

NEET (UG) 2022

Champions Again!



Aakash
+ BYJU'S



715
720

RAJASTHAN
TOPPER

1
AIR

Tanishka
Distance Program



715
720

DELHI (NCT)
TOPPER

2
AIR

Vatsa A. Batra
2 Year Classroom
Program

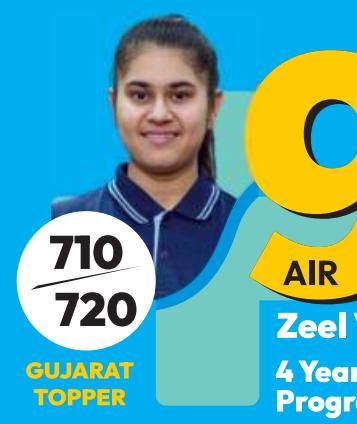


715
720

KARNATAKA
TOPPER

3
AIR

Hrishikesh N Gangule
2 Year Classroom
Program



710
720

GUJARAT
TOPPER

9
AIR

Zeel Vipul Vyas
4 Year Classroom
Program



710
720

JAMMU &
KASHMIR
TOPPER

10
AIR

Haziq Parvez Lone
2 Year Classroom
Program

81980*

69117 Classroom, 12863 Distance & Digital

Aakashians Qualified in
NEET (UG) 2022

5

27

52

18

In Top 10 AIR
(All India Rank)

In Top 50 AIR
(All India Rank)

In Top 100 AIR
(All India Rank)

State & UT
Toppers

*Still Counting

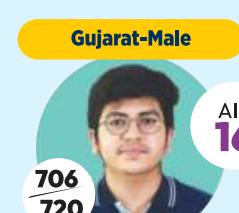
Other Toppers from Classroom Programs*



Sayantani Chatterjee
2 Year Classroom Program



Anuska Mandal
5 Year Classroom Program



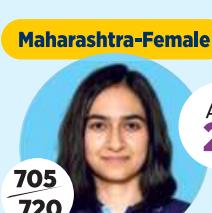
Jay Dipak Rajyaguru
2 Year Classroom Program



Anmol Garg
4 Year Classroom Program



Saahir Nawal Bajaj
2 Year Classroom Program



Vaidehi Jha
3 Year Classroom Program



Debankita Bera
2 Year Classroom Program



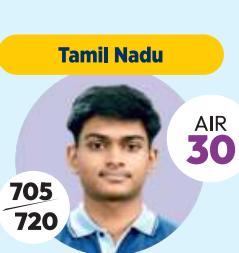
Anushka Kulkarni
2 Year Classroom Program



Avilash Bhaduri
Short Term Classroom



Sanika Agrawal
2 Year Classroom Program



Thirudev Vinayaka S
2 Year Classroom Program



Aksh Suryavanshi
3 Year Classroom Program



Nisha
4 Year Classroom Program



Priya Somadutta Nayak
3 Year Classroom Program



Akshat
3 Year Classroom Program



Scan the
code to
check all
the ranks
& hear
what the
toppers
have to say

(*Including state toppers in female category)

Though every care has been taken to publish the result correctly, yet Aakash Educational Services Ltd. shall not be responsible for inadvertent error, if any.

Admissions Open - Repeater / XII Passed Batches (NEET / JEE 2023)

Get up to 50% Scholarship*

Appear for Instant Admission & Scholarship Test

To Register for FREE, visit: iactst.aakash.ac.in or scan the code

*Terms and conditions apply.

25 Branches &
Centres in
Delhi NCR

Janak Puri
(Medical Wing): 8800013110
(Engg. & Foun. Wing): 8800013017
Dwarka (Sec-11): 8800013019
South Extn.,
(Medical Wing): 8800013111
(Engineering Wing): 8800013036
(Foundation Wing): 8800013018

Najafgarh: 9289297960, 9311992032
Pitam Pura
(Medical Wing): 8800473922, 9560292031
(Engg. Wing): 8800710328, 9560292026
Model Town-II: 9560197324, 8800522353
Punjabi Bagh: 8800901554, 9560197322
Preet Vihar: (011) 42444811 / 12, 8468807500
Pusa Road: 8447299285, 9289680444
Vasant Kunj: 8800185967

Dilshad Garden: 9350395559
Noida
(Sector-18): 8800013020
(Sector-62): 8800013021
Greater Noida: 8800013024
Faridabad: 8800013022
Gurugram
(Sector-14): (0124) 4967050, 9289514345
(South City II): (0124) 2357050, 9958064196

Bahadurgarh: 9540254952, 9311992031, 9289031693 Sonipat: 9289054590, 9289738918, 9289368844, 9289054589 Ambala: 8800012944 Bhiwani: 8800013035 Kaithal: 8800012947 Kurukshetra: 8800013036
Narnaul: 8800013042 Palwal: 8800013038 Panchkula: 8800013039 Pehowa: 935406195, 8448296569 Jind: 9289149595, 8448985452, 931514657, 9311954532 Fatehabad: 9289080535, 9289473261 Panipat: 8800013040 Rohtak: 8800013037 Sirsa:
8800012948 Yamuna Nagar: 8800012945 Amritsar: 8800013076 Bathinda: 8800013078 Chandigarh: 8800013079 Ferozepur: 7428490291, 7428490290 Jalandhar: 8800013080 Ludhiana: 8800013081 Patiala: 8800013082 Agra: 8800013098
Aligarh: 8800013059 Bulandshahr: 7428293980, 88000902549 Prayagraj: 8800013101 Jhansi: 8800020603 Kanpur (Kakadeo): 8800013102 Kanpur (Phoolbagh): 8800013103 Meerut: 88000013105
Mathura: 7428899147 Meerut: 88000013105 Saharanpur: 8800013106 Horidwar: 8800013109 Dehradoon (Ballarpur Chowki): 8800013108 Dehradoon (Rajpur Road): 8800013107 Jaipur (Gopalpura Bypass): 8800013083 Jaipur (Subhash Nagar): 8800013084 Jaipur (Vaishali Nagar): 8800013085
Jaipur (Pratap Nagar): 8800087712, 9289010607/8 Jaipur (Raja Park): 88000896372, 9289371375 Jodhpur: 8800013088 Ajmer: 8800013107 Ajmer: 8800015946 Udaipur: 7357621555, 7357628555 Sri Gangotri: 7428593083,
7428593084 Bhopal: 8800013064 Jabalpur: 8800013063 Indore (Geeta Bhawan): 8800013061 Indore (Ranjeet Hanuman): 8800013062 Bikaner: 8800015946 Udaipur: 7357621555, 7357628555 Sri Gangotri: 7428593083,
7428593084 Bareilly: 9997690099 Moradabad: 745022493, 9119918585, 7455022495, (0591) 2454535 Ghaziabad: 8826050187, 8828546640 Rewari:
90530008274, 90530008275 Raipur: 761110515, 761110533, 761110534 Haldwani: 9997699977, 888112111 Rudrapur: 9997693344, 888112111 Srinagar (Raj Bagh): (0194) 2454540, 8491047228/229 (Nigam): (0194) 2410540, 9107926842,
9107926847 (Rawalpindi): (0194) 2436550, 6006750448, 6006750449 Opening Shortly in Bhiwadi | Call: 9289913179, 9599082511



Aakash
NATIONAL
TALENT HUNT EXAM
ANTHE
-2022-

Win a trip to
NASA

Get Up to
100%

Scholarship

(Top 100 Ranking students in each class
will also be eligible for Cash Awards)

To Register, visit: anthe.aakash.ac.in

*Terms & Conditions apply. Five Students win an all expense paid trip to NASA.



Scan code to locate
the nearest centre

Download Aakash App



CALL (TOLL-FREE)

1800-102-2727

VISIT

aakash.ac.in



Aakash
BYJU'S

THE HINDU CLASSIFIEDS

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU MATRIMONIAL

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

DOCTOR

MBBS KSHATRIYARAJU Hindu Bride 27/ 5'7 Fair NEET Preparing seeks Hindu PG Doctor in or around Chennai Castle No Bar Contact: 94444 87192 / 88257 28652.

SEEKING PHYSICIAN groom 30-34yrs done PG willing to relocate to Canada for physician bride. Contact: oceanfauna@gmail.com

Hindu Sozha vellarai Makam / Simman fair 25/155 MBBS passed PLAB2 working in UK seeking Doctor groom in UK or willing to (also Engg groom). Ct: 9443142646, 9442224004 or sripriva233@gmail.com

**Wanted
DOCTOR Groom**

**Working in USA for
Affluent Chennai
Doctor Bride working
in California.
25 fair slim 165cm,
Tamil BC
WhatsApp
96770 26459**

Balija, Doctor MBBS, working in Pvt. Hospital, good looking 31/163 Chennai seeks Doctor / CA Groom. Father Govt Doctor. Ct: 9840196667 / 9799032870

SEEKING UPPER middle class groom willing to settle down in Canada/ USA for our daughter, 26 years, residing in USA. MBA, Hindu, Vanniar, watsapp +1 571596089 or 99414 93276

KAYASTHA FEB '89 born fair 5ft 5inch BE. Sri. Software Engineer, Bangalore seeks BE plus MBA groom preferably working at Bangalore, call 7543991775

MALAYALAM

MALAYALEE VISHWAKARMA(G.S) girl 39/162, Avitron, Deputy Manager in MNC, Chennai seeks Educated & Employed Groom (CNB), 9445651626, 9952995627

THIYIA GIRL 31/164, MBBS/PG, Pathology, Uthiradom, looking for Malabar based professionally qualified Thiyya boy 9048429861

VISWAKARMA TAMIL Gold Smith girl from Kerala B.Tech, Age 27, 169 Cm, employed IT Bangalore, seeks alliance from parents of educated employed boys from similar status. 9995953267

29YRS. M.TECH Engineer Non-IT, Veeraduthu Nair, Kannur Kerala. 9074182070

GROOM WANTED

Malayali Girl, Varma (Thamburatty) 27/15/2 (Thiruvathira), Fair, strict Veg, Thripunithura native, MSc.Ph, CMA Supervisor (In J.E. Cadre) in Bangalore Railway, Bangalore own apartment seeks Veg, well qualified groom, preferred from same caste having central govt or PSU job only.

Contact: 9495467820

TAMIL

Alliance invited for a Protestant born-again Girl, BDS, MPH (Health Administration) 28/152cm. Working as a Consultant (MOHFW, Delhi) EM: maria-gadeas@gmail.com Ct: +91 9894393237

AGAMUDIAR MUDALIAR upper middle 30/ 168/ BDS V.Fair Proposed to build Own Clinic & Hospital in Chennai seeks Doctor/ Engineer/ business professional. Sub Caste o/o: Ct: 946653194, 8637481104

HINDU SOZHYA Vellarai 38/160cm MBBS Govt. Divorcee (No Child) seeks MBBS, PDS, PG Suitable Groom (Good Family). Ct: 96773 00178 & 80153 33556

HINDU NADAR 25/167CM Income 100000 Seeks Suitable Groom. KA Ram Nadar 9308791999

DIVORCEE 42BA, Very Fair 2Chidran, Seeks Broad Minded Groom b/w 46,Cast No Bar Chennai only. 9025791355

AGAMUDIAR MUDALIAR upper middle 30/ 168/ BDS V.Fair Proposed to build Own Clinic & Hospital in Chennai seeks Doctor/ Engineer/ business professional. Sub Caste o/o: Ct: 946653194, 8637481104

TAMIL YADAVA – Tirunelveli based - Chennai settled – parents seeks alliance for their Daughter from same native age 27, Kannai, Chittarai 3rd patham, B.A.LL.B/HONS, practising at Madras High Court expecting Supportive & Preferably Employed / Professional / Progressive bridegroom. Ct: 9849332327

AGAMUDIAR MUDALIAR upper middle 30/ 168/ BDS V.Fair Proposed to build Own Clinic & Hospital in Chennai seeks Doctor/ Engineer/ business professional. Sub Caste o/o: Ct: 946653194, 8637481104

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 28 PhD mirugaserisham muthumaran meenam lagnam, seeks appropriate groom. Contact: 9791852030

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl, Fair, Good Looking, 03-04-1986 5ft 5inch BE. Sri. M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

GROOM WANTED Saiva pillai (caste no bar) 31/5ft 6inch, soft prof. Working in Bangalore 48/PA seeks Bangalore groom, Contact: number: 9827462462, Email: balutpb@gmail.com

CSI NADAR 24, ME, Structural Engg / 5.5, Fair, Rich Business Family. Contact: 9842 40422

CSI / Bride / SC / 42yrs/ 162cm / Wheatish / M.Sc., CA/ Seeks Suitable Bridegroom in Chennai. Contact: 9830540517

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Bride, Fair, 28yrs, MBBS, MS, Suitable Groom Wanted. Ph: 8667262565

SINGAPORE Based Christian bride, 34yrs M.E., S/W Eng, working seeks groom fit/fit. W.App: 6588704764

CSI PROTESTANT 27, ME/MNC Bangaore, Slim, Fair Pretty Girl Seeks Well Qualified Boy. Ct: 9879397593

HINDU SC – Adi Dravida, Female, age 29, height 5ft 7inch B/E/MBA, Work: Accenture. Ct: 944991091

HASTHAM 34/154 fair MCA Upper mid Cls. Seats Modular / pillai professionally Qualified Groom

HINDU NADAR 24 yrs fair BE working in IT Trivandrum seeking well employed groom preferably from KK Dt 9840699495

