hwa-yeon converted a cross from Cho Jyu-hoo from the left, sliding the ball into the goal from the near post for her eighth international strike.

Korea would have added a few more to that scoreline, especially in the second half, but for an inspired Olivia McDaniel in goal. She pulled off several saves, especially in the last 20 minutes.

The Filipinos were left playing much of the game in their own half, chasing after the Koreans.

Sealing it! Son Hwa-yeon scores Korea's second goal. ▪REUTERS

The result (semifinals):

Korea 2 (Jo So-hyun 4, Son Hwa-yeon 33) bt Philippines 0.

China 2 (Wu 46, Wang 119) bt Japan 2 (Ueki 26, 103) 4-3 on penalties.

ATK MB-MC FC match drawn

ISL 2021-22

SPORTS BUREAU

ATK Mohun Bagan's attempt to find a first win against Mumbai City FC went in vain as the latter managed to force a 1-1 draw in an ISL-8 fixture at Fatorda on Thursday.

ATK MB wrested the initiative early in the opening half and forced the Mumbai City defence into errors. The decisive mistake came in the ninth minute from Moroccan defensive midfielder Ahmed Jahouh.

Under pressure from Hugo Boumous, Jahouh allowed ATK MB's French play-maker to set up David Williams inside the Mumbai box. The Australian forward created space and finished with a rasping grounder to secure the lead.

Well done! Mumbai's Fall and Colaco of ATK MB greet each other after the match. ▪FOCUS SPORTS/ ISL

Stung by the reverse, Mumbai City began taking the attack into the opponent's territory. The equaliser came in the 24th minute when ATK MB captain Pritam Kotal committed the gross error of turning a regulation cross from Mumbai City winger Bipin Singh into his own goal.

The second half did not produce many chances as both sides appeared to be content with a draw.

The result: Mumbai City FC 1 (Kotal 24-og) drew with ATK Mohun Bagan 1 (Williams 9).

Friday's match: Kerala Blasters FC vs NorthEast United FC, 7.30 p.m.

Bopanna-Ramkumar duo in last four

Sriram Balaji-Vishnu Vardhan also make it; Yuki and Karatsev crash out

TATA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan advanced to the doubles semifinals, but it was curtains for Yuki Bhambri in singles second round in the 2022 Tata Open Maharashtra at the Balewadi Stadium here on Thursday.

Bopanna and Ramkumar defeated Austrian-Czech duo of Alexander Erler and Czech Jiri Vesely 7-6(7-3) 7-6 (7-4) in the quarterfinals.

N. Sriram Balaji and Vishnu Vardhan would also feature in the semifinals after their opponent, Gianluca Mager and Emil Ruusuvuori withdrew from the last-eight match due to an injury to the former.

Elias Ymer. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Indian duo, which entered the main draw as an alternate pair, had defeated Arjun Kadhe and Purav Raja on Wednesday night.

The third Indian pair of Saketh Myneni and Sasikumar Mukund bowed out after losing to the Australians John-Patrick Smith and Luke Saville 3-6, 7-5, [10-3].

In singles, it was curtains for comeback man Yuki as he suffered a 3-6, 2-6 defeat against eight seed Stefano Travaglia of Australia in the second round.

Earlier in the day, Sweden's Elias Ymer stunned top-seed and World No. 15 Aslan Karatsev of Russia 6-2, 7-6(3) to storm into the quarterfinals.

Defending champion Jiri Vesely, who received an opening round bye, started his campaign with a confident 6-3, 6-4 win against Bernabe Zapata Miralles.

Sixth-seeded Ruusuvuori also had an easy outing against qualifier Vit Kopriva, securing a 6-3, 6-3 victory in a lopsided last-16 contest.

The results: Singles (round of 16): Emil Ruusuvuori (Fin) bt Vit Kopriva (Cze) 6-3, 6-3; Jiri Vesely (Cze) bt Bernabe Zapata Miralles (Esp) 6-3, 6-4; Elias Ymer (Swe) bt Aslan Karatsev (Rus) 6-2, 7-6(3); Stefano Travaglia (Ita) bt Yuki Bhambri 6-3, 6-2.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Vishnu Vardhan & N. Sriram Balaji bt Gianluca Mager (Ita) & Emil Ruusuvuori (Fin), walkover; Fabien Reboul & Sadio Doumbia (Fra) bt Federico Gaio & Lorenzo Musetti (Ita) 4-6, 6-3, [10-2]; Rohan Bopanna & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Jiri Vesely (Cze) & Alexander Erler (Aut) 7-6(3), 7-6(4); John-Patrick Smith & Luke Saville (Aus) bt Saketh Myneni & Sasikumar Mukund 3-6, 7-5, [10-3].

Panthers subdue Dabang

ANI
BENGALURU

Deepak Hooda was the star for Jaipur Pink Panthers as it beat Dabang Delhi KC 36-30 in the first match of Day 5 in the ProKabaddi League Season 8's rivalry week on Thursday.

The star raider clinched a super 10 (12 points) and was supported well by his team's defence. The win made it two in two attempts for the season 1 champion which will slowly feel confident about clinching a playoff spot.

Dabang's disorganised defence was the main reason for its downfall. In the second match of the day, Tamil Thalaivas downed Telugu Titans 43-25.

IN BRIEF

'Retired' Lakmal signs deal with Derbyshire

COLOMBO

Veteran fast bowler and former captain Suranga Lakmal, who announced on Wednesday he would retire from international cricket after Sri Lanka's tour of India, has signed a two-year deal with English county Derbyshire. Lakmal will be reuniting with his former national coach Mickey Arthur at Derbyshire. The 34-year-old Lakmal has 168 wickets from 68 Tests, 109 from 86 ODIs and eight from 11 T20Is. ANI

AITA Super series matches rescheduled

CHANDIGARH

Owing to persistent heavy rain, matches in the AITA Super series junior under-18 tennis tournament at the CLTA Stadium were rescheduled for Friday. The event had reached the semifinals of singles and doubles finals in better weather conditions.

