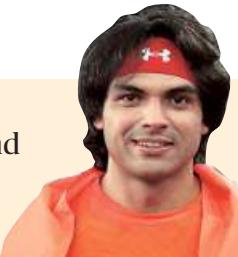




SC tells Gujarat govt. to submit remission records in Bilkis case  
page 8



Centre bans export of broken rice due to domestic demand  
page 10



Neeraj becomes first Indian to win a Diamond League Finals crown  
page 15

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## IN BRIEF



Kartavya Path opens to public with cultural fest

NEW DELHI  
After 20 months of redevelopment, Kartavya Path, which was known as Rajpath till earlier this week, reopened to the public on Friday with a cultural festival. However, police personnel did not allow street vendors to cross the barricades and enter Kartavya Path and the lawns. An official said the vendors would be allowed entry after the festival.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

## Gehlot launches job guarantee scheme

JAIPUR  
Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday inaugurated an urban job guarantee scheme for providing economic support to poor and needy families living in cities through work to be provided on demand for 100 days in a year. Over 3.5 lakh people in the State have registered themselves under the scheme and job cards have been issued to 2.25 lakh of them.

STATES ▶ PAGE 4

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## India, China to take up remaining LAC issues

Gogra-Hot Springs disengagement to be over on Monday

ANANTH KRISHNAN  
BEIJING

India and China will take up remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) once the ongoing disengagement at Patrolling Point (PP) 15 in Gogra-Hot Springs is completed by Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

Beijing welcomed the disengagement at PP15 as "a positive development", but reiterated its stand that it would not accept India's demand to restore the status quo prior to China's transgressions, saying "the status quo of April 2020...was created by India's illegal crossing of the Line of Actual Control (LAC)".

"China will by no means accept that," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told reporters when asked if the latest disengagement would pave the way to full restoration of the status quo. "We don't accept the so-called status quo created by India's illegal crossing of the LAC, but that doesn't mean we don't attach importance to peace and tranquillity along the border....China and India hold different positions on the border issues. But what is most important now is for both sides to keep up communication and dialogue, make the disengage-

We don't accept the so-called status quo created by India's illegal crossing of the LAC, but that doesn't mean we don't attach importance to peace and tranquillity along the border

**MAO NING**  
Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson

ment a first step and ensure peace and tranquillity along the border. The beginning of disengagement is a positive development."

**Hurdles remain**  
Beijing's comments suggested difficulties may still lie ahead for both sides as they look to resolve differences in the remaining friction areas in Demchok and Depsang. Only after full disengagement and subsequent de-escalation of the more than 50,000 troops on each side that remain deployed in forward areas, India has made clear, can relations return to normalcy.

India and China have completed disengagement in five other areas – PP15 being the latest – creating buff-

er zones in Galwan Valley, north and south of Pangong Lake, and in PP17A in Hot Springs.

The timing of the announcement on PP15 did, however, also suggest both sides appeared to be looking to create conditions that might enable a first meeting between their leaders after close to three years.

**SCO summit next week**  
The MEA statement said disengagement at PP15 would be completed by September 12 – three days before the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping would likely attend in Samarkand, convenes. Neither side has commented on whether the two leaders, who haven't spoken since a November 2019 meeting in Brasilia or during the more than two-year-long LAC crisis, will meet on the sidelines at the SCO or at the G20 in Indonesia in November.

As per Thursday's agreement, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the disengagement process in the area started on Thursday at 8.30 a.m. IST and would be completed by Monday.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## No confusion on leadership, says Rahul Gandhi

B. KOLAPPAN  
KANNIYAKUMARI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said he had made his decision regarding the presidential election in the party and there is no "confusion" in his mind.

Though he did not spell

out his decision, Mr. Gandhi dropped a clear hint by insisting that he is not "leading but participating" in the Bharat Jodo Yatra as a member of the Congress. "I just want to make it clear, I am not leading this padayatra. I am participating in this pa-

dayatra," he said on the second day of the yatra here.

"You [journalists] like to focus on me, that is a different issue," he responded, when asked if it was not a contradiction that he was leading a yatra but shunning the responsibility of becoming

the party chief.

While speaking to reporters here, he responded to several questions on whether he was willing to take back the reins of the party.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

'A DIFFICULT FIGHT' ▶ PAGE 8



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# CM meets L-G, hopes situation will improve

Kejriwal met Saxena for the greater good of Delhi and to ensure the city's progress, says AAP leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday met Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena for the first time since the CBI raided Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's residence on August 19, and said whatever happened was "unfortunate" and things should improve now.

The meeting between Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Saxena took place after a gap of four weeks. The relationship between the AAP government and Raj Niwas has remained strained over the last few months owing to allegations of corruption in the now-scraped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-2022 and the construction of additional classrooms



CM Arvind Kejriwal with L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena. ■ FILE PHOTO

in government schools. Mr. Saxena had alleged "gross procedural lapses" in the excise policy and recommended a CBI probe into the matter in July this year.

"The L-G and I met today after a few weeks during which I was unavailable as I was not in Delhi. It was a good meeting and took place in a very cordial atmosphere;

we discussed a host of issues," Mr. Kejriwal said following the meeting.

"I requested him [the L-G] to cooperate with making the MCD more efficient since the issue of sanitation is a major concern in the city. I also offered the Delhi government's help in removing garbage dumps at a faster pace," the Chief Minister said.

On the run-ins with the L-G over the CBI probe into the now-scraped liquor policy, Mr. Kejriwal said: "Whatever has happened recently is unfortunate. I hope the situation will improve. The meeting today was a good one where we discussed important issues concerning the people of Delhi."

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said Mr. Kejriwal has taken "a positive step" forward to meet the L-G "despite all the personal attacks and slander". "Even though AAP and the L-G Office have been engaged in a heated war of words due to the political situation in the city, the Chief Minister met the L-G for the greater good of Delhi and to ensure the ci-

ty's progress doesn't meet any roadblocks," he said.

#### DU colleges' funds

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Friday demanded Mr. Saxena's intervention in relation to a financial crisis being faced by 12 Delhi University colleges funded by the AAP government. "We urge the L-G to intervene in the matter as the teaching and non-teaching staff of the colleges are not getting their salaries for the past several months," Mr. Bidhuri said.

In response, Delhi government sources said necessary directions have been issued to clear outstanding dues of the teachers and college staff.

# 5 injured in building collapse

Money being collected for illegal constructions in city: AAP

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Five people were injured after a four-storey under-construction building collapsed in north Delhi's Azad Market on Friday morning, officials said. All the five injured – three labourers and two local residents – have been shifted to Hindu Rao Hospital.

Following the incident, AAP launched an attack on Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). "Money is being taken for construction of illegal buildings in the city. The MCD is now under the L-G and the Centre. The question is, where is the money going?" AAP's chief spokesman Saurabh Bharadwaj said.

The MCD and the L-G's office did not respond to the allegations. Delhi Fire Service received a call about the incident at 8.30 a.m. on Friday. Four fire tenders with rescue teams were rushed to the spot. According to DCP (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi, the building collapsed as it was overloaded with construction material.

A civic body official said the building plan was sanctioned by the MCD. "Prima facie it seems substandard material was used in the construction," he added.



Rescue operation under way at the site of the building collapse in Azadpur Market on Friday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

# Four held for jewellery theft

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Four people allegedly posed as policemen and robbed two delivery executives of ₹4 crore worth of jewellery in central Delhi's Paharganj area around 4 a.m. on September 2.

The police arrested the four accused within 24 hours of the incident, after going through footage from 700 CCTV cameras, officers said.

Another crucial piece of evidence that the police used to trace the accused was a digital transaction of ₹100 done by one of the accused at a tea stall near the crime scene while doing a recce of the area.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Tender Notice**  
**Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**  
Sr.DMM, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the president of India, invites e-tender through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Modified Brief Description	Qty	Closing Date
01	93225526	SUPPLY & FITMENT OF ROLLER BLIND OF VANDI BHARAT EXPRESS	64 Nos.	10.10.2022

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details.  
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.  
Sr. DMM/NS/LP/93225526 Date:- 09.09.2022 2352/2022  
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**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
By.CSTE/C/PS/NDLS, Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e- tender (Single Packet System) for the following work:-

1 Name of work & Place	S&T work (Indoor & Outdoor) for provision of Centralised Electronic Interlocking at Masit & Todarpur Stations in c/w provision of additional directional UP/DOWN loop line on LKO-SRE section over MB division of Northern Railway.
2 Completion period	11 (Eleven) Months from the date of issue of LOA
3 Approx. Cost	Rs. 7.40 Cr.
4 Earnest Money Amount	Rs. 6,88,00/- (Rs. Six Lakh Eight Eight Thousand Only) (through online gateway payment only)
5 Sale / availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 12.09.2022 to 03.10.2022 upto 11.30 hrs.
6 Last date/Time of unload of tenders	Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 19.09.2022 to 03.10.2022 upto 11.30 hours.
7 Date of opening of tender	Tender will be opened on 03.10.2022 at 11.30 hours

No.570-Sig-PS-Tender-122 Dated:- 09.09.2022 2358/22  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**HIMACHAL PRADESH**  
**JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG**  
**"Corrigendum"**

In reference to the e-tender called by The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Kaza District L&S vide his office letter No.7248-7308 dated 29.8.2022 for the e-tender ID 2022\_PHPH\_64252\_1 published in Giriraj on dated 7.9.2022 as last date for submission of e-tendering was mentioned as 12.9.2022 up to 5.00 A.M., may be read as 12.09.2022 up to 5.00 P.M. instead of 5.00 A.M.

All the content of NIT will remain same.

Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti Division Kaza,  
HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK  
HP / 3900/22-23

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Mobile No. 956461-07205

E-Tender Enq. No. 7312/P-2/EMP-12056 Dated 8.9.22 Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2022\_POWER\_39909\_1 for Procurement of cables of various sizes under EC group for 2021-22 at GGSSTP Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to [https://eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in) from 09.09.2022 onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

RTP 70/22 76155/12/1099/2021/16948  
2345/22 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tender No: 21-TRD-NDLS-2022-23 Dated: 08.09.2022  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Tracing Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1. Name of work with its Location	Provision of AEC on existing OHE Structure in DL/area
2. Approx. cost of the work	Rs 7012219.94/-
3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 140300/-
4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	19.09.2022
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	03.10.2022 (15.00 Hrs.)
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

Dated 09<sup>th</sup> September, 2022  
No. DCB/12/VII/Apptt./2022-23  
INVITES ONLINE RECRUITMENT APPLICATIONS (ORA\*) FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE FOLLOWING POST (\*: by using the Website: [www.delhi.cantt.gov.in](http://www.delhi.cantt.gov.in)) VACANCY DETAILS ADVERTISEMENT NO. 04/2022

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Tender Notice**  
**Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)**

SN	Tender Notice No. & Date	Name of work with its location	Approx. Cost of work	Amount of Earnest Money	Completion period of the work	Date & time for submission of tender & opening of tender
1*	32-W-ZONE-ANNUAL-DL-22 Dated: 07.09.2022	Annual Zone for maintenance of Bridges, ROBs over Delhi Division in the section of SSE/BR/M/SSE under AXEN/B/L/SP/L/T/KJ	Rs. 708558.85	Rs. 141700.00	08 Eight Months	Upto 15.00 hrs on 30.09.2022 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs on same day
2*	32-W-SERSSPAN-LOAD-LEAD-22 Dated: 07.09.2022	Loading, leading & unloading of service spans from different location over DLJ division to SSE/BR/M/SSE store, fabrication of loose fittings of service span in the jurisdiction of AXEN/B/L/SP/L/T/KJ	Rs. 9816299.86	Rs. 196300.00	08 Eight Months	Upto 15.00 hrs on 30.09.2022 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs on same day
3*	32-W-PAINT-METL-UMB-22-23 Dated: 07.09.2022	Painting & Metalizing of year 2022-23 and 2023-24 over UMB division in jurisdiction of AXEN/B/L/UMB	Rs. 13223507.82	Rs. 216100.00	18 Eighteen Months	Upto 15.00 hrs on 30.09.2022 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs on same day
4.	32-W-BR-28-49-UMB Dated: 07.09.2022	Improvement to longitudinal level of girder with provision of stool of Br. No.28 & 49 on JHL-HSR in the jurisdiction of AXEN/B/L/UMB	Rs. 899244.17	Rs. 18000.00	03 Three Months	Upto 15.00 hrs on 30.09.2022 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs on same day

Note:  
a) Above tenders are available on website, IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded.  
b) Tenders at S.No. 1\* to 3\* Re-Invitation of tender.

2347/22 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANS. LINE MAINTT.**  
**DIV-II, JKPTCL, GLADNI, JAMMU**  
Jammu & Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited  
(e-mail: [xentlmd02@gmail.com](mailto:xentlmd02@gmail.com)) Ph. No. & fax No. 0191-2950860  
INVITATION OF e-BIDS FOR

ENIT No.: TLMD-II/J/09/2022-23  
Executive Engineer, TLMD-II JKPTCL Gladni (hereinafter referred to as "the Employer") for and on behalf of Managing Director, Jammu & Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites e-bids from experienced Contractors/Companies/Firms for the work of "Capital maintenance of 160MVA, 220/132KV Auto Transformer at 710MVA, 220/132/33KV Grid station Gladni."  
Bidders are advised to study the bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-bid against this Standard Bidding Document (SBD) shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the standard bidding document with full understanding of its implications. The tender document is available at <http://jkptcl.gov.in>. Interested bidders may download the e-bid document, submit their e-bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

Scope of The work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document
"Capital maintenance of 160MVA, 220/132KV Auto Transformer at 710MVA, 220/132/33KV Grid station, Gladni."	Rs 141.60 Lacs	2.832 Lacs	Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) in the shape of non-refundable bank draft drawn in favour of Executive Engineer TLMD-II, JKPTCL, Gladni payable at Jammu.
A. Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be down loaded over <a href="http://jkptcl.gov.in">http://jkptcl.gov.in</a> From 06-09-2022 (05.00 PM onwards)		
B. Start date for Receipt of Clarifications	08-09-2022 upto 04:00 PM		
C. Last date for Receipt of Clarifications	14-09-2022 upto 04:00 PM		
D. Pre-Bid Meeting Place & Date	Office of Executive Engineer TLMD-II, JKPTCL Jammu 16-09-2022 at 11:00 AM		
E. Replies to clarifications	19-09-2022		
F. Bid submission (start) date & time	20-09-2022 at 10 A.M		
G. Last date for e-bid submission	07-10-2022 up to 04:00 PM		
H. Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time	11-10-2022 at 2:00PM		
I. Online financial e-Bid opening date & time	Should be communicated to the Qualified Bidders separately.		
J. Estimated cost	Rs 141.60 Lacs		
K. Venue of opening of technical & Financial e-Bids	Office of Executive Engineer TLMD-II, JKPTCL, Gladni Jammu		
L. Cost of e-bid document	5000/- (Non-Refundable)		
M. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,832 Lacs		

No.: TLMD-II/JKPTCL/J/2379-83  
Dated: 03/09/2022

Sd/  
Executive Engineer,  
Trans. Line Maint. Div.-II,  
JKPTCL, Gladni, Jammu.

DIPJ-2829-P/22

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**Fresh E-NIT No. 28/JJM/JSDS OF 08/2022, Dated:- 03 -08-2022**  
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore, invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Builders / Firms / Companies/ relevant classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Sopore of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).  
The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on over all percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (Days)
1	Fresh to S.No 05 of E-NIT 08 / J JM / JSDS of 05/02/2022 dated: 04-05-2022 Retrofitting of WSS Gulshapora Maidanpora by way of laying and fitting of GI distribution system and other allied works under JMM.	66.67	500	02% of Adv. Cost	90 Days	60 Days
2	Fresh to S.No 05 of E-NIT 05 / J JM / JSDS of 04/2022 dated: 26-04-2022 Retrofitting of W.S.Scheme Pethpora and Kanyari Gundjehegar by way of providing laying new GI distribution system and other allied works viz chain link fencing, approach road including allied works viz. saddle blocks , sluice chamber and troughs under JMM.	50.06	500	02% of Adv. Cost	90 Days	90 Days
2	Fresh to S.No 03 of E-NIT 08 / J JM / JSDS of 05/2022 dated:04-05-2022 Retrofitting of WSS Naini Gadkhud by way of laying and fitting of GI distribution system, clear water sump Chokwida quarter , chain link fencing , approach road including allied works viz. saddle blocks , sluice chamber and troughs under JMM.	101.93	500	02% of Adv. Cost	90 Days	120 Days

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)  
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore  
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJM).

**Critical Dates:**

i Publish Date	05-09-2022
ii Document Download start Date	05-09-2022
iii Clarification start date	05-09-2022
iv Clarification end date	10-09-2022
v Bid submission start date	05-09-2022
vi Bid submission end date	16-09-2022
vii Date of Bid opening	17-09-2022

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).  
2

Timings		
DELHI		
SATURDAY, SEP. 10		
● RISE 06:04 SET 18:33		
● RISE 18:50 SET 05:40		
SUNDAY, SEP. 11		
● RISE 06:04 SET 18:31		
● RISE 19:24 SET 06:44		
MONDAY, SEP. 12		
● RISE 06:05 SET 18:30		
● RISE 19:56 SET 07:47		

Delhi Weather max min  
Delhi City 36 26  
Safdarjung 36 26  
Palam 37 27

Delhi Palam Today  
38°C The weather will be dry. Day will be hot and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night will be slight warm.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow  
38°C A dry weather is likely. Day will be hot and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night remains slight warm. Thunderstorm is likely.

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## Draw of lots for Kalkaji JJ dwellers likely

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is likely to conduct the third draw of lots for the remaining eligible households at the Bhoomihi Camp Jhuggi Jhopri (JJ) cluster in Kalkaji, as part of its in situ slum rehabilitation project, a senior DDA official said.

The urban body has identified 2,890 eligible households at the JJ cluster, out of which a total of 1,576 households have been issued allotment-cum-demand letters through the two draws that were held in February and June.

Explaining the process, the senior DDA official added, "We wait for the beneficiaries to pay the amount for the flats, which is followed by some paperwork. Upon completing this process, we hand over the flats to the beneficiaries." He also said that flats will be issued to all the eligible households within this year.

Under the Kalkaji project, the DDA has constructed 3,024 flats.

## Kartavya Path opens to public with a cultural extravaganza

Toilets, parking,  
better lighting  
added to stretch

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

After 20 months of redevelopment, Kartavya Path, which was known as Rajpath till earlier this week, reopened to the public on Friday with a cultural festival.

The people gathered to witness the festival organised by the Culture Ministry, were treated to a drone show about the life of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and performances by dancers from across the country.

The new look of the two-km stretch from India Gate to Rashtrapati Bhavan was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday evening. Mr. Modi also unveiled the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at the canopy at India Gate.

**Entry prohibited**  
Dedicated vending zones, toilets, parking areas and better lighting were added to the stretch. However, on Friday, the police personnel did not allow street vendors to cross the barricades and enter Kar-



People watching a drone show projecting the image of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate on Friday evening. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

tavya Path and the lawns.

An official of the Central Public Works Department, which carried out the revamp, said the police had put restrictions due to the large crowd expected for the three-day cultural programme that started on Friday. The official said the vendors would be allowed into the vending zones after the festival.

Devi Saran, a vendor who had been selling ice-cream at

India Gate for two decades, on Friday stood at a distance from Kartavya Path as he said he was not allowed to take his cart near the entrance.

"I went back to my village during the lockdown and somehow survived by taking a ₹2 lakh loan. I came back to Delhi three months ago and have been standing near Rajpath. Before the pandemic, I used to earn a decent amount. Now I make barely a

few hundred rupees a day," he said.

Across the road, a snack-seller, Girish, was shooed away by the police when he stood too close to the entrance of Kartavya Path, where the barricades and metal detectors were in place.

He did not know if he would be allowed back on the stretch he had worked on for years.

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## CCTV surveillance: 5.26 lakh challans issued in Gurugram in four years

'Other depts. too need to connect their offices with the system'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

A total of 5,26,084 challans worth ₹93 crore have been issued by the Gurugram police over the last four years

by Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal to review the smart surveillance system in Gurugram and other cities, including Faridabad and Karnal.

Mr. Kaushal said the police were making the optimum use of the system, but other departments too needed to connect their offices with it for better and more effective monitoring. He said the presentation on smart surveillance system in Gurugram, Faridabad and Karnal was shown to the Deputy Commissioners and senior

officers of all the districts to inform them about the smart initiatives being taken up in the State so they can learn and adopt the best practices.

Sudhir Rajpal, Chief Executive Officer, GMDA, said that a holistic and integrated video surveillance system was implemented in the area of GMDA, comprising all 115 sectors of Gurugram and Manesar in the first phase. Under this system, about 1,200 CCTV cameras were installed at 222 locations, he said.

## 26 snatchings a day, stringent law eludes Delhi

Police's proposal to add new sections to IPC against the offence pending with city govt.

ARNABJIT SURI  
NEW DELHI

A young woman from Tikri recently made headlines when she fought off a juvenile trying to snatch her mobile phone in south-east Delhi's Badarpur. A video of the September 4 incident, which has since gone viral, shows the woman grabbing the snatcher by his T-shirt and fighting him till he drops the device and flees.

Not everyone can show so much alertness and courage in such a situation, said a senior police officer, highlighting the spate of snatching incidents reported in the Capital in the recent past.

An average of 26 snatchings have been reported every day in the Capital till July this year even as the Delhi police await the city government's approval to a proposal moved last year to create separate sections in the Indian Penal Code and bring about an anti-snatching law with stringent punishment for the offence, said the officer.