CHENNAI SETTLED, vanniar, upper middle, 30, fair, working, no issue, divorcee seeking progressive & Chennai groom. CNB. Divorced, 37-41yrs. WhatsApp 6396409895

DOCTOR

SEEKING A Suitable Hindu Doctor/ Groom for a Gynaecologist, DNB, 29yrs, 158cm, HINDU BC, working in Chennai Contact: 9444141815

TAMIL

MUDALIAR / PILLAI, 26 B.E. Ketai Working in Leading MNC Co. Reputed Business. Family Seeks Alliance for His Daughter Groom 98400 93322

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR ELITE Family Sep 91/165 PG Working HR MNC Seeks M/S, M.Tech. Groom. SubCasto Ok 9176780777

SEEKING PHYSICIAN groom 30-34yrs done PG willing to relocate to Canada for physician bride. Contact: oceanfauna@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR B.Com, MBA 26 years 1700CM White, Salary 40000/- CHENNAI Contact: 8148080800

HINDU SC, 35, Girl Height 160 cm MA, Chennai. Seeks Suitable same caste Groom. 7446869150 / 9444795980

HINDU/SC,AD SIMMAM/MAGAM(27/52) MCA, TA @ Infosys, 10/L.p.a. Same Caste Groom from Chennai. 9840356908

HINDU NADAR Sister Girls, age 28/ 23, Ht 167/165cm, M.E. Asst Prof / B.E. (I.T), Upper middle class. Seeks Upper middle class, equally qualified boys of age below 30 in job or business. Marriage both at a stage. Contact: 96265 15511

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Doctors seek Suitable Groom for Fair Doctor Girl Aged 23 Respond drraj049@gmail.com

TAMIL VISWAKARMA 40 /150 Fair Thiruvonam / ME(CSE) seeks suitable Same Caste Groom. 9486320982

INTER CASTE Parents seek for daughter 27/156 SWE employed Chennai, from suitable Hindu groom. 90032 8701

HINDU NADAR 25/154BME SWE IAM cyber security Accenture UK Simman Pooram suitable Groom 9442126376

ASST. PROF. Physics, Tulvua Velalai Mudalar Good looking Girl 34 Uthirathayam, Meenam, Family Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor. Bridgeborn. Aged 34-37 Yrs. Employed, Caste no bar. Contact: After 4 PM; 7550245639

ELITE BALIJA Naidu 25/BE own Jewellery & Diamond factory Rich family seeks suitable groom Ct: 7200259760.

BALIJA 27/156/Chitrai / CA/Pvt. Bank seeks Chennai settled CA/Engineer in bank/MCA/Govt below 30. Contact: 9840450546.

BALIJA 29YRS MBBS, MS working in Ch./seeks Doctor in and around Ch. from Balija Nair. Ph: 9844282781

NAIDU 26/66, Fair, Beautiful, MBBS, MD-Doing, Educated Well Settled Family, CNB, 7299576644, 7299576666

ENGINEER, SWEDEN, Mtech, Ms rich MBBS, MD-Doing, Educated Well Settled Family, CNB, 7299576644, 7299576666

SEEKING EMPLOYED Groom below 36 years from Elite Family for Divorced 30 years Employed Bride BE & MBA & Fair & Homely from SC AD Hindu. Elite Family. Cast No Bar. 9730518877

PQM for Chennai Mudalar Girl 28 yrs 173cm Fair Magam, BE MBA, MNC 14LA/PA, Email quax452@gmail.com or 9840429861

VISWAKARMA TAMIL Gold Smith girl from Kerala B.Tech, Age 27, 169 Cm, employed IT Bangalore, seeks alliance from parents of educated employed boys from similar status. 9995953267

29YRS. M.TECH Engineer Non-IT, Veeraduthu Nair, Kannur Kerala. 9074182070

MALAYALAM

MALAYALEE VISHWAKARMA(G.S) girl 39/162, Avitron, Deputy Manager in MNC, Chennai seeks Educated & Employed Groom (CNB), 9445651626, 9952995627

THIYIA GIRL 31/164, MBBS/PG, Pathology, Uthiradom, looking for Malabar based professionally qualified Thiyya boy 9048429861

VISWAKARMA TAMIL Gold Smith girl from Kerala B.Tech, Age 27, 169 Cm, employed IT Bangalore, seeks alliance from parents of educated employed boys from similar status. 9995953267

29YRS. M.TECH Engineer Non-IT, Veeraduthu Nair, Kannur Kerala. 9074182070

GROOM WANTED

Malayali Girl, Varma (Thamburatty) 27/15/2 (Thiruvathira), Fair, strict Veg, Thripunithura native, MSc.Ph, CMA Supervisor (In J.E. Cadre) in Bangalore Railway, Bangalore own apartment seeks Veg, well qualified groom, preferred from same caste having central govt or PSU job only.

Contact: 9495467820

TAMIL

AGAMUDIAR MUDALIAR upper middle 30/ 168/ BDS V.Fair Proposed to build Own Clinic & Hospital in Chennai seeks Doctor/ Engineer/ business professional. Sub Caste o/o: Ct: 946653194, 8637481104

HINDU SOZHYA Vellarai 38/160cm MBBS Govt. Divorcee (No Child) seeks MBBS, PDS, PG Suitable Groom (Good Family). Ct: 96773 00178 & 80153 33556

HINDU NADAR 25/167CM Income 100000 Seeks Suitable Groom. KA Ram Nadar 9308791999

DIVORCEE 42BA, Very Fair 2Chidran, Seeks Broad Minded Groom b/w 46,Cast No Bar Chennai only. 9025791355

AGAMUDIAR MUDALIAR upper middle 30/ 168/ BDS V.Fair Proposed to build Own Clinic & Hospital in Chennai seeks Doctor/ Engineer/ business professional. Sub Caste o/o: Ct: 946653194, 8637481104

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 28 PhD mirugaserisham muthumaran meenam lagnam, seeks appropriate groom. Contact: 9791852030

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl, Fair, Good Looking, 03-04-1986 5ft 5inch BE. Sri. M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

GROOM WANTED Saiva pillai (caste no bar) 31/5ft 6inch, soft prof. Working in Bangalore 48/PA seeks Bangalore groom, Contact: number: 9827462462, Email: balutpb@gmail.com

CSI / Bride / SC / 42yrs/ 162cm / Wheatish / M.Sc., CA/ Seeks Suitable Bridegroom in Chennai. Contact: 9830540517

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Bride, Fair, 28yrs, MBBS, MS, Suitable Groom Wanted. Ph: 8667262565

SINGAPORE Based Christian bride, 34yrs M.E., S/W Eng, working seeks groom fit/fit. W.App: 6588704764

CSI PROTESTANT 27, ME/MNC Bangaore, Slim, Fair Pretty Girl Seeks Well Qualified Boy. Ct: 9879397593

HINDU SC – Adi Dravida, Female, age 29, height 5ft 7inch B/E/MBA, Work: Accenture. Ct: 944991091

HASTHAM 34/154 fair MCA Upper mid Cls. Seats Modular / pillai professionally Qualified Groom

HINDU NADAR 24 yrs fair BE working in IT Trivandrum seeking well employed groom preferably from KK Dt 9840699495

CHENNAI SETTLED, vanniar, upper middle, 30, fair, working, no issue, divorcee seeking progressive & Chennai groom. CNB. Divorced, 37-41yrs. WhatsApp 6396409895

on Sunday



Controversial survey
of madrasas starts
in Uttar Pradesh
page 7



Rights of J&K people
under attack, says
Farooq Abdullah
page 8



Russia announces troop
pullback from Kharkiv
region in Ukraine
page 10



Babar's Pakistan takes on
Shanaka's Sri Lanka
in Asia Cup final
page 15

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

IN BRIEF

Bharti: caste, regional imbalance plaguing M.P.

RAIPUR
Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Uma Bharti has warned that the prevailing regional and caste imbalances in the State could lead to conflict if unresolved. "This inequality will flare up in various forms and may lead to anarchy," she said.

STATES ▶ PAGE 4

CSAT
Batch 4 On Latest Pattern
FOUNDATION BATCH
by AMIT GARG Ex-Faculty VAJIRAM & RAVI
Starts: 21st Sept. Offline: 10 Seats Left
FEES ₹12000 www.iassetu.com
2626, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-49 | 88266 19699

MAGAZINE ▶ 8 PAGES

Cong. to put out electoral rolls

Mistry replies to
MPs who sought
transparency

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Responding to the Lok Sabha members who had demanded transparency in the Congress presidential election procedure, the party's Central Election Authority (CEA) chairman, Madhusudan Mistry, said the list of all 9,000-plus delegates will be available at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) office from September 20.

The list may be used "if anyone desires to get nominations from 10 supporters from different States to contest the upcoming election", he said.

Mr. Tharoor and Mr. Tewari are part of the G-23 or the ginger group within the Congress that has been

If anyone desires to get nominations from 10 supporters from different States, the list of all 9,000+ delegates will be available in my office at AICC, Delhi, from September 20

MADHUSUDAN MISTRY, Congress Central Election Authority chairman

Earlier, five Lok Sabha members – Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari, Karti Chidambaram, Pradyut Bordoloi and Abdul Khaleque – had jointly petitioned the CEA chief to make the electoral roll available to them for the sake of transparency.

Mr. Tharoor and Mr. Tewari are part of the G-23 or the ginger group within the Congress that has been

pushing for internal reforms. "In case the CEA has any concerns with respect to releasing the electoral rolls publicly, it must put in place a mechanism to securely share this information with all electors and potential candidates. Electors and candidates cannot be expected to go to all 28 PCCs [Pradesh Congress Committees] and 9 Union Territorial



units across the country to verify the rolls," the MPs said in their letter of September 6. "As long as this demand is met, our concern about transparency – a sine qua non in any free and fair election – will be met," they added.

Responding to them on Saturday, Mr. Mistry wrote, "If anyone desires to get nominations from 10 supporters from different States, the list of all 9,000+ delegates will be available in my office at AICC, Delhi, from September 20 (11 a.m. to 6 p.m.), before they file their nomination on September 24. They can choose their 10 supporters (delegates) from the list and obtain their signature for nomination."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

Shah accuses Cong. in Rajasthan of organising riots

Addressing BJP workers, Union Home Minister takes a swipe at Rahul Gandhi over Bharat Jodo Yatra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday accused the ruling Congress in Rajasthan of organising riots, stopping Hindu festivals, and indulging in appeasement politics with an eye on the next State Assembly election. Mr. Shah also took a swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his Bharat Jodo Yatra, saying he needed to study the country's history first.

Addressing a meeting of the BJP's booth-level workers in Jodhpur, Mr. Shah said the Congress had organised "well-planned" communal riots at places like Karauli, Jodhpur, Chhabra and Malpura, and put a ban on the celebration of Hindu festivals. "This vote bank politics will spell doom for Congress. The people in Rajasthan are ready to bring the BJP back to power," he said.

Mr. Shah said the people could not tolerate the brutal

murder of tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur and the demolition of a 300-year-old temple in Alwar. "I want to tell Ashok Gehlot that if you cannot handle the State's affairs, then please step down," Mr. Shah said on the Chief Minister's home turf. Mr. Gehlot represents Jodhpur's Sardarpura constituency in the Assembly.

"Rahul baba had said India is not a nation at all. In which book have you read this? This is the nation for

which lakhs of people have sacrificed their lives," Mr. Shah said.

Targeting Gehlot govt.

The Home Minister also lashed out at the Congress government over high fuel prices, saying it had not reduced taxes on petrol and diesel despite the Centre having slashed tax rates.

Mr. Shah also referred to the promises made by the Congress in its manifesto for the 2018 Assembly election,

and said the people were still awaiting a full farm loan waiver; unemployment allowance of ₹3,500 a month; and 20 lakh jobs for youths.

Rejecting Mr. Shah's criticism, Lokesh Sharma, Officer on Special Duty to the Rajasthan CM, said the State government has been working to fulfil promises from Day 1. "So far, out of 501 promises in the Jan Manifesto, 377 promises (75%) have been fulfilled and 104 promises (21%) are in progress."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

Royal ascension



New King: Britain's King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla arriving at St James's Palace in London on Saturday. He was officially proclaimed King two days after Britain's longest reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, died. ■ AFP (REPORT ON PAGE 10)

New adoption rules create confusion

With District Magistrates now having final say, cases already in courts are in limbo

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

There is confusion over the implementation of new adoption rules that require transfer of adoption petitions from courts to District Magistrates, and parents, adoption agencies and activists are worried that this could lead to further delays in a long and arduous procedure.

Thirty-four-year-old Meera Mehta* in Ahmedabad applied for adoption on Central Adoption Resource Authority's (CARA) portal in February 2019. After a long wait, she was referred a seven-month-old girl on June 22 this year. The following month she brought home the girl under pre-adoption foster care pending a formal adoption order from the court which gives legal sta-

LONG ROAD | The wait gets longer for prospective parents as new adoption rules kick in

■ Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021 came into effect on September 1
■ New rules say adoption cases pending before courts "shall stand transferred" to the District Magistrates (DMs)
■ The idea was to

hasten the adoption process because of pendency of cases in courts
■ Lawyers, activists and adoption agencies say neither DMs nor judges aware of new rules
■ CARA official says 1,000 adoption cases pending before courts

the court process and I am worried that the new rule will delay the entire process, and we will have to start all over again," Ms. Mehta told *The Hindu*.