Myneni gets Bengaluru Open wild card

BENGALURU

Saketh Myneni was on Thursday awarded the first of three singles wild cards for the Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger tennis tournament that begins on Sunday. Myneni is currently ranked No. 561 in the world and was a finalist here in 2018, losing to Prajnesh Gunneswaran.

Ramana hails the PVL concept

Provides inputs on team and playing strategy to Bengaluru Torpedoes players

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

For Bengaluru Torpedoes, gunning for the title in the Rupay Prime Volleyball League starting at Gachibowli Indoor Stadium here from February 5, it was a different kind of experience when 1986 Asian Games bronze medallist and former international spiker P.V. Ramana shared his experience and thoughts with the players here on Thursday.

Words of advice: P.V. Ramana shares his thoughts with Bengaluru Torpedoes players. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Key to success

The 59-year-old Ramana, father of champion shuttler P.V. Sindhu, said the key to success was finding the right strategy and executing it; for instance, strengthening the defence by developing real good blockers.

"Whatever the combination, it should ensure it creates openings for the big smashes to score crucial points. Obviously, the central blocker and the two side-blockers play a major role," the Arjuna Awardee said.

"In volleyball the 'lifters' have to be on a different plane in terms of tactics to complement teammates' efforts," said Ramana, stepping on court for a few minutes and giving glimpses of his skills during his heyday. Sindhu was a keen spectator on the sidelines.

Ramana said the PVL was something the sport badly needed, as players across the country were short of match experience and that the League provided the perfect platform to watch foreign players and pick up tips to be better players.

"There has been no money right from our playing days. So, this PVL also assures some sort of financial comfort to the players even as they try to make it to the national team," said Ramana.

"Such leagues need just a one-month window and I believe every sport should have a League on these lines," he said.

"We were lucky to have some of the big names around when we played the game like Jimmy George, Cyril Valloor, Abdul Basith, Sandeep Sharma, Sreedharan. And, there is plenty of talent now also looking for the right kind of exposure," he concluded.

Meanwhile, Torpedoes captain Ranjit Singh was thankful for Ramana's advice.

"Ramana sir advised me to employ long shots as a setter in order to make it difficult for the opponent blocker. He also told me to keep the attacker free so that he is always ready for rebounds," he said.

Sindhu's presence

The youngsters in the team were excited at meeting Sindhu and are now even more motivated to perform, he said.

"Sindhu is the pride of the nation, so the youngsters were bound to feel motivated upon meeting her. It was a very enriching experience for everyone," he said.

Federer, Nadal may team up for doubles again

Event to be held in London in September

What the stars foretell: Fans will be delighted that Nadal and Federer are planning "a truly special experience". ▪AFP

LAVER CUP

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal say they will play in the next edition of the Laver Cup.

Federer, who has been sidelined since July because of an injured knee, and Nadal, fresh off earning his men's-record 21st Grand Slam title at the Australian Open, said in a statement on Thursday they would represent Team Europe in London at the September 23-25 tournament.

"I'm really looking forward to getting back into competition later this year and Laver Cup is very much part of my plan," said Federer, whose management company founded the competition.

Federer said Nadal messaged him last year suggesting they play doubles together again in the Laver Cup.

They teamed up to win a doubles match during the first Laver Cup in 2017.

"If we're able to possibly share the court one more time as a doubles pairing, then this would be a truly special experience for us both at this stage in our careers," Nadal said.

This will be the fifth Laver Cup. Neither Federer nor Nadal took part in 2021.

Federer, 40, has not competed since undergoing surgery on his right knee for the third time in one-and-a-half years not long after losing in the Wimbledon quarterfinals on July 7.

In November, he said he did not expect to be able to play at the All England Club this year and it is still uncertain when – or, truly, if – he will return to Grand Slam action.

Nadal, Federer and Novak Djokovic all were tied at 20 Major championships until Sunday. That's when Nadal moved ahead by coming back after dropping the opening two sets to beat Daniil Medvedev in the final at Melbourne Park.

Ahamed takes pole position

Leads TVS Racing's front row sweep in Pro-Stock 165cc

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

K.Y. Ahamed led a front-row lockout for TVS Racing as he took pole position in the premier Pro-Stock 165cc Open category as the fifth and final round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2021 commenced at the MMRT here on Thursday.

Ahamed clocked 01 minute, 54.353 seconds while teammates Deepak Ravikumar (01:54.988) and championship leader Jagan Kumar (01:55.179) filled the front row.

Incidentally, Jagan, a nine-time National champion, needs 10 points in this weekend's double-header to seal the title.

Smooth ride: Ahamed to start from the front in the Pro-Stock 165cc category. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Provisional results (qualifying, best laps):

Pro-Stock 165cc: 1. K.Y. Ahamed (TVS Racing, Chennai) 01min, 54.353s; 2. Deepak Ravikumar (TVS Racing, Chennai) 01:54.988; 3. Jagan Kumar (TVS Racing, Chennai) 01:55.179.

Novice (Stock 165cc): 1. Allwin Xavier (Sparks Racing, Thrissur) 02:07.266; 2. Alwin Sundar (AS Motorsports, Chennai) 02:07.466; 3. Varun Nanjundegowda (Sparks Racing, Mysuru) 02:08.474.

Girls (Stock 165cc): 1. Lani Zena Fernandez (Speed Up Racing, Puducherry) 02:10.011; 2. Ryhana Bee (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate, Chennai) 02:10.213; 3. Ann Jennifer (Sparks Racing, Chennai) 02:11.052.

TVS One-Make Championship — Open (RR 310): 1. Ami Van (Auroville) 01:56.505; 2. Jagadeesh N. (Bengaluru) 01:56.724; 3. Navaneeth Kumar (Puducherry) 01:56.836.