Sources told *The Hindu* that Delhi Police's legal cell last moved the proposal in October 2021. However, the city government has not forwarded it to the Lieutenant-Governor for his approval. Once the propos-

sal receives the L-G's approval, it will be sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for clearance.

### Longer jail term

Currently, snatchers are booked under IPC Section 379 pertaining to theft and Section 356 pertaining to the use of criminal force. The maximum punishment under these provisions goes up to three years and two years, respectively.

The proposal aims to add two new clauses to IPC Section 379 – 379A (snatching) and 379B (snatching and use of force) – making snatching a non-bailable offence punishable with up to 14 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of ₹25,000.

**Law in place in Haryana**  
In 2014, Haryana became the first State to add the two sections and make snatching an offence punishable with up to 14 years of jail term.

In November last year, the then Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana had called for introducing separate IPC sections for the offence in the Capital.

According to recent Delhi Police data, as many as 5,024 snatching incidents were reported across the city till July 15 this year, out of which 2,908

years, which may extend up to 10 years, along with a fine of ₹25,000. Similarly, under Section 379B, an offender will be punished with rigorous imprisonment for at least 10 years, which may go up to 14 years and a fine of ₹25,000.

or 57.8% of cases were solved. With 686 incidents, the North East district reported the most snatching this year out of the 15 districts. Last year, the Capital had recorded a total of 4,468 snatching incidents across districts in the same period, the data showed.

Senior police officers said of the total PCR calls received on snatching incidents, around 30% get converted into FIRs.

"Snatchers, a lot of whom are minors, mostly travel on motorbikes. While one accused rides the vehicle, the one riding pillion snatches valuables. If the number plate is clearly visible in the CCTV footage, the culprits can be nabbed the same day and the stolen items recovered," an officer said.

DCP (PRO) Suman Nalwa said police units have been sensitised to crack down on snatchers in their areas.

"Analysis of snatching cases, such as the place and time of the incident, the type of valuable snatched and the number of people involved, is carried out in order to quickly identify and nab the culprit. Police teams are deployed at hotspots and pickets are changed every other day to track the snatchers' routes," she added.

Once added, Section 379A will allow a convict to be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term of at least five

years and a fine of ₹25,000.

Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 12.09.2022 to 03.10.2022 up to 11.30 hrs.

Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 19.09.2022 to 03.10.2022 upto 11.30 hours.

Date of opening of tender | Tender will be opened on 03.10.2022 at 11.30 hours.

No.: 570-Sig-PS-Tender-123 Dated : 09.09.2022 2359/2022

## OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SATNA, DISTT-SATNA (M.P.)

NIT No. 11/01, 11/02, 11/03 & 11/04/SCDW/e-tendering/2022-23, Satna, Dated 07/09/2022

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Online tender through e-tendering is invited by Satna Municipal Corporation (SMC), Satna (M.P.) for the works given in the table below.

S. No.	Tender No.	Name of the work	Probable amount of contact	Earliest Money Deposit(EMD) (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rupees)	Time of Completion /Supply
01	2022_UAD_221006_1	Design, Engineering, Procurement, and Construction of Three (3) numbers Sewage Treatment Plants of 4 MLD, 4 MLD and 3 MLD Capacity for Wastewater flowing through Umri, Gahera & Khermai Nallah respectively including Three (3) Years Defect Liability Period and Operation and Maintenance of STP and allied facilities for Five (5) Years along with RCC Lining of Umri Nallah, Gahera Nallah & balance work of Khermai Nallah and Branches of all Three (3) Nallah at Satna (IInd Call)	91,64,39,119/-	45,83,000/-	50,000/-	18 Months (including monsoon and 3 month trail run)
02	2022_UAD_221007_1	Design, Engineering, Procurement, and Construction of Augmentation Works of 18 MLD & 40 MLD existing Water Treatment Plants including Operation and Maintenance of augmented facilities for 5 Years in Satna (IInd Call)	20,83,05,834/-	10,42,000/-	50,000/-	12 Months (including monsoon and 3 month trail run)
03	2022_UAD_221008_1	Design, Engineering, Procurement, and Construction, Repair & Refurbishment of Civil Electrical & Architectural finishing works of Collectorate Building including three year Defect Liability Period at Satna, Madhya Pradesh. (IInd Call)	4,08,08,238/-	4,09,000/-	15,000/-	06 Months (including Rainy Season)
04	2022_UAD_221009_1	Design, Engineering, Procurement, and Construction of Nagar Niwas Workshop including three year Defect Liability Period at Satna, Madhya Pradesh. (IInd Call)	2,00,40,892/-	2,00,500/-	15,000/-	06 Months (including Rainy Season)

- Interested Bidder can view the NIT on website <http://www.mptenders.gov.in> and [www.mpurban.gov.in](http://www.mpurban.gov.in)
- The Bid Document can be purchased only Online 10:30 of 09/09/2022 to 17:30 of 24/09/2022
- Amendment to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in Newspaper

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by name of "PRAVRITTI PARTY" (name of the party). The office of the party is located at 980, Near-Prajkoti Public School, Palam Village, New Delhi-110045. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under section 29 A of the Representation of People Act 1951. Name and Address of the office bearers of the party are as follows:- PRESIDENT-SUNIL KUMAR, GENERAL SECRETARY- A B H I S H E K CHATURVEDI, TREASURER-PARVEEN SUNDRIYAL If anyone has any objection to the registration of "PRAVRITTI PARTY" (name of the proposed party) they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvanak Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

UNDER THE INSTRUCTIONS OF AND ON BEHALF OF THE CLIENT SMT. SUKHTA AGARWAL W/O Pawan Agarwal PROPRIETOR OF "SHREE SIDHI VINAYAK ENTERPRISES" 4503/4, GROUND FLOOR, KRISHNA BAZAR, CLOTH MARKET, FATEHPURI, DELHI-110006, GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE THAT MY CLIENT SUKHTA AGARWAL HAS NOT AUTHORIZED HER UNCLE AND Pawan Agarwal S/o Sh. Copal Chand Agarwal IN ANY MANNER TO ACT ON HER BEHALF OR ON BEHALF OF HER PROPERIETORSHIP FIRM M/S SHREE SIDHI VINAYAK ENTERPRISES HAVING ITS OFFICE AT 4503/4, GROUND FLOOR, KRISHNA BAZAR, CLOTH MARKET, FATEHPURI, DELHI-110006, TO COMMUNICATE TO GENERAL PUBLIC THAT IF SH. Pawan Agarwal DEALS WITH ANY PERSON UNDER THE NAME OF M/S SHREE SIDHI VINAYAK ENTERPRISES, THEN THE SAID DEALING SHALL NOT BE BINDING UPON MY CLIENT AND OR UPON HER FIRM M/S SHREE SIDHI VINAYAK ENTERPRISES. MY CLIENT OR HER FIRM NAMED ABOVE SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY SUCH ACTS/DEEDS DEALINGS OR OMISSIONS OF SH. Pawan Agarwal.

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Name of work with its location Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for HBL make IPS at 38 Station/ locations over Delhi Division for 3 years.

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Address of the office Senior Divisional Signal &amp; Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.

Date &amp; Time for upload the tender/closing of tender Tender uploading/closing date &amp; time - 30.09.2022 up to 15.00 hrs.

Website particular &amp; notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in &amp; Notice board at S &amp; T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055

No.: 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-AMC-063-2022-23 Dated: 08.09.2022 2351/2022

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# Gehlot launches job guarantee scheme

Job cards issued to over 2.25 lakh people living in Rajasthan cities; 100-day employment guaranteed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR

An urban employment guarantee scheme was launched here on Friday for providing economic support to the poor and needy families living in the cities through work to be provided on demand for 100 days in a year.

More than 3.5 lakh people across the State have got themselves registered under the scheme and the job cards have been issued to 2.25 lakh of them.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the ambitious scheme, named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, by starting renovation work at the 18th Century Khania Ki Baori stepwell near Ambedkar Bhavan here. He termed the scheme historic, on the lines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, as it would provide guaranteed work to the people in distress.

Mr. Gehlot had announced the launch of the scheme in his budget speech



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot interacting with workers at the launch of the scheme in Jaipur on Friday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

in the Assembly earlier this year, while making a provision of ₹800 crore in 2022-23. Touted as the country's biggest scheme to give jobs to the people residing in cities, it will provide work to the members aged 18 to 60 years in the job card holder families.

The State government has appointed committees at various levels for the scheme's effective implementation.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Gehlot said the programme was prepared after

studying similar such schemes in other States. "The families whose livelihood has been affected by the pandemic will get financial support at the [present] juncture of high inflation by getting jobs under this scheme," he said.

"We organised a huge rally in Delhi against the Centre over inflation recently. We will fight it out with the Centre in public interest, but here is a very useful scheme which will provide various types of works for liveli-

hood," Mr. Gehlot said.

While Mr. Gehlot presented job cards to 10 beneficiary women and distributed tools to the labourers on the occasion, Local Self Government & Urban Development Minister Shanti Dhariwal said the State government was committed to providing employment to every person. The job guarantee scheme was a major drive against unemployment in the urban areas, he added.

The scheme will provide employment in the segments of environment and water conservation, cleanliness and sanitation, stopping defacement of property, service-related works, convergence work and heritage conservation.

The eligible people will get the works such as tree plantation, cleaning ponds, collecting garbage and catching stray animals.

The State-level inaugural programme was telecast live at the district-level events, which were attended by the Ministers in charge of those

districts. Jaipur Heritage Municipal Corporation's Mayor Munesh Gurjar, Congress MLA Rafiq Khan and Amin Kagzi and Social Welfare Board chairperson Archana Sharma were present.

## Welfare schemes

At least 50 persons in each ward of urban local bodies will be given employment under the scheme. A Janadhar card or its registration slip will be required for registration, which can be done at e-Mitra centres. The State government will reward the municipal bodies doing good work under the scheme.

The Chief Minister also highlighted other welfare schemes of his government during the event. He said the medical treatment had been made completely free under the Chiranjeevi Scheme, while the initiatives such as the opening of the Mahatma Gandhi English medium schools and regularisation of slum colonies would benefit large sections of population in the State.

Reconsider low fees for 50% seats in pvt. colleges'

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.  
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Friday directed the National Medical Commission to reconsider an office memorandum issued by it on February 3 insisting that the fee for 50% of the seats at deemed-to-be universities and self-financing medical colleges be on a par with the fee collected by government medical colleges.

Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari and Justice N. Mala ordered a fresh office memorandum be issued and the existing fee structure continue until the NMC reconsiders the issue. The judges said the NMC had issued the memorandum based on the report of an expert committee which had failed to consider the possibility of the poor students, who could not gain a seat on merit for lack of coaching, ending up subsidizing the fees for rich students.

## Police killed ex-militant in reckless operation'

Meghalaya CM tables panel report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

The Meghalaya police killed the leader of a former extremist outfit a year ago in a "reckless operation using excessive force", the report of a commission of inquiry tabled in the 60-member State Assembly said on Friday.

Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Friday tabled the report of the one-man probe panel by retired judge T. Vaiphien into the killing of former Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) leader Cheristerfield Thangkhiew on August 13, 2021.

The ex-HNLC leader was killed after the police raided his house in capital Shillong's Mawlawi area.

The police had claimed the former extremist was shot in self-defence after he tried to stab them. Thangkhiew's death had led to widespread violence with an angry mob setting vehicles on fire and brandishing firearms snatched from the police.

The report said the forced entry into the house was a reckless exercise and tantamount to disproportionate use of force. Thangkhiew's death, it added, defeated the very purpose of launching the operation to capture him alive.

The outlawed HNLC, which was formed with the goal of seceding from India, is now on talks mode.

The probe panel found that the police operation to arrest Thangkhiew (for al-

Police vehicle vandalised by miscreants after the death of ex-HNLC leader. ■ FILE PIC

leged involvement in bomb blasts) at 3 a.m. from his residence was "thoughtless", resulting in his death that was avoidable.

"Having entered what could potentially be a lion's den in darkness without proper planning and without taking adequate precaution", the police had taken "purely avoidable and unnecessary risk" endangering their lives as well as that of the deceased, the report said.

The report said the forced entry into the house was a reckless exercise and tantamount to disproportionate use of force. Thangkhiew's death, it added, defeated the very purpose of launching the operation to capture him alive.

### Stalin mocks EPS over DMK MLAs remark

MADURAI

At a time when the AIADMK MLAs themselves "were not talking" with the party's interim general secretary, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, his claim that some DMK MLAs were in touch with him was nothing but comic relief, CM and DMK president M.K. Stalin said on Friday. At the wedding of Minister P. Moorthy's son, he said the AIADMK had split into two factions.

The appeal by the TRS leaders comes two days before a scheduled meeting of former Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy

## AAP promises '6 guarantees' to people of H.P.

CM Jai Ram Thakur says BJP has ensured all-round development in last four years

VIKAS VASUDEV

CHANDIGARH

In the run-up to the Assembly election in Himachal Pradesh, due later this year, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday extended what it termed "six guarantees", including jobs for all youth, unemployment allowance, an advisory board for traders, end of "inspector rule" and corruption-free administration.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia addressed a rally in Mandi seeking a chance to form the next government instead of the traditional political parties in the State.

**Wealth plundered**  
"By playing musical chairs, the traditional parties have mercilessly plundered the wealth of the State. These

political parties have connived with each other to shield their misdeeds and the real sufferers have been the people and State, which have lagged in progress and prosperity," Mr. Mann said, promising "six guarantees" to the people.

The Punjab Chief Minister said that AAP is a product of revolution and the vision of

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. He said that the 'broom', the symbol of the AAP, symbolises cleanliness, adding that the party was going to clean the dirt in the political system. Mr. Mann further said that people must support the movement for the well-being of the country and its people.

Separately, at Balichowki

in Mandi district, State Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said that during the last 75 years, unprecedented development had been ensured in every field and the State had emerged as a model for other States of the country.

**Remarkable progress**  
"The State has made remarkable progress in many areas, including health, education, roads, food grains production, fruit production, per capita income, and 100% electrification," he said, addressing a public rally on Friday. "Development of every section and every area has been ensured in the State with the welfare schemes of the Bharatiya Janta Party-led State government and the financial support of the Central government during the last four-and-a-half years," he added.

district presidents of TRS available in the city said addressing a press conference here on Friday.

## Same view

The remaining 12 district presidents were also of the same view and they too would hold press conferences locally with a similar request to KCR, TRS legislator and Mancherial district president Balka Suman said. He alleged that except for its attempt to divide the society on communal lines and make political gains, the BJP government at the Centre did not do anything for the needy during the last eight years.

with Mr. Rao here to discuss national politics and a new party.

"Not only the people of Telangana but the people in 28 other States in the country are awaiting KCR's entry into national politics to bring a qualitative change in the country's politics and to end the undemocratic and divisive rule of the BJP," 21 dis-

## TRS leaders urge KCR to launch national party

Need to end the undemocratic, divisive rule of BJP, say TRS district presidents

THE HINDU BUREAU

HYDERABAD



TRS legislator Balka Suman seen with party legislators Kale Yadaiah and M.S. Prabhakar in Hyderabad. ■ FILE PHOTO

try are awaiting KCR's entry into national politics to bring a qualitative change in the country's politics and to end the undemocratic and divisive rule of the BJP," 21 dis-

NHAI to audit drainage system, roads in Karnataka to fix flooding

Bengaluru-Mysuru highway faced problem due to heavy rain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Following traffic snarls on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Express Highway in recent days following heavy rains, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday said the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) would audit the drainage system as well as the road for increasing carrying capacity of the road and smooth movement of vehicles.

Mr. Bommai said works on the highway must speed up, but now problems with the storm-water drain system had surfaced.

Mr. Bommai said there was a technical issue in the flyover and it needed to be strengthened. ru city would also be taken up. Now, the movement of heavy vehicles on the flyover had been stopped, the Chief Minister said. Mr. Gadkari said there was a technical issue in the flyover and it needed to be strengthened.



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Tender No. J.C.E.C.E.B. / 65/22 - 4 Dated: 09/09/2022

**SHORT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed tender is being invited from reputed Service Providers for **In-Situ Biometric Data Collection during Entrance Examinations** for various entrance examinations conducted by J.C.E.C.E. Board for admission in Academic Session 2022-23 of different Courses. The Tender Document can be downloaded from the website <http://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in/> from 10.09.2022.

The Bid can be submitted latest by 03:00 P.M. on 16.09.2022.

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**Office of the Executive Engineer,**

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Phone No: 01786-226027 Fax: 01786-226027.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Offline mode).**

Sealed item rate offline tender on form PWD-6 & 8 are hereby invited on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh by the **Executive Engineer, Kalpa Division, HP PWD, Kalpa** for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HP PWD; so as to reach in the office of the Executive Engineer Kalpa Division HP PWD, Kalpa or on before 21-09-2022 up to 10.30 A.M. and shall be opened on the same day at 11:00 AM in presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender form documents can be had from this office (Kalpa Division, HPPWD Kalpa) against cash payment (Non-refundable) on any working day during the office hours upto 2:00 P.M. on 19-09-2022. No application for issue of tender forms will be received on 19-09-2022 after 4:00 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the above mentioned dates, the tenders will be sold/ opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The Earnest Money in the shape of National Saving Certificate, F.D.R.s from any Post Office/Bank in H.P. duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, Kalpa Division, HP PWD, Kalpa must accompany with each tenders. Conditional tenders and application (For purchase of tender forms) received without Earnest Money summarily be rejected. The tenders shall be kept open for 90 days. The Executive Engineer Reserves (Right to accept or to reject any) or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time allowed	Cost of form	Eligible class of contractor
1	C/O Ramp at Court office at R/Peo in Distt. Kinnar (H.P.) SH- Chakkars tiles, steel work in built up section, MS Hollow pipes etc.	1,63,522/-	3,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
2	Repair to Auditorium/ Kalamanch at Chango (SH- Repair of plaster, distempering, wooden work thereof).	4,36,706/-	9,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
3	C/O Link road from Brano to Nainpur Km 0/00 to 3/100 in G.P. (Pangi) SH- C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 0/340 to 0/490.	4,76,896/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
4	C/O Karba Makermang road Km 0/00 to 0/955 (SH- C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 0/430 to 0/450).	1,72,695/-	3,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
5	C/O Jeepable road from Peo Eye Pass road to Panang in G.P. Yuwaringi Km. 0/00 to 0/200 (SH- C/O R/Wall in G.I. crate at RD 0/110 to 0/170).	3,61,825/-	7,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
6	C/O Jeepable road from Peo Eye Pass road to Panang in G.P. Yuwaringi Km. 0/00 to 0/200 (SH- C/O R/Wall in G.I. crate at RD 0/170 to 0/200).	3,60,485/-	7,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
7	Improvement of black spot of Peo Kalpa C.P. Road Km 0/00 to 0/400 (SH- Providing and fixing W-Metal beam crash barrier RD 1/480 to 1/540, 1/690 to 1/750, 2/705 to 2/775).	4,98,176/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
8	C/O Jeepable road from Chunching Chowk to Kuto Kanda Portion Kutto to Shati Km 3/060 to 4/365 (SH- C/O R/Wall at RD 4/100 to 4/160).	4,60,818/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
9	C/O Jeepable road from Shati to Gonidor Km 0/00 to 2/00 (SH- Providing and laying stone siding from Km 0/00 to 2/00).	3,23,758/-	6,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
10	C/O Karba Makermang Km 0/00 to 0/955 (SH- Formation cutting from Km 0/320 to 0/655).	2,54,330/-	5,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
11	RRD on Peo Township Sector Road Km 0/00 to 0/700 (SH- R/Wall in RR Masonry at RD 0/669.50 to 0/683).	4,94,082/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
12	RRD on Khadura to Thopan road Km 0/00 to 7/790 Km 0/00 to 2/00 (SH- C/O R/Wall in RR Masonry at RD 0/415 to 3/440).	2,65,147/-	5,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
13	Restoration of rain damages on Link road to Village Chaukpa Km 0/00 to 1/945 (SH- C/O B/Wall in G.I. Chaukpa RD 1/045 to 1/160).	4,93,422/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
14	Repair to General Pooled accommodation in R/Peo Distt. Kinnar (H.P.) SH- C/O Fencing and installation of the interlocking Paver Block Tile in the Porch area of Block 8 type III).	4,89,665/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
15	A/R & M/O to Peo Township Sector Road Km 0/00 to 2/00 (SH- R/Wall in RR Masonry at RD 0/910 to 0/921).	4,97,441/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
16	A/R & M/O to Peo Township Sector Road Km 0/00 to 2/00 (SH- R/Wall in RR Masonry at RD 0/921 to 0/932).	4,97,441/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
17	C/O Permanent building for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at R/Peo in Distt. Kinnar (H.P.) SH- C/O R/Wall for Academics block at RD 0/00 to 0/015).	4,99,415/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
18	C/O Permanent building for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at R/Peo in Distt. Kinnar (H.P.) SH- C/O R/Wall for Academics block at RD 0/015 to 0/300).	4,96,149/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
19	Imp/Widening of Motorable road from NH-22 to Junction of Taitly Valley road Km 0/00 to 4/455 (SH- C/O R/Wall in PCC for protection of building).	4,94,957/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
20	C/O Link road from Khorgyap to Yosaring in G.P. Jangi Km 0/00 to 2/00 (SH- C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 0/650 to 1/500 and C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 0/315 to 0/331).	4,94,466/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
21	C/O Link road from Khorgyap to Yosaring in G.P. Jangi Km 0/00 to 2/00 (SH- C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 0/250 to 0/278.50 and 0/435 to 0/510).	4,96,764/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
22	C/O Link road to Thiyathiyong Temple Km 0/00 to 1/800 (SH- C/O R/Wall at RD 1/10 to 1/175 and 1/720 to 1/765).	4,81,556/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
23	C/O Link road to Chang Nichal to Upper Chango Km 0/00 to 3/00 (SH- C/O U-Shape drain from Km 2/00 to 2/444).	4,99,277/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
24	C/O Jeepable road from Shati Nallah to Purlo Lansa in G.P. Telengi Km 0/00 to 0/790 in Distt. Kinnar (H.P.) (SH- Formation cutting from Km 0/00 to 0/570).	1,43,860/-	3,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
25	C/O Combined office building at Arsing (SH- C/O B/Wall in PCC for protection of building).	3,37,282/-	7,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
26	C/O 4 Nos. Bath rooms Hot water spring at Thopan in Distt. Kinnar (H.P.) (SH- Remaining balance work).	1,06,224/-	2,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
27	C/O Link road from Pancha to Patka via Parwa Km 0/00 to 6/00 (SH- C/O R/Wall from Km 0/00 to 0/030 and 0/090 to 0/105).	3,52,574/-	7,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
28	A/R & M/O link road to Village Hango Km 0/00 to 2/00 (SH- C/O B/Wall in RR Masonry at RD 0/560 to 0/570 and R/Wall at RD 0/710 to 0/900).	2,51,472/-	5,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
29	C/O Link road from Yangzang to Thangzang Km 0/00 to 0/945 (SH- C/O Solid cause way at RD 0/510 to 0/520 and R/Wall at RD 0/710 to 0/726).	4,86,034/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
30	Special repair to ADM office building at Pooh in Distt. Kinnar (H.P.) (SH- Repair of W.S. & S.I.).	229,352/-	5,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
31	C/O Link road from Gotan to Suniche in G.P. Shalkhar Km 0/00 to 1/350 (SH- C/O R/Wall at RD 0/680 to 0/780).	4,36,679/-	9,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
32	C/O Karba Makermang road Km 0/00 to 0/955 (SH- Formation cutting from Km 0/330 to 0/655).	2,54,330/-	5,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
33	C/O Link road to Garden colony Thangi Km 0/00 to 5/100 (SH- Formation cutting from RD 2/570 to 3/400).	4,82,226/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
34	Restoration of rain damages on link road from NH-22 to Thangi Km 0/00 to 9/00 (SH- Providing and fixing delinators).	4,32,000/-	9,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
35	C/O Link road from Labrang Bust Stand to Labrang Gompa Km 0/00 to 1/600 (SH- C/O B/Wall in RR Masonry at RD 1/570 to 1/581 and in G.I. wire crate at RD 1/560 to 1/572).	1,40,415/-	3,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
36	C/O Jeepable road from Ghotarang to Gramma Km 0/00 to 4/650 (SH- C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 0/930 to 0/960).	1,34,339/-	3,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
37	Imp/Widening of Jeepable road from Jagroden to Tale Km 0/00 to 2/00 (SH- C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 1/030 to 1/126).	2,12,127/-	4,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
38	Restoration of rain damages on link road NH-22 to Ropa Khas Km 0/00 to 15/850 (SH- C/O Side drain at RD 11/800 to 12/430).	1,52,206/-	3,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
39	Restoration of rain damages on link road NH-22 to Ropa Khas Km 0/00 to 15/850 (SH- C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 12/433 to 12/495).	3,79,911/-	8,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
40	C/O Link road from Chango to Tashijong village Hangmat Km 0/00 to 2/700 (SH- Formation cutting from Km 1/100 to 1/520).	4,98,709/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
41	C/O Link road from Chango to Tashijong village Hangmat Km 0/00 to 2/700 (SH- Formation cutting from Km 1/520 to 2/00).	4,99,917/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
42	C/O Link road from Tiago to Kache Lakhang Km 0/00 to 0/800 (SH- Providing and laying interlocking paver block at RD 0/350 to 0/600).	4,96,077/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
43	C/O Link road from Tiago to Kache Lakhang Km 0/00 to 0/800 (SH- C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 0/287 to 0/324).	4,80,043/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
44	C/O Link road to Village Dabling Km. 0/00 to 4/900 (SH- C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD. 0/287 to 0/324).	4,90,230/-	10,00/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
45	A/R & M/O of Skibba Rispa road Km 0/00 to 4/270 (SH- C/O B/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 2/930 to 3/005 and R/Wall at RD 0/835 to 0/850).	4,95,396/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class
46	M/T on link road from Sarai Bhawan to Budhi Mandir at Reckong Peo (SH- Matalling and Tarring).	4,99,865/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"C" & "D" Class