Her case is among 1,000 cases pending before courts across the country and now in limbo. Nearly, 3,500 adoptions are completed every year.

Parliament passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021, in July last year, which empowers DMs to give adoption orders. Ironically, the intent of the amendment was to prevent court-related delays during adoptions because of a large number of pending cases. The amendments came into effect from September 1.

"We have already spent more than two months on

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

September-end. But the judge has now conveyed that he can't proceed with the case as it has to be transferred to the District Magistrate as per the amended adoption rules.

"We have already spent

more than two months on

September-end. But the judge has now conveyed that he can't proceed with the case as it has to be transferred to the District Magistrate as per the amended adoption rules.

"We have already spent

more than two months on

AAP govts.
will regularise
contractual
jobs: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will regularise contractual government employees wherever it forms the government, party national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday.

"Wherever AAP forms the government, we are in favour of regularising contractual employees and we will regularise them and give them their rights," Mr. Kejriwal said in a video statement, referring to a recent decision by the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government in Punjab to regularise 8,736 teachers.

The AAP chief termed the system of contractual employment "exploitation" and "harassment" and said that it should end and "only permanent employees should be there in the government".

"These people promote a notion that permanent workers don't live up to their duties – this is completely incorrect. We have proven the mettle of permanent workers in Delhi; permanent teachers and doctors in Delhi have been at the helm of our education and healthcare revolution," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said the Chief Minister's announcement was similar to AAP's poll promise of regularising 15,000 teachers in the Capital, a promise that hasn't been delivered yet.

'EC opinion on Soren's brother sent'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The Election Commission (EC) is believed to have sent its opinion to the Governor regarding the "disqualification" of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's young

brother Basant Soren as a member of the Legislative Assembly.

According to news agency Asian News International (ANI), the EC sent its opinion to Governor Ramesh Bais on Friday regarding the dis-

qualification of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's Dumka MLA under Section 9(A) of Representation of People Act, 1951, over a mining lease case.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

MADE EASY
Under the leadership of B. Singh Sir
CMD, MADE EASY & NEXT IAS

NST NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP TEST 2024
UPTO 100% SCHOLARSHIP
For ESE, GATE, PSUs & State Engineering Examinations, 2024
OFFLINE & ONLINE Long-term Courses

Register at : www.madeeasy.in

Last Date to Register (Online) : 3rd Oct, 2022 • Test Date (Online) : 9th Oct, 2022

Time : 45 Min. • Total Ques: 50 • Negative Marking : 0.66 Marks • Total Marks: 100 • Streams : CE, ME, EE, EC, CS

Avail scholarship in
• Offline batches : Upto 100%
• Online batches : Upto 50%

9021300500 nst@madeeasy.in

Scan to Register

Scholarship applicable on batches commencing between

15th Nov, 2022 to 28th Feb, 2023

Announcing New Batches for
ESE, GATE, PSUs & State Engg. Exams, 2024

The foundation batches are taught comprehensively which cover the requirements of all technical syllabus based examinations.

OFFLINE BATCHES AT DELHI

Commencing from
5th Dec, 2022

LIVE-ONLINE BATCHES

Commencing from
23rd Nov, 2022

Admission open from 20th Oct, 2022

Corp. Office : 44 - A/1, Kalu Sarai, Near Hauz Khas Metro, New Delhi - 110016 | Ph : 9021300500 www.madeeasy.in

Centres : Delhi | Hyderabad | Jaipur | Bhopal | Lucknow | Bhubaneswar | Pune | Patna | Kolkata

© www.madeeasy.in

Several State laws need to be tweaked for NEP 2020: Sisodia

Deputy CM says the policy will be successful only when all the dots are connected

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

For successful implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, various State education laws need to be tweaked accordingly or else it will remain a good policy document only, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Saturday.

Mr. Sisodia, who also holds the education portfolio, said at present there are many contradictions between education laws of different States and the vision of the NEP and if there will be no strategic planning for its implementation, the policy won't be effective at the ground level.

"Many great policies were made on education in the country since the time India got freedom but they remained good only on paper because no strategies were ever designed or discussed for their implementation. For any policy to be successful, it



Deputy CM Manish Sisodia addressing a colloquium organised by Delhi Teachers University on Saturday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

is very important to connect all the dots of its implementation at the ground level," Mr. Sisodia said, adding that education-related policies should be given a 360-degree view and all aspects, including teacher training, should be included in it.

He said the country has suffered major losses in the field of education in the past because of missing out on this valuable practice of connecting the dots.

Focus on implementation

Citing a few examples, Mr. Sisodia said if only making policies and laws were enough, the 'no detention' policy

would have been one of the most successful experiments but it proved to be a "huge failure" as the basic points of its implementation were not taken care of by the authorities.

"No changes were made in the syllabus or teacher training format, no attention was paid to the methods of promotion of the child to the next class and the policy was implemented directly. Due to a lack of preparations and unsuccessful implementation, this policy was withdrawn," Mr. Sisodia said.

The Minister said something similar has happened with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) as well where learning outcomes have been fixed but changes have not been made on the ground. Teachers working at the ground level are unaware of the methods to bring out the outcomes mentioned in NCF, he said.

Crowds, traffic swell at Central Vista

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Days after the revamped Central Vista was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Delhiites were seen visiting the India Gate in large number on Saturday.

While visitors were urged to minimise commute by their personal vehicles and use public transport, traffic snarls were witnessed in and around the India Gate circle, also known as C-Hexagon. The roads around Kartavya Path - Akbar Road, Man Singh Road and Jaswant Singh Road - were difficult to navigate.

Traffic jams were witnessed at Tilak Marg, Sikandra Marg, Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg, Shershah Road, Purana Quila Road and Mathura Road.

A drone show was planned at 8 p.m. due to which heavy traffic was reported on C-Hexagon.

A big draw



Dancing to glory: Folk artistes from Gujarat perform on the lawns of India Gate, a part of the revamped Central Vista Avenue, in New Delhi on Saturday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Facing land 'shortage', DDA declining compensatory afforestation requests

Union Environment Ministry yet to respond to letter seeking relaxation, says official

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

"Shortage" of land for carrying out compensatory afforestation (CA) has forced the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to deny requests from service agencies which are executing development projects in the Capital, said a senior official.

"We recently received a request from the Indian Railways to provide close to 25 hectares for one of its projects. However, we told them we were unable to attend to the requirement due to a shortage of land for CA. Previously, we had to convey the same for a project of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)," said the official, adding that the urban body had provided 119.76 hectares in 2021.

He said the urban body had flagged the issue in a letter to the Union Environment Ministry in March this year and sought a relaxation in the guidelines to carry out CA, but the latter was yet to respond.

Trees for trees

Compensatory Afforestation, according to the Handbook of Forest Conservation Act, 1980, has to be carried out for diversion of forest land or deemed forest land for non-forest purposes, while the purpose of CA is to compensate for the loss of "land by land" and loss of

NO LAND FOR TREES

Land allotted by DDA for compensatory afforestation in 2021

■ Inter University Accelerator Centre	■ Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
● New Lab Complex at Aruna Asaf Ali Road (Dushghara, Tadepur)	● Deforestation of Ridge Area
▲ 2.0 hectares	▲ 15 hectares
■ National Capital Region Transport Corporation	■ Mehrauli Archaeological Park
● Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Corridor	▲ 705 Sqm
▲ 4.61 hectares	■ National Highways Authority of India
■ Power Grid Corporation of India	● Instead of use of deemed forest area for various roads
● Khetri (Rajasthan)-Jhatikara (Delhi) Transmission Line	▲ 10 hectares
▲ 4.89 hectares	■ NCRTC, CPWD, Northern Railway
■ School of Planning And Architecture Delhi	● Instead of deemed forest land being utilised for works related to Central Vista Project
● Construction of SPA campus, Vasant Kunj	▲ 15 (1.282), 8.11, 2.396 hectares, respectively
▲ 8 hectares	■ AGENCY ● PROJECT
	▲ LAND ALLOTTED

"trees by trees".

"We have no land for CA and this is alarming since it will affect development works in the city. Delhi has limited space. How can we compare the status of land in the city to States such as Madhya Pradesh or Uttar Pradesh. In our letter to the Ministry, we had conveyed solutions such as relaxation in order to carry out CA in neighbouring States or they should give us some solu-



FILE PHOTO

■ Delhi Metro Rail Corporation	■ Delhi Urban Heritage Foundation
● Deforestation of Ridge Area	● Mehrauli Archaeological Park
▲ 15 hectares	▲ 705 Sqm
■ National Highways Authority of India	■ National Highways Authority of India
● Instead of use of deemed forest area for various roads	● Urban Extension Road-II
▲ 10 hectares	▲ 49.76 hectares
■ NCRTC, CPWD, Northern Railway	■ National Highways Authority of India
● Instead of deemed forest land being utilised for works related to Central Vista Project	● Delhi-Saharanpur Highway
▲ 15 (1.282), 8.11, 2.396 hectares, respectively	▲ 15.0 hectares (Not allotted due to land shortage)
	■ AGENCY ● PROJECT
	▲ LAND ALLOTTED

tion," said the DDA official.

'Exclusive relaxation'
A senior official at the Union Environment Ministry said that the DDA was seeking "exclusive relaxation" in carrying out CA.

The official said the DDA has "no shortage of land" for CA, adding that the urban body's "so-called shortage is a white lie".

"They [DDA] simply do not want to part with the

land that they have for CA. There is an Act in place for CA that applies to the entire country and they must follow it. The DDA has been beating around the bush regarding their shortage while they have not categorically stated that they have no land for CA. In fact, the DDA has more than 5,000 hectares of Yamuna floodplains which remains encroached upon," said the Ministry official.

"They [DDA] simply do not want to part with the

Why were sweeper and guard cleaning sewer?

Families in shock as two men die inside a manhole after inhaling toxic gases

SAMRIDHI TEWARI
NEW DELHI

A day after a sweeper and a security guard died while cleaning a sewer in west Delhi's Mundka area, their families are in shock over why the two men were asked to do a job they were not trained for.

"Rohit was working as a sweeper at a DDA residential area in Bakkarwala. Who asked him to go inside a sewer to clean it?" asked Rakesh Kumar, brother of Rohit Chandiliya, 32, whose body was pulled out of the sewer, along with the body of Ashok Kumar, 30, on Friday afternoon. Both of them died after inhaling toxic gases inside the sewer they had entered to clear out a blockage, the police said.

"My brother earned ₹200 a day as a sweeper and was the sole breadwinner of his family of three, including his wife and two-year-old son," said Mr. Kumar who works in a bank. He said Rohit had cut off ties with his family after they objected to his "love marriage". He was struggling to sustain his family while



Ashok (left) worked as a security guard, Rohit worked as a sweeper at DDA flats in Mundka. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

working as a peon at a bank for better wages, said Mr. Kumar.

The bodies of Rohit and Ashok had to be pulled out with the help of the fire brigade as the colony residents failed to pull them out manually.

Another family member of Rohit, Satish Kumar, said they were left with several unanswered questions. "If he was sent inside the sewer why was no security provided to him? Why did the residents have to come to their rescue and not the authorities?" Mr. Satish asked.

Ashok's elder brother

Ajay Kumar said he has been working as a security guard for the last 10 years. "Ashok was the sole breadwinner in a family of six. Nobody knows how the family members would survive now," he said. Ashok used to travel from a village in Haryana, around 30 km from Mundka, to Bakkarwala everyday to earn a living, his brother said.

Failed rescue bid

According to a senior police officer, Rohit went inside the sewer first to clean the blockage and fell unconscious. To rescue him, Ashok, too, went inside and fainted after inhal-

ing poisonous gases.

The area residents gathered at the spot but were unable to pull out the two men as they had gone deep inside, the police said. The ground around the manhole was then broken by the police and firemen to reach the duo. They were taken to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial hospital where the doctors declared them brought dead, said DCP (Outer) Sameer Sharma.

According to a senior police officer, the families of the deceased alleged that the two workers were asked to clean the sewer by a local pradhan, who denied giving any permission for the same.

"An investigation is under way. We cannot say if someone's negligence led to the deaths till the investigation is over," the officer said.

A post-mortem was conducted on Saturday and their bodies were handed over to their family members, the police said. A case under Section 304A (causing death by negligence) of the IPC has been registered.

City reports 170 cases of lumpy skin disease

'No death has been reported so far'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

At least 173 cases of lumpy skin disease have been found among cattle in Delhi, mostly in the south-west district, but no death has been reported so far, authorities said on Saturday.

This is the first time the Delhi government has reported the cases of the disease in the city. A senior official said the first case was detected around eight to 10 days ago and "no death has been reported so far".

Ring vaccination
The government will adopt the ring vaccination strategy in which healthy cattle in a 5 km radius of the affected areas will be given goat pox vaccine with the Uttarkashi strain of the virus, he said.

Development Minister Gopal Rai said 45 cases of the disease have been detected in the Goya dairy area, 40 in Rewla Khanpur

area, 21 in Ghumanhera and 16 in Najafgarh.

He asked the owners to isolate cattle showing the symptoms, which may include high fever, reduced milk production, skin nodules, loss of appetite, increased nasal discharge and watery eyes, among others.

Mr. Rai said people fear that the disease can also spread to humans. "We need to take precautions but experts have said the virus has not caused any problems to humans so far," he said.