Girls (Apache RTR 200): 1. Deepika Reddy (Hyderabad) 02:12.895; 2. Rakishitha Dave (Chennai) 02:15.137; 3. Adlin Seles (Chennai) 02:15.206.

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup — CBR 150: 1. Prakash Kamat (Bokaro Steel City) 02:08.265; 2. Vivek Gaurav (Patna) 02:08.559; 3. Theopaul Leander (Chennai) 02:09.128.

Hornet 2.0 (Support class): 1. Kevin Kannan (Chennai) 02:11.712; 2. G. Balaji (Chennai) 02:13.053; 3. Shankar Guru (Chennai) 02:14.264.

DELHI ROUND-UP

Century by Keshav

Keshav Dalal scored an 119-ball 169 as Ravi Kant Bhat Cricket Academy beat Sadar Bazar Youth Cricket Club by 137 runs in a league match of the Kragbuzz under-19 tournament.

The scores: RKBA 350/4 in 40 overs (Keshav Dalal 169, Trinav Kumar 90) bt SBYC 213/6 in 40 overs (Saransh Parashar 85).

Haryana Academy and BHC in semifinals

Man-of-the-match and Haryana under-19 player Samant Jakhad scored an unbeaten 109 as Haryana Cricket Academy beat LB Shastri Club by 23 runs to enter the semifinals of the all-India Capt. Dharampal u-19 tournament.

In another match, Madhur Yadav and Mayank Malhotra scored half-centuries to help Baba Haridas CC down Ravinder Phagna CA by 13 runs and reach the last-four.

The scores:

Haryana Academy 186/3 in 40 overs (Samant Jakhad 109 n.o.) bt LBSC 163 in 37 overs (Dipesh Balyan 63, Kabir Bishnoi 3/12).

BHC 221/6 in 40 overs (Madhur Yadav 92, Mayank Malhotra 53) bt RPCA 208 in 39 overs (Vivek Kumar 3/45).

Pooja, Sai get wild cards

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Pooja Ingale and Sai Dedeepya have been given wild-card entries for the $15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament to be played at the Joygaon Academy, Jhajjar, from February 8.

Incidentally, Pooja Ingale had won a tournament on the clay courts of Joygaon last year, and a big trophy decorates the place with her name on it.

Three wild-cards for the qualifying event, which starts on February 7, have been given to Himadri Kashyap, Riddhi Kakarlamudi and Riya Uboveja.

The organisers will decide on other wild-cards before the sign-in.

Shruti Ahlawat has also got a main-draw entry on the basis of her world junior rank of 78.

The next three ITF women's events are scheduled to be played in Gurugram, Ahmedabad and Nagpur, over the following three weeks.

Mujeeb returns to Middlesex

CRICKET

ANI
LONDON

Middlesex Cricket on Friday announced that Afghanistan international spinner and the ICC's ranked seventh-best T20 bowler in world cricket, Mujeeb Ur Rahman will return to the club for this year's Vitality Blast campaign.

Mujeeb will arrive with Middlesex ahead of the start of the tournament and will be available for the entire group stages of the competition and the knockout stages, should Middlesex qualify. He first represented the club in the 2019 season as Middlesex made it to the quarter-final knockout stages of the competition.

Mujeeb. ▪FILE PHOTO

He has since returned in both 2020 and 2021, and this will be his fourth summer as a Middlesex overseas player in the Vitality Blast.

Mujeeb commented: "I am very pleased to be returning to Middlesex, as the Club is like family to me. I'm very happy there and hopefully we can do well this season."

Alan Coleman, Head of Men's Performance Cricket, commented: "We are delighted once again to be able to extend Mujeeb's association with Middlesex Cricket."

Natekars focus on second innings

NSF joins hands with Pine Labs to help retired sports persons

GENERAL

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Natekar Sports and Fitness has joined hands with Amrish Rau of Pine Labs to provide a second innings for retired sports persons.

The idea is to channelise the sporting talent, "Players who have demonstrated the highest levels of commitment, passion, integrity and ethics to achieve success," says the pinelabs website as the venture attempts to guide the athletes who wish to make the transition from sports to the corporate world.

Nice gesture: Gaurav and Arati look to guide athletes who wish to make the transition from sports to the corporate world. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Trying to help

"We have done a lot of things over the last 20 years. We have been trying to help athletes and this project is very close to our heart," said Arati Natekar, the former national women's tennis champion.

With husband Gaurav Natekar busy with commentary on TV for the Tata Maharashtra Open, Arati was quite happy to recall the fine role played by the legendary Nandu Natekar in helping sports persons and sowing the seeds for the project.

"There are a lot of opportunities and we will be happy to guide the athletes to different fields like sales, technology, marketing, human resources and operations, depending on their interest and skill set," said Arati.

Will be trained

Athletes and para athletes, in any sports and games, in the age group of 20 to 45 years, who have played at the national level for a minimum of one year, and retired recently, are eligible to apply. The selected candidates will be given technical training and on the job training to succeed in their chosen role.

Once the application is made online, Pine Labs and Natekar Sports & Fitness would contact those chosen and counsel them.

Even though there are no strict educational requirements, candidates who have completed 12th standard would stand a better chance of selection. Further details can be had on the web portal pinelabs.com/second-innings.

Kriish to meet Aman in the semifinals

TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU
NEW DELHI

Kriish Tyagi beat Rayan Sajjid 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 to set up a semifinal against top seed Aman Dahiya in the ITF grade-4 junior tennis tournament in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Thursday.

The other semifinal will be between Meethre Barot of the US and Kim Min Jae of Korea.

In the girls' section, Tamanna Takoria went down fighting in three sets to the top seed Jang Gaeul of Korea.

The results (quarterfinals):

Boys: Aman Dahiya bt Yakup Uzunel (Den) 7-5, 6-2; Kriish Tyagi bt Rayan Sajjid 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.

Girls: Jang Gaeul (Kor) bt Tamanna Takoria 6-3, 3-6, 7-5; Saloni Tamang (Nep) bt Saumrita Verma 6-2, 6-0; Choi Onyu (Kor) bt Ishi Maheshwari 6-0, 6-2.