Terms and Conditions:-

- Applications must be accompanied with Copy of valid Contractor Registration/Renewal order, PAN, EPF, and GST.
- Earnest Money should be accompanied with application/tender, without earnest money will not be entertained and summarily be rejected.
- Ambiguous/Telegraphic/conditional tenders or tenders by fax/E-Mail shall not be entertained/considered in any case.
- The contractors should be quote the rates of each item in words as well as figures in the Schedule of quantity.
- The tender shall be issued to those contractors who have not more than two works in hand.

Executive



## Staying the course

Inflation may have moderated a bit, but remains a threat that warrants constant vigil

Over this week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman spoke at length on India's inflation battle, signalling it is no longer as 'red-lettered' a priority as there are more big picture pursuits such as creating jobs, sustaining growth and ensuring equitable wealth distribution. The Government, she remarked, has shown its ability to tackle inflation, having brought it down to a somewhat 'manageable' level in the last couple of months. The Finance Ministry expects inflationary pressures to be 'capped' due to steps taken by the central bank and the Government since consumer inflation hit an eight-year high of 7.8% this April and the recent dip in commodity prices. Though July's retail inflation of 6.71% was a relief, it still remained uncomfortably above the 6% official tolerance threshold. Price rise in rural India has been much sharper – averaging 7.6% in the first four months of 2022-23 and over 7% through 2022 so far, compared to the overall average consumer inflation of 7.14% and 6.79% for the two timeframes, respectively. While headline monthly numbers affect sentiment, a prolonged spell of high inflation is more deleterious for households' ability and propensity to spend, denting demand and growth impulses that may catalyse fresh investments from industry. The uneven monsoon so far could further weaken rural demand even as worries about lower sowing of paddy and pulses are spurring their prices higher in recent weeks.

The RBI believes that inflation has peaked in India, but Deputy Governor Michael Patra is not entirely convinced about the 'durability' of moderating prices despite lower commodity costs, noting that upside risks persist. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for August due next week, some reckon, could take inflation closer to 7% again, partly because food price rise, that accounts for 45% of the CPI and had dipped to a five-month low in July, may have resurfaced. While one should hope the worst is behind, it is too early to let the guard down. On Thursday, Ms. Sitharaman said that monetary policy tools such as interest rate hikes alone cannot tame inflation and nudged the RBI to not be 'as synchronised' with its developed world counterparts when growth needs to be unfettered. The emphasis on a multi-pronged approach to contain inflation, including better logistics, fiscal and trade policy moves, such as the export duty imposed on rice later that evening, is correct. Her flagging of wide variations in States' inflation trends and linking higher inflation in some States to their failure to cut petroleum prices may be a tad political. But the Government must act expeditiously on her call for a mechanism where the Centre and States work together to tackle price rise. That would be more effective in ensuring that inflation's immediate term moderation is durable and it can be re-activated so that future policy reactions are quicker, more sure-footed and cohesive.

## End of an era

The Queen's passing could have an impact on the mission, prospects of the Commonwealth

The passing of Queen Elizabeth II, the United Kingdom's longest serving monarch who reigned for over 70 years, marks the end of an era for British monarchy. Her tenure as Head of State began during the early post-War years and witnessed a paradigm-changing shift in the balance of political power from the British empire to the Commonwealth, and the emergence of free, post-colonial nations. During her time on the throne the Cold War came to an end and so too did the U.K.'s 47-year experiment as a member of the European Union. No fewer than 15 U.K. Prime Ministers came and went while she reigned, from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss. Her rule was not without controversy. On the personal front she suffered an "annus horribilis" in 1992, when the marriages of three of her children broke down and Windsor Castle was damaged by fire. In the aftermath of the death of King Charles' former wife, Diana, in a car accident in Paris in 1997, criticism was levelled at the monarchy for shying away from public response. Despite these occasional setbacks, Queen Elizabeth has consistently enjoyed a high favourability rating among the British public, 75% according to a recent poll. Observers attribute this to her stubborn silence on political issues, a "closed book" approach that allowed subjects, critics, and outsiders to project onto her and the royal family, whatever they wished to.

Her passing however raises complex questions regarding the state of the monarchy vis-à-vis the Commonwealth realms and the prognosis for the latter's continuing evolution in a vastly different socio-economic milieu compared to the Elizabethan era. Consider, for example, the debate in Australia, where there is a popular movement to reposition the country as a Republic, particularly in the context of the administration of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese being keen to set up a treaty with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. In 2021, Barbados became the 18th country to remove the British monarch from the role of head of state. Other than these two nations and the U.K., the British monarch remains the head of the state in Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, The Bahamas, and Tuvalu. At least six Caribbean nations have hinted at following the Barbados example. However, the broader Commonwealth group of 56 nations, of which India and other South Asian countries are members, remains intact, thanks in large part to the critical role that the Queen played in championing the organisation and maintaining its relevance. As epochal was her rule, so too could the impact of her passing be on the mission and prospects of the Commonwealth.

# The stark reasons why Bengaluru is sinking

Citizens need to back politicians and bureaucrats who bring development and environmental protection to the fore



T.R. RAGHUNANDAN

**A**fter two weeks of heavy rain, I am breathing a little easier – as a resident of Whitefield in Bengaluru. Menacing clouds scud overhead, but the sheets of water have abated.

Meanwhile, social media reveals the pulse of the people. Viral content shows abandoned vehicles floating or under water, tractors and their trailers laden with software professionals commuting to work and inflatable rafts being hauled by rescue teams with residents on board escaping from flooded layouts that are home to luxury villas. Black humour memes flood our mobile phones, even as our feet swirl around in the bilges. Some discussions have turned parochial and even racist, blaming migrants to be the prime culprits. Politicians have waded in – only figuratively, of course. Most blame previous governments, while some blame citizens. Those in the ruling party seem irritable; one of its own rich supporters, who is not known for the use of temperate language, has been castigated by another for sharing flood-related photos, and giving Bengaluru a 'bad name'.

Useful discussions that involve water and climate experts have them repeatedly highlight how we have encroached into lakes and watersheds, destroyed wetlands, reduced greenery and concretised lands, thus facing the consequences of our actions.

### When the rot began

There is consensus that we must do something. We know what to do. But where do we begin? How do we proceed and what is the sequence? Who will help?

As Bengaluru expanded, swal-

lowing up the villages around it, panchayats were disbanded to create six city municipal corporations, which were merged subsequently into the Bhrutah Bengaluru Mahanagara Palika (BBMP). During this transition, land records were either destroyed or tampered with, and fake documents fabricated by corrupt interests. Lakes and their catchment areas were soon transformed into private lands. Builders backfilled these and soon made quick money building apartments, shopping malls and information-technology parks. We were arrogant in thinking that we could somehow defy nature. But water finds its own level, irrespective of whether we are rich or poor.

### Them and us

Yet, this smacks of *déjà vu*. Many cities in Europe and the United States, notwithstanding their beautiful environs today, are examples where there was the ruthless destruction of the environment, and construction frenzy to become pulsating economic growth engines. They too saw a nexus of corruption involving politicians and bureaucrats, eschewing environmentally sensible decisions for short-term gains. They too benefited from migration, which brought in energy and skill. And they too suffered, like us, from two classic impediments in public welfare provision. First, the problem of free riders, where people partook of city-provided benefits without paying city taxes. And second, the 'tragedy of the commons' problem, where bulwarks against environmental breakdown – wetlands, lakes, grasslands, trees, parks, and forests – belonged to nobody.

The difference between us and them is this – they grew when nature had the leeway to heal and establish a new environmental equilibrium. We, in contrast, are destroying our environment when climate change is already upon us; and further damage would only re-



PTI

sult in a cascading succession of disasters.

Reassuringly, Bengaluru consistently implements reforms, albeit slowly. We have achieved some success in rainwater harvesting, solar water heating, segregation of garbage and the stoppage of littering, even if deadlines were unmet. We are better than many in environmental compliance, though not good enough.

What we lack is the institutional capacity to handle the problems of the future. We cannot persist with the same alphabet soup of uncoordinated institutions that have contributed to our problems in the first place and comprising local governments, namely, the BBMP and panchayats, State institutions such as the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), the Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA), various 'planning authorities' and the Revenue Department and parastatals such as the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM), Lake Authority and Bangalore Smart City Limited.

### Putting reforms into action

We need two broad thrusts to implement the reforms we know we need, to build climate resilience and a better environment.

First, we must execute institutional euthanasia. A multiplicity of institutions does not improve execution. They are deliberately constructed to get in each other's way, complicate governance and preserve opportunities that benefit corrupt politicians, bureaucrats

and land exploiters. Outdated institutions need to be replaced by a constitutionally compliant structure, with local governments at the top. Eleven independent planning authorities must be merged and subordinated to the Metropolitan Planning Committee. This constitutionally mandated institution enables all stakeholders, from Bengaluru's largest land owners, i.e., the defence, the railways, airports and national highway authorities, to the *mahanagara palika* and panchayats within the metropolitan area, to participate. Likewise, parastatals such as the BWSSB and the Smart City Company should be subordinated to the BBMP.

### Making tough decisions

Second, our community needs to steel itself for some tough decisions. Climate resilience goes beyond flood control; it needs minimising the damaging environmental impact of cities. We must take hard decisions on transportation, curb car travel and improve cheap public transport with more buses instead of waiting for the expensive metro. We must preserve our existing green cover and plant more trees, both in the city and around it. We must deconcrete our pavements, prohibit littering and segregate garbage as segregated garbage clogs drains. We must enforce sewage treatment plant operational standards. We need to accelerate efforts to improve *Rajakalives* (channels that connect waterbodies) as demonstrated in a 11-kilometre stretch in the city centre.

We must deal with the huge legacy of unacceptable constructions and encroachments. The only solution is to remove some of these unacceptable constructions and restore wetlands and tank beds. Any delay will result in nature reclaiming its due, as the effects of global warming intensify. Rising flood waters will spare none, the rich or the poor.

I can already hear the gasps of

incredulity. How can we entrust our lives to the tender ministrations of our corporators, who have the reputation of being thugs and crooks? Such thinking is riddled with serious faults. First, we could elect better people to the corporation. Second, the thought that the higher we go, the more principled and statesman-like people are is a laughable and naive presumption. Third, it undermines the biggest tools of accountability in the BBMP, wards committees and area *sabhas*. Getting these institutions to work well is in our hands. There are no corresponding peoples' participation mechanisms in State departments and parastatals.

What we can dispense with are parochial arguments. Both the migrant 'techie' and the migrant rag picker are vitally important for the economic health of Bengaluru. There is a time lag between migrant arrivals and their becoming assertive stakeholders in the city's health; that is no reason to decry them. Indeed, our city would collapse if all migrants returned to their homes.

### Good politics

Finally, apolitical approaches have their limitations. Political parties of all hues have been exploiting Bengaluru for decades. Let us face it. If we continue to vote for the corrupt for considerations other than development and environmental protection, we will not find solutions. Our bad political choices are keeping good politicians and bureaucrats out of decision making. While public participation may seem a suicide mission and the frustration and anger of being pushed back can take a toll, the only cure for bad politics is more politics of the good kind. Not less of it.

T.R. Ragunandan is former Secretary, Panchayati Raj, Government of Karnataka, former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, and Senior Policy Adviser, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi

## Moving out of the shadows, from silence to assertion

Muslim women in India are beginning to seek judicial recourse to assert their rights, marking a quiet churning



ZIYA US SALAM

**A** Talq-e-Hasan petition filed by a Ghaziabad-based woman, seeking to make the divorce pronounced by the husband at an interval of at least a month extra-judicial, was in the limelight recently when Justice S.K. Kaul observed that the practice of *Talaq-e-Hasan* or divorce pronounced to the wife once a month for three months is "not so improper".

The Bench of the Supreme Court of India, that included Justice M.M. Sundresh, also brought to the counsel's notice the possibility of exploring divorce through *mubarat* or mutual consent. The judges referred to the option of *khula*, or a Muslim woman's right to divorce as well.

The Bench said, "We have also put to the learned senior counsel whether in view of the allegation of respondent of irretrievable breakdown of marriage, would the petitioner be willing for a settlement by process of divorce through mutual consent on amounts being paid over and above the *mehr* fixed. In fact, we have also brought to their notice the dissolution of marriage is also possible without the intervention of the court through *mubarat*."

The Court's observation continues the trend of the judiciary tak-



ing into cognisance the rights available to a Muslim couple to dissolve an unhappy marital union. It also marks the increasing propensity of Muslim women to stand up for their rights in marriage or otherwise, a clear departure from times when women left the husband's house in silence, battered, bruised and fearing social opprobrium. Indeed, more and more Muslim women are now approaching various courts, including *Darul Qaza* or *shariah* courts, for redress of marital grievances.

While the widely-acclaimed invalidation of instant triple *talaq* by a five-judge Bench of the Court, in 2017, is well documented, there was a Kerala High Court judgment of 2021 which upheld the validity of *khula*. The court called *khula*, "the form of divorce conferred upon the wife similar to *talaq* conferred upon the husband". Incidentally, there are more cases of *khula* in *Darul Qaza* or *shariah* courts than those of instant triple *talaq*, post the 2017 verdict, according to a rough estimate. In other words, greater awareness of their rights is seeing more and more Muslim women walking out of an abusive marriage, even opting for *khula*.

And in many cases, rejected. Take for instance, the rumblings around the issue of the *hijab*. While many women stood up to be counted, arguing forcefully their right to wear what their faith ordains, and quoted verses from *Surah Ahzaab* of the *Koran*, many also pointed out the rights granted under the Constitution of India to the minorities to protect their religion, language and culture. It was the new-found confidence of Muslim women to quote from the religious book and also speak up for the rights of a citizen enshrined in the Constitution. Allowing the monopoly of sundry *maulanas* to interpret the scriptures for them has been fading away.

### Seeking rights

Some girls went a step further. They pointed out that it is not just women who have to observe *purdah* in Islam. The men too have their own limited *purdah* – a mode of compulsory dressing from the navel to the knees that they are not allowed to violate. Again, they quoted verses 30-31 of

*Surah Nur* of the *Koran* to buttress their contention. The women are thinking for themselves, interpreting things for themselves, and speaking for themselves. The men have been left either gaping or applauding. Interestingly, at a much lower profile, Muslim women have also been asserting their right to enter mosques to pray. In the past, mosques were considered a men-only zone. Now, women want their sacred space. It started with a petition in the Haji Ali Dargah case in 2016, where women won the right to enter the dargah's sanctum sanctorum. The message is clear: Indian Muslim women have found their voice. Be it the issue of divorce or the right to pray in a mosque or don the *hijab* to college, they have a mind of their own and are ready to express it.

**Some obstacles**

Of course, not everything is hunky-dory. Even as women assert their right to end a marriage through *khula*, some clerics still insist on the man's consent, thereby defeating the very purpose of *khula*. On the same lines, even as cases against *nikah halala* are pending before the Supreme Court for over three years, some *maulanas* still tend to misuse the provision for *halala*. Whereas the *Koran* allows two divorces, considering them revocable, and the third one is considered final, some clerics tend to circumvent it through a distortion of the provision of *halala*. Many *maulanas* still consider a divorce pronounced in haste as final, and tell the victim to marry another man, consummate the marriage, and obtain divorce in order to return to her first husband after *iddah* or waiting period. Muslim women are taking on such practices too in the Supreme Court. The quiet churning within the Muslim community could well herald the winds of change.

Recent years have seen change to the extent that in December 2019 when the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) was passed, it was not the traditional Muslim leadership that hit the streets but the women of the community. Even as pro-CAA noises emanated from Jama Masjid's Imam Bukhari and the chief of the

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### Defusing LAC tensions

There may be some hope in terms of some disengagement by India and China troops on the Line of Actual Control, paving the way for a further de-escalation on the border (Page 1, September 9).

However, India should not lower its guard. It would be foolish to take China at face value. The expansionist track of China is a big danger for all.

ANTHONY HENRIQUES,  
Mumbai

### Queen Elizabeth II

The passing of the world's most popular monarch,

and also Britain's longest reigning, evokes sadness. I had the privilege of seeing both the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh during their visit to Madras in 1961, when K. Kamraj was the Chief Minister of Madras. The three of us – my brothers and I – travelled from Thanjavur with the sole purpose of experiencing the royal visit. Immensely dignified, the Queen was a beacon for the United Kingdom.

A.B. EDDY,  
Chennai

### ■ The Queen's passing marks the end of not just an era but

also one of the most remarkable public careers in modern history. Amid wars, geopolitical upheavals and a stunning technological revolution, the Queen saw it all, imparting decency and grace and bringing stability to Britain, in turn endearing herself to generations across the world. That she will also fade away from the national anthem, currency notes, the British passport and many aspects of life in Britain and beyond is an aspect to note.

GREGORY FERNANDES,  
Mumbai

### ■ The Queen was a remarkable lady who steered

the monarchy through turbulent times. She was a rock to the world during many of its phases – political, economic and social. She will be missed.