Development Minister Gopal Rai said 45 cases of the disease have been detected in the Goya dairy area, 40 in Rewla Khanpur

plain about the quality of the pads, but families who could not afford to buy sanitary pads still found them useful and used to ask for them."

Menstrual hygiene
The scheme is part of the Central government's Menstrual Hygiene Scheme, wherein funds are given to State governments to purchase sanitary pads.

The scheme was implemented under the name of "Udaan" by the Delhi government in April 2019.

Though the target was to reach 50,000 adolescent girls a month, the government was able to distribute it to about 30,000-35,000 girls on an average. The scheme was also aimed at creating awareness about safe and hygienic menstrual health practices.

In December 2019, the Delhi High Court had asked the city government and civic bodies to keep providing sanitary pads for free to school-going girls and those who dropped out.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE www.thehindu.com

Spotlight

Long form articles from our regional editions

■ A kitchen that has been feeding the hungry for over 150 years bit.ly/forthehungry

Online exclusives

■ The week in 5 charts Queen Elizabeth II dies, debt traps through instant loan apps, and more bit.ly/5ChartsQueen

■ Crypto weekly roundup Bitcoin's year in El Salvador, safe returns for Ronin, and straight talk for Celsius bit.ly/CryptoRonin

■ Watch | Alert cop saves woman from being crushed by speeding train in Uttar Pradesh bit.ly/SaviourCop

■ You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

IN BRIEF



L-G bats for naturally treated sewage water

NEW DELHI
Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday asked the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to explore developing constructed wetland systems for natural treatment of sewage water over major drains in the city similar to Neela Hauz. Visiting the biodiversity park here in south Delhi, the L-G termed the CWS "an exemplary model of urban rejuvenation".

Man arrested for rape, wife says he hid identity

NEW DELHI
A man was arrested for raping a woman after he allegedly concealed his identity to marry her and kept her under strict supervision, the police said. The 35-year-old victim met the accused, Irshad Ali Khan alias Guddu Chaudhary, in 2011 and got married to him in 2015. After some time, she learnt that the man was from a different community and was already married with two children, the police said.

3 arrested in 2 separate stabbing incidents

NEW DELHI
Three men were arrested on Friday for their involvement in two separate stabbing incidents in Outer Delhi's Mangolpuri area, the police said. One man was killed while four others had sustained injuries, they said. The DCP ruled out communal angle in the case, adding that investigation is under



ALLEN Result : NEET-UG 2022

Yet Another Proof of **LEADERSHIP**

by The Institute Trusted for
Academic Excellence & Outstanding Results

✓ 66 in TOP 200 AIR

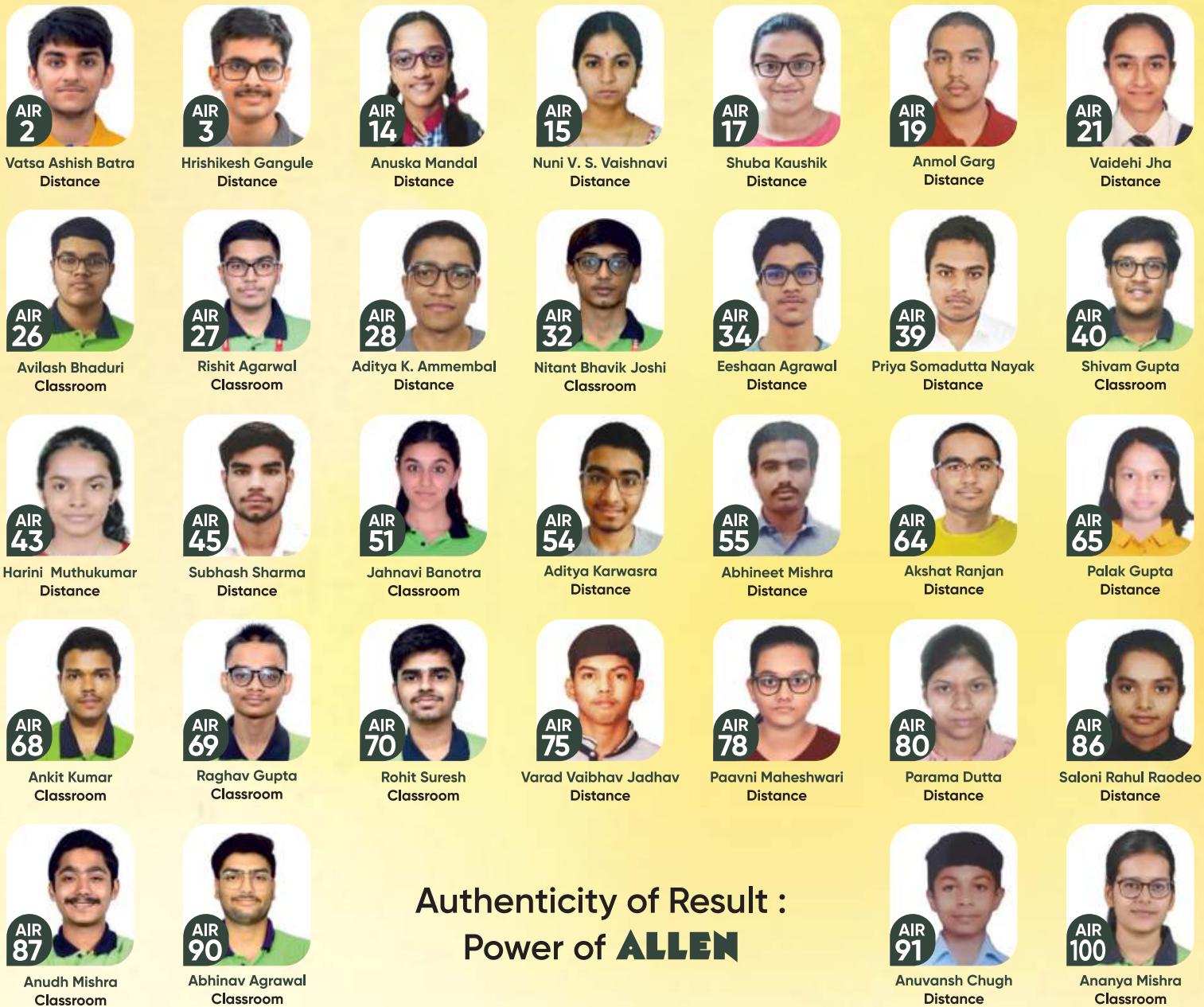
✓ 155 in TOP 500 AIR

✓ 281 in TOP 1000 AIR

Total Students
Qualified

87285

CCP : 54759
DLP : 32526



Authenticity of Result :
Power of **ALLEN**

WITH **UNMATCHED** ✓ PEDAGOGY ✓ FACULTY ✓ RESULTS

ALLEN Career Institute

Ab Delhi mein Bhi

at JANAKPURI | LAJPAT NAGAR | KALUSARAI | DWARKA | GURUGRAM | NOIDA | FARIDABAD... adding more locations soon

« #AbDilsePadhegaDilli »

Begin your Success Journey for JEE (Main+Adv.) | NEET (UG) | NTSE | OLYMPIADS | Classes 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th & 12th Pass



#SuccessKaAssurance

REGISTER NOW for TALENTTEX

Appear in offline exam on 9 October 2022
for Admission at **ALLEN** Delhi & NCR.

₹ 250 CRORE

₹ 1.25 CRORE

Register Now



talenttex.com



Delhi & NCR Admission Helpline

97733-45751/52/53/54

Walk-in to our Admission Office at : 17 Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar-4, New Delhi

www.alen.ac.in/delhi

Chandigarh Center (HO) :

Mohali Campus : "SIDDH". C-109,
Ind. Area, Phase-7, Mohali, Punjab
Tel. : 0172-5257100
E-mail : allen.ac.in/chandigarh

Lucknow Information Center:

1st Floor, Leela Mansion, Behind Leela
Cinema, Hazratganj, Lucknow
Tel. : 0522-4002840, 7230049779
E-mail : infolucknow@allen.in

Timings

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
TUESDAY, SEP. 13
RISE 06:05 SET 18:29
RISE 20:27 SET 08:47

Delhi Weather

max min

Delhi City 37 27

Safdarjung 37 27

Palam 36 28

Delhi Pali Today

38°C The weather will be dry.

Day will be hot and humid with

uneasy afternoon. Night will be

slight warm.

Delhi Pali Tomorrow

38°C A dry weather is likely.

Day will be hot and humid with

uneasy afternoon. Spell of light

rain and thundershower is

possible.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2022

All rights reserved.

THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate inquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD, Owner of the paper & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products or services. The paper can be held responsible in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

Caste and regional imbalance plaguing M.P., says Uma Bharti

Comments seen as bid for greater say in State BJP affairs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
RAIPUR

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Uma Bharti has criticised her party's government in the State yet again by claiming that regional and caste imbalances were likely to lead to conflict.

"When my Ministry was expanded for the second time, I was at a CBI court in Lucknow but I saw the list. I told him the ministerial names that figured on the list suggested that Rewa and Gwalior divisions were being neglected and the caste and regional balance was disturbed. This is not right, I said. I cannot reveal what he told me as the

balance in governance and administration is disturbed. Be it Gwalior, Sagar or Rewa division, the balance is skewed everywhere," she said at a press conference at her residence on Friday.

"This inequality will flare up in various forms and may lead to anarchy," she said. Ms. Bharti also batttered for reservation for Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the private sector, adding that even the poorer among the upper castes should be given reservation in the private sector.

The State government or



er his "anti Brahmin and anti-women" remarks – has been trying to bring together OBCs, SCs and STs on the same platform in the Gwalior-Chambal region.

Congress State president Kamal Nath said Ms. Bharti's claim reflected the reality in the State. He also invited Ms. Bharti to join the Congress's 'Bharti Jodo Yatra'.

While Ms. Bharti is known to take on her own party's government on various issues often, sources in the BJP said it was more a pressure tactic to have a greater say in organisational and Cabinet posts in

the coming days than a crusade for social justice.

"How can she say that the Gwalior region is neglected when it has the most number of Ministers in the Cabinet. Because the government was formed with Jyotiraditya Scindia loyalist MLAs who crossed over, they had to be given ministerial berths. All of them hail from the Gwalior region," pointed out a BJP source.

The source also contested the claims on caste imbalance in the Cabinet, pointing out that several senior and powerful Ministers, such as Bhupendra Singh and Mohan Yadav, hailed from the OBC community.

However, in the current government, Home Minister Narender Singh Rawat, a Brahmin, has emerged as the face of the Cabinet while the party's State unit is also led by V.D. Sharma, another Brahmin, points out a Congress source. While OBCs constitute well over half of the State's electorate, the various sub-groups exhibit different patterns of voting. Ms. Bharti, as well as Mr. Chouhan, are both from the OBCs, with the former representing the strong Lodhi community.

Bengal colleges not able to fill UG seats

Reasons could include a desire to study outside the State, impact of pandemic

BISHWANATH GHOSH
KOLKATA

Recently, a prestigious girls' college had to reduce the number of seats. • PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY.

The colleges in West Bengal are finding it hard to attract students as most of them face an unusually large number of vacancies for undergraduate (UG) courses this year, forcing the State government to extend the last date for admissions.

"It has been observed that a good number of seats are lying vacant at different General Degree Colleges and Unitary Universities at the UG level... the competent authority in the Department of Higher Education has decided that online stand alone portal may be re-

opened with effect from September 12 to September 16 for the UG courses for receiving fresh applications," the State government said in a recent circular.

It is not uncommon these days to come across

posts from teachers on their personal social media pages, urging potential candidates to join their institutions.

Teachers and parents see several factors contributing to this sharp decline, primary among

them being students going outside West Bengal to study in the belief that the quality of education and the chances of landing respectable jobs are higher there; and the explosion in the number of new colleges in the State.

"This has been happening for quite a few years now, particularly in the suburbs, but also in Kolkata. Recently, a prestigious girls' college, Lady Bourne, had to reduce the number of seats in a few departments. This year, [the decline] is more evident possibly because of a combination of factors: pandemic-induced economic insolvency, growth

of private institutions with more attractive courses, desperation among students to study outside Bengal," said a teacher of a Kolkata college, who did not want himself or his institution to be named.

"Most importantly, so many colleges and universities have been opened all over the State indiscriminately in recent years without any ground assessment as to whether there was a genuine demand for them," the teacher said.

As a result, even a month after the admissions began and merit lists were published, a large number of seats remain vacant in most colleges.

Sharad Pawar re-elected NCP national president

He says nation in deep anguish under BJP rule

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The extended working committee of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) re-elected Sharad Pawar as the party's national president on Saturday.



NCP president Sharad Pawar (centre) flanked by Praful Patel (right) and Sunil Tatkare in New Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

moved during the meeting called for the unity of like-minded parties to fight against the BJP and its allies.

"Sharad Pawar has played an important role in bringing together these parties and putting up a united front to counter the NDA. We must strengthen this resolve and work towards the goal of opposition unity and make sure we achieve this successfully," the political resolution read.

Senior NCP leader Praful Patel said the leaders across the political spectrum sought Mr. Pawar's counsel on the issues of national importance and the veteran leader would play a key role in shaping the politics in the coming times.

Addressing the meeting, senior NCP leader P.C. Chacko slammed the Congress for remaining in the old mindset and failing to recognise the changed political scenario.