Rain plays spoilsport

In Jhajjar, the matches in the AITA women's tennis tournament at the Joygaon Academy were washed away by rain on Thursday.

The cold weather did not help much in the drying up of the clay courts, and thus despite the availability of floodlights, the matches had to be postponed for Friday.

Mihika Yadav, Ishwari Matere, Sudipta Senthilkumar and Richa Chougule had reached the singles semifinals in the national ranking tournament.

Giles steps down after England's Ashes flop

Strauss to assume temporary, additional charge as managing director

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Ashley Giles "stepped down" from his role as managing director of England men's cricket on Wednesday as he paid the price for a woeful 4-0 Ashes series loss in Australia.

Ashley Giles. ▪REUTERS

Humiliating

The humiliating reverse followed a poor 2021 where England lost nine of its 15 Tests and was beaten in the World Twenty20 semifinals.

"Ashley Giles is standing down as managing director, England men's cricket," said an England and Wales Cricket Board statement.

The 48-year-old was appointed at the end of 2018, replacing former England captain Andrew Strauss, who will now take over on an interim basis ahead of next month's three-Test series in the West Indies.

Strauss is incumbent chairman of ECB's cricket committee.

"Off the back of a disappointing men's Ashes this winter we must ensure we put in place the conditions across our game to enable our Test team to succeed," said ECB chief executive Tom Harrison in a statement.

Criticised

Former England left-arm spinner Giles' position was widely regarded as untenable following the Ashes defeat, where for all the problems of touring Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic, he was criticised for giving under-pressure head coach Chris Silverwood sole authority for picking the side after being behind the sacking of national selector Ed Smith.

Strauss will "put in place arrangements for the forthcoming West Indies tour, while the search begins for a full-time replacement," ECB said.

Several pundits, including former England captain Mike Atherton, questioned whether Silverwood could stay as coach after several controversial selection decisions in Australia.

However, no announcements have yet been made regarding the future of either Silverwood or England batting coach Graham Thorpe, with Joe Root expected to stay on as Test captain.

Blasters look to rotate players after new schedule

ISL 2021-22

SPORTS BUREAU

After a loss against Bengaluru FC in the last game, Kerala Blasters FC gets a nice chance to get back to winning ways as it takes on NorthEast United in the Indian Super League at Vasco's Tilak Maidan on Friday.

Returning to the league after being in COVID-19 isolation for more than a fortnight, the Blasters boys gave a fighting display against Bengaluru.

And the side will look to collect full points against NorthEast which is currently last in the 11-team league table and which has lost nine of the 15 games it has played so far this season including a 5-0 loss to Hyderabad FC in its last game.

But head coach Ivan Vukomanovic has many other things to think over as the Blasters will have to play seven games in the next one month as per the revised ISL schedule.

"From our side, we need to take care about the health and the medical status of the players. Because we want them to go through February, through all those games, well. Probably, we will rotate a couple of players, giving some of them time and space to recover," said Vukomanovic.

Meanwhile, NorthEast head coach Khalid Jamil made it clear that thinking about the big loss in the last game will not help.

"We are focusing on tomorrow's (Friday's) game. We are not thinking about the heavy defeat in the last game," he said.

"Blasters are doing well this season. But one good thing is we have all the players with us now. So we are ready for this match."

THE HINDU

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022

Text & Context

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

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Accidental deaths

3.66 In lakh were the number of road accidents that occured in India during 2020, said Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. Drunk driving led to 8,355 road accidents, while driving on the wrong side caused 20,228 mishaps during the calendar year 2020, Parliament was informed. The Minister further said that jumping red light led to 2,721 accidents and the use of mobile phones while driving caused 6,753 accidents. PTI

Terror in the valley

541 The number of terror incidents that were reported in Jammu and Kashmir since Article 370 was repealed on August 5, 2019, Union Minister Nityanand Rai said on Wednesday in reply to a question in Parliament. As many as 439 terrorists and 109 security personnel were killed. Replying to a written question in Rajya Sabha, Rai said 98 civilians were also killed in these incidents and private properties worth about ₹5.3 crore were damaged since then. No significant public property has been damaged. PTI

Higher allocation

283.5 In ₹ crore is the Government's allocation for the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) in the Budget 2022-23, which is higher than the Revised Estimate of about ₹100 crore. The budgetary allocations for the Fund of Funds for Startups stood at ₹1,000 crore. The Government has set up a Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the operating agency for the FFS. PTI

Low spending

2.35 In percentage is the share of expenditure of the total Budget of FY23 for children. It is a reduction of 0.11 percentage points from this fiscal, according to the NGO, HAQ-Centre for Child Rights. The organisation analysed that children in the country received the lowest share of allocation in the Budget in 11 years. The total allocation is ₹92,736.5 crore. The allocation for child health has decreased by 6.08%. It has dropped from ₹3,727.57 crore in 2021-2022 to ₹3,501.11 crore for the next fiscal. THE HINDU

Curtailed season

2 The number of phases over which the Ranji Trophy will be held for the current season. The first phase will take place from February 10 to March 15 and the "post IPL" phase will be from May 30 to June 26, BCCI secretary Jay Shah informed state units. It is set to be one of the shortest first-class seasons with most teams getting to play only three matches. The tournament will have 64 games with the first phase comprising 57 matches and the second stage having seven knock-out games which comprises four quarter-finals, two semi-finals and the final. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

▪ VIJAY SONEJI

EXPLAINER

The need to boost labour income and consumption expenditure

What are the features of fiscal consolidation and how is it shaping the Budget allocation?