DEVADAS V.,  
Kannur, Kerala

■ The monarch was a source of great strength and commanded much respect. It is very simple: there can never be anyone like her.

SHRUTI NOHWAR,  
Agra, Uttar Pradesh

### ■ As the titular head of the nation, the Queen enhanced that respect with her dignified deportment at all times. She crossed many a storm, both global and personal. One hopes that King Charles III is able to uphold the high traditions and retain the affection for the royalty.

DEEPA VISWANATH,  
Bengaluru

# When the 'IT capital' went under

Images of inundated highways, tech parks and marooned homes in Bengaluru have gone viral this past week, as its infrastructure crumbled under torrential rains. **K.C. Deepika and Suchith Kidiyoor** talk to experts on the reasons for this state of affairs, and what can be done



Heavy rainfall has brought the "dead" Arkavathy river back to life. (Below): People commute by tractors, at Yemalur, behind HAL airport, due to water logging following torrential rains in Bengaluru on September 6. • BHAGYA PRAKASH K. / MURALI KUMAR K.

**O**n his way back home from college, Mohan, a student from a village near Thippagondanahalli (T.G. Halli), stands near a bridge with his friends. All of them are captivated by the fury of nature, which has brought a "dead" river back to life. "I have never seen so much water in this river," Mohan exclaims about the fast-flowing Arkavathy. As they watch, a group of fishermen from Mandya arrive in an auto-rickshaw to add to their catch.

The T.G. Halli reservoir, located at the confluence of the Arkavathy and Kumudavathi rivers, was once the source of piped water for Bengaluru.

Hours later, yet another yellow alert is issued for Bengaluru, just 40 km away. The recent bouts of rainfall have already battered Bengaluru and its surrounding districts. Roads, highways and tech parks are inundated, homes are flooded, critical infrastructure such as power and water pumping stations are waterlogged, and lakes are overflowing.

In the last few years, many parts of Karnataka have received excess rainfall during the monsoon season and there have been aberrations in rainfall patterns in traditionally dry regions. This year, the State registered only a 21% departure from the normal between June and August. But Bengaluru Urban and Rural, Ramanagara, Chikkaballapur, Kolar and Tumakuru are among the 11 districts that have received large excess rainfall, with departures as high as 230%.

According to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, the monsoon rain this year is the second highest that Bengaluru has seen since 1971. Met Department officials say the rainfall of September 4 (131.6 mm) was the third highest single-day amount that Bengaluru has ever recorded.

In Ramanagara district, thousands of residents living in the low-lying area of Ramanagara and Channapatna towns have been struggling to cope with torrential rainfall, with several residential areas inundated. Everyone agrees that flooding in this drought-prone region is "unprecedented".

**Overflowing water bodies**  
Rivers which were reduced to insignificant streams in recent times have suddenly sprung back to life now, say residents in villages around the city. The rainfall has caused water bodies to flow beyond their boundaries. The intricate connected lake system in Bengaluru, which has seen major disruptions over the years with the proliferation of infrastructure and housing projects and industries, also saw many lakes breach bunds.

At Metipalya in Bengaluru South taluk, Muttaiah, a 74-year-old farmer, points to the gushing waters of the Arkavathy river, a tributary of the Cauvery. "This is of no use to us," he says. "Earlier, we could use water from this river for drinking and washing clothes. We did not even have to boil it. Now, we



cannot even use it for agriculture as it contains chemicals discharged by industries." No one has bothered about the river, he rues.

At a roadside hotel, Kallesh, 40, is busy making chapatis. He says the river water carries "rainbow hues" due to chemical pollution. "It is known as a perennial river," he says. "But what is this water?"

Outside a temple near the river, people point to the irony. "Excess rain has ruined almost all crops. The river water is essentially chemical water. We are able to grow very little now. People from other areas used to come to fetch drinking water from here. Today, the same people who live just 2-3 km away come to buy drinking water for ₹5 a can, drawn from a borewell close to the river," says Rangaiah, 65. "Nothing has been done so that we can benefit from the river though it has come back to life after 30 years," says Kiriyappa, 92.

In Ramanagara district, most of the 1,490 lakes and other water bodies have been overflowing. Some have even breached their bunds. Major rivers such as Arkavathy and Kanva have been flowing to the brim.

Guruprasad, a resident of Arkeswara colony, says, "After Bakshikere, which is located close to the city, breached its bunds, low-lying areas were inundated. The water destroyed walls and gushed inside the houses. It even damaged the shutters of shops. Cars, autos and bikes were floating in the water. It took days for the people to clear the silt that has entered their homes."

Syed Sadique's silk reeling unit in Mohammad Nagar was completely flooded. He is still trying to process the magnitude of the floods. "I have never seen anything like this. All the raw materials and machinery were submerged," he says.

According to an assessment by the district administration, flooding in Ramanagara and Channapatna towns has affected more than 2,200 houses. Over 200 houses are damaged and over 1,100 hectares of agricultural and horticultural

tur lands are flooded.

Chetahan Gowda, a resident of Kanva Colony, says, "Most of the streams that eventually join rivers have regained life. During the recent flooding, I visited many places in and around Ramanagara and Channapatna. I saw Seetha Thore, Shanubhoganhalli and other streams flowing with full force. These streams also flooded agricultural land. Kanva, which usually dries up during the summer season, has regained life."

Part of the trouble in Ramanagara is a project aimed at ameliorating dry conditions. Avinash Menon Rajendran, Deputy Commissioner of Ramanagara, says, "In Channapatna taluk, the lakes that had dried up started receiving water supply from the lift irrigation system. Lakes have been receiving water since 2014 and the agricultural sector has benefited a lot over the years. This year, even before the onset of monsoon, most of the lakes were full. When it rained heavily last week, the water overflowed. More than 90% of the 102 lakes that are spread over 100 acres each were overflowing in the district."

Rajendran says heavy rainfall in neighbouring districts such as Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural and the release of water from reservoirs increased the flow. A few days ago, Manchanabele dam started receiving over 4,000 cusecs of water from the T.G. Halli reservoir. The water-holding capacity of Manchanabele is one-third of the T.G. Halli reservoir's.

Ironically, while the crest gates of the T.G. Halli reservoir were opened to let out water after 30 years on September 6, water from the reservoir has not been supplied to Bengaluru for years. This is because a new project to counter excess pollution in the water will take a few more months. After this is done, water (3.4 MLD, or minimal liquid discharge, capacity) will be supplied to 10% to 15% of the city from T.G. Halli again, officials of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board say.

**Innovative solutions**  
A study by the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment

(ATREE), a non-profit organisation, in 2015 had examined why the Arkavathy was drying up. The study went beyond reasons such as decline in inflows to the T.G. Halli reservoir due to decreased rainfall. The researchers found that many of the "blockages" in river channels were check dams built by various government departments. The study also pointed to a drop in the water table due to intensive groundwater use, mostly for agriculture, and the presence of eucalyptus plantations on the T.G. Halli catchment as the two major causes of the drying of the river.

Responding to the situation now, Veena Srinivasan, Director of the Centre for Social and Environmental Innovation-ATREE and one of the authors of the study, says, "The multi-model climate projection shows that rainfall is expected to increase by 10%-25% in the districts of Karnataka by the mid-2030s. Most of this will occur within a few days. When you have very high-intensity rainfall, you get more run-off. The water cannot infiltrate into the ground fast enough. Water needs a path out, so this should be expected."

T.V. Ramachandra, Coordinator of the Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Centre for Ecological Sciences, at the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru, says some innovative watershed interventions in the Arkavathy basin by volunteers of agencies have helped in water retention by the catchment and made water available to the local community. "Recent good rainfall and the aberrations (high intensity rainfall) have helped us receive the required water," Ramachandra says. "Innovative watershed management has helped in retaining water in the catchment. This emphasises the need for innovative (ecological and engineering) solutions to manage watersheds."

He says it is time it is accepted that there are changes in the climate. High intensity rainfall and issues such as frequent depressions and cyclones point to this, he explains. "Our studies have confirmed that enhancing the recharge capabilities of the catchment - by maintaining sufficient open spaces and green

spaces with native species, decentralised rainwater harvesting, and wastewater treatment and reuse – would help in meeting the water requirement. This will not burden the exchequer or lead to wastage of public money. Unfortunately, large-scale projects are being pushed by vested interests to pilfer public money."

#### Work at a glacial pace

Within Bengaluru city, the impact of poor management of projects is evident, as lake breaches have left many parts of the city marooned. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) had taken up rejuvenation works of two of the largest and most polluted lakes, but the pace has been slow. Officials say heavy rainfall during the summer had slowed down de-silting. As per estimates, Bellandur lake, spread over 916 acres of land, has 32.33 lakh cum (cubic metres) of silt, of which 13.26 lakh cum has been removed. Varthur lake, which is spread over 434 acres, has 15.10 lakh cum of silt, of which 11.11 lakh cum has been removed.

H.R. Shantharajanna, engineering member of the BDA, says, "We have made good progress in de-silting Varthur lake. But heavy rainfall during the summer and the lack of adequate quarry land to dump the removed silt has delayed works at Bellandur. We had diverted the sewerage water flow of the lakes. Incessant rains have increased water flow into the lakes. After flooding of the area, more silt is likely to be deposited. During the dry spell, we will continue the work by draining out water from the lakes."

Most of the flooding in Bengaluru is seen in the Ponnaiyar river catchment area, says K.C. Subhash Chandra, a hydrogeologist and former expert member of the Karnataka Groundwater Authority.

"The soil and chemically altered product of parent rock (saprolite) is also highly clayey. Because of this, geohydrologically rainwater infiltration cannot happen. Only 3% of the water gets infiltrated in this soil condition. Growth of urban jungle in this area over the years further deteriorated rainwater infiltration."

He pointed out that irrational urbanisation in areas around these lakes has resulted in the deterioration of original storm water drains. The length, width and depth of these drains has reduced over decades. The perennial flow of sewerage water, whether treated or untreated, has shrunk the containing capacity to a great extent. Even today, more than 1200 MLD of sewerage water flows in these storm water drains.

"On top of that, the tail-end Bellandur and Varthur lakes are heavily silted as sewerage water accumulated over the years. This reduced their water-holding capacity, says Subhash Chandra. "As all the natural channels are obstructed, the water cannot flow when it rains. To undo the damage, the sewerage water has to flow in separate drains and be treated."

Recycled water should be redistributed at least for non-drinking purposes. At present, rain water is getting polluted with sewerage water." Though there is scope for using rain water, authorities are not seriously considering it, he says. Clearing encroachment and obstruction to storm water drains and proper maintenance of lakes will help in utilisation of water resources, he notes.

#### Encroachment of water bodies

Though torrential rains are being blamed as a prominent cause for flooding, there has been growing demand to clear encroachment of water bodies by allowing the free flow of water. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) too was criticised for implementing a flawed design and blocking the waterways. At the Sangabasappa Doddi underpass of the expressway, vehicles that were submerged were lifted with the help of cranes. There have been instances of under-construction toll gates getting flooded and water flowing over the newly built highway near Kumbalgod, Kanamini and other areas. Flooding of roads at various stretches also forced the district administration to divert traffic.

Officials of the NHAI deny that there were design flaws. They blame the heavy rainfall for flooding. They also maintain that they are working with other departments to fix the problem. Meanwhile, the district administration has said that encroachments of the water bodies will be cleared on the basis of Survey of India aerial surveys. Once the survey is over, it will be superimposed with the village map to identify the extent of encroachment of water bodies in the district.

However, Ramachandra of the Indian Institute of Science argues that this is a classic example of poor infrastructure design, deliberately ignoring the hydrologic regime in the locality: "Alteration in the hydrologic regime and disrupting the path of water has aggravated the situation. Bureaucrats and engineers conveniently came up with the theory of 'lake breach' to hide their inefficient and illogical designs and implementation of the project. We need to make the whole chain of decision-making accountable."

Srinivasan, from the Centre for Social and Environmental Innovation-ATREE, calls for a new way of thinking. "Specifically, we need predictable models of Bengaluru integrating water, wastewater, flood water and groundwater. We need better inter-agency coordination. Some of this costs money. One problem is mismatched incentives and short-sightedness. Builders have incentives to cut costs, bureaucrats have incentives to favour large-scale projects that create avenues to earn kickbacks."

As floodwaters ebb and the current misery is a distant memory, policymakers and administrators have their task cut out.



## FROM PAGE ONE

## India, China to take up remaining LAC issues

"The two sides have agreed to cease forward deployments in this area in a phased, coordinated and verified manner, resulting in the return of the troops of both sides to their respective areas," Mr. Bagchi said. "It has been agreed that all temporary structures and other allied infrastructure created in the area by both sides will be dismantled and mutually verified. The landforms in the area will be restored to pre-stand-off period by both sides. The agreement ensures that the LAC in this area will be strictly observed and respected by both sides, and that there will be no unilateral change in status quo."

Mr. Bagchi made it clear that "with the resolution of stand-off at PPI5, both sides mutually agreed to take the talks forward and resolve the remaining issues along LAC and restore peace and tranquillity in border areas."

That might not, however, mean full disengagement may be on the cards soon.

## SC allows bail to Kerala journalist Kappan

"So, at best what you can say is this man was travelling in a vehicle with three others when you apprehended him on the Yamuna Expressway and inside the car there was some literature..." the Chief Justice summarised.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Haris Beeraan, for Mr. Kappan, said "this is not prosecution but persecution".

The court said material shown by Uttar Pradesh as a "toolkit" to "incite riots" related to a "foreign country." Mr. Sibal said they were associated with happenings in the United States.

"The man has undergone custody for almost two years. Is there any immediate prospect of the investigation seeing a sort of culmination?" the CJI asked the State. It noted that charges were still not framed though the chargesheet was filed in April 2021.

## No confusion on leadership, says Rahul

"I said the president's election will take place and your questions will be answered.... I have very clearly decided in my mind what I am going to do. There is no confusion in my mind at all," he said.

The former Congress chief's assertion on the presidential election comes just two days after Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot made a fresh pitch for him to take over as the party chief.

Before the formal launch of the Bharat Jodo Yatra at Kanniyakumari on Wednesday, Mr. Gehlot said, "Why does every party member say that Rahul Gandhi should become party chief? Today also, why Congressmen and women are after Rahul Gandhi that he become president, because if he becomes president, the party will remain united."

**Gehlot's push**  
On August 23, *The Hindu* reported that with Mr. Gandhi reluctant to become the party chief again and concerns over Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's health, Ms. Gandhi had asked the Rajasthan Chief Minister to lead the party.

While Mr. Gehlot maintains that he would continue to push for Mr. Gandhi till the last minute, the former Congress chief remained non-committal on whether he would contest the election for the post of party president.

As per the election schedule announced by the central election authority, the Congress will vote for a new

both by China's comments on Friday and how difficult recent negotiations have been in resolving what were seen as among the less complicated friction points.

The PPI5 disengagement came more than one year after an agreement was reached for PPI7A, last August. In recent talks, officials said, the Chinese side appeared reluctant to discuss reasonable terms to disengage in Demchok and Depsang, where India's access to five patrolling points has been blocked since early 2020.

"The fact that China and India agreed to begin disengagement in the area of Jianan Daban [as China refers to the PPI5 area] is a positive development that is conducive to peace and tranquillity along the border," Ms. Mao said. "China is committed to properly handling relevant issues through communication and dialogue."

That might not, however, mean full disengagement may be on the cards soon.

## Opposition in a difficult fight, says Rahul

It is no longer against a political party, but the structure of the Indian state, Congress leader says

B. KOLAPPAN  
KANNIYAKUMARI

On the second day of his Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the fight in India today was not between one political party and another, but a fight between the structure of the Indian state and the Opposition.

Alleging that the BJP had taken control of all the institutions and inserted their people in most of those institutions such as the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate and the Income Tax department, Mr. Gandhi said, "We are not fighting anymore against a political party."

"This is a difficult fight," he said during an interaction with presspersons at Puliyorkurichi in Kanniyakumari district. "The media is not with the Opposition. Not because you do not want to be, but because you are under pressure or your owners have particular relationship."



Step by step: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi being greeted by party workers during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kanniyakumari on Friday. • PTI

So, this is not an easy fight. And a lot of people do not want to fight. It is easier to make peace with the BJP. Fold hands in front of them and your life will be easier," Mr. Gandhi said.

"Unfortunately, this is not

my training and this is not my character. My character is to fight for certain idea of India, certain notions of the country and many people in the party are convinced of this fact," he reiterated.

Asked whether the battle

of ideology had entered a decisive phase with the beginning of the yatra, he said it had been going on for a "couple of thousand years" now between two visions. "I think it will continue. In India, there have always been

two visions. One is rigid and controlling and other is plural and open-minded. We are playing our role," he said.

## Connecting with people

"The idea behind the yatra was to connect with the people and listen to the people to understand what they are facing. The idea is also to communicate to them a few things. Communicate the fact that India has changed. The institutional framework of India has been captured and there is an attempt to impose one vision while the country has multiple visions," he said.

Asked about the criticism levelled by the BJP, he said, "Of course, the BJP will have an opinion. For us in the Congress, this is a journey. An attempt at understanding what is going on on the ground in India and an attempt at undoing some of the damage the BJP and the RSS have done."

## IN BRIEF



Chautala invites Yechury for joint Opposition rally

NEW DELHI

Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) patriarch Om Prakash Chautala met CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Friday and invited him for the joint opposition rally planned on the birth anniversary of his father Devi Lal on September 25. Mr. Chautala also met NCP chief Sharad Pawar and also invited him for the same rally. It is 109th birth anniversary of Devi Lal which is celebrated as Samman Diwas.

## Main accused in Baguiati murder case arrested

KOLKATA  
The West Bengal Police on Friday arrested Satyendra Chowdhury, the prime accused in the abduction and murder of two teenagers at Baguiati. The accused was arrested from the vicinity of Howrah Railway Station and was produced before a city court which remanded him in 14 days of police custody. The murder of two youths had created an outrage with questions being raised over the role of the police. The case was handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

## Mamata by my side, says arrested Trinamool leader

KOLKATA  
Trinamool Congress heavyweight Anubrata Mondal on Friday said that as long as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was by his side, he would not be demoralised. The remarks come a day after the Ms. Banerjee offered him her support. "Didi is by my side and that is enough.... No one spends their entire life in jail. An undertrial has to be released at one point in time. I am not demoralised," Mr. Mondal told journalists when he was produced at a court in Bidhannagar in connection with a 2010 bomb blast case.

## Gujarat ATS, DRI seize heroin worth ₹200 crore

AHMEDABAD  
Gujarat's Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS), in a joint operation with the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), on Friday seized around 40 kg of heroin worth ₹200 crore from a container loaded with scraps at Kolkata Port. The drug consignment had apparently arrived from Dubai in February this year. The ATS team jointly acted with the DRI after it received a tip-off from its sources regarding the parcels of heroin hidden in gear boxes lying in a container near the port.

## State mourning for Queen Elizabeth II tomorrow

Murmu, Dhankhar, Modi pay tribute

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

India announced a day of National Mourning on Sunday to mark the passing of the Queen of United Kingdom Elizabeth II. The government announced the day of mourning on Friday, adding that President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent condolence messages to the U.K. royal family and government.

"In their messages, they noted that she was a stalwart of our times; a compassionate personality and provided inspiring leadership to her nation and people," a government statement said.

The British High Commission in Delhi opened a condolence book at High Commissioner Alex Ellis's residence for those wishing to convey their respects. The book will be available on Saturday and Monday.

"She led an exemplary life of strength, duty, hard work and dignity. It's a sad day but also a day to give thanks for a long life well lived to service of others", Mr. Ellis said.

As preparations begin in the U.K. for the funeral ceremonies and other ceremo-



A sand portrait of Queen Elizabeth II on Puri beach

## Army in Arunachal Pradesh receives modern artillery

There is focus on surveillance and reconnaissance: official

DINAKAR PERI  
TEZU (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Latest Sig Saur rifles, Negev Light Machine Guns (LMG), Carl Gustaf Mk3 84 mm rocket launchers, digital spotter scopes, fuel cell chargers for patrols, all-terrain vehicles and satellite terminals are some of the new inductions for the infantry soldiers in the Rest of Arunachal Pradesh (RALP), beyond the Tawang sector. This along with helipads at forward posts, M777 Ultra-Light Howitzers backed by Chinook heavy lift helicopters are part of the overall capability enhancement in the region.

"There is big focus on capability development. In the infantry battalions lot of new inductions are happening. Apart from this, there is focus on surveillance and reconnaissance," said Brig. T.M. Sinha who is commanding a Brigade in RALP. Next is infrastructure development, both in hinterland and border areas, he added.

"Internet shutdowns are meant as a measure to counter public emergency. Shutting down the internet to prevent cheating in exams, when even access to basic facilities and welfare measures from retail shopping to NREGA wages are linked online, is against any sense of proportionality... They can rely on jammers or even frisking instead," Ms. Grover said.

that they can take the biggest helicopters, the CH-47F (I) Chinook heavy-lift helicopters which gives significant advantage, one officer noted.

These developments come against the backdrop of massive Chinese upgrading across the LAC, which also has significant advantage with respect to India in RALP. Acknowledging this, a senior officer posted in the area said the pace of Chinese modernisation was very fast and India was also pushing and catching up.

**2019 deal**  
The Army has procured 72,400 SIG 716 assault rifles from Sig Saur of the U.S. under a deal signed in February 2019 and they have since been inducted with frontline infantry soldiers deployed in operational areas. The SIG-716 weighing 3.82 kgs, has an effective range of 600m and employs the heavier calibre 7.62 mm ammunition.