Serum Institute cheated of ₹1 cr. in CEO's name

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

Fraudsters duped vaccine-maker Serum Institute of India (SII) of more than ₹1 crore by sending messages in the name of its Chief Executive Officer Adar Poonawalla and asking for transfer of money, Pune Police said on Saturday.

The fraud unfolded between the afternoons of Wednesday and Thursday, said an officer of the Bhandup police station.

An FIR for cheating and offences under the Information Technology Act has been registered

against unidentified persons, said Senior Inspector Pratap Mankar.

Satish Deshpande, one of the directors of the SII, received WhatsApp messages from a person posing as Mr. Poonawalla, as per the FIR.

The sender asked Mr. Deshpande to transfer money to certain bank accounts immediately, said the complaint. Believing that it was the CEO who had messaged, company officials transferred ₹1,01,01,554 online, only to realise later that the CEO had not sent any such message.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



29.12.1941 - 09.09.2022

Our beloved Director

V. RAGHUNATHAN

has left to meet his Periyava

Educated as a Metallurgist, he served in TI Cycles, Lucas TVS, Brakes India and FC Alloys before settling down in Fluidtherm as a member of the management team in 1991 where he added substantially to the fund of human knowledge.

Blessed as he was without hubris, strong fundamentals and a genuine desire to help others he gained the honorific of Brihaspati for the metallurgical community all over India.

When we grieve, we do so for ourselves as our beloved Raghu has gone to a better place.

All of us at

Fluidtherm Technology & Magnatherm Alloys

In memory of your loved ones

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:

011-43579797

from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &

For Placing Advertisements Online log on to

www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

HP/3969/22-23

Moosewala murder: last shooter held from Bengal-Nepal border

Joint operation with Delhi Police and Central probe agencies, says Punjab DGP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Almost 100 days after singer Sidhu Moosewala was shot dead, Punjab Police on Saturday arrested the sixth and last shooter allegedly involved in his killing.

Deepak Mundi, along with two of his associates, was arrested from the West Bengal-Nepal border in a joint operation with Delhi Police and Central agencies, Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said.

The two associates have been identified as Kapil Pandit and Rajinder. They have been accused of providing logistics support and weapons to the shooters. "In a major breakthrough, @PunjabPoliceInd, in a joint operation with central agencies & #DelhiPolice, have arrested



Sidhu Moosewala

Deepak @ Mundi, absconding shooter of #SidhuMoosewala, with 2 associates. Major victory in war against drugs & gangsters on directions of CM @BhagwantMann," Mr. Yadav said in a tweet.

"Deepak, Kapil Pandit & Rajinder have been arrested today by #AGTF team at #WestBengal-Nepal border

in the culmination of intelligence-based operation. Deepak was the shooter in Bole-ro module, Kapil Pandit & Rajinder provided logistical support including weapons & hideouts," he said in another tweet.

Shot dead in May

Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, was shot dead in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29, a day after the State police had pruned his security cover on a temporary basis. He, along with his friend and cousin, was driving to Jawahar Ke village in Mansa when six shooters waylaid his vehicle and sprayed bullets into him.

After the killing, Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar, who is a member of the Law-

rence Bishnoi gang, had claimed responsibility for the murder.

The police had identified six shooters - Priyavrat Fauji, Kashish, Ankit Sersa, Deepak Mundi, Manpreet Singh and Jagrup Singh Roopa - who were part of the two modules allegedly involved in the killing.

While the Special Cell of Delhi Police had nabbed Fauji, Kashish and Sersa, the Punjab Police neutralised Roopa and Manpreet in an encounter in Amritsar.

In the 1,850-page chargesheet filed in a Mansa court last month, Punjab Police had said Brar had coordinated with gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi, Jaggu Bhagwanpuria and a few others to carry out Moosewala's killing.

More women joining the legal profession is encouraging: CJI

Justice U.U. Lalit speaks at golden jubilee celebrations of Ambedkar Law College

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUDUCHERRY

Chief Justice of India Uday Umesh Lalit on Saturday said it was encouraging to see more women joining the legal profession.

"More women are joining the judiciary. I can tell you, in at least five States, including Tamil Nadu, there are more number of women judges at the induction level. Things are also changing in the higher judiciary. Shortly, we will have more women adorning judicial posts," Chief Justice Lalit said, participating in the valedictory of the golden jubilee celebrations of the Ambedkar Government Law College here.

He was responding to Lt. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan's appeal to women to take up the legal profession



Chief Justice of India Uday Umesh Lalit addressing the gathering at the Ambedkar Government Law College in Puducherry on Saturday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

during her speech..

Complimenting the law college for its achievements during the last 50 years, Chief Justice Lalit said an institution was known by the quality of the students it produced. In that way, the college had a good reputation, he added.

He also suggested the intro-

mation of adjudication as a subject at the college level as it would help law graduates when they enter early into the judicial service. The National Law College has already introduced adjudication as a subject, the Chief Justice said.

In his address, Supreme Court Justice V. Ramasubra-

Check health
of workers in
power plants:
Orissa HC

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

The Orissa High Court has asked the State to submit a report identifying workers in Coal Fired Thermal Power Plants (CFTPPs) suffering from health hazards.

A case was registered in the HC pursuant to a January 31, 2014 Supreme Court judgement based on a plea on the health hazards faced by these workers.

The petition said the workers in CFTPPs were suffering from lung failure, skin diseases and asthma.

Sweet ending: netizens help find elderly woman selling chocolates on Mumbai's trains



A member of the NGO with Vajji. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NGO locates her, but she declines financial support

ABHINAY DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

A concerted effort by netizens has helped an NGO find an elderly woman whose video of earning a livelihood by selling chocolates on Mumbai's busy local trains went viral last week. The video of the woman, dressed in a salwar kameez, had caught the eyes of netizens and several people began to search for her in earnest.

Even Swati Maliwal, the chairperson of the Delhi

Commission for Women, had shared the video on social media and urged everyone to buy chocolates from her and support thousands of people like her who were working hard to earn a living.

Search begins

Harteerath Singh Ahluwalia of the Hemkunt Foundation sought help on social media to locate the elderly woman. "Hi, #Mumbai folks, trying to find 'Dadi Ji' who's seen earning her livelihood on a train. Would want to help her out and make things a bit more comfortable for her - randomly came across this

reel on Instagram but no luck so far," Mr. Ahluwalia said in a tweet.

Soon after he had posted the message and the video on various online platforms, several Bollywood celebrities and social media influencers urged their followers to help Mr. Ahluwalia in his search.

"A large number of people then started commenting on our posts that they had spotted the woman on trains and at different stations. We narrowed down the search, deployed teams at select stations, and finally located her," he said.

They succeeded in

tracing her earlier this week. The team members met her on a local train and offered her financial help.

However, the woman, who later identified herself as Vajji, politely declined the offer and said she would continue to sell chocolates. "After much effort, when we finally found her today, to our sheer surprise, Dadiji declined any monetary help. We then bought all the chocolates she had," he tweeted.

'Take the day off'

The NGO then asked the woman to take the day off. "Forget financial support, she was not even ready to sell her entire stock for

double the price," Mr. Ahluwalia told *The Hindu*.

"Dadi exudes sheer determination, uncompromising self-worth and honest love for life that sets her apart. We will now meet Dadi every week & will try and help her in whatever way we can. For now, our heart is full of respect and love for Dadi & hands overflowing with chocolates," he tweeted.

Ms. Vajji said she started selling chocolates on trains following a family dispute. "We decided to buy her entire stock once a week, which will help her to take the day off," Mr. Ahluwalia said.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/Kidnapped



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely Gauri Yadav D/o Gopal Yadav, R/o H.No. C1/74 Sec-16, Rohini, Delhi has been Missing/Kidnapped from house since 07.09.2022 at 5.00 PM the area of PS. K.N.K. Marg, Delhi. In this regard a FIR No.521/22 Dt.: 07.09.2022 has been lodged at PS, K.N.K. Marg, Delhi. The description of Missing girl is as under:

Name : Gauri Yadav, Father's Name : Gopal Yadav, Age : 16 years, Height : 5'1", Complexion : Fair, Wearing : Red Top, Black Jeans and Slippers in feet. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

SHO
P.S., K.N.K. Marg, Delhi
Ph : 011-27571162
8750870327

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in

Fax : 011-24368639

Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641

DP/751/RD/2022

2367/2022

2368/2022

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Engineer-I/Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites tender on the prescribed form for the under noted work. **Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest Money:** 1. Conversion of Sub-standard Type-I quarters into Type-II, quarters of T-5-10 units (Back to Back) at SHDM station in the section of SSE/W/KKDE under ADEN/KUN. **Approx. Cost:** Rs. 64,38,628.53. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,28,800.00. 2. Improvement of railway colony by upgradation of water and sewerage system, replacement of old wornout doors, window, repair to flooring, plaster etc. at HNN station in the section of SSE/W/SNP under ADEN/PNP. **Approx. Cost:** Rs. 71,85,459.31. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,43,700. Earnest Money should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note: FDR or Demand Draft will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No. 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016. Completion Period: 1. 06 Months 2. 06 Months. Date & time of submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 04.10.2022 opening of e-tender at 15.00 hrs on 04.10.2022. Website particulars, published tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. Similar nature of work: 1. Construction of Building/Quarters. 2. Any civil work other than track work. Note: All attachments must be self attested by the tenderers and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XXIV is compulsorily. No.: 128-W/280/Tender Notice/22-23/W-I (NIT-25 & 26) Dated: 09.09.2022 2367/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	19-A & B- 2022-23-W-V
1. Name of work with its location	A) Provision of 6.10mtr wide FOB at Patli under ADEN/DEE Similar nature of work:- Fabrication, supply, assembly, erection and launching/regarding of girders through girders, plat girders, FOB's etc. in running track. B) Balance work of providing low height subway at various level crossing on DEE-RE section. Similar nature of work:- Construction of Bridges / Medium high subway with box pushing / pipe pushing method
2. Approx. Cost of work	A) Rs. 22,025511.72 B) Rs. 9038065.01
3. Earnest Money Deposit	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 201025/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) A) Rs.260100.00 B) Rs.180800.00
4. Completion period of work	A) 6 Months B) 6 Months
5. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 04.10.2022 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 04.10.2022
6. Website particulars	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No. 128-W/280/OET/2022-23/W-V/NIT-19-A & B 2022-23-W-V Dated: 10.09.2022 2368/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

...1st Choice of TOPPERS

PRATIYOGITA DARPARAN

PRICE ₹125.00
OCTOBER 2022

WHERE EXCELLENCE GUIDES THE SUCCESS

SOLVED PAPERS

• M.P. PSC State/ Forest Services

(Pre.), 21

• U.P. P.C.S. (Pre.), 22

• UGC-NET/JRF, 20 & 21

• N.D.A., 21

SPECIAL ATTRACTION

CIVIL SERVICES MAINS 2022

Model Test Papers

GENERAL STUDIES-I, II, III

HINDI EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Head Office : AGRA : 2530966, e-mail : care@pdgroup.in

To purchase online log on to : www.pdgroup.in



THE HINDU GROUP

LIC of India announces openings for Information Technology Specialists

Life Insurance Corporation of India invites application from eligible candidates for the positions

of **Chief Technical Officer, Chief Digital Officer and Chief Information Security Officer.**

Interested, result-oriented and goal driven domain experts may submit their online application on or before **10/10/2022**.

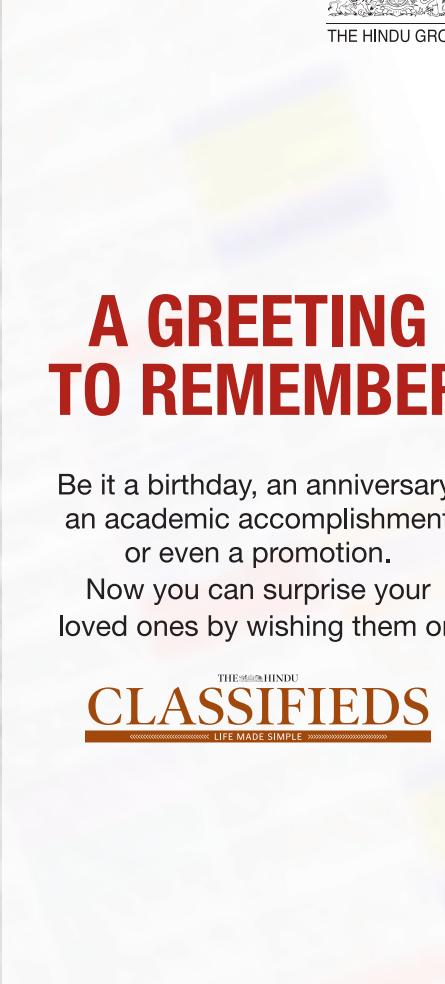
Link for detailed notification and application is available at
www.licindia.in/bottomlinks/careers/SpecializedpositionsinIT

10.09.2022

Executive Director (Personnel)

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Central Office, "Yogakshema", Jeevan Bima Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021



For more details, email: classifiedscustomercare@thehindu.co.in
Contact Toll Free Number: 180030700404
For Placing Advertisements Online, Log on to www.thehinduads.com

IN BRIEF



A.P. CM to inaugurate Parakamani building

TIRUMALA
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will inaugurate the ₹23-crore Parakamani building here on September 28. The edifice, which is built near the temple complex, will enable the devout to have a glimpse of the counting of the 'hundi' offerings.