THE GIST

- The squeeze in labour income and consumption expenditure witnessed during the pandemic was preceded by what turned out to be the longest episode of growth slowdown in the Indian economy since the liberalisation period. The budget 2022 was placed in the midst of these challenges.
- With the objective of fiscal consolidation, the budget falls short of these challenges. Firstly, while share of revenue and non-debt receipts in GDP has remained unchanged, the objective of fiscal consolidation has been sought to be achieved primarily by reducing the expenditure-GDP ratio. Secondly, since the bulk of the revenue expenditure comprises of food subsidies and expenses in social and economic services, reduction in their allocation has been associated with fall in several key expenditure that affect the income and livelihood of labour. Thirdly, despite sharp increase in profits during the pandemic, the corporate tax-GDP ratio has continued to remain below the 2018-19 level due to tax concessions.
- If the GDP growth rate and revenue growth rate happens to be lower than what is projected, then the actual expenditure can turn out to be even lower than what is projected. But even if the actual expenditure is close to the budget estimates, the recovery of labour income and consumption expenditure would be largely restricted by the manner in which fiscal consolidation has been carried out

ZICO DASGUPTA
KAVYA MENON

The story so far: The Union Budget for 2022-23 has projected a fiscal deficit of 6.4% of nominal GDP, a narrowing from the 6.9% assumed in the revised estimates for the current fiscal year ending on March 31. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the move was "consistent with the broad path of fiscal consolidation announced" by her last year in order to reach a fiscal deficit level below 4.5% by 2025-26. "While setting the fiscal deficit level in 2022-23, I am conscious of the need to nurture growth, through public investment, to become stronger and sustainable," she added.

What was the economic context to this year's Budget formulation?

Though every economic crisis involves sharp reduction in output growth rate, the specificity of the present crisis in India lies in the sharper reduction in labour income as compared to profits. The consequent reduction in income share of labour was associated with a sharp fall in consumption-GDP ratio as well as absolute value of consumption expenditure during the pandemic. While the GDP in 2021-22 is estimated to attain the pre-pandemic level, real consumption expenditure remains to be lower as compared to 2019-20.

The squeeze in labour income and consumption expenditure witnessed during the pandemic was itself preceded by what turned out to be the longest episode of growth slowdown in the Indian economy since the liberalisation period.

The budget 2022 was placed in the midst of these distinct challenges. The first challenge is specific to the pandemic and pertained to the need of undertaking policies that boosts labour income and consumption expenditure. The second challenge pertained to addressing the structural constraints of the Indian economy that restricted growth even during the pre-pandemic period.

How has the Budget fared in this backdrop and what are the key shortcomings?

Continuing with the objective of fiscal consolidation, the Budget falls short of addressing both these challenges.

There are three distinct features of this fiscal consolidation process. Firstly, while share of revenue and non-debt receipts in GDP has remained more or less unchanged, the objective of fiscal consolidation has been sought to be achieved primarily by reducing the expenditure-GDP ratio (see figure 1). The brunt of this expenditure compression fell on revenue expenditure. Continuing with the fiscal strategy adopted in the last two years since the pandemic, the allocation of capital expenditure as a share of GDP has been marginally increased in 2022-23 as compared to 2021-22. Though additional capital expenditure could be financed either by postponing fiscal consolidation process or by increasing revenue, however, the budget has sought to achieve fiscal consolidation by reducing the allocation for revenue expenditure-GDP ratio.

Secondly, since the bulk of the revenue expenditure comprises of food subsidies and current expenses in social and economic services, reduction in the allocation for revenue expenditure has been associated with fall in several key expenditure that affect the income and livelihood of labour (see figure 2). For example, allocation for both agriculture and allied activities and rural development registered a sharp decline in nominal absolute terms in 2022-23 as compared to 2021-22. Similarly, in the midst of the ongoing pandemic, total nominal expenditure on medical and public health registered a sharp fall in 2022-23 as compared to 2021-22. Such expenditure compression has been associated with the overall fall in the allocation for total social sector expenditure.

Thirdly, despite sharp increase in profits during the pandemic, the corporate tax-GDP ratio has continued to remain below the 2018-19 level due to tax concessions. The last decade registered a sharp rise in the share of corporate tax concessions in GDP, which reached its peak at 3.9% by 2020-21 (see figure 3). Reflecting the trend in tax concessions, corporate tax-GDP ratio registered a decline particularly since 2018-19 when corporate tax-ratio declined sharply from 3.5% to 2.7%. Despite the objective of fiscal consolidation, the corporate tax ratio continues to remain low and restrict revenue receipts.

What are the implications for development spending?

The objective of fiscal consolidation along with the inability to increase revenue receipts has posed a constraint on development expenditure. With non-development expenditure comprising of interest payments, administrative expenditure and various other components which are typically rigid downward, the brunt of expenditure compression has fallen on development expenditure.

Figure 4 shows the trend in share of centre's development expenditure (development expenditure is calculated as the sum of expenditures on social services and economic services) in GDP since 2008-09. While the decade of 2010s was characterised by different governments meeting fiscal targets by adjusting their expenditure, it registered a sharp decline in the development expenditure ratio till the advent of the pandemic in 2019-20. Albeit to a limited extent, the fiscal stimulus implemented in the first year of the pandemic brought about a brief recovery in 2020-21. The fiscal consolidation strategy carried out in the last years has once again led the development expenditure ratio to slide downward.

The reduction in the allocation for development expenditure ratio for 2022-23 reflects reduction in the allocation for food subsidies, national rural employment guarantee program, expenditure in agriculture, rural development and social sector.

Why is the Budget's fiscal consolidation approach a concern from the macro-economic perspective?

The Budget estimates of different expenditure are sensitive to the growth estimates for 2022-23. If the GDP growth rate and revenue growth rate happens to be lower than what is projected, then the actual expenditure can turn out to be even lower than what is projected. Given the fact that the actual GDP growth rate in at least the last four years have been consistently lower than what was initially projected by the Economics Survey, the possibility of actual expenditure falling short of budget numbers cannot be assumed away.

But even if the actual expenditure is close to the budget estimates, the recovery of labour income and consumption expenditure would be largely restricted by the manner in which fiscal consolidation has been carried out.