Army contracted 16,497 Negev Light Machine Guns (LMG) from Israel in March 2020 under fast-track procurement and they have since been inducted on the

Line of Control (LoC). They started coming in in RALP early this year, according to officials on the ground.

On the fuel cell-based chargers, one officer who did not wish to be identified said they were very useful. "We can take it for long range patrols and are less weight, less maintenance and more durable." Long range patrols on foot in the tough terrain vary from two weeks to a month.

## Indigenous UAVs

Another significant aspect is induction of indigenous unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that has given big boost to the forward troops and we can see across the LAC in depth day and night, the officer cited above said.

In terms of mobility, all-terrain vehicles procured from the U.S. have been deployed in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. Material lifting cranes are now available in all units which were earlier with the Engineering teams and has significantly eased handling of heavy loads, the officer added talking of the across the board upgradation under way in infantry battalions.

Army contracted 16,497 Negev Light Machine Guns (LMG) from Israel in March 2020 under fast-track procurement and they have since been inducted on the

nies to mark the ascension of King Charles III to the British throne, New Delhi is also considering whether to send its High Commissioner earlier than scheduled, sources told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Doraiswamy, who is currently India's envoy to Bangladesh, was due to travel to London at the end of September, so as to present his credentials.

In a tweet, Mr. Doraiswamy called it "truly a sad day", adding that Queen Elizabeth was an "icon for the Commonwealth".

As per the protocol, the National Flag would be flown at half-mast on Sunday and there will be no official entertainment that day, the government said.

A ND-NDE

# 'Be more positive of our achievements'

Nirmala Sitharaman all praise for 'inspirational work' of BusinessLine Changemaker award winners

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday urged people to be more positive about India's achievements, and described *The Hindu BusinessLine* Changemaker Award winners as examples of inspirational work in areas that needed urgent attention.

"All of us should give ourselves that moment of pause to think about what we are doing for our country. Even if you can't serve it, at least don't 'dis-serve' it. At least don't spread your toxicity," said the Minister, who was the chief guest at the award ceremony.

"This is a time when we all want to be positive. We want to engage... look at the excellent work these award winners have done. Are we going to forget them tomorrow and say nothing is happening in this country. It's all happening. So I take this opportunity to showcase not just the achievements of the country, which are there for all of us to see," she said.

"Your stories are remarkable and very inspirational and I can see a slant of chan-



**August award:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman; Raghuvir Srinivasan, Editor, *The Hindu BusinessLine*; and Malini Parthasarathy, Chairperson, The Hindu Group; with *The Hindu BusinessLine* Changemaker award winners Amrendra Singh of DeHaat; Dinesh Pai of Zerodha; Shashank Kumar of DeHaat; cricketer Mithali Raj; Prachi Shevagaonkar of Cool the Globe; Ramesh Raliya, inventor, nano urea; Akash Singh of Energeene Innovations; Suchitra Ella, joint managing director, Bharat Biotech; and Shyam Sundar Singh of DeHaat. ■ KAMAL NARANG

gemakers focusing largely on agriculture and environmental matters. These are the areas [where] we need remarkable changes," Ms. Sitharaman said after presenting the awards to winners in six categories.

"The awards are only the first step as they show that solutions are available which need to be encouraged so that they become commonplace. We need to rapidly change our mindset on how to live, how to consume agriculture products... decades

of pesticide usage are showing on our health," the Minister noted, mooting adequate coverage for the path-breaking work of the award winners going forward.

**Recognising 'catalysts'**

Malini Parthasarathy, Chairperson of the Hindu Group of Publications, said the fourth edition of the *BusinessLine* Changemaker Awards intended to recognise "humanly catalysts" who had helped effect dynamic change in society and

economy. "These awards are unique as unlike other corporate awards which honour corporate excellence or financial success, these are for the real agents of socioeconomic change, whose work on the ground have a transformative impact on the quality of our lives," she said.

"This is very much in line with our core values as a media group and we pride ourselves on the fact that we are not linked to any business or corporate interests," she noted, emphasising that this

translates into authentic and fact-based reporting and credible narratives in the group's publications.

Lauding Ms. Sitharaman's dynamism and commitment to regeneration of the economy as inspirational, she said: "Along with the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, it is to their credit that India is now ranked as the world's fifth largest economy."

Raghuvir Srinivasan, Editor, *The Hindu BusinessLine*, earlier welcomed the Minister and the award winners.

## India's economic recovery inspires awe: Nirmala

*Edited excerpts from Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's address at the The Hindu BusinessLine Changemaker Awards, 2022.*

We are at a time when big changes are happening around the world. I am not here to say we have become fifth largest [economy] but I will say it anyway because nearly a decade ago, we were at the 11th position. We kept seeing countries above us... the U.K. was fifth then. Today, within a period of 10 years, India has moved from 11th position to fifth, which is not a mean achievement. It is an achievement for all of us, it is the people of India who should take credit for it. Yes, the government is there, it frames policy, removes hurdles, facilitates, but you are the doers. And in this period, don't forget, we had a pandemic when everything

had to be brought to an unprecedented grinding halt. But after that, the speed with which we have recovered and continue to recover, is in a way that the entire world is in awe of.

**Vibrant environment**

India is a very vibrant political environment and there are always questions if this recovery is K, U, V or L (shaped)...But the fact is the recovery still makes us the fastest growing economy of the world. This is not something you should deride as it underplays the achievements of Indians. You like the government in power today or you don't, it doesn't matter. Saying 'Oh! this is nothing, Oh! inflation is high and not below 6%'. Yes, Who is denying that? But I think (we are) at a time when we must stay positive and forward-looking and encouraging each other, to ensure that

we don't lose the momentum... How many times in free India's history have we not had opportunities to push ourselves forward at a much faster pace? For whatever reason, we couldn't catch the bus. We cannot afford to do that this time...our self-deriding attitude should not be so strong as to make the young Indian mind suspect about what is happening in the country.

In our energy and enthusiasm to keep our democracy alive... Yes, we should have the right to speak freely but it should not be so cynical. Look at where we are today. Of course, 1991 happened.... Who denies it? But the pace at which it should have happened, was lost out in 10 years. Now all that is being made up for and we are moving fast in spite of the pandemic...after which the recovery did take its own time.

All of us should give ourselves that moment of pause to think about what we are doing for our country. Even if you can't serve it, at least don't 'dis-serve' it. At least don't spread your toxicity. This is a time when we all want to be positive. We want to engage... look at the excellent work these award winners have done. Are we going to forget them tomorrow and say nothing is happening in this country? It's all happening. So, I take this opportunity to showcase not just the achievements of the

country, which are there for all of us to see.

If we have ₹10.6 lakh crore worth of transactions on UPI, and an India Stack that is now the envy of the world... every bilateral that we talk about with counterparts from other countries, this is the first thing they ask. How did you manage? What did you do for this digital achievement?...Please let's all sit up and stop the negativity. The achievements are in the face for everyone else to see.

Look at the achievements of Bharat Biotech, which now has an approval for a nasal vaccine. In any other part of the world, they are still looking for syringes to give vaccination...So I'm sure there are very many such things happening in India and people are benefiting from it.

Thank you very much for this opportunity.

## Do you want to be Congress's ATM, Nadda asks BJP workers

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR  
RAIPUR

Exhorting his party workers to prepare for next year's Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh, BJP national president J.P. Nadda on Friday said that the Bhupesh Baghel-led State government was working as the Congress party's ATM.

Presenting a slew of statistics on what he described as development work done by the BJP at the Centre and during its three stints in power in Chhattisgarh, Mr. Nadda said that while the BJP stood for development, Mr. Baghel was merely interested in garnering money for his party's coffers.

"They want to fill the party's treasury by looting the common people of Chhattisgarh.... Would you let such people to continue [in power]... Do you want to become Congress' ATM?" he asked while addressing a large number of booth-level party workers who had come for a convention from across the State at the Science College ground.

**'Bhai-behen ki party'**

The BJP president said that while his party fights nepotism across the country with an ideological background, Mr. Baghel's politics is bereft of any ideological concern and is only interested in serving the brother-sister duo of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi.

Bhupesh Baghel is not running a party for some ideology, he is carrying the mantle of a party that belongs to *Bhai-Behen* (a reference to the Gandhi siblings).... It's necessary to send them packing," he said.

Prior to the event, Mr. Nadda also held a six-km road show after reaching Raipur, his first visit to Chhattisgarh since taking over as the party president. He also felicitated a group of booth-level functionaries from the State. The objective of the convention and road show was to enthuse the cadre, said an office-bearer of the party.

The BJP president will be in Chhattisgarh for three more days. From Saturday, Mr. Nadda will attend the ongoing *Akhil Bharatiya Samanay Baithak* (national coordination meeting) of office-bearers of various outfits inspired by the RSS, he said.

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE**  
Bangalore - 560012.  
**Advertisement for the post of Deputy Project Engineer (Civil) on Contract / Deputation**  
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore invites online applications for the post of **Deputy Project Engineer (Civil) on Contract / Deputation**. The detailed terms and conditions and eligibility criteria are available at the Institute's website: <https://iisc.ac.in/positions-open/>  
The last date for receipt of applications is **30th September, 2022.**  
**Date: 10.09.2022**  
**Sd/-, REGISTRAR**

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, (South) Lakes Division, Room No.308, 3rd Floor, New Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02.  
**No: EE-South/Lakes/Tend-02/2022-23 Date: 08.09.2022**  
**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) Two Cover Tender**  
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on Item Rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or Equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Estimated Cost of Work (₹, in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
1	Providing water body fencing & other works in Mesthipalya Lake. (Call-2)	200.00	3,00,000/-
2	Development & improvements to Tavarekere Lake, Bengaluru	510.00	7,65,000/-
3	Providing PMC for Development & Improvements to Tavarekere Lake, Bengaluru.	510.00	50,000/-

**Calendar of Events :** (1) Bid documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **12.09.2022** onwards. (2) Pre-bid meeting will be held on **21.09.2022** at 3:00 pm in the office of the Executive Engineer (South), Lakes, BBMP. (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **26.09.2022** upto 4:00 pm. (4) Technical Bids will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer (South) Lakes, BBMP on **28.09.2022** at 4:30 pm. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>  
**Sd/-, Executive Engineer (South), Lakes**

**STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.**



**The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited**  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)  
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985G0C039154  
Registered & Corporate Office : Bidyut Unnayan Bhawan  
Plot No. 3/C, LA - Block, Sector - III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106  
**Notice Inviting E-Tender**  
Ref. No.: WBPDCL / Tend-Adv/22-23/Corp/CC-988 Date: 08.09.2022  
NIT No.: WBPDCL / CORP/NIT/E1584/22-23 Dated: 01.09.2022  
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wtbenders.gov.in/> by the General Manager (M&C), WBPDCL, from eligible agencies/companies for Service Contract of Hiring, Operation of 5 KV DG Sets(12 nos) with Illumination arrangement for Deocha Pachami Coal Mines". Tender Document Download Start Date: 07.09.2022 from 18:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 21.09.2022 at 11:00 hrs. Contact Person: Smt. Sulagna Dass, Manager (P), M&C. Contact No: 8240042058. E-mail: [s.dass@wbpdc.co.in](mailto:s.dass@wbpdc.co.in) For details please visit <https://wtbenders.gov.in/> ICA-16054 (3) / 2022

**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI BIRD TRUST HOSPITAL, TIRUPATI**  
**e-TENDER NOTICE**  
BIRD Trust Hospital, TTD, Tirupati is inviting e-Tenders for 2nd call from the eligible Manufacturers/ Firms/ Authorized Distributors for the work "Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Various allied Audiology and Surgical Equipment pertaining to Cochlear Implant Surgery at Tirupati Trust Hospital, TTD, Tirupati NIT Roc.No.TTD-104021(31)/30/2022-BIRD & Tender ID:541681 in AP eProc Portal. Date of Upload Tender on 10-09-2022 and end date: 23.09.2022. For details log on to the website <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in/> & <http://www.tirumala.org>. Contact: 0877-2264021

ROC No. PR4/13946/Adv. No.211/PRO/2022. Dated: 09.09.2022  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**TAMIL NADU KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD**  
Kuralagam, 5th Floor, Chennai - 600 104.  
Ph. No. 044-2534 0462, 2534 0761.

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from the reputed Manufacturers / Traders for the supply of 400 M.T's of Soap Noodles (80:20) required for Bathing Soap units.

**Due date for receipt of Tender : 14.10.2022, 3.00 P.M.**  
**Opening of Technical Bid : 14.10.2022, 4.00 P.M.**

The Tender form can be obtained from the above address in person on payment of Rs.500/- + GST 18% or can be downloaded from [www.tnkvib.org](http://www.tnkvib.org) (or) [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) at free of cost.

**Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer**

"காலை தாங்கள் கட்டுப்பாடு நடவடிக்கை அமைத்து நடவடிக்கை செய்து விடும்"

**The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.**  
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)  
KMMI  
Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691 583  
Kollam, Kerala, India. Phone: 0476-2686722 to 2686733 (12 Lines). E-mail: [contact@kmmi.com](mailto:contact@kmmi.com)

**TENDER NOTICE**

Candidates are invited for the following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or [www.kmmi.com](http://www.kmmi.com)

No. Tender ID Items

1 2022\_KMMI\_506672\_1 For the supply of PTFE Lined Plug Valves

2 2022\_KMMI\_504756\_1 For the supply of 3 Phase Squirrel Cage Induction Motor

3 2022\_KMMI\_506332\_1 For procurement of Inconel Plate, Pre-fabrication, Supply and Erection of top dome and bottom conical portion of Pigment Separator S 301 B

4 2022\_KMMI\_506140\_1 For the supply of 3T Electric Forklift

Chavara, 09.09.2022 Sd/-, DGM (Mts), For the Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

Our products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Spurite, Rutile, Zircon & Silimanite

DIPR 4065/TENDER/2022

## SC takes up pleas against Places of Worship Act

Court asks Centre to file response within two weeks

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday set the ball rolling on a series of petitions challenging the validity of the Places of Worship Act of 1991, a parliamentary law that protects the identity and character of religious places as on August 15, 1947.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit said the petitions would be listed before an appropriate three-judge Bench of the apex court, which may consider the possibility of referring the challenge to the 1991 law to a Constitution Bench of five judges.

"Let the three judges consider and then only the Constitution Bench," Chief Justice said, posting the case on October 11.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, agreed to file a response in two weeks.

A slew of petitions has been

TRS leader  
grabs Assam  
CM's mic

STAFF REPORTER  
HYDERABAD

There was mild tension at the Moazzam Jahi market junction during the Ganesh idol immersion on Friday when a TRS leader grabbed the mic in front of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Mr. Sarma was the chief guest for the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samiti. The incident took place at around 4 p.m. when the Samiti's procession was at the junction and its leaders were addressing the crowd.

A man wearing a pink stole was seen pushing himself to the front and grabbing away the mic when one of the leaders, standing on Mr. Sarma's left, was speaking. The man identified as Nand Kishore Vyas Bilal, TRS leader from Goshamahal, was seen confronting Mr. Sarma. He was removed by those on the stage and later handed over to the police.

## Centre bans export of broken rice due to domestic demand

Rice production may fall due to a drop in paddy sowing area this kharif season

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has banned the export of broken rice, mostly used as animal feed and as a component for ethanol production, in view of the domestic demand and the production scenario of rice.

The export of broken rice rose by 4,178% during April to August from the figure during the corresponding period in 2019.

India exports broken rice mainly to China, Senegal, Vietnam, Djibouti and Indonesia. It exported about 21.31 lakh tonne of broken rice in the past five months.

Justifying the reason to ban export, Sudhanshu Pandey, Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, said on Friday that the move would ensure adequate availability of broken rice for the domestic poultry industry and for other ani-



**On the rise:** The domestic price of rice increased to ₹22 per kg because of higher international prices. ■ BASHKARAN

mal feedstock and for producing ethanol under the ethanol blending programme.

Mr. Pandey said the country was likely to witness a shortfall of about 6% in area and production of paddy during the ongoing kharif season.

"The final area for kharif in 2021 was 403.58 lakh hectares. So far, an area of 325.39 lakh hectares has

been covered. In domestic production, 60 to 70 lakh tonnes estimated production loss is anticipated but due to good monsoon rain in some pockets, the production loss may reduce to 40 to 50 tonnes. However, this would be at par with last year's production," Mr. Pandey said.

"There has been a rise in global demand for broken rice due to geo-political sce-

nario which has impacted price movement of commodities. The export of broken rice has increased by 43 times in the past four years," he said, adding that about 21.31 lakh tonnes of broken rice was exported during April-August compared with just 0.41 lakh tonne in the corresponding period in 2018-19.

He said in the current ethanol season year, against the contracted quantity of 36 crore litres, only 16.36 crore litres had been supplied by distilleries due to low availability of broken rice. Also, domestic price of broken rice, which was ₹16 per kg in the open market, had increased to ₹22 per kg because of higher international prices.

Mr. Pandey said the domestic prices of rice were also showing increasing trending.

## Make anti-TB campaign a mass movement: President

Stigma around the disease should be eradicated, says Murmu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu virtually launched the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said it was the duty of all citizens to give high priority to the anti-tuberculosis campaign and make it a mass movement.

Tuberculosis caused the largest number of deaths among all other infectious diseases in the country. India has a little less than 20% of the world's population, but has more than 25% of the total TB patients of the world. "This is a matter of concern," said the President, adding that most of TB-affected people came from the poor sections of society.

The President said that the thinking and methodology of 'New India' was to make India a leading nation



Droupadi Murmu during the launch of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan.

the Government of India has set the target of eradicating TB by the year 2025 and efforts are being made at every level to fulfil this resolution," she added.

Ms. Murmu said that to make this campaign a mass movement, awareness of TB should be created among the people. "They have to be informed that prevention of this disease is possible. Its treatment is effective and accessible and the government provides free-of-cost facilities for prevention and treatment of this disease," she said.

She said that in some patients or communities, there was an inferiority complex associated with this disease, and they viewed it as a stigma.

The policy of 'New India' to move forward with confidence was also visible in the field of TB eradication.

"According to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, all nations have set the goal of eradicating TB by the year 2030. But

## Vande Bharat production to begin in Oct.: Minister

Trains to be manufactured in Chennai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said that Indian Railways had successfully completed trials of the second generation Vande Bharat train that will come with enhanced passenger comfort and safety features.

Regular production of these trains will begin from October, he added.

"We completed the testing of Vande Bharat on Friday... the target will be that going into October, we can start regular production of two or three trains every month, then taking it up to five trains and eight trains,"



The Railways has set a target of rolling out 75 such trains by August 2023.

the Minister told presspersons. The Railways has set a target of rolling out 75 such trains by August 2023.

The new train, which touched a speed of 180 kmph during trials, will be primarily made at Integral Coach Factory, Chennai.

## Railways floats tender for Indian wheels

Private players invited to build 80,000 forged wheels for high-speed trains

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA  
NEW DELHI

In a big push for the Make In India initiative, the Ministry of Railways has firmed up a road map to start domestic production of wheels needed for high-speed trains and high-strength rail tracks – the two major items it imports.

Speaking to presspersons, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said that the Railways has issued a tender for manufacturing high-speed wheels in India to cater to the domestic demand and also to begin their exports. A similar tender for the manufacture and exports of high-strength tracks will be out in a month.



The Railways imports the bulk of its wheels from countries like Ukraine, Germany and the Czech Republic. ■ AFP

"We undertook a detailed exercise to study what we import and high-speed wheels and high-strength rail are two major items. We are working towards not only catering to domestic demand but also on becoming exporters," he said.

As per the tender issued, a

manufacturing plant with a capacity to produce at least 80,000 such wheels will be set up within 18 months. The wheels produced will be forged wheels that are used for high-speed trains such as Vande Bharat as well as for LHB coaches. The Railways will ensure procurement of

manufacturing plant with a capacity to produce at least 80,000 such wheels will be set up within 18 months. The wheels produced will be forged wheels that are used for high-speed trains such as Vande Bharat as well as for LHB coaches. The Railways will ensure procurement of

80,000 wheels at an estimated cost of about ₹600 crore per annum for 20 years.

The Minister said that this was the first time the Railways had floated a tender to invite private players to build a wheel plant and make wheels for high-speed trains in India. The companies bidding for the tender have to be an Indian manufacturer with good expertise in the metal industry.

The current requirement of the Railways is about two lakh wheels per year. About half of it will be met via Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. The Railways imports the bulk of its wheels from countries such as Ukraine, Germany and the Czech Republic.

The survey findings will help the government determine benchmarks in 20 languages and numeracy.

The government has launched NIPUN as a national mission to enable all children at the end of Class 3 to attain foundational skills by the year 2026-27 and these benchmarks will provide a baseline for subsequent surveys.

Approximately, 86,000 Class 3 students from 10,000 schools were covered for the study.

## Basic skills poor in regional languages: NCERT

The survey provides baseline for government's NIPUN mission

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

Foundational learning of students in Hindi is poor but their performance in regional languages in some States was even worse, according to a survey carried out by the Union Ministry of Education and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Around 67% students could not perform well in Assamese in Assam and Meghalaya.

In Kerala, 56% of the students could not read or comprehend Malayalam, and in Goa, 59% could not do so in Konkani.

In Meghalaya, 61% of the



Survey will help government determine benchmark in 20 languages.

students could not perform well in Khasi, and 54% were found to be poor in Manipuri in Manipur.