Seized crackers explode in A.P. police station

PARVATHIPURAM
Seized crackers stored in the Saluru I town police station of Parvathipuram Manyam district of Andhra Pradesh exploded on Saturday. The crackers worth about ₹3 lakh, confiscated from unauthorised sellers during Deepavali season last year, exploded mysteriously. None was injured in the incident.

BJP vows to expose scams of Cong. rule

Ex-Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah becomes the prime target at BJP's Janaspandana event

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU

In an attempt to counter the Congress's aggressive campaign against alleged corruption by the BJP government, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai launched an offensive on Saturday, saying that they would soon expose the scandals of the Siddaramaiah-led Congress regime.

Setting the tone of the campaign ahead of the Assembly election next year and the legislature session beginning on Monday, the twice-postponed Janaspandana event at Doddaballapur – to mark three years of the BJP government in the State and one year of Mr. Bommai-led governance – became a forum for BJP leaders to train their guns on Mr. Siddaramaiah and his regime.

The tirade, specifically focused on the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, comes about a



Political spin: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai trying his hands at weaving during Janaspandana programme at Doddaballapura on Saturday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

month after the Congress leader's massive birthday bash at Davangere that drew lakhs of people.

Attacking the previous Congress government over alleged corruption and claiming that their "double engine" government had served the State better, the

leaders said the BJP would win 150 seats in the 2023 Assembly election.

Mr. Bommai termed the coalition government in 2018 as a "subversion of the mandate due to the power greediness of the Congress" and described the 17 defectors to BJP as "veeraru" (men of

courage) who had helped "end the misrule" and brought the BJP to power.

Going hammer and tongs at Mr. Siddaramaiah, Mr. Bommai described the Congress governance as "corrupt" and that it would soon be exposed. "You talk of commission in my govern-

ment. Yours was a 100% commission government," he said, alleging that many bills were cleared without any works being taken up. Listing out a string of alleged scams, he spoke of the Arkavathi re-do exercise and teachers and police recruitments, among others. He said that teachers' recruitment scam probe had already been handed over to CID and more would follow. "People will see for themselves how corrupt the Congress regime was," he said.

Ready to face probe'

Taking to Twitter later, Mr. Siddaramaiah hit back, saying this amounted to blackmail and that they would not bend. "In the last 16 years, they [BJP] were in power for 11 years. If the Chief Minister has the courage, let him order a probe for the entire duration. We are ready to face any investigation," he said.

Landmark Durga Puja for transgender community

They will be holding it for the 5th year



The transgender community's idol for this year's Durga Puja. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BISHWANATH GHOSH
KOLKATA

Kolkata's transgender community is gearing up to celebrate its own Durga Puja for the fifth consecutive year.

"During Durga Puja, transgender people prefer to remain hidden for fear of being ridiculed and bullied. They are never included in the celebrations, but targeted when spotted. It has become a mental health issue. That is why we decided to have our own Durga Puja," Ranjita Sinha, director, Association of Transgender/Hijra in Bengal, told *The Hindu*.

"During this period, we try to enjoy as much as possible – we pray, cook, eat and get other marginalised people to enjoy the festival too. People who have been thrown out of their homes for being transgender can take refuge at the feet of Mother Durga," Ms. Sinha said.

Sources said the party contemplated by Mr. Rao will be an agglomeration of regional and sub-regional parties while maintaining their own identity. It will have members from different walks of life.

Consultations with them were already over. Mr. Rao will continue as Chief Minister while touring other States to spread the roots of the new party and strengthen it.

fice on Gokhale Road, under the banner of Gokhale Road Bandhan, but last year the venue shifted to a new Central government-built shelter in Mukundapur.

Own priest

"Even the priest is always one among us. He or she is trained in the conduct of rituals for 15 days before the festival begins. Those participating in the rituals include street children, acid attack victims and people living with HIV," she said.

According to Ms. Sinha, since 2022 marks the fifth year of their Durga Puja, a new idol is being made to be worshipped alongside the existing one. After the festival, the old one will be preserved at its office on Gokhale Road.

"This year, the State government has increased the grant for puja committees by ₹10,000 (from ₹50,000). This should make things easier for us, but we mainly rely on donations from our own community members – the people you see begging at traffic signals. They too want to be a part of the joy that grips the city during Durga Puja, just that nobody includes them," she said.

Bharat Jodo Yatra to enter Kerala today

Congress hopes to win over voters ahead of LS polls

G ANAND
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala leg of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) will enter the State from Tamil Nadu at the Parassala border on Sunday.

Mr. Gandhi will leg it across Kerala for the next 19 days to muster popular sentiment against the Narendra Modi government at the Centre.

Congress has choreographed the made-for-social media tour to win over voters ahead of the Lok Sabha election in 2024.

The party has repeatedly



Warm reception: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi being felicitated in Kanniyakumari district on Saturday. ■ PTI

denied that the yatra has anything to do with the Lok Sabha polls.

Mr. Gandhi will try to pull off a political balancing act, making the right gestures toward different socio-economic groups during the 453-km trek.

among other regional and national issues.

Meanwhile, right-wing social media groups have spared no effort to blow a hole in Mr. Gandhi's campaign.

They portrayed a post showing Mr. Gandhi discussing Jesus Christ with a set of Christian priests in Kanniyakumari district in neighbouring Tamil Nadu as "anti-Hindu".

BJP supporters speculated on the cost of Mr. Gandhi's apparel and the "expensive luxury caravans" accompanying him. They compared former Prime Minister and Janata Party leader S. Chandrasekhar's "austere" padayatra in 1983 with Mr. Gandhi's allegedly "ostentatious" expedition.

Kumaraswamy to meet KCR in Hyderabad today

Likely to discuss a third alternative

N. RAHUL
HYDERABAD

Telangana Rashtra Samithi president and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will meet Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy here on Sunday in what is being billed as a precursor to the entry of Mr. Rao on the national stage with the launch of a party most likely on Dasara day.

The meeting of Mr. Rao and Mr. Kumaraswamy was viewed as part of a series of consultations the former had for several months with non-BJP and non-Congress leaders at the national level

to forge unity as a third alternative. Both of them had already met once in Bengaluru earlier in the presence of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda.

Sources said the party contemplated by Mr. Rao will be an agglomeration of regional and sub-regional parties while maintaining their own identity. It will have members from different walks of life.

Consultations with them were already over. Mr. Rao will continue as Chief Minister while touring other States to spread the roots of the new party and strengthen it.

Two killed as snake boat capsizes in Alappuzha

The *pallyodam* was conducting a procession on Achencoil river

THE HINDU BUREAU
ALAPPUZHA

Two persons died and another went missing after Chennithala *Pallyodam* (snake boat) capsized in the Achencoil river at Valiyaperumbuha Kadavu, near Mannar, in Alappuzha on Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Adithyan, 17 of Chennithala, and Vineesh, 37 of Cherukolpuzha. Their bodies were recovered by scuba divers of the Kerala Fire and Rescue Services. The missing person was identified as Rajesh.

According to eyewitness accounts, the *pallyodam* was conducting a procession on the river before its scheduled departure to Aranmula to participate in the Aranmula Uthrittathu boat race



Fatal trip: A view of the Chennithala Pallyodam, which was salvaged after it capsized in Achencoil river on Saturday.

when it overturned around 8.30 a.m.

"The *pallyodam* was scheduled to leave for Aranmula at 8.50 a.m. Prior to the departure, as per custom, it went on a procession. Besides the oarsmen, other people were on the vessel when it sank. Most of the people who fell into the water

swam to safety," said a local resident.

Chengannur Deputy Superintendent of Police R. Jose said a search was on for the missing person. "As per initial reports, four persons went missing after the boat capsized. The Aranmula boat race is scheduled to take place on the Pampa river near the Aranmula Sree

Parthasarathy temple in Pathanamthitta district on Sunday.

Following the tragedy, the authorities on Saturday decided to cancel the inaugural function. As many as 50 *pallyodams* are taking part in the boat race this year.

(With inputs from Pathanamthitta)

Parthasarathy temple in Pathanamthitta district on Sunday.

Following the tragedy, the authorities on Saturday decided to cancel the inaugural function. As many as 50 *pallyodams* are taking part in the boat race this year.

(With inputs from Pathanamthitta)

Ganesh immersion generates tonnes of waste in Hyderabad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has cleared close to 7,500 tonnes of garbage from various parts of the city on Saturday, post the Ganesh idol immersion festivities on Friday. This is about 1,000 tonnes more than the quantity of waste collected by the civic body on normal days.

More than 10,000 sanitation workers formed into Ganesh Action Teams and toiled day and night in three shifts to clear the trash from the procession routes, and also at the immersion points.

Ninety-seven more vehicles were pressed into service over and above the 330 regular vehicles which carried away the waste generated from immersion to the

solid waste processing facility at Jawaharnagar.

Twenty-seven more excavator machines in addition to the 40 regular ones were deployed to lift the debris and garbage and dump them in the trucks.

GHMC did not have data of the larger idols immersed in Hussainsagar.

Officials, however, con-

firmed that about 2,500 idols of more than three feet in height were lowered into the Saroornagar Tank. There is no count of the idols immersed in lakes across the city and peripheries.

A total 280 cranes – 130 of them mobile – worked day and night in lifting the idols from pandals and immersing them in lakes/ponds.

Tree planted by Elizabeth II in the spotlight

The Christmas tree in Bengaluru's Lalbagh has now grown beyond 70 feet

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU



Royal memory: Queen Elizabeth II planted a Christmas tree in Lalbagh during her visit to Bengaluru in 1961. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

Just 20 feet away from the tree planted by her is another Christmas tree planted by Abdul Ghaffar Khan (well-known as Frontier Gandhi). Almost 50 feet away from those trees is an Ashoka (*Saraca asoca*) tree planted by the former Prime Minister late Indira Gandhi," explained M.

Video surfaces

A video dating back to the queen's visit to the city in 1961 has surfaced on the internet after her demise. In the video, it can be seen that as soon as she landed in

Bengaluru with her husband, Prince Philip, she was welcomed by the then Governor of the State and the erstwhile ruler of the Mysuru, Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar. It also shows huge crowds which had gathered on the streets to greet and catch a glimpse of the royal couple and the queen planting a sapling at Lalbagh.

Thanks to this video, for the last two days, department officials have received many enquiries regarding this hitherto little-known tree.

"There is a lot of curiosity among people about the tree. In a few days, we will put up an information board and a picture of the queen near the tree," Mr. Jagadeesh said.

Kerala rubber plantations in crisis

Growers allege official apathy in checking the slide

HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN
KOTTAYAM

The wide belt of rubber plantations that has taken over the tropical hills of Kerala are now giving nightmares to growers.

With the price of natural rubber in a free fall, about 12 lakh small-scale farmers in Kerala, the country's rubber heartland, are counting their losses for the last couple of months. With the impact of the falling prices beginning to reflect in their daily lives as well as the local economy, the growers are up in arms against authorities for their perceived delay in checking the slide.

The price of latex has fallen below ₹120 while that of rubber sheets to ₹150 from ₹180 just ahead of the UK

raine-Russia war. Compounding their fears, reports of a recession afflicting large parts of Europe have begun to emerge.

"The falling prices have come as a double whammy to the sector, plagued by an unprecedented rise in input costs. About 60% of the rubber plantations in the State are due for replanting and if no action is coming forth at this point, this will only ex-

acerbate the situation," says Babu Joseph, general secretary, National Consortium of Regional Federations of Rubber Producer Societies India.

Among the key demands of the farmers include raising the import duties for latex and compound rubber. They are also demanding raising the replanting subsidy in Kerala.

In central Travancore, where political discourses

are inextricably linked to fortunes of the plantation sector, the matter has assumed new proportions with the leading yet warring factions of the Kerala Congress jumping in. While Jose K. Mani, chairman of the Kerala Congress (M), has urged the State government to hike the support price to ₹200, P.C. Thomas, working chairman of the Kerala Congress, has called for constitution of a special fund to support the growers.

Sources in the Rubber Board say the prices could not have reached this low had the domestic industry cooperated. "The manufacturing decline in China owing to its zero-COVID strategy has also coincided with high production of natural rubber in that country. The Indian industry too took advantage of this situation and are now sitting on a huge buffer stock," says an official.

CM ND-NDE

FROM PAGE ONE

Congress to put out electoral rolls

Mr. Mistry also said that for the first time QR code-based identity cards had been issued to all the delegates across the 28 States and eight Union Territories. "Those who want to file nomination should check if they have a delegate identity card available with them. Only people with valid identity cards will be allowed to sign on the nomination papers for the position of the Congress president," Mr. Mistry said.

"This should resolve the anxiety of anybody about the process of filing their nominations without knowing the names of the delegates. Once the nomination is signed and handed over to chief returning officer, they will get the entire list of the delegates," he added.

The CEA chief reiterated his earlier stand as well that Congress party members can also check the list of delegates from their respective State units or the PCCs.

As per the election schedule announced by the CEA, voting for the new president will take place on October 17 if there is more than one candidate.

India stays out of 'trade pillar' at Indo-Pacific meet

Moreover, the RCEP negotiated a full-trade agreement, including tariff reductions and market access rules, something the U.S. has made it clear that the IPEF is not speaking about at all.

The 14 IPEF partners represent 40% of global GDP and 28% of global goods and services trade.

At the end of the IPEF ministerial meeting, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo also stressed that India was "not now in the trade pillar of the IPEF", but that they continue to talk both bilaterally and within the IPEF on bringing India in.