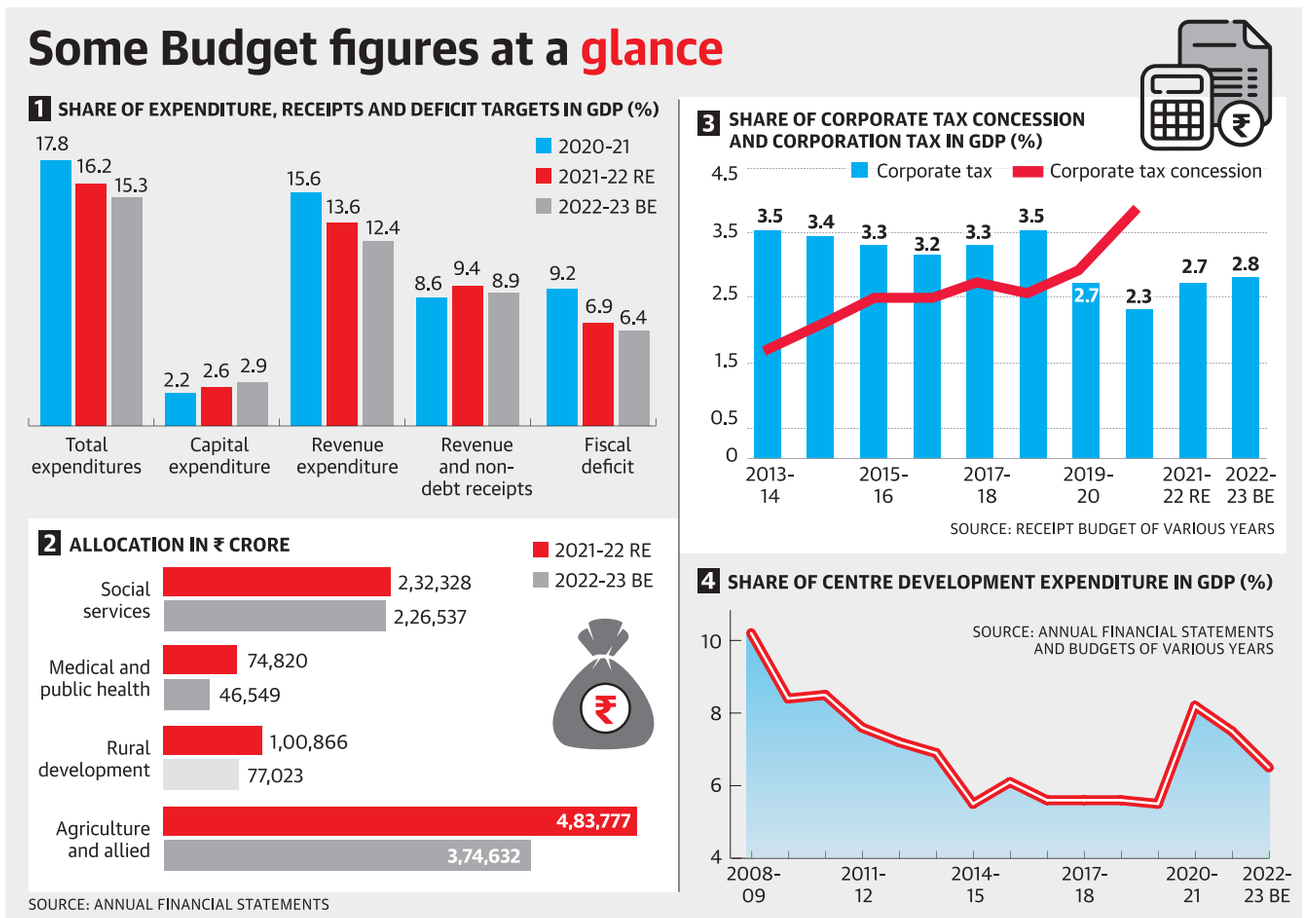
This is because reduction in the allocation for development expenditure would have adverse impact on labour income and consumption expenditure. The positive impact of higher capital expenditure on the recovery process would be largely curtailed by the adverse impact of more than proportionate fall in revenue expenditure.

Given the fiscal consolidation strategy of the Government, the prospect and extent of economic revival at the present remains heavily dependent on external demand. Despite the limited recovery in exports in the last few quarters, the possibility of sustained economic recovery relying exclusively on the export channel appears to be bleak at the present as different countries have already started pursuing fiscal consolidation.

What the Indian economy lacks at the moment is an effective policy instrument that can boost labour income and aggregate demand.

Zico Dasgupta is an Assistant Professor at the School of Arts and Science, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru and Kavya Menon is Research Assistant at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru

Some Budget figures at a glance



IN THE LIMELIGHT

The artist's manifesto

Understanding the dilemmas facing an increasingly dystopian world through a prescient Italian film that won the Oscars in 1971

AWANISH KUMAR

THE GIST

■ The rise of populist and authoritarian figures have drawn much critical attention from experts in the fields of social and political psychology. They try to understand why such figures get such little collective reaction from citizens, especially those supporters of the regime who otherwise may have joined protests, voted against the regime or at least turned vocal. A film that bridges this gap and best describes the psychology of such regimes is Italian filmmaker Elio Petri's Oscar-winning feature film, *Investigation of a Citizen Above Suspicion* (1970).

■ The movie presents to us a dystopian world where every person is a suspect and possibly an enemy, not only of the state but of the entire social order. The lead character 'The Inspector' is sick, self-obsessed, vindictive and insecure. He murders a woman and gets away with it despite overwhelming evidence against him. His actions bear complete impunity because of his powerful position in a tightly-knit security state and his subordinates' absolute and meek capitulation to authority and to him.

■ An interesting aspect of the film is that authoritarianism is shown as a psychological and mental illness that needs to be recognised as such. The Inspector's repulsion to freedom and free individuals as a collective political hatred for free individuals and his personal vindictiveness become indistinguishable from each other.