The survey divides learners on the basis of their knowledge and skills into four categories – those who "lack" them, have "limited" proficiency, "sufficient" competency and those who are "superior".

The findings are part of the National Report on Benchmarking of Oral Reading Fluency with Reading Comprehension and Numeracy, which aims to assess foundational learning of children at the end of Class 3.

The National Education Policy, 2022, which advocates for a three-language formula where two of the languages are native to India, says the medium of instruc-

tion till at least Class 5 or preferably till Class 8 should be in the mother tongue, after which it can be taught as a language.

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## SC stays demolition of Curries shack

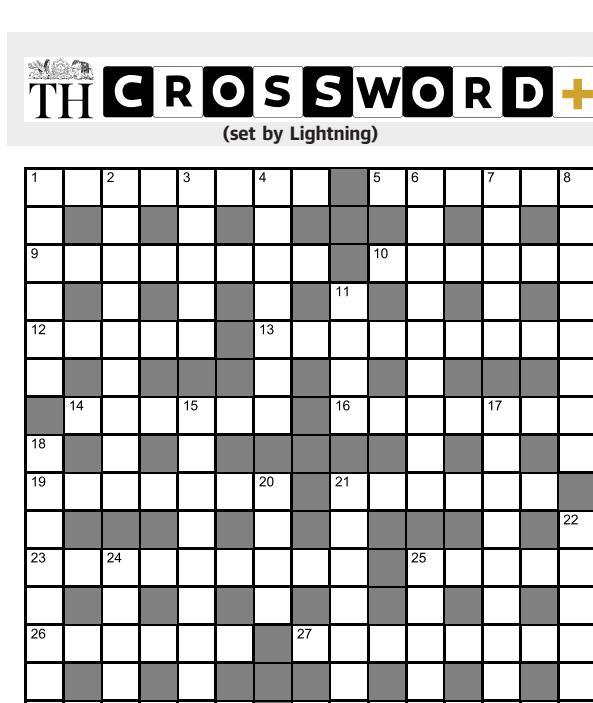
The survey provides baseline for government's NIPUN mission

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the demolition of the famous Curries beach shack in north Goa in one specific survey number.

The stay order was based on an appeal filed by Linet Nunes against a National Green Tribunal order. The stay order came even as the authorities had just begun to raze the building for violating the Coastal Regulation Zone.

The court listed the case for September 16.



To solve this puzzle online,  
get across to our crossword site  
at <https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn>



- 16 Mostly irritable and ordinary American comedian (7)  
19 It could destroy ship with diamonds – live with missing one rig (7)  
21 Favour to mention page upfront (6)  
23 Frantically consult one master writer for newspaper (9)  
25 Include nobleman (5)  
26 European following English batting machine (6)  
27 Fish wander around in jug at last (8)  
28 Group of four – they regularly fall short in attempt these days (6)  
29 Left inside to fritter away international diamonds – wonderful! (8)  
**Down**  
1 I am with dog at national challenge (6)  
2 By mistake entice rep into the middle of a disaster (9)  
3 Bird – a new giant (5)  
4 Sort of united with the French rule (7)  
6 Complicated procedure to destroy one oral germ (9)  
7 One tending to animals at Switzerland provides climbing plant (5)  
8 Raise up bar around ordinary entry for passengers (4,4)  
11 Fellow to fall behind standard (4)  
15 It may cause distress upon one name change (9)  
17 It's used to provide money by communist for alternating colour patterns (9)  
18 The way secret identity may be managed? (8)  
20 Grand and free network (4)  
21 Where five may take a break? (3,4)  
22 Resided at filthy place covering article with editor (6)  
24 Easy missing the first plane trip (5)  
25 Fire on old electronic boat (5)

## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13656

M	A	A	O	C	J	M
T	O	F	G	A	B	G
N	D	R	E	T	K	
S	T	R	A	F	L	
E	C	E	P	A	I	
A	T	H	L	A		
E	C	L	I			
A	R	M	U			
B	O	R	D			
A	E	O	C			
A	S	B	T			
S	E	E	R			
B	E	T	O			
A	S	T	R			
A	S	E	T			
A	S	E	R			

## N. Korea makes nuclear programme 'irreversible'

This eliminates denuclearisation talks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SEOUL

North Korea has passed a law declaring its readiness to launch preventive nuclear strikes, including in the face of conventional attacks, state media said on Friday.

The move effectively eliminates the possibility of denuclearisation talks, with leader Kim Jong Un saying the country's status as a nuclear state was now "irreversible".

The announcement comes at a time of heightened tension between North and South, with Pyongyang blaming Seoul for the outbreak of COVID-19 in its territory and conducting a record number of weapons tests this year. The newly enacted law says North Korea can

carry out a preventive nuclear strike "automatically" and "immediately to destroy the hostile forces" when a foreign country poses an imminent threat to Pyongyang, the official *Korean Central News Agency* (KCNA) said.

The law specifically states the North can use nuclear weapons "in case of a nuclear or non-nuclear attack by hostile forces on the state leadership and the command organization of the state's nuclear forces", among other situations, according to state media.

The law "publicly justifies Pyongyang's use of its nuclear power" in the event of any military clash, Cheong Seong-chang of the Center for North Korea Studies at the Sejong Institute told AFP.

## Russian shelling kills 8, injures 17 in Ukraine

Bakhmut city suffers massive damage

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KYIV

Russian attacks on the eastern Ukraine city of Bakhmut killed eight people and left 17 injured, the regional governor said on Friday, as Ukraine pushes to recapture swathes of Donbas.

Donetsk regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said that of Russian attacks on the greater Donbas region, the city of Bakhmut "suffered the worst damage".

"The Russians killed eight people there and wounded another 17," Mr. Kyrylenko said in a statement on social media. He said residential buildings, shops, a cultural building and an administra-

tive centre were damaged, as well as a marketplace. "The city has been without water and electricity for the fourth day," he said.

The Ukrainian presidency said nine people were killed in total in the Donetsk region over the last 24 hours and one person was killed in the neighbouring Kharkiv.

Ukrainian authorities say their counter-offensive in Kharkiv against Russian troops has been gaining momentum. President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Thursday that Ukraine's forces had retaken Balakliya city, which had been occupied by Russian forces for around six months.

New King names William as the Prince of Wales

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

King Charles III vowed on Friday to emulate his late mother's long life of service to Britain and the Commonwealth, and elevated his heir William to become the new Prince of Wales, in an emotive televised address.

In his first spoken remarks since ascending the throne upon Queen Elizabeth II's death, Charles also declared his "love" for his estranged younger son Harry and his wife Meghan.

The new monarch further said he could "count on the loving help of my darling wife, Camilla" after she became queen consort.

Charles said he shared the public's "sense of loss before measure" after his mother passed away on Thursday aged 96, after a record-breaking reign of 70 years.

"That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today," he said.

"As the Queen herself did with such unwavering devotion, I too now solemnly pledge myself, throughout the remaining time God grants me, to uphold the constitutional principles at the heart of our nation."

### Darling Mama'

Addressing his "darling Mama", joining his father the late Prince Philip, who died last year, "I want simply to say this: thank you", the new King said.

"Thank you for your love and devotion to our family and to the family of nations you have served so diligently all these years. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

As heir to the Queen, Charles was Duke of Cornwall and Duke of Rothesay in



**Solemn occasion:** King Charles III delivering his address to the nation and the Commonwealth from the Buckingham Palace on Friday, and (above) a cannon is being fired as part of a 96-gun salute to the Queen, at the Tower of London. ■ AP & AFP

Scotland, titles that passed immediately to William on Thursday.

However, the highest title for the heir to the throne, Prince of Wales, remained in the monarch's gift to bestow or withhold.

"Today, I am proud to create him prince of Wales, Tywysog Cymru (in Welsh), the country whose title I have been so greatly privileged to bear during so much of my life and duty," Charles said.

"With Catherine beside him, our new Prince and Princess of Wales will, I know, continue to inspire

and lead our national conversations, helping to bring the marginal to the centre ground where vital help can be given."

The date of the Queen's state funeral has yet to be confirmed but is expected on September 19. "In a little over a week's time we will come together as a nation, as a Commonwealth and indeed a global community, to lay my beloved mother to rest," Charles said.

"On behalf of all my family, I can only offer the most sincere and heartfelt thanks for your condolences and support."

## Joe Biden to attend funeral

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

United States President Joe Biden said on Friday that he will attend the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in Britain.

"I don't know the details yet, but I'll be going," he told reporters.

Mr. Biden said he had not yet spoken to the queen's son, King Charles III. "I know him... I did not call him," he said.

## He will be formally proclaimed King today

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

As the British Houses of Parliament met in a special session to pay tributes to Queen Elizabeth II, who died on Friday, Buckingham Palace announced that her son Charles, 73, will be proclaimed King at a centuried-old ceremony.

The event, which will be held at St James's Palace in London on Saturday, will involve a reading of the proclamation from a balcony, followed by similar announcements over the weekend at the Royal Exchange in London, in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The crown automatically passes to the heir the moment the sovereign dies, before the proclamation ceremony.



A huge image of Queen Elizabeth II displayed at Piccadilly Circus in London.

Royal Standard – the monarch's flag, until now identified with the Queen's presence.

**'We love you'**

At the 70th anniversary of her reign, earlier this year, the Queen had made it known that she wanted Camilla to be called 'Queen Consort' – thus pre-emptively resolving an awkward situation for the new monarch. Camilla is the second wife of the new King, whose first wife, Princess Diana, died in a car crash in 1997.

Charles's relationship with Camilla, including during his troubled marriage to Princess Diana, has been controversial, making her acceptance into the royal family a long-winded process.

To mark each year of her life, 96 shots were fired across sites in the U.K. on Friday. While the schedule is still unclear, the Queen's funeral, as per the protocol, will likely be held on or before the 10th day of her death.

We love you King Charles, we loved your mum," one woman in the crowd outside Buckingham Palace could be heard saying, in live television footage of the King's arrival at what will likely be his new home. One woman kissed him on the cheek, and some in the crowd sang "God save the King". In the afternoon, the new King met for the first time with the new Prime Minister, Liz Truss.

## + UN chief slams climate change 'insanity' on Pak. flood visit

Liable for less than 1% emissions, Pak. faces nature's fury

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ISLAMABAD

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres called the lack of global attention to climate change "insanity" on Friday as he visited Pakistan to mobilise help for millions of people affected by devastating monsoon floods.

Nearly 1,400 people have died in flooding that covers a third of the country – an area the size of the United Kingdom – wiping out crops and destroying homes, businesses, roads and bridges.

Pakistan says it will cost at least \$10 billion to rebuild and repair – an impossible sum for the deeply indebted nation – but the priority is food and shelter for 33 million people affected.

Mr. Guterres said he hoped his visit would galvanise international help, noting Pakistan had always shown generosity towards



Pakistan PM Shahbaz Sharif (right) with U.N. chief Antonio Guterres in Islamabad on Friday. ■ AP

others, hosting millions of refugees for decades from neighbouring Afghanistan at enormous cost.

Pakistan receives heavy – often destructive – rains during its annual monsoon season, which are crucial for agriculture and water supplies. But downpours as intense as this year's have not been seen for decades.

"This is insanity, this is collective suicide," Mr. Guterres told a press conference.

## Don't obstruct India-backed projects: Ranil

REUTERS  
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Friday advised officials to act immediately and amend government circulars if they impede Indian investment projects in the cash-strapped island nation. He asked officials to resolve obstacles to projects backed by India, a government statement said, without specifying what the obstacles were.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe chaired a discussion on the progress of several development projects under Indian investment, and told officials "to take steps to resolve the obstacles that have arisen in the progress of several projects in Sri Lanka under Indian investments".

India has offered support of billions of dollars this year to its southern neighbour, which is facing its worst economic crisis in more than a decade.

## NORTHERN RAILWAY CORIGENDUM

Ref: 1. TENDER NOTICE No. 43/2022-23 DATED 07.09.22

2. TENDER No. 11222046B DUE ON 03.10.2022

3. SOLID MIG/MAG WELDING FILLER WIRE, CLASS VI, SIZE 1.2

In reference to above tender, the Approving Agency has been changed and to read as NONE. All other terms & conditions remain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published on website: www.irps.gov.in

2336/22

## SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

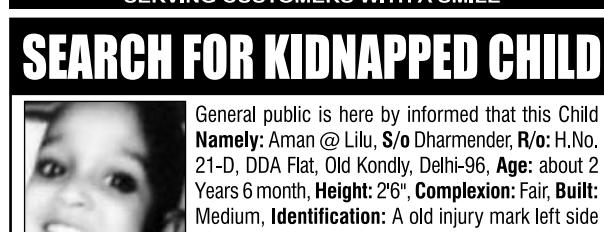
(Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Satatcon make IPS at 88 Station/location over Delhi Division for 3 years.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 3,00,06,430/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 3,00,000/- only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Annexe-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing date & time	Tender uploading / closing date & time - 30.09.2022 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.irps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

Tender No. 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-AMC-061-2022-23 Dated: 08.09.2022 2349/22

## SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED CHILD



General public is hereby informed that this Child

Named: Aman @ Lili, S/o Dharmender, R/o: H.No. 21-D, DDA Flat, Old Kondly, Delhi-96, Age: about 2

Years 6 month, Height: 26", Complexion: Fair, Built:

Medium, Identification: A old injury mark left side

forehead, Wearing: Grey colour shirt, has been

missing since 12.05.2015 at 10:20 am from area of

PS. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi.

In this regard a FIR No. 614/15 U/s 363 IPC, dated 12.05.2015 has been registered at PS. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi.

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

If any Person having any information or clue about this Child kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Fax: 011-24368639

Ph. 011-22610839, 8750870631

PS. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi

Ph. 011-24368638, 24368641

DP/146/ED/2022

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Preeti, W/o Surender, R/o

H. No. 9/2, Kh. No. 192, Mukundpur, Delhi

is missing since 22.08.2022 at 11:00 AM

from her house. In this regard a case vide

DD No. 69A, dated 23.08.2022 has been

lodged at P.S. Balswa Dairy, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing woman

but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing woman is as under:

**Gender:** Female, **Age:** 42 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Black colour saree and blouse and black colour slippers in feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing woman, kindly inform to the following:

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO

Fax: 011-24368639

P.S. Balswa Dairy, Delhi

## MARKET WATCH

	09-09-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,793	0.18
US Dollar	79.57	0.15
Gold	51,131	0.14
Brent oil	91.63	3.25

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	906.85	21.80
Apollo Hosp.	4460.35	45.55
Asian Paints	3441.85	-8.30
Axis Bank	784.85	5.10
Bajaj Auto	3848.60	2.00
Bajaj Finserv	17205.65	-17.20
Bharti Airtel	765.75	-4.05
Britannia Ind.	3649.50	-23.15
Cipla	1058.30	2.25
Coal India	237.60	1.15
Divis Lab	3603.00	34.60
Dr Reddy's Lab	4255.10	-16.55
Eicher Motors	3473.15	47.40
Gasim Ind.	1748.25	-21.60
HCL Tech.	948.50	17.45
HDFC	2431.50	-18.15
HDFC Bank	1498.60	1.00
HDFC Life	575.95	-8.40
Hero MotoCorp	2838.45	-18.85
Hindalco	426.00	5.45
Hind Unilever	2588.70	11.55
ICICI Bank	901.25	2.45
IndusInd Bank	1137.15	28.85
Infosys	1511.65	35.75
ITC	330.50	0.60
JSW Steel	686.95	1.60
Kotak Bank	1926.35	-3.70
L&T	1949.75	-24.65
M&M	1301.25	-20.65
Maruti Suzuki	8946.00	155.35
Nestle India Ltd.	19051.25	-72.50
NTPC	166.60	-0.20
ONGC	134.00	2.15
PowerGrid Corp	222.90	-1.50
Reliance Ind.	2569.30	-16.10
SBI Life	1297.45	-20.25
State Bank	553.35	8.70
Shree Cement	24505.60	47.15
Sun Pharma	890.00	-4.30
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	816.30	-2.80
Tata Motors	445.90	3.70
Tata Steel	105.70	-0.15
TCI	3217.65	48.00
Titan	2603.45	-23.25
UltraTech Cement	6783.65	-136.00
UPL	742.00	-4.50
Wipro	417.15	4.35

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.38	79.70
Euro	80.08	80.40
British Pound	92.20	92.61
Japanese Yen (100)	56.01	56.24
Chinese Yuan	11.47	11.51
Swiss Franc	82.97	83.35
Singapore Dollar	56.82	57.05
Canadian Dollar	61.12	61.36
Malaysian Ringgit	17.64	17.73
Australian Dollar	54.45	54.68

Source: Indian Bank

**Ashok Leyland inks pact with Libertine Holdings**  
CHENNAI  
Ashok Leyland has signed an MoU with Libertine Holdings to evaluate its green technology for ALL's CV powertrains.

# FM tasks RBI to 'whitelist' legal loan apps to protect borrowers

Sitharaman flags 'possibility of money laundering, breach of privacy and data'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

To curb the menace of illegal loan apps, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been asked to prepare a 'whitelist' of legal loan apps and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has been tasked with ensuring only such applications are available on app stores.

All agencies have been asked to 'take all possible actions to prevent operations of such illegal loan apps', following a meeting chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with top officials from the RBI, MeitY and the ministries of Finance and Corporate Affairs.

## AI Group to vacate govt. premises

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Tata-owned Air India (AI) Group, said it would consolidate workspaces across India and move to a new office complex in Gurugram in the NCR.

Beginning this month, a number of AI offices, currently housed in government-owned premises, are being vacated. AI's regionalised organisation structure would be progressively disbanded and replaced with a centralised one.

"The consolidation of many premises under one roof, and the evolution from a regionalised to a centralised structure, is a significant milestone in Air India's transformation journey," said CEO and MD Campbell Wilson.



**Red line:** The RBI must ensure that no unregistered payment aggregator be allowed to function after a deadline. ■ REUTERS

The minister expressed concern at the meeting on such apps offering micro credit, especially to vulnerable and low-income people at exorbitantly high interest rates and resorting to black-

mail and criminal intimidation to recover such loans.

Ms. Sitharaman also flagged the 'possibility of money laundering, tax evasions, breach of privacy and data, and misuse of unregu-

## Net direct tax mop up rose by 30%: FinMin

Personal Income Tax, STT rose 28.3%

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India's gross direct tax collections up to September 8 have risen by 35.5% over the year-earlier period to touch ₹6.48 lakh crore, according to the Finance Ministry.

Noting that tax collections continue to reflect steady growth, the Finance Ministry said that net direct tax collections rose 30.2% to ₹5.29 lakh crore.

"This collection is 37.2% of the total Budget Estimates of Direct Taxes for 2022-23," it said.

## PIT outpaces CIT

Gross Corporate Income Tax (CIT) inflows grew 26% whereas revenues from Personal Income Tax (PIT) and the Securities Transaction

Tax (STT) increased 44.4%. "After adjustment of refunds, the net growth in CIT collections is 32.7% and that in PIT collections (including STT) is 28.3%", the Ministry said.

Provisional data also suggests that refunds to direct taxpayers were 65.3% higher than the same period last year at ₹1.19 lakh crore.

## Tata Motors plans to unveil Tiago electric

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Tata Motors has announced plans to introduce the Tiago electric to broad base its EV product offering. The Tiago is currently available in petrol and CNG fuel options. The company already has the Nexus EV and Tigor EV.

"Today is a momentous occasion for us, as we announce the expansion of our EV portfolio further with a new mainstream intervention from the stable of Tata Motors, the Tiago EV," said Shailesh Chandra, MD, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd., and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd.

He said the firm would unveil 10 EVs in different segments, body styles, and affordability levels.

Similarly, total two-wheeler wholesales grew

16% to 15,57,429 units.

Total three-wheeler sales rose 63% to 38,369 units. Sales across segments rose by 18% to 18,77,072 units, SIAM said.

"While a good monsoon and the upcoming festive season is likely to increase demand, SIAM is keeping a close watch on the dynamic supply-side challenges," SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said, adding that high CNG prices were a big challenge for the industry.

Passenger car wholesales were up 23% at 1,33,477 units last month, SIAM said.

Utility vehicle dispatches were higher by 20% at 1,35,497 units.

Similarly, total two-wheeler wholesales grew

## Eurozone to coordinate fiscal, monetary policy on inflation

Aim is to avoid spurring prices via steps to support families

## REUTERS

PRAGUE

Euro zone finance ministers agreed on Friday to act together to protect households and companies from soaring energy prices, coordinating their support policies with the European Central Bank to avoid adding to inflationary pressures.

The ministers from the 19 euro area nations agreed support should focus on providing money to help people and industry cope but that this should be regarded as an emergency step and be carefully targeted.

"We acknowledge and we agree that we must reduce inflation," the chairman of euro zone finance ministers



Paschal Donohoe ■ REUTERS

ers cope with soaring inflation. The Bruegel think-tank estimates EU government support has already reached €282 billion. But the support itself can fuel inflation, creating a vicious circle.

"Our interventions will be coordinated with the monetary policy... we will make all efforts to avoid adding to the inflationary pressure to which the ECB and we as finance ministers are responding," Mr. Donohoe said.

Asked how the ministers would coordinate pumping more money into the economy while avoiding adding to inflation, Mr. Donohoe said the answer was in the scale and design of steps, but that it was a complex challenge.

## China CPI, PPI inflation dip as demand sags

## REUTERS

BEIJING

China's consumer prices rose at a slower-than-expected pace in August while the rate of producer inflation hit an 18-month low, reflecting an economy plagued by weak domestic demand and leaving room for further central bank policy easing.