Mr. Goyal held talks, on the sidelines, with Ms. Tai and Ms. Raimondo and his counterparts from Australia.

EC opinion on Hemant Soren's brother sent

The Governor will now have to take a decision on the opinion received from the commission, the ANI report said. Mr. Basant was among the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) legislators who were shifted first to a guest house in Khunti and then to a resort at Raipur in Chhattisgarh to prevent any alleged poaching attempts by the Opposition BJP, during the recent political crisis in Jharkhand.

Politics in Jharkhand had been filed with suspense and speculation about the imminent fall of the UPA government led by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, following reports of the commission recommending his disqualification as an MLA for extending a mining lease in his and Mr. Basant's name while holding the

New adoption rules create confusion

Thereafter, amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 were notified which state, "all the cases pertaining to adoption matters pending before the Court shall stand transferred to the District Magistrate from the date of commencement of these rules." Adoption agencies, lawyers and activists say there is confusion in the entire system about the requirement to transfer the cases from courts to DMs as well as the status of the court orders passed on or after September 1 after several months of court proceedings. The regu-

dinate in the fray and the last date to file nomination is September 30.

Calling the leak of their letter as "malicious", Mr. Tharoor tweeted, "I am pleased that this clarification has come in the form of his constructive reply to our letter. In view of these assurances, I am satisfied. Many will be glad to move on with an election process that in my view will only strengthen the party."

A section of the G-23 is said to be scouting for a common candidate to challenge "the official candidate of the establishment". However, the Congress's top leadership are keen that Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot emerges as a consensus candidate. Though Mr. Gehlot has been publicly pitching for former party chief Mr. Gandhi to take over once again, it is learnt that he has already had meetings with senior colleagues, including

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Mukul Wasnik and Mr. Tharoor, who has expressed interest in contesting the election.

Controversial survey of madrasas starts in U.P.

The State government has been criticised for the 'malicious move', but Minister says it will benefit the community

STAFF REPORTER
LUCKNOW

Amid the ongoing controversy over madrasas in Uttar Pradesh, the State government started the process of conducting a survey of the Islamic educational institutions from Saturday.

The much-discussed survey of "unrecognised" madrasas will be conducted over a 25-day period by the District Minority Welfare Officers and their teams, along with officials of the Education Department, across the 78 districts of the State.

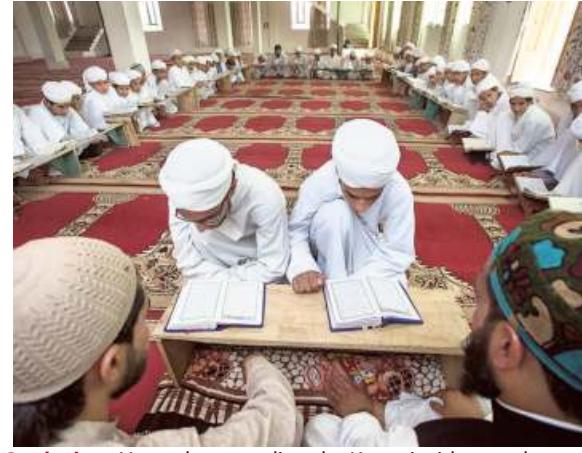
"Survey of madrasas to start today. We will analyse whether survey teams have been formed in all districts.

Our aim is to bring these institutions into the mainstream and produce IAS and IPS [officers], engineers and doctors; hence the teaching

of mathematics, English, Hindi and social sciences is also necessary," said Dharmpal Singh, the State's Minister for Minority Welfare, Waqf and the Haj Department.

On September 7, Mr. Singh chaired a high-level meeting at Vidhan Bhawan and has issued directions to form survey teams by September 10 and set a 25-day limit to conduct the whole exercise. The teams formed in the districts have to submit the report to the District Magistrates. The report will then be sent to the State government by October 25.

Mr. Singh on Saturday took potshots at Opposition parties who have been criticising the survey. "The Opposition parties consider minorities as a vote bank but the BJP government believes



Study time: Young boys reading the Koran inside a madrasa during the Ramadan month. ■ THE HINDU

in providing rights to the minority community," Mr. Singh said.

The survey aims to gather information about the details of teachers and students, curriculum, and affi-

liation of unrecognised madrasas with non-governmental organisations. Uttar Pradesh has more than 16,000 madrasas.

Since the announcement of the survey, a war of words

is raging in the State with all the major Opposition parties, including the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), targeting the State government.

Evil intent, says BSP

BSP supremo Mayawati said that the ruling dispensation was terrorising the Muslim community with such acts. "The BJP government has an evil intent on madrasas in Uttar Pradesh. The attempts to interfere in the private madrasas, which are run on donations by the Muslim community, in the name of a survey is inappropriate. The government should focus on improving the condition of the government and government-aided madrasas," she said.

Leading Muslim organisations, including the All India

Mineral Personal Law Board and the Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind, called the survey a "malicious move" to dislodge the madrasa system, and asked why the same rules did not apply for Hindu religious institutions such as maths and dharmashalas.

The Minority Welfare Department survey has argued that the exercise will be conducted to the requirements of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), which wanted to check whether basic facilities were being provided to students in madrasas.

During the survey, details such as the name of the madrasa and the institution operating it, number of students studying there, and the information regarding facilities available will be collected, said the department.

PM congratulates Liz Truss, lauds her role in bilateral ties

Modi offers his condolences on the Queen's passing

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with his new British counterpart – Prime Minister Liz Truss – on Saturday, according to the government and Downing Street. This is their first phone call since Ms. Truss assumed office on Tuesday and since Queen Elizabeth died on Thursday.

The Prime Minister congratulated Ms. Truss on her appointment.

"He also appreciated her contributions to the India-U.K. bilateral relationship in her previous roles as Trade Secretary and Foreign Secretary. Both leaders committed to further strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India



Narendra Modi

and U.K.," a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The two leaders discussed the implementation of the Roadmap 2030 – a multi-dimensional framework for further engagement between the two countries, according to the MEA readout. They also discussed a free trade deal currently being hammered out, defence and security as well as people to people ties, the

MEA said.

The Prime Minister offered his condolences on the Queen's passing, both sides said. "The Prime Minister thanked Prime Minister Modi for his heartfelt condolences, which he said were given on behalf of 1.3 billion Indians," Downing Street said in a statement that it sent to *The Hindu*.

The leaders acknowledged the grief felt by the many people of the UK and India, and paid tribute to Her Majesty The Queen's lifetime of service," the Downing Street statement said, adding that the leaders looked forward to meeting soon.

The government has declared a day of nation-wide mourning on Sunday for the Queen.

Kibithu camp renamed after General Rawat

He was killed in a helicopter crash

DINAKAR PERI
KIBITHU

The military camp at Kibithu, which is very close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh, has been renamed "General Bipin Rawat military garrison" in honour of the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), who was killed in a chopper crash last December.

Gen. Rawat's name is now associated with Kibithu, said Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu and sanctioned ₹10 crore to the garrison. We will make this one of the best garrison in the country, he announced.

Noting that the State shares borders with three countries, the longest being with China at 1,100 km, Mr. Khandu said that the Union government has taken up the development of northern borders and development of villages under the 'vibrant village' scheme. He said three villages – Kibithu, Walong, and Musai – are being developed under this scheme in first phase. The State government has its own parallel village development scheme.

Kibithu is a small hamlet on the banks of the Lohit Valley in the Rest of Arunachal Pradesh (RALP) close to the LAC. Gen. Rawat commanded his Battalion 5/11 Gorkha Rifles here as a Colonel from 1999 to 2000.

A gate built in local traditional architectural style was inaugurated by Governor Brigadier D.B. Mishra (retd). The 22-km road stretch from Walong to Kibithu was dedicated as General Bipin Rawat Marg by Mr. Khandu.

The event was attended by Lt. Gen. R.P. Kalita, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, Tarini, one of the two



The Kibithu military camp will be known as General Bipin Rawat garrison. ■ PTI

daughters of Gen. Rawat, and others. A life-size mural of the General was unveiled by the Governor at the event which was also attended by local people.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) Mi-17V5 helicopter with Gen. Rawat, his wife Madhulika Rawat and 12 others including his staff, the pilots and crew was en route to the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington from Sulur on December 8 when it crashed in the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu close to the destination.

A tri-services inquiry ordered by the IAF headed by Air Marshal Manendra Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command, found that the accident was a "result of entry into clouds due to unexpected change in weather conditions in the valley. This led to spatial disorientation of the pilot resulting in Controlled Flight into Terrain."

This January, on the eve of Republic Day, General Rawat was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan.

With massive infrastructure upgrade by China including setting up of civilian enclaves close to the LAC, India has also taken up development of civilian and military infrastructure across the board.

Punjab Governor to tour six districts bordering Pakistan

He will meet Sarpanches, officials of Centre, State agencies

VIKAS VASUDEVAN
CHANDIGARH

Amid persistent concerns over drugs, money, weapons and explosives being pushed from Pakistan into the Indian territory over the border by drones and other means, Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit has decided to visit six districts along the International Border in the State – Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur and Fazilka – in the coming week. His two-day tour will begin from Pathankot on Monday, a government source said.

Mr. Purohit will be meeting officers from Central and State government agencies accompanied by the Sarpanches of the border villages. The visit seeks to evolve a mechanism to strengthen security in these districts by



Banwarilal Purohit

involving local residents against the backdrop of frequent cross-border smuggling of drugs and weapons.

Interaction with people
The Governor will interact with people in certain villages and seek their cooperation in becoming the "eyes and ears" of the police and security forces, tipping them off if they come upon any

nefarious activity.

During the tour, the Governor is expected to meet senior officers of State and Central agencies, including the Border Security Force, the Intelligence Bureau, the Narcotics Control Bureau, the National Investigation Agency, and the Army's military intelligence, at Amritsar, to discuss issues involving national security in the border districts.

This will be Mr. Purohit's second visit to the border districts. In April this year, he made a similar visit along with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, on which he had said that while the security forces were doing their part, "local input and support" can go a long way in checking the influx of contraband, weapons and drugs into the State.

Be cautious of studying in China: Govt.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING

India has issued a detailed advisory for prospective students wanting to study medicine in China, cautioning them of the pitfalls, including poor pass percentage, mandatory learning of official spoken language Putonghua and stringent norms to qualify to practise in India.

According to official estimates, over 23,000 Indian students are currently enrolled in various Chinese universities. A vast majority of them are medical students. China has recently started issuing visas to a selected number of students to return. However, most of them struggled to return as there are no direct flights and the two countries are still in talks to work out limited flight facilities owing to Beijing's quarantine restrictions.

Army chief reviews Parbat Prahar

The exercise used newly inducted all-terrain vehicles transported by helicopters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Army chief General Manoj Pande visited the Ladakh sector on Saturday to review Exercise Parbat Prahar and was briefed on operational preparedness by the Commanders on the ground. The exercise saw the deployment of all new major inductions of the Army.

"He interacted with the officers and troops and complimented them for their steadfastness and professional standards," the Army said on Twitter.

The exercise, which was held in the Ladakh plateau at an altitude of 14,000 feet, used newly inducted all-terrain vehicles transported by



Army chief Gen. Manoj Pande visiting Ladakh and witnessing Exercise Parbat Prahar on Saturday. ■ TWITTER/@ADGPI

Chinook heavy lift helicopters and K9-Vajra howitzers, among others.

The exercise featured a display of operational capabilities by artillery guns and other key weapon systems.

Commander of the Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps Lt. Gen. Anindya Sengupta and other senior officials apprised Gen. Pande of the overall security situation. The exercise comes as India

and China are undertaking disengagement from Patrolling Point-15 in eastern Ladakh, as announced on September 8. Gen. Pande is scheduled to visit Siachen on Sunday.

Western front

Simultaneously on the western front, Exercise Gagan Strike culminated with a fire power display of attack helicopters supporting deep operations by Strike Corps. Western Army Commander Lt. Gen. Nav K. Khanduri, who witnessed the culmination, lauded the professional readiness of combat forces for contingencies on the western front, the Western Command said on Twitter.

**BJP names
Biplab Deb
for RS polls**

A CORRESPONDENT
AGARTALA

The BJP has nominated former Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb to contest the byelection to the lone Rajya Sabha seat in Tripura to be held on September 22.

The party announced the decision late on Friday night.

The announcement was made on a day the former Chief Minister was appointed *Prabhari* for the BJP's Haryana unit. Former Union Minister Mahesh Sharma was appointed *Prabhari* of Tripura in place of Vinod Kumar Sonkar.

Mr. Deb will contest the seat that was vacated by the current Chief Minister, Manik Saha, who took over the post from the former. Mr. Saha was sworn in as the Chief Minister on May 15.

The CPI(M) has nominated former Minister Bhanu Lal Saha for the contest.

Rights of J&K people under attack, says Farooq Abdullah

NC chief chairs multi-party meeting; allies oppose voting rights for outsiders

PEERZADA ASHIQ
JAMMU

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah, who chaired a multi-party meeting in Jammu on Saturday, opposed any move to grant voting rights to those from outside J&K, and added that the "rights of people of J&K are under attack".

"There was a consensus among all the parties that the onslaught needs to be stopped, especially the move to grant voting rights to outsiders in J&K," Dr. Abdullah said.