Global democracy appears to be in decline with the rise of populist, majoritarian, neo-fascist, or right-wing authoritarian governments across the world. Experts from the fields of social and political psychology have theorised the inner workings of authoritarian minds. Essentially speaking, such personalities are bullies, but they are bullies with political power at their disposal. Recent events have shown that many of the newly elected authoritarian leaders, apart from being undemocratic in spirit and anti-minority in orientation, also deliver poor quality of governance. Yet, why is there such little collective reaction from citizens, especially those supporters of the regime who otherwise may have joined protests, voted against the regime or at least turned vocal?

A piece of art that bridges the gap and best describes the psychology and the pathology of such regimes and their tactics, exemplified in the personalities of their leaders, is Italian filmmaker Elio Petri's Oscar-winning feature film, *Investigation of a Citizen Above Suspicion* (1970).

A still from the film *Investigation of a Citizen Above Suspicion* ▪ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The plot

The film opens with an unnamed police officer (later identified only as "Inspector") committing a murder and planting, very carefully, a number of clues at the site of the crime. Throughout the movie, multiple flashbacks also tell us that the Inspector is a loner and in a relationship with the murdered woman. The two of them are shown to be indulging in playful enactments of famous murders and torture games. The woman taunts him about his sexual prowess, and his authority as a policeman. During one of the later flashbacks, it is revealed that he suspects that she is sleeping with a young radical from the same building. This fills him with rage and he kills her on the last day of his job as the head of the homicide unit. The next day, the Inspector takes over as the head of political/security affairs while he continues to assist the new chief of homicide in the murder. He directs the investigation repeatedly to the clues left by him, and admonishes his former colleagues for not following through the trails found during the process. This entire exercise is his way to assure himself that he is "above suspicion" and despite clear evidence against him, he cannot be touched by the law enforcement.

In the climax, the Inspector enters a dream sequence where he is confronted by his colleagues and superiors about his crime. Interestingly, in this surreal dream sequence, his colleagues and superiors deny his involvement in any crime. The Inspector appears to possess a different body language during this entire episode –he approaches his colleagues and seniors in complete submission starkly contrasted with his masochistic and overbearing personality throughout the film. Similarly, his colleagues and seniors treat him like a child, even caressing and patting him. All the evidence that he presents against himself is rejected by his colleagues and they go on to celebrate this event. While they leave, the Inspector comes back to his true self again and warns them about the intimate enemy that they need to fight together. The movie ends with him regaining his senses and the actual arrival of the superiors of the establishment to interrogate him, while the tension builds.

The climax of the movie is open-ended. In the anticipatory climax from the vantage point of the Inspector he not only finds a "closure" to his "experiment", but also manages to regain his towering position among his peers. In an alternative interpretation, the climax is the culmination of his constantly degenerate mental state. The Inspector seems to have lost his authority as well as charisma, and potentially awaits a favourable judgement from the regime for his services.

There are at least three core insights that can be drawn from the movie to understand our contemporary political context.

'A dystopian world'

The movie presents to us a dystopian world where every person is a suspect and possibly an enemy, not only of the state but of the entire social order. The state and its instruments keep an eye on everyone and the distinction between public and private lives are increasingly blurred. The political/security department possesses a named file for every person, including its own employees in the police. The Inspector's inaugural address to the political division as its new chief is revealing and disturbing, for its uncanny similarity to the world around us. The Inspector begins by pointing out that he has been chosen as the new chief because, "at this time, political and non-political crimes have become nearly indistinguishable." He goes on to clarify this point in even simpler terms: "underneath every criminal person lies a subversive individual and underneath every subversive individual there hides a criminal." The political question of the times is presented thus: "The exercise of freedom is a constant threat to the establishment...freedom makes every citizen a judge and prevents us from doing our jobs". Therefore, the Inspector asserts, "repression is our vaccine, repression is civilisation."

'Unquestionable leader'

The Inspector is sick, self-obsessed, vindictive and insecure. But he knows that his actions bear complete impunity because of his powerful position in a tightly-knit security state and his subordinates' absolute and meek capitulation to authority and, by implication, to him. During many instances in the movie, all evidence leading to the Inspector, including his finger prints, shoe prints, photos, etc., is sought to be brushed aside or even justified by his former and current colleagues.

We get further clues about the megalomaniac character of the Inspector during one of the flashback sequences where the woman and him are role-playing and enacting police torture. The Inspector tells the woman: "I represent power, the law." At another instance, he tells one of his colleagues, "I want to affirm the concept of authority in its purest form". What about the outside world, then, one may ask? The Inspector mocks a former colleague when the latter talks about arresting the ex-husband to assuage public sentiments: "You are a bureaucrat, public opinion frightens you."

There is an almost complete unanimity about who the enemy is: the young radical, who is sought to be implicated in the murder of the woman, and others like him, are described as "socially and politically dangerous, subversive and fanatical". It is as if for the entire department, and clearly in the case of the Inspector, personal vindictiveness and collective political hatred for free individuals become indistinguishable from each other.

In one of the rare moments of self-reflection during the derisory climax, the Inspector shares his motivation to kill the woman: "Each day in her company revealed my incompetence as a human being".

The climax is farcical but an opportunity for the Inspector to clarify his deep motivations. In the dream sequence, his superior tells him, "you have had a dissociation, a neurosis".

It is important to appreciate the Inspector's considered response:

"However, it is a contracted illness due to the prolonged use of power. It is an illness common to a lot of powerful persons."

'Service to the nation'

The Inspector's self-aggrandisement project is intertwined with grand conceptions of his purpose as the chief of homicide, and later political/security divisions. The personal and the political for him meld into one as he commits the murder out of spite for the woman and her suspected young radical lover. But this very murder is crucial for his understanding of himself and the system he deeply believes in. For the system to work in the way he imagines it, his actions must be above question. Since he is the embodiment of power, his position must be completely beyond and above any suspicion. Questions are not only detrimental to the institution of power, they are its death-knell. If there is even a little doubt in the minds of those who work under it, the institution of power breaks down.