The consumer price index (CPI) increased 2.5% from the same month a year earlier, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data showed on Friday, slower than 2.7% in July.

The producer price index (PPI) rose 2.3%, the slowest pace since February 2021, and slower than 4.2% a month prior due to falling energy and raw material prices.

## SPORT

## Panchal, Bharat shine

Skipper scores 87 and the wicketkeeper an unbeaten 74



**Guiding force:** Panchal led India-A's recovery with a polished innings. ■ KIRAN BAKALE

## NZ-A IN INDIA

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

HUBBALLI

Finally, there was cricket.

Some 65 minutes after the scheduled start on the second day, the second 'Test' between India-A and New Zealand-A at last got underway: the steady drizzle had stopped and the dark clouds drifted away from above the picturesque KSCA Stadium on Friday morning.

The cricket was riveting, too – until rain brought an early close with about 25 minutes still remaining. The host had reached 229 for six, a considerable improvement from its score earlier in the day.

After the visiting seamers did well to send all the three century-makers from the first 'Test' back to the dressing room rather quickly, skipper Priyank Panchal (87, 148b, 12x4, 2x6) and wicket-keeper K.S. Bharat (74 batting, 104b, 10x4) staged a splendid fightback with their

six-wicket stand of 117.

The Kiwi bowlers had justified their captain Tom Bruce's decision, reducing India-A to 68 for four at one stage. Abhimanyu Easwaran, whose smooth drives on the off-side suggested he might continue from where he left off at Bengaluru, was the first to go. Logan van Beek's ball swung quite some way and had the opener edging to slip.

Like Abhimanyu, the two other centurions from the first 'Test', Rajat Patidar and Tilak Varma, also failed against New Zealand-A's fine seam attack that also featured Jacob Duffy, Benjamin Lister and Sean Solia. They were getting good bounce and moving the ball, and didn't allow the batters to settle down.

But for Panchal's tenacity and determination, they would have put the Indian innings under more pressure. The captain played a spirited knock, and in Bharat, he found the badly

## India relegated to Division B

Poor shooting lets the host down as it loses to Indonesia

## BASKETBALL

## K. KEERTHIVASAN

BENGALURU

India has been relegated to Division-B and will play in the second tier in 2024. The FIBA Asian women's u-18 basketball championship, here on Friday, saw Indonesia pull off a

# Antim – the Indian teen wrestling sensation driven to succeed

An unflinching commitment to being the best has propelled her to the top of the world's junior ranks. If she stays injury-free and continues to improve, there is no telling how far she can go

**Y.B. SARANGI**

**I**want to make sure that a bigger function takes place for me in my village. I want to win a bigger medal," says wrestler Antim Panghal, referring to the welcome she received in her village – the nondescript Bhagana, situated about 20km from Hisar in Haryana – on her return as India's first female World under-20 champion.

The junior crown (53kg) has limited appeal for Antim, who celebrated her 18th birthday on August 31. Her unquenchable thirst for excellence has driven her to the top in quick time. If she continues to progress at a similar rate, an even brighter future awaits her.

While her historic victory in Sofia last month delights Antim, her defeat to World bronze medallist and three-time Commonwealth Games champion Vinesh Phogat in the national trials – for the CWG and World Championships – upsets her.

"I will have to increase the intensity of my training. My hard work was good enough for the junior level, but not the senior level."

"Like Vinesh. She has more experience. She is older than me and wrestles much better than me. She handles her bouts smartly. I have to learn these elements," says Antim.

Her desire to be the best pushed Antim in Sofia. "Before the competition, my coach asked, 'How far can you go?' I said, 'I want to become the champion.' When four of our girls lost to their Japanese opponents, I thought, 'Come what may, I will not lose to a Japanese wrestler [she pinned Ayaka Kimura in the quarter-finals].'

The final [an 8-0 win over Kazakhstan's Altyn Shagayeva] was the toughest. There was pressure as I didn't want to lose the final bout."

Amid a flood of congratulatory messages, the compliments from decorated boxer Amit Panghal inspired Antim the most. "I felt really good when I learnt that Amit Panghal welcomed me. I am a Panghal. He, too, is a Panghal. I like him a lot," says the teenager.

Antim's quest for excellence is backed by several other qualities that make a champion.

"Antim is a hard-working girl, very punctual. She is always there five minutes before the scheduled time of her training. She goes deep into every aspect of the sport and understands it thoroughly,

keeps asking questions – how to perform a move, what to take in her diet, etc. She takes care of every small thing," says Vikas Bhardwaj, one of the coaches who trained Antim from her early days at the Baba Laldas akhara in Hisar.

"About a year ago, there was a senior *dangal* on mat at a nearby village and Antim emerged as the champion in the 57kg category. After that, we took special care of her. Now she has proved herself by becoming the World under-20 champion."

#### Overcoming obstacles

Antim, who was initiated into wrestling by older sister Sarita in 2016, has faced a number of challenges during her short journey so far.

After Sarita, a kabaddi player at the village level, convinced her parents that Antim should try an individual sport, preferably wrestling, the immediate roadblock was the absence of good coaching in their village.

Antim was enrolled at the Baba Laldas akhara but could not focus on her training. The farming family had to move to Hisar in order to facilitate the young girl's wrestling practice.

Antim's career has taken off over the last year or

so. The teenager – who won a World under-17 bronze, an Asian under-20 gold, an Asian under-23 silver, a Ranking Series gold medal in Tunisia (on senior international debut) and the World under-20 crown – has established herself as one of the finest talents in the country.

They also supported her resolutely. They moved to a rented house in Hisar before building their own near her akhara. Then when Antim encountered another challenging period – her mother was afflicted with a serious illness – they ensured that her wrestling schedule wasn't hurt.

"It was a difficult phase as my sister used to go away for her studies and my mother did the household chores alone at home. In spite of that, she never told me to do anything after my return from training. Now she is fine," says Antim.

Bhardwaj adds, "Antim lost focus when her mother did not keep well. It was important to support her when she was going through a tough time. We did just that."

Antim's career has taken off over the last year or

so. The teenager – who won a World under-17 bronze, an Asian under-20 gold, an Asian under-23 silver, a Ranking Series gold medal in Tunisia (on senior international debut) and the World under-20 crown – has established herself as one of the finest talents in the country.

Analysing her own game, Antim says, "I try to get four to six points early through attacks and then I don't take risks and do counterattacks."

Chief national coach Jitender Yadav has high hopes for Antim, who is swift in both attack and defence. "Antim has a good all-round game. Her stance gives her the flexibility to initiate attacks without giving a hint to her rival. She has a habit of clocking big-margin wins. If she remains injury-free, she can be a good prospect for the country," says Yadav.

#### Workload management

Nevertheless, Antim needs to have a look at her workload as she attempts to make her mark at the elite level.

"For the last five-six months she has been travelling and competing regularly," says Bhardwaj. "Reducing weight frequently also takes its toll on the body. There was some pain in her shoulder because of which she could not give her best in the World Championships trials.

"She got a week's rest to address the minor issue. Next she will compete in the National Games and the National championships this year. But planning is necessary. We, the coaches, have set a target that Antim should become an Olympic medallist in the coming years."

Antim, too, has the

self-belief to go for her Olympic dream. And Paris 2024 is her obvious target.

"If I continue with my hard work, I am sure of qualifying for the Olympics and getting a medal there," she says.

For that, she may have to get past the gritty and seasoned Vinesh first.

Bhardwaj tries to put things in perspective and has devised a plan that may help Antim.

"Vinesh has given several years to wrestling. She is an Olympian and 10 years older than Antim. Vinesh fought back in the last 15 seconds in the Commonwealth Games trials. Experience makes a big difference."

"We are studying the bouts, making Antim understand where she could have done better. She needs to practise certain moves and train with more intensity," says Bhardwaj.

#### Learning from experience

Sarita, who tracks Antim's progress on a daily basis even after getting married, chips in with some positive advice.

"Antim was a little disappointed [after her loss to Vinesh]. I told her, 'Vinesh knows how to handle her opponents. You will also learn these things with experience,'" says Sarita.

"I advise her not to be over-confident and focus on her hard work."

With a strong support system around her, Antim will surely use it to her advantage as she sets out on a journey to stamp her class on the elite stage.

**Antim has a good all-round game. Her stance gives her the flexibility to initiate attacks without giving a hint to her rival. She has a habit of clocking big-margin wins. If she remains injury-free, she can be a good prospect for the country**

JITENDER YADAV, Chief national coach

**YODHA**

**TATA MOTORS**

**YODHA**



Antim with chief national coach Jitender Yadav

## STACKING UP



### ATP Men's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Daniil Medvedev	26	6,885	19
2	Alexander Zverev	25	5,760	19
3	Rafael Nadal	36	5,630	9
4	Carlos Alcaraz	19	5,100	17
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	4,890	22
6	Novak Djokovic	35	4,770	11
7	Casper Ruud	23	4,695	23
8	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	3,625	24
9	Cameron Norrie	27	3,415	24
10	Hubert Hurkacz	25	3,355	22
11	Andrey Rublev	24	3,120	24
12	Taylor Fritz	24	3,090	23
13	Jannik Sinner	21	3,020	21
14	Matteo Berrettini	26	2,360	18
15	Pablo Carreno Busta	31	2,340	23



Top Indians ▶

	Ramkumar Ramanathan
	Pragnesh Gueneswaran

### WTA Women's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Iga Swiatek	21	8,605	17
2	Anett Kontaveit	26	4,360	20
3	Maria Sakkari	27	4,190	21
4	Paula Badosa	24	3,980	24
5	Ons Jabeur	28	3,920	19
6	Aryna Sabalenka	24	3,470	20
7	Simona Halep	30	3,255	19
8	Jessica Pegula	28	3,201	17
9	Daria Kasatkina	25	3,015	21
10	Garbine Muguruza	28	2,886	19
11	Emma Raducanu	19	2,756	22
12	Coco Gauff	18	2,687	17
13	Belinda Bencic	25	2,635	20
14	Leylah Fernandez	19	2,540	17
15	Beatriz Haddad Maia	26	2,317	36

	Anita Rani
	Karmen Thandi

Top Indians ▶

### F1 Drivers' standings

#	DRIVER	TEAM	POINTS	WINS
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing	310	10
2	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	201	3
3	Sergio Perez	Red Bull Racing	201	1
4	George Russell	Mercedes	188	0
5	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	175	1
6	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	158	0
7	Lando Norris	McLaren	82	0
8	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	66	0
9	Fernando Alonso	Alpine	59	0
10	Valterri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	46	0
11	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	22	0
12	Sebastian Vettel	Aston Martin	20	0
13	Daniel Ricciardo	McLaren	19	0
14	Pierre Gasly	AlphaTauri	18	0
15	Mick Schumacher	Haas	12	0
16	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri	11	0
17	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo	5	0
18	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	5	0
19	Alex Albon	Williams	4	0
20	Nicholas Latifi	Williams	0	0
21	Nico Hulkenberg	Aston Martin	0	0



### Badminton Men's ranking

#	PLAYER	POINTS	EVENTS
1			

# Noah Lyles: brave, funny, great, human

The two-time World champion marches to the beat of his own drum. A natural showman with a serious, socially aware side, the 25-year-old sprinter is charting an original route to the highest of peaks

REUTERS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**N**oah Lyles is one of the most captivating personalities in the world of athletics.

Witty and irreverent, with a fondness for self-deprecating humour, the American is also comfortable talking himself up in grand pronouncements that would sound boastful if it weren't for the fact that they tend to be mostly true.

He dabbles in hip hop – he has written numerous songs and fancies himself as a rapper – reads comic books, watches anime movies and builds things with Lego (anything with a "Star Wars" theme). He also has a shopping "habit", which indulges his love for high-end fashion.

He has no problem being an entertainer. He loves the spotlight, which is good since he's in it so often. But Lyles isn't just smooth-talking showman; he's a deep thinker who is unafraid to address difficult issues, including racism and depression, in the harsh public glare.

**Somebody asked me why I told people on Twitter that I was on antidepressants. It was strictly for the idea that I had taken something and it made me feel better. I want you to know that it's OK not to feel good and you can talk to somebody**

Lyles, the athlete, is similarly multifaceted. He has a collegial approach to his work off the track – he relishes the camaraderie of the training group – and is warm and generous in his appreciation of his rivals. But on the track, at his best, he is a ruthless, cold-blooded winner.

His talent as a sprinter was apparent from very early, but his hard-nosed competitiveness has come into focus more recently. To be fair, he feels he is at his most effective when he is having fun and "being myself"; from starter's gun to finish-line, however, his focus is unrelenting.

The narrative arc of Lyles' career, in public perception,

has shifted from being the heir apparent to Usain Bolt to thwarting the new heir apparent to Usain Bolt: the prodigiously talented Kerrion Knighton. Lyles is still a young man, having recently turned 25, but is seen by many as a throne-warmer for his 18-year-old rival.

Lyles, however, is having none of it, and is determined to create a legacy that will compare favourably with the all-time greats. Nowhere was this more evident than at the World Championships in July, when Lyles defended his 200m crown to win his second Major gold in an individual sprint event.

#### Record-breaking run

He scorched to victory in 19.31 seconds to become the third-fastest athlete of all time over the distance and break four-time Olympic champion Michael Johnson's hallowed 26-year-old American record – a mark that, for decades, seemed unapproachable. Knighton could only finish third (19.80); Tokyo runner-up Kenny Bednarek took silver (19.77) for an American 1-2-3.

Lyles' time is only behind Bolt's 19.19 (2009) and 19.30 (2008), and Yohan Blake's 19.26 (2011).

Johnson and those gold shoes that crossed the line in 19.32 at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 hold a titanic place in track history, too. Johnson ran it 352 days before Lyles was born. The clock initially showed Lyles' time as 19.32 – causing him to crouch down, put his hands on his knees and glare at it – before eventually correcting to 19.31.

"I was very self-concerned about whether that number was going to turn from a '2' to a '1', I didn't want to see '32', I didn't want to share a record," Lyles said. "Nobody wants to share a record. I think even Michael Johnson doesn't want to share a record. So I was just begging it to change."

The record was a glorious addition to what was a supremely successful outing for Lyles, given how determined he was to prove his superiority over his young opponent. Especially after Knighton's



GETTY IMAGES

19.49 earlier in the year, which made him a slight favourite at the Worlds.

But Lyles had beaten Knighton at the US nationals and waved his finger as he crossed – a not-so-subtle message that he wasn't giving in.

#### Rivalry heats up

The defeat and its manner prompted the teen to storm off during a televised post-race interview in frustration. "It makes the sport better," Lyles told reporters. "I know that he's coming back with a vengeance, and I'm not going to give anything less than I have."

Knighton's riposte at the Worlds didn't challenge Lyles, however. "Everybody put in the work to be great, and that's what he did," Knighton said. "I mean, he broke the American record."

Although the Lyles-Knighton rivalry is what excites athletics fans, the 25-year-old would be the first to concede that his biggest competition over the past few years has been himself.

Once, he was seen as track's solution to its Bolt problem – someone to capture eyeballs after the sport's most outsized personality retired. But the pandemic hit. Lyles, who considers himself an entertainer at heart, suffered at travelling alone and competing in front of empty seats. He was unflinching about his mental-health struggles and how difficult it was to not be able to race alongside his brother, Josephus, who has since joined the US relay pool.

"The mental health I had in that moment is what makes this moment also great," Lyles said after his second World title. "Because it shows that you can come through a dark storm and come out of it better."

#### Strong mechanics

Though the time – 19.31 – says it best, the race he ran was, indeed, a beauty. Arms pumping, machine-like, his 5'11" frame – two inches shorter than Johnson and a half foot shorter than Bolt – hugged the inside line of Lane 6 as he rounded the curve. It was over after that. When Lyles hit the straightaway, two body lengths separated him and Bednarek in Lane 5. When Lyles hit the finish line, the gap between him and second place was three full strides.

A hyped-up Lyles had celebrated his 25th birthday by setting the fastest qualifying time of 19.98 seconds in the heats and playfully wagging his finger to the six stragglers behind him. All part of the fun and part of the show delivered by America's most engaging sprinter.

His profound side was in evidence as well, as he reflected

**I'm using outlets of music and track and everything else to help me get through those tough moments and saying if this doesn't go right in track I have a life outside of it. I'm not defined by being an Olympic bronze medallist or World champion... That's not who I am. I'm Noah Lyles**

on what the birthday meant to him. "By this time in a Black man's life, we are either put in jail for life, killed in gang-related events, or killed just for the colour of our skin," Lyles tweeted. "So when I say glad I made it to 25 I mean it!"

The 2024 Olympics offers Lyles an opportunity to burnish his legacy. While he is continuing to run the 100m at a high level



**They are going to say I'm an icon. If you want to see me do great things, you have to let me do it the way I have to do it**

from time to time, including very successfully in the 4x100m relay, it's the 200m that is building his legend. An Olympic gold, to go along with his two World titles, will grant him the sort of respect that is reserved for the best of the best.

A triumphant night in Paris will also lessen the pain of Tokyo. He took bronze and won hearts with the courage with which he spoke on his mental-health issues, but fell short athletically.

Lyles, however, has always marched to the beat of his own drum. He wants to live up to the one word tattooed across his rib cage: 'Icon'. "They are going to say I'm an icon," Lyles once confidently proclaimed. He is getting there on his own terms. As he said after his first World Championships gold, "If you want to see me do great things, you have to let me do it the way I have to do it."

## GAME THEORY

### Europe's top sharpshooters: early indications

A look at who has scored the most goals in Europe's five major top-division football leagues (England, Spain, Italy, Germany, France) in the early part of the season:



Player	Club	Games	Mins	Goals	Goals per 90
Erling Haaland	Man City	6	485	10	1.86
Neymar	PSG	5	428	7	1.47
Kylian Mbappe	PSG	5	401	6	1.35
Aleksandar Mitrovic	Fulham	6	540	6	1.00
Robert Lewandowski	Barcelona	4	344	5	1.31
Folarin Balogun	Reims	6	356	5	1.26
Iago Aspas	Celta Vigo	4	360	5	1.25
Sheraldo Becker	Union Berlin	5	360	5	1.25
Niclas Fullkrug	Werder Bremen	5	440	5	1.02
Marko Arnautovic	Bologna	5	450	5	1.00
Florian Sotoca	Lens	6	520	5	0.87
Harry Kane	Tottenham	6	528	5	0.85
Ivan Toney	Brentford	6	540	5	0.83
Khvicha Kvaratskhelia	Napoli	5	301	4	1.20
Borja Iglesias	Real Betis	4	323	4	1.11
Dusan Vlahovic	Juventus	4	351	4	1.03
Rodrigo	Leeds	5	360	4	1.00
Tete	Lyon	5	374	4	0.96
Terem Moffi	Lorient	5	398	4	0.90
Lois Openda	Lens	6	439	4	0.82
Wilfried Zaha	Crystal Palace	5	442	4	0.81
Christopher Nkunku	RB Leipzig	5	450	4	0.80
Teun Koopmeiners	Atalanta	5	450	4	0.80

NOTE: Elye Wahi, Jonathan David and Alexis Mac Allister also have four goals but at a lower rate (goals per 90) than others with four | SOURCE: WHOISCORED.COM

## PICTURE THIS



#### Powered by gravity

Skateboarders ride down the iconic Maryhill Loops Road during the Maryhill Ratz Freeride earlier this month in Washington.

Located just east of the Columbia River Gorge, the famous venue is considered to be one of the foremost places in the world for downhill events.

The unique design of the road – created by road-building advocate Sam Hill in the 1910s, to experiment with paving techniques – attracts gravity sports athletes, especially skateboarders, who find the course historic and the ride exhilarating.

In addition to some of the world's best downhill skateboarders, street lugers, too,

are drawn to the event.

While competitions have been held over the years, the occasion has also transformed into a free-for-all gathering – with the Maryhill Loops Road becoming a "ski area for skateboarders", as one of the organisers described it.

The road, now owned by the Maryhill Museum of Art, is open to pedestrians and bicycles, except

when rented. It's closed, however, to motor-vehicle traffic.

The event has helped rehabilitate the image of downhill skateboarders, widely seen as boisterous thrill-seekers with scant regard for others. The organisers and athletes volunteer in the neighbourhood; some races are also turned into fundraisers for local charities.

# Neeraj scripts another piece of golden history

His throw of 88.44m on the second attempt proves the best in the competition; Czech Vadlejch finishes second

## DIAMOND LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ZURICH  
Olympic javelin gold medalist Neeraj Chopra marked up yet another historic feat becoming the first Indian to win a Diamond League title here on Thursday.

Neeraj began with a foul but jumped to the top with an 88.44m – his fourth-best ever – on his second attempt. That turned out to be the winning effort. He followed up with 88.00m, 86.11m, 87.00m and 83.60m.

Olympic silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic finished second with 86.94m. Julian Weber of Germany was third with 83.73m.

"It was a very good competition with Jakub Vadlejch. I expected to do a 90m today. But it is ok, I have the Diamond Trophy and this was the most important thing for me. Also, my family was here to witness it," Neeraj said.



**Another first:** Neeraj became the first Indian to lay hands on the Diamond Trophy. ■ GETTY IMAGES

It was Neeraj's third appearance in the Diamond League Finals. He had finished seventh and fourth in 2017 and 2018. He was awarded a Diamond Trophy, \$30,000 prize money and a wildcard for the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest.

He, however, had already qualified for the Worlds as his Lausanne-leg winning throw breached the 85.20m qualifying mark.

## Happy I have been consistent this season'

UTHRA GANESAN  
NEW DELHI

Neeraj Chopra added another first to his already burgeoning list of achievements with the Diamond League Finals trophy on Thursday, but the Olympic champion knows how to remain grounded.

Neeraj is now a bona fide ambassador of Indian athletics and admitted it felt good when other athletes took an interest in him.

"People abroad see videos of fans waiting for me at the airport, the celebrations here and they want to know more because it doesn't happen so much there" Neeraj said at an interaction on Friday.

The big '90m' question

came up again and Neeraj laughed it away, like always.

"It is a barrier, but let's say I hit it and don't win a medal – then the talk will be of hitting 93 or 94m. So what is the point? The main thing is to win a medal and I am happy that I have been consistent this season. The 90m will happen when it has to," he said.

It's a recurring thing with Neeraj – prioritising performance and improvement over everything else.

"People expect a gold every time I compete but it isn't possible. When I won silver at the World championships, some people were unhappy it wasn't a gold," he said.



Harmanpreet. ■ FILE PHOTO

who can finish the game for us. They have done really well in domestic cricket, scored a good amount of runs. We need to have balance in our side in the lower-order... when there is balance things become easier," she added.

"We need to be a bit flexible when it comes to batting because sometimes you

have to add two more batters – D. Hemalatha and – K.P. Navgire – in the side

to get those runs for us."

## Lanka wins 'final' before final

Hasaranga, Theekshana and Nissanka deliver the goods

## ASIA CUP

AYAN ACHARYA  
DUBAI

This was a dress rehearsal for the Asia Cup final, offering an insight into what the teams could try come Sunday. On a sweltering Friday evening, thanks to sharp bowling and smart bowling changes, Sri Lanka shot out Pakistan for 121 in 19.1 overs in the last Super 4 match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan pacers Haris Rauf and Mohammad Hasnain then reduced Sri Lanka to 29 for three in five overs. Opener Pathum Nissanka hit a couple of boundaries in each of Hasan Ali's first two overs, which went for 21 to release the pressure.

Lefthander Bhanuka Rajapaksa smashed leg-spinner Usman Qadir for two sixes to take the Islanders to 68 for



Hasaranga. ■ AP

three at the halfway stage. Though Rajapaksa was out soon after, Nissanka (55 not out) guided the team home with three overs to spare.

Earlier, the Pakistan batters struggled on a pitch that was being used for the second time in as many nights. Sri Lanka skipper Dasun

## Jaiswal, Rahane and Shaw grind NE attack to dust

## DULEEP TROPHY

S. DIPAK RAGAV  
CHENNAI

West Zone skipper Ajinkya Rahane (207 no., 264b, 18x4, 6x6) and Yashavini Jaiswal (228, 321b, 22x4, 3x6) feasted on a hapless North East Zone bowling attack, slamming double-centuries to power their side to 590 for two at the stumps on day two of the Duleep Trophy quarterfinal at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here on Friday.

The duo added a mammoth 333 for the second wicket after Prithvi Shaw had made a rapid 113 (121b, 11x4, 5x6).

Rahane pulled and lofted the spinners with disdain. He was hardly troubled and was quick to dispatch anything on his pads from the pacers with panache.

Earlier in the day, Jaiswal and Shaw wasted no time in going after the bowling attack. Within the first half hour, the former hit four boundaries.

North East had a chance early on when pacer Bishworjit found the edge of Shaw only to see the 'keeper

Ashish Thapa spill an easy chance. The opener was on 80 then Shaw got to his ton in style with a boundary through backward point. He was eventually dismissed by leg-spinner Ankur Malik, the most impressive bowler for his side.

At the other end, Jaiswal put on display an impressive array of drives on the front foot through covers and down the ground before reaching his century.

Malik dropped a straightforward return catch off Jaiswal when the batter was on 104. The 20-year-old never gave another chance in his innings as he brought up his maiden First Class double hundred.

**The scores:** West Zone – 1st innings: Prithvi Shaw c Thapa b Ankur 113, Yashavini Jaiswal c Bishworjit b Jonathan 228, Ajinkya Rahane (batting) 207, Rahul Tripathi (batting) 25; Extras (b-9, lb-1, w-1, nb-6); 17; Total (for two wkts. in 123 overs): 590.

Fall of wickets: 1-206, 2-539. North East Zone bowling: Bishworjit 27-4-96-0, Rex 15-0-101-0, Dipu 16-2-87-0, Singha 26-1-97-0, Ankur 25-0-131-1, Jonathan 14-0-68-1.

Left-arm spinner Nishant Sindhu, foxing Tiwary in flight, had the batter caught at covers to provide West the breakthrough. Virat continued to fight. The southpaw is an attractive batter, whether in driving, cutting

## Virat, Shahbaz Ahmed drive East

Former's ton and the latter's fifty take the team to 397

S. DINAKAR  
PUDUCHERRY

Even as a breeze blew across the pretty CAP ground, covered in lush green grass, Virat Singh harnessed the wind in his team's favour, batting with responsibility and enterprise. Virat's 247-ball 117 (12x4, 1x6) and his partnerships along the way held the East Zone innings together against North's probing attack on day two of their Duleep Trophy duel here.

At stumps, North, after dismissing East for 397, was 65 without loss with the talented Yash Dhull batting on in his maiden First Class double hundred.

**The scores:** West Zone – 1st innings: Prithvi Shaw c Thapa b Ankur 113, Yashavini Jaiswal c Bishworjit b Jonathan 228, Ajinkya Rahane (batting) 207, Rahul Tripathi (batting) 25; Extras (b-9, lb-1, w-1, nb-6); 17; Total (for two wkts. in 123 overs): 590.

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**Resolute knock:** Virat took the centrestage with a century on the second day. ■ S.S. KUMAR

and pulling the pacemen or coming down the track to whip the spinners.

Virat was looking good for more when he succumbed to the sweep shot off off-spinner Pulkit Narang.

Even as North made some inroads, Shahbaz Ahmed, a lovely upright striker of the ball held centrestage with sweet timing through the gaps for an impressive 62 (140b, 7x4, 1x6).

**The scores:**

East Zone – 1st innings: Sudip Kumar Gharami c & b Rana 68, Riyan Parag c Malhotra b Saini 8, Anustup Majumdar c Sindhu b Kaul 47, Virat Singh c Saini b Narang 117, Manoj Tiwary c Narang b Sindhu 27, Abhishek Porel c Narang b Sindhu 6, Shahbaz

Ahmed c Narang b Sindhu 62, Manishankar Murasingh c Narang b Shorey 32, Shahbaz Na-deem lbw b Sindhu 14, Akash Deep b Saini 0, Ishan Porel (not out) 4; Extras (lb-5, nb-7); 12; Total (in 136.4 overs): 397.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-18, 2-97, 3-156, 4-233, 5-254, 6-293, 7-361, 8-389, 9-390.

**North Zone – 1st innings:** Yash Dhull (batting) 35, Manan Vohra (batting) 20; Extras (b-8, nb-2); 10; Total (for no loss in 13 overs): 65.

**East bowling:** Ishan Porel 3-8-0, Murasingh 3-0-18-0, Akash 2-0-12-0, Shahbaz Na-deem 3-0-6-0, Shahbaz Ahmed 2-0-13-0.

## Swiatek fights back against Sabalenka

Jabeur downs Garcia, becomes first African to make final

## U.S. OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
NEW YORK

Two-time French Open champion Swiatek advanced to the first U.S. Open final of her career after coming from behind to beat Aryna Sabalenka 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 at the Arthur Ashe Stadium on Thursday.

The victory sent the 21-year-old from Poland into the final against Ons Jabeur, who thrashed France's Caroline Garcia 6-1, 6-3 in the other semifinal.

### Timely break

Sabalenka, the sixth seed from Belarus, looked poised to create an upset after a dominant first set performance in which she broke Swiatek no fewer than three times.

But Swiatek was rejuvenated after a quick dash to the bathroom following the opening set. Swiatek said the break helped her analyse the flaws in her first set



**Belligerent:** Swiatek fought back from a set down to book a meeting with Jabeur. ■ AP

## Garcia and Mertens pull out

SPORTS REPORTER  
CHENNAI

France's Caroline Garcia and Belgium's Elise Mertens have withdrawn from the WTA Chennai Open, scheduled to begin here on Monday. Canada's Carol Zhao and Greece's Despina Papamachil have earned a slot

in the main draw.

Garcia, ranked No. 17 in the world, had to pull out of the event due to scheduling challenges. The Frenchwoman reached the semifinals of the ongoing U.S. Open in New York before losing to Ons Jabeur. Mertens, a former U.S. Open semifinalist, pulled out with injury.

On Saturday, five Indians – Rutuja Bhosale, Riya Bhattacharya, Sowjanya Bavisetty, Sai Chamarti and Lakshmi Prabha Arunkumar – will begin their campaign to qualify for the main draw and join Ankita Raina and Karman Kaur Thandi.



**On fire:** Shaw and Rahane proved unstoppable. ■ K. PICHUMANI

just over an hour to complete. "It feels amazing," Jabeur said. "After Wimbledon I had a lot of pressure on me and I'm really relieved that I can back up my results."

Jabeur's victory extended her career-long domination of Garcia. The 28-year-old Tunisian had beaten Garcia four times as a junior in Grand Slam events, and twice as a professional in Slams before Thursday.

Garcia, seeded 17, had reached the last four on the back of a 13-match winning streak which included a victory at the Cincinnati Masters lead-in event.

But Jabeur ruthlessly dismantled Garcia's dream of becoming the first Frenchwoman to win the US Open crown.

## THE RESULTS

**Semifinals: Women:** 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt 6-Sabalenka 3-6, 6-1, 6-4; 5-Jabeur (Tun) bt 17-Garcia (Fra) 6-1, 6-3.

## LIVE TELECAST

**England vs South Africa:**

3rd Test, Surya (SD &amp; HD) &amp; LIV, 3.30 p.m.

**La Liga:** Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday)**Durand Cup:** Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 6 p.m.**Serie A:** Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Sunday)**Bundesliga:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 9 p.m.**Formula 1:** Italian GP (Qualifying), SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.**U.S. Open:** Sony Ten 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.30 p.m. onwards**England Women vs India Women:** 1st T20I, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.30 p.m.

## Gurpreet slams four goals

## HOCKEY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Gurpreet Singh scored four of his team's five goals as Government Model SSS, Chandigarh, beat Anwar Hockey Academy, Partapgarh in a Pool J match of the 50th Nehru junior hockey tournament at the Shivaji Stadium.

Also winning big was Odisha Naval Tata Hockey Academy, Bhubaneswar, with a 7-0 win against Som Gurukul, Kurukshetra, in Pool I.

**The results: Pool G:** Punjab Institute of Sports, Mohali 3 (Mandeep Singh, Japnit Singh, Charanjeet Singh) bt Govt. HS, Kawnpur 0; **Pool H:** Dhudial Kalsia SSS, Patiala 2 (Saurabh Yadav, Krishna Mohan) drew with Sofia HA, Sonipat 2 (Manav Paul, Almaz Khan); **Pool I:** Naval Tata HA, Bhubaneswar 7 (Yojit Minz 2, Anmol Ekka, Premdayal Giri, Bidyanand Yumkhum Singh, I. Rohit Singh, Silheba Li-cham) bt Som Gurukul, Kurukshetra 0; **Pool J:** Govt. Model SSS, Chandigarh 5 (Gurpreet Singh 4, Rishav) bt Anwar HA, Partapgarh 0.

## Sarvesh grabs Novice pole

Ahamed the fastest in premier category free practice

## MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER

CHENNAI

Hubballi's Sarvesh Balappa (Axor Sparks Racing), with five wins so far, warmed up for the weekend's double-header by grabbing pole in the Novice (Stock 165cc) as the fourth round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2022 began at the Madras International Circuit on Friday.

Petronas TVS Racing's K.Y. Ahamed was the quickest in both the premier categories, the Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open and the Pro-Stock 165cc Open during the free practice sessions.

**Results (Qualifying, top 3, Best lap): National Championship: Novice (Stock 165cc):** 1. Sarvesh Balappa (Hubballi, Axor Sparks Racing) (02:08.591); 2.**Petronas TVS One-Make Championship: Open (RR 310):** 1. Alwin Sundar (Chennai) (01:54.897); 2. Rahil Pillai (Hyderabad) (01:55.058); 3.

Pulling ahead: Sarvesh speeding his way to the pole position. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Yuki-Saketh duo loses

## INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

**Top seeds Romain Arneodo and Alain-Olivetti (Fra) bt Yuki Bhambri & Saketh Myneni 6-3, 4-6, [10-8].** **\$37,520 Challenger, Nonthaburi, Thailand: Semifinals:** Francis Casey Alcantara (Phi) & Christopher Rungkat (Ina) bt Yuta Shimizu (Jpn) & Anirudh Chandrasekar 6-1, 6-4. **\$25,000 ITF men, Siintra, Portugal: Quarterfinals:** Sasikumar Mukund bt Adria Soriano Barrera (Esp) 7-6(6), 6-4. **Doubles:** Arthur Fery (Gr) & Sasikumar Mukund bt Alfredo Peres (USA) & Duarte Vale (Por) 6-3, 6-7(5), [10-4].**\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Quarterfinals:** Kiranpal Pannu (NZ) bt Rishabh Agarwal 6-4, 6-4. **\$15,000 ITF men, Madrid: Semifinals:** Alberto Senise (Esp) & Digravay Pratap Singh bt Alejandro Pertusa & Samuel Arjona (Esp) 6-4, 6-1.**In the Thailand Challenger at Nonthaburi, Anirudh Chandrasekar and Yuta Shimizu were beaten 6-1, 6-4 by Francis Casey Alcantara and Christopher Rungkat in the semifinals.****The results: €45,730 Challenger, Cassis, France: Semifinals:**

## Arsenal sees off Zurich; Sociedad bests Man United

## EUROPA LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS PARIS

Cristiano Ronaldo returned to the starting lineup but Real Sociedad still upset Manchester United 1-0 at Old Trafford in their Europa League opener on Thursday.

Brazilian teenager Marquinhos marked his Arsenal debut by scoring the opening goal and setting up a second in a 2-1 victory over Zurich in their opening group stage match.

Eddie Nketiah scored the winner after Zurich equalised from a penalty awarded due to his foul as Arsenal rebounded from Sunday's 3-1 loss to United – its first defeat in the Premier League this season. Lazio opened its



Off the mark: Marquinhos dinks the ball over the Zurich custodian for Arsenal's opener. ■ AP

campaign with a 4-2 victory over Feyenoord but fellow Italian club Roma lost 2-1 at Ludogorets in Bulgaria.

Brais Mendez converted

from the spot for Real Sociedad in the second half at Old Trafford, hitting the bottom corner of David de Gea's goal. The penalty was given

for a handball by defender Lisandro Martinez. It was Real Sociedad's first win over United in European competitions.

The duo of Nketiah and Marquinhos were involved in the decisive moments of Arsenal's victory while United States goalkeeper Matt Turner made his debut for the Gunners following his summer transfer from the New England Revolution in the Major League Soccer.

## Important results:

**Group A: FC Zurich 1 (Kryeziu 44-pen) lost to Arsenal 2 (Marquinhos 16, Nketiah 62).****Group C: Ludogorets 2 (Cauly 72, Nonato 88) bt Roma 1 (Shomurodov 86).****Group E: Manchester United 0 lost to Real Sociedad 1 (Mendez 59-pen).**

## World Cup shooting in Bhopal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Madhya Pradesh Shooting Academy in Bhopal will host the World Cup shooting in rifle and pistol from March 20 to 31, 2023. The event will have Olympic quota places for the Paris Games.

The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) allotted the World Cup to India during its executive committee meeting in Larnaca, Cyprus.

It is extremely satisfying for us to add another city to the World shooting map. It is due to the untiring efforts of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, in particular that of the Sports Minister Yashodhar Raje Scindia that this was made possible, said Raninder Singh, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president, in a statement here on Friday.

India has been regularly hosting World Cups in recent times, and the last one was in Delhi, March 2021.

## Deepak Punia out with injury

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

World silver medallist Deepak Punia has been ruled out of the World championships in Belgrade due to an elbow injury. He fractured his hand during his training in Michigan, USA.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) conducted a trial and selected Sanjeet as the Olympian's replacement in the 86kg freestyle class, according to WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar.

## TENNIS ROUND-UP

'Double' for Kashish Bhatia

JHAJJAR: Top seed Kashish Bhatia beat qualifier Shimreen Ahamed 6-2, 6-1 in the final of the ₹1,00,000 AITA women's tennis tournament at the Joygan Academy, JhaJJar, on Friday. It was a double crown for Kashish, as she and Riya Uboveja beat Divya Bhardwaj and Shefali Arora 6-4, 6-2 in the doubles final.

**The results (finals):** Kashish Bhatia bt Shimreen Ahamed 6-2, 6-1. **Doubles:** Kashish Bhatia & Riya Uboveja bt Divya Bhardwaj & Shefali Arora 6-4, 6-2.**Ishaque Eqbal wins title**

CHANDIGARH: Top seed Ishaque Eqbal won the Verka Rs.100,000 AITA men's tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex on Friday. In the final, Ishaque led 6-1, 3-1 when the former national champion and second seed Dalwinder Singh retired.

**The results (final):** Ishaque Eqbal bt Dalwinder Singh 6-1, 3-1 (conceded).**Manish to meet Tanishq in title clash**

JALANDHAR: Manish Yadav beat second seed Swastik



Champions: Kashish Bhatia and Riya Uboveja won the doubles title. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

& Manish Yadav 6-3, 6-3. **Girls: Semifinals:** Aakruti Sonkusare bt Kkaira Chetnani 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; Sejal Bhutada bt Shagun Kumari 6-1, 6-3. **Doubles: Final:** Kkaira Chetnani & Shagun Kumari bt Sejal Bhutada & Aakruti Sonkusare 0-6, 6-1, [10-3].**Karthik to play Shekar in final**

NEW DELHI: K. Karthik defeated top seed D. Mariappan 6-1, 6-2 to make the men's final of the AITA wheelchair tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Friday.

In the final, Karthik will play second seed V. Shekar who beat S. Balachandar 1-6, 6-4, [10-6].

The women's final will be between N. Prathima and M.K. Mubina.

**The results (semifinals):****Men:** K. Karthik bt D. Mariappan 6-1, 6-2; V. Shekar bt S. Balachandar 1-6, 6-4, [10-6].**Doubles:** Balachandar & Shekar bt S. Sureshkumar & M. Gabriel 7-6(4), 6-0; Mariappan & Karthik bt M. Arul & Alexander James 6-1, 6-2.**Women:** N. Prathima bt M. Manisha 6-0 (retired); M.K. Mubina bt S. Kamalakshi 6-2, 6-1.

4-6, 6-1, 6-4. In the final, Aakruti will play Sejal Bhutada who beat the third seeded Shagun Kumari for the loss of four games.

**The results: Boys: Semifinals:** Tanishq Jadhav bt Vaheen Patel 7-6(5), 6-4; Manish Yadav bt Swastik Sharma 7-5, 7-5. **Doubles: Final:** Smit Patel & Yagna Patel bt Khush Sharma 6-1.

Sharma 7-5, 7-5 to set up a title clash against top seed Tanishq Jadhav in the AITA Naitonal series under-18 tennis tournament at the Singha Sports Academy, Jalandhar, on Friday.

In the girls' section, Aakruti Sonkusare bounced back from a slow start to beat sixth seed Kkaira Chetnani

4-6, 6-1, 6-4. In the final, Aakruti will play Sejal Bhutada who beat the third seeded Shagun Kumari for the loss of four games.

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## NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

**Piyush and Akshay shine**

Man-of-the-Match Piyush Dureja picked up four wickets and Akshay Yadav scored 84 runs as Lala Ramcharan Aggarwal Club beat India Power by 75 runs in the Skillz Youth Cup under-19 tournament.

**The scores:** LRAC 263 in 40 overs (Akshay Yadav 84, Mohd. Kaif 62, Yash Chandela 38, Satish 3/31) bt India Power 188/9 in 40 overs (Om Tripathi 46, Daksh Burman 38 n.o., Piyush Dureja 4/38).**Five-wicket win for Push Academy**

Four wickets by Harshvardhan Phogat and three by Jatin Singh saw Push Academy beat Uday

lost to Delhi Colts 234/3 in 29 overs (Anurag Tyagi 68, Abhay Chouhan 60, Parth Goswami 44 n.o.).

**All-round performance by Mayank Pal**

Mayank Pal top-scored with 51 runs and picked up three wickets as STSC beat Vidya Jain Academy by 102 runs to lift the Surender Singh memorial tournament.

**The scores:** STSC 170 in 34.4 overs (Mayank Pal 51, Abhigyan Mishra 38) bt VJA 68 in 17.5 overs (Mayank Pal 3/7).**RRG enters semifinals**

Half-centuries by Yash Virat and Kartik Dutta helped Rohtak Road Gymkhana beat UGCA by 140 runs and enter the semifinals of the BR Kaila memorial Under-17 tournament.

**The scores:** RRG 253 in 35 overs (Yash Virat 58, Kartik Dutta 53, Nityanand Nishad 3/33, Shivam 3/36) bt UGCA 113 in 23 overs (Yug Kohli 3/45).**Runaway win for New Balaji Club**

Anuj Bhardwaj and Karan Soni picked up three wickets each as New Balaji Club beat RKB Academy by

117 runs in the Bhagwan Parshuram under-17 tournament.

**The scores:** NBC 186 in 36.2 overs (Mohit 70