Slew of laws

New laws are being introduced in J&K day in and day out, and "our rights are under attack," he said.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Gupkar alliance, including Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)



Charting a plan: Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and others during a multi-party meeting in Jammu on Saturday. ■ PTI

president Mehbooba Mufti and Awami National Conference head Muzaffar Shah. Besides the alliance leaders, Congress State president Vaqar Rasool, Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party chairman Lal Singh, and leaders of the Akali Dal, Shiv Sena (Bal Thackery) and Mission Statehood participated.

Mission Statehood president Sunil Dimple demand-

ed that the voting rights be granted only to State subject (local people) holders of J&K.

Mr. Rasool sympathised with the cause, but clarified that the party had not formally joined the Gupkar alliance. "We attend any meeting organised by secular parties with a common agenda. The issue of inclusion of 25 lakh [voters] has baffled

us. We want clarification from the chief electoral officer. No clarification has been issued yet," he said.

Earlier, only State subjects, those who have been living in J&K since 1929, were allowed to register as voters. However, after the Centre ended J&K's special constitutional position in 2019, others can now register as voters in the Union Territory.

J&K Chief Electoral Officer Hirshdeep Kumar last month said many people who were not enlisted as voters in the erstwhile State of J&K were now eligible to vote, after the removal of special status of J&K in August 2019.

"Anyone who is living ordinarily can also use the opportunity to get enlisted as a voter in J&K in accordance with the provisions of representation of the Peoples Act," Mr. Kumar said.

'Local people ignored in hiring for hydel projects'

Will speak to PM Modi on the matter: Ghulam Nabi Azad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU



Former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is touring the Chenab valley in Jammu, on Saturday said local people were being ignored in employment in hydel projects, and pledged to raise the issue with the Prime Minister.

"Thousands of local educated, skilled and semi-skilled youth are being ignored for various jobs in local hydel power projects. Many outsiders are being given preference. Even the small and big contracts are being accorded to the outsiders and hundreds of labourers in these power projects have been brought from outside the Union Territory of J&K," Mr. Azad said.

He said unemployment had touched new heights in J&K. "If needed, I would meet the Prime Minister

scope for politics of appeasement of a particular community. It has to be inclusive," he said.

He sought an end to targeted killings by militants in the Kashmir Valley.

"Anyone willing to return should be provided security and accommodation," he said.

On his resignation from the Congress last month, Mr. Azad said, "I had two options – either to see the Congress dying while sitting mute inside, or come out of it, wage a struggle for justice to the people. So, I opted for the second option and came back to serve my people in my home State."

Mr. Azad, who is launching a political campaign from Sunday, said, "People's support has multiplied compared to the meetings I had held as a Congress leader in the past."

Cash seizures by Central agencies put Trinamool in a tight spot

With photographs of piles of seized cash seen regularly in media, West Bengal's ruling party is finding it hard to counter corruption allegations

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

As battle lines are drawn between the Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the role of Central investigating agencies, the recent "seizures" of large amounts of cash has put West Bengal's ruling party in a tight spot.

On Saturday, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) seized more than ₹7 crore in cash from the residence of a businessman in the Garden Reach area here, allegedly in connection with a mobile

gaming app fraud. This was the fifth seizure of cash by investigating agencies in the past two months, since the seizure of a large amount from the residence of an associate of former Minister and Trinamool leader Partha Chatterjee.

With photographs of piles of seized cash being aired and published regularly in media, the State's ruling party is finding it difficult to counter allegations of corruption. Though Saturday's seizure has no links to the Trinamool, several Ministers



Money trail: The money seized during raids against promoters of an alleged fraud mobile app, in Kolkata. ■ PTI

of the West Bengal Government targeted the Central investigation agencies over it.

West Bengal Minister and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim said that action needed to be

taken against the guilty, but the agencies were "destroying the economy of West Bengal" through a series of raids.

Chain of busts

The cash was seized from the residence of Kolkata-based businessman Nisar Ahmed Khan, whose son, Amir Khan, had launched a mobile application, e-nuggets, allegedly with a plan to cheat people.

The recent seizures began on July 23, when ₹23 crore in cash, along with gold ornaments, was seized by the ED from the residence of Arpita Mukherjee, former Trinamool Minister Partha Chatterjee's associate. A few days later, ₹27 crore was seized in cash from a different property of Ms. Mukherjee's. The ED made those seizures in connection with the school service recruitment scam.

The BJP State leadership, including Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Subendu Adhikari, has targeted Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the seizures and had alleged that the money

seized from Mr. Chatterjee's aide was "someone's else money".

While the Trinamool leadership has described the arrests of its leaders by the Central agencies as "politically motivated", the party chairperson has herself appeared concerned over the cash seizures.

Political observers say that alongside arrest of its key leaders, the Trinamool is concerned about public perception over the regular seizures of unaccounted-for cash.

MP moves court to join Preamble case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha member Binoy Viswam has moved the Supreme Court to intervene in a petition by former MP Subramanian Swamy that seeks to delete "secular" and "socialist" from the Preamble to the Constitution.

Mr. Viswam said the insertion of the words by the Constitution makers was with a clear intention to "keep Indian polity secular".

Will ensure BJP regains South Goa LS seat, says Narayan Rane

Minister also appointed in-charge of Mumbai South seat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI



and the Goa government during the pandemic and other development works will be highlighted."

'Not party's opinion'

On his son and MLA Nitesh Rane calling Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis as "Hinduhrday samrat", a term usually used for Shiv Sena founder late Bal Thackeray, the Union minister said that was not the party's opinion.

"This is not the BJP's opinion. He (Nitesh Rane) is in the BJP and likes Devendra Fadnavis and so he used the term," Mr. Rane said. "We should praise him (Nitesh Rane) for uttering some good words," he added.

Nitesh Rane, MLA from Kankavli, reportedly used the term during a rally in Ahmednagar.

The BJP's Narendra Sawarkar had failed to retain the seat in the 2019 LS polls. It was won by Francisco Sardinha of the Congress.

"We lost the 2019 polls by a margin of 10,000 votes.

We will increase our voter base in South Goa by adopting a progressive, development-oriented approach.

Work done by the Centre

I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the BJP's campaign in South Goa and Mumbai South for the 2024 general elections. We will ensure that the BJP wins the South Goa seat. Of the 20 MLAs of South Goa, 12 are from the BJP," Mr. Rane said.

He was addressing a press conference here along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP Goa president Sandanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar, State general secretaries Narendra Sawaikar and Damodar Naik.

"I have been given responsibility of the

M.P. first to draft suicide prevention strategy

Govt. constitutes a task force of experts to prepare report

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR

RAJPUT

Madhya Pradesh will be the first State in the country to prepare a draft suicide prevention strategy, State Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang said on Saturday.

A task force comprising a range of subject experts such as psychiatrists, legal experts, researchers, academics and social workers has been formed for this. Six sub-committees have been formed to analyse the causative and preventive strategies and the task force has been mandated to submit a report in two months.

"Each sub-committee has been given a specific mandate – such as understanding the sociological factors, suggesting preventive methods, devising ways to raise mass awareness and suggesting newer methods for the training of professionals and individuals. They will also look at how the laws can be strengthened or diluted to improve the situation and understand the inter-sectoral linkages in suicide prevention," Mr. Sarang told *The Hindu*.

The names in the task force include Mumbai-based Harish Shetty and D. Vijay Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of the National Law Institute University, Bhopal.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau's Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India 2020, a total of 1,53,052 sui-



Vishwas Sarang

cides were reported in the country with 14,578 reported from Madhya Pradesh, the third highest in the country.

At 17.4%, the suicide rate (instances per one lakh population) was above the national average of 11.3.

On the State's existing suicide-prevention infrastructure, Mr. Sarang said the latest effort was not aimed specifically at Madhya Pradesh but the government viewed the problem as universal and strategy would suggest measures to reduce suicides everywhere.

"Suicide is undoubtedly a big problem in society and every section of it is affected by it. We witness frequent cases of suicide, and this is definitely linked to mental health. To check this and find a solution to this problem, we have come up with an extensive action plan," Mr. Sarang said.

Vice-Chancellor Anand Bhale Rao told *The Hindu* that the researchers would measure the atmospheric "trace gases", present in small

University dives into desert dust's impact on air quality

ISRO-funded project will look to check the degrading air quality in Rajasthan through field studies

MOHAMMED IQBAL

JAIPUR

Researchers at the Central University of Rajasthan (CUR) have started studying the impact of desert dust and emissions by human activity on air quality and climate change, under a project funded by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The research falls within the domain of atmospheric chemistry.

The Kishangarh-based university is the first academic institution to get a research grant from the country's national space agency, ISRO, headquartered in Bengaluru. The university's Department of Atmospheric Science will look for remedies to curb the menace of degrading air quality in the State by deploying new instruments and conducting field studies.

Vice-Chancellor Anand Bhale Rao told *The Hindu* that the researchers would measure the atmospheric "trace gases", present in small



A view of the Central University of Rajasthan, situated in Kishangarh. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

amounts, influenced by dominance of desert dust and natural and anthropogenic emissions. "Our mission is to study the changes in atmospheric chemistry and recommend measures to improve the quality of air for both flora and fauna," he said.

Professor Bhale Rao said the university had earlier worked with the Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre for three years under a project for stratified

ambient air with the help of state-of-the-art instruments and advance the scientific understanding of physical, chemical and photochemical processes of atmospheric particles, gases and radicals.

"The scale of the issue is so huge that a Nobel Prize was awarded in 2007 to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), along with former U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, for disseminating knowledge about climate change to facilitate steps to tackle it," Chinmay Mallik, assistant professor in the Department of Atmospheric Science, said.

The facilities developed in the project will be clubbed with funding from other projects, such as the Department of Science & Technology's Science and Engineering Research Board and University Grants Commission's start-up, to establish a state-of-the-art atmospheric chemistry laboratory in the university.

The lab will study varied influences of factors such as vehicular emissions and desert dust.

Veteran archaeologist B.B. Lal passes away

PM, ASI officials offer condolences

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

B.B. Lal, former Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), passed away on Saturday, Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy said.

"In the passing of Prof BB Lal Ji, we have lost one of the brightest minds who has contributed significantly towards our archaeological excavations & endeavours and trained archeologists for over 4 decades," Mr. Reddy tweeted, mourning Lal's demise.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his sadness over the passing of the renowned archaeologist.

"Shri BB Lal was an outstanding personality. His contributions to culture and archaeology are unparalleled. He will be remembered as a great intellectual who deepened our connect with our rich past. Pained by his demise. My thoughts are with his family and friends. Om Shanti," Mr. Modi tweeted.

B.R. Mani, former Additional Director-General of ASI, was among several scholars and senior officials of ASI who attended Lal's funeral. "He was a tall figure and a veteran archaeologist. He was my teacher and mentored four generations. I met his family members to express my condolences. His son told me that he died Saturday around 8:40 am at his home in Hauz Khas," Mr. Mani said.

Asked about the excavation in Ayodhya, which Lal had led, he said, "The site was near Babri Masjid. It took place in the mid-1970s, but no report was made."

(With inputs from PTI)



B.B. Lal

contribution to archaeology was "beyond measure".

"The contribution of Padma Vibhushan Prof BB Lal in Archaeology is beyond measure. A doyen in his field, he devoted his entire 101-year life to the subject. He may be gone but his work lives on & will continue to teach & influence generations to come. Our homage to the great soul," the ASI said in a tweet.

B.R. Mani, former Additional Director-General of ASI, was among several scholars and senior officials of ASI who attended Lal's funeral. "He was a tall figure and a veteran archaeologist. He was my teacher and mentored four generations. I met his family members to express my condolences. His son told me that he died Saturday around 8:40 am at his home in Hauz Khas," Mr. Mani said.

Asked about the excavation in Ayodhya, which Lal had led, he said, "The site was near Babri Masjid. It took place in the mid-1970s, but no report was made."

(With inputs from PTI)

Gender no marker for treating heart disease

Similar associations of risk factors found in global, multi-centric study involving 1.55 lakh participants

RAMYA KANNAN

CHENNAI

A global, multi-centric study with over 1.55 lakh participants has shown that risk factors for cardiovascular disease were similar in high, low and middle income countries, and largely among both men and women, with a few differences only, the results of a recent *Lancet* publication has shown.

The study also found lipid markers (cholesterol) and depression are more strongly associated with the risk of cardiovascular disease in men than in women, whereas diet is more strongly associated with the same risk in women than in men.

The similar associations of other risk factors with cardiovascular disease in women and men emphasise the

In this period, women had 4,280 major cardiovascular disease events while in men, it was 4,911. Compared with men, women presented with a more favourable cardiovascular risk profile, especially at younger ages, the authors Marjan Walli-Attaei et al have said.

The study also found lipid markers (cholesterol) and depression are more strongly associated with the risk of cardiovascular disease in men than in women, whereas diet is more strongly associated with the same risk in women than in men.

Significantly, the patterns of these findings were gener-

ally similar in high-income countries and upper-middle-income countries, and in low-income and lower-middle-income countries.

Indian input

The India collaborators for the study included Eternal Heart Care Centre and Research Institute, Jaipur; Madras Diabetes Research Foundation and Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre, Chennai; India SUT Academy of Medical Sciences, Vattapara, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala; Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh; and De-

partment of Physiology, St. John's Medical College and Hospital, Bangalore.

V. Mohan of the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, one of the authors of the study, says: "This is the first study to compare cardiovascular disease in 21 high, middle and low-income countries, studying all the risk factors with almost an equal distribution of men and women."

Small differences in risk factors for cardiovascular disease