On the other hand, the evidence is always in front of the entire department but rather than following the leads, his colleagues find excuses to exonerate him. When he is unable to bear it anymore, he confesses his guilt in writing and gives it to the new chief of homicide division. Finally, he waits to be rewarded for his "mistakes" so that he can get back to punishing the enemies of society and the state.

Dissent against dystopia

An interesting aspect of the film is that authoritarianism is shown as a psychological and mental illness that needs to be recognised as such. The Inspector fantasises about killings, violence, and absolute domination, and is, in fact, disappointed when his "experiment" as part of a part-real, part-fictitious fascist utopia runs counter to his expectations. He is a person who hates free individuals and freedom as an active concept.

The Inspector, in the eyes of the viewers, keeps giving in, with more grave mistakes at every turn. For the protagonist, however, these are neither gaffes nor careless slips but well-considered series of actions to resolve the classic dilemma facing an authoritarian individual and/or a system: will someone rise up, implicate the leader for his crimes and call his bluff? That single action by an ordinary citizen can be disastrous for the regime. Since this is always a possibility, shall the leader leave this open or shall he take it on, face-to-face by actually conducting a live experiment? The film shows how it is done by authoritarian leaders and that they do still win the game, just like our Inspector in his anticipated climax. Can we blame the Inspector alone? Please note that the entire edifice of this fascistic dystopia is built upon its definition of free and thinking individuals as enemies. The climax also shows the complicity of the entire regime, when it becomes imperative for all the colleagues and superiors of the Inspector to exonerate him from his crimes because the outcome otherwise will be detrimental for the system.The good news is that just like the Inspector, populist authoritarianism or neo-fascism consistently gives clues and possibly incriminating evidence against itself. But who will join the dots to see through the vacuity of the regime and especially its leader?

Awanish Kumar is British Academy Newton International Fellow, University of Edinburgh

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning sir"

"Good morning"

"Sir, how do you pronounce bury and beer?"

"Bury rhymes with merry, ferry, cherry and very. Most people mispronounce this word. Beer rhymes with dear, hear, fear and here."

"Thank you, sir. I thought the 'u' in bury was pronounced in the same way as the 'u' in much. Now I understand that *bury* is pronounced exactly like *berry*."

"Busy and bury are pronounced differently. *Busy* rhymes with *dizzy* and *Bury* rhymes with *merry*. You must refer to a good dictionary for the correct pronunciation of words."

"Sir, what is the difference between 'people' and 'persons'?"

"In colloquial language, these two are used synonymously. But there, is a difference between the two. 'People' is not used to refer to persons individually.

I saw a large number of people.

In this context you don't use 'person'. If the number is small or if you want to be exact you use 'person'.

There were 12 persons in the group.

People often criticise the government for its policies and not 'persons often criticise the government',... ' Such measures often please people. You don't say 'such measures often please persons'."

"Sir, can I say it is ten years ago since my friend died?"

"No, you can't. You use ago when you want to refer to a point of time in the past.

I met him ten years ago.

He left five minutes ago.

Long, long ago there was a king.

It was ten years ago that my friend died.

Ago and since are not used together.

It was ten years ago that my friend died. It is ten years since my friend died.

But it is incorrect to say it is ten years ago since my friend died."

"I must go to the market now, sir, to buy some vegetables. Vegetables are very costly these days, sir."

"Vegetables are rather dear during summer. You don't use the word 'costly' with ordinary things. A thing is costly when it is very expensive.

It is a costly diamond necklace.

The word costly should be used only for things that are very expensive.''

"Thank you, sir. I must go now to attend a meeting. It commences at ten o'clock."

"Does it? I hope it begins at ten sharp. "Commence' is a word used on formal occasions. Normally we use 'begin' or 'start'. "Begin' and "commence" can't be interchanged in all contexts. 'Commence' would be inappropriate in the following sentences:

Let us begin from the beginning.

This is how the quarrel began.

After working for eight hours I began to feel tired.

He began to show signs of anger.

I hope I have made myself clear."

"Thank you. sir. Somehow I tend to use 'commence' rather than "begin'. Hereafter I will use begin. Goodbye sir."

"Goodbye."

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

THE DAILY QUIZ

Sri Lanka is celebrating its 74th Independence Day today. A quiz on our island neighbour.

1 The first noted use of this word for an unplanned fortunate discovery was by the writer Horace Walpole in January 1754 and comes from an old name for the country. Name the word and what does it mean?

2 If Colombo is the de facto economic, executive, and judicial capital of Sri Lanka, then what is the official administrative capital?

3 Name the two children of Emperor Ashoka who spread the teachings of Buddha in Sri Lanka at the request of King Devanampiya Tissa?

4 What do the vertical stripes in teal and orange on the Lankan flag represent?

5 Luckyland Biscuits, one of the top five biscuit makers on the island, has achieved fame because of a sporting great. Who?

6 What is the native name for the geographical formation which has a depression that is venerated by Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, and Christians alike and is also is the source for some major rivers in the island?

7 The Roman author and naturalist Pliny the Elder wrote that 350 grams of this spice native to the island as being equal in value to over five kilograms of silver. 'Zeylanicum', a part of the scientific name of this spice, is said to have been derived from Ceylon, one of the traditional names for the place. Name the pungent, aromatic spice.

◀ For what crime was Talduwe Somarama Thero, the person being escorted by policemen, sentenced to death? ▪ THE HINDU

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Rafael Nadal; 2008 (singles), 2016 (doubles), 2. Pete Sampras, 2001, 3. 356, 4. 103, 5. Robin Soderling, 2009, 6. Alexander Zverev (Olympics) and Daniil Medvedev (US Open), 7. Australian Open final 2012, longest Grand Slam final in men's singles tennis

Only respondent to get all the answers correct: Amrutha

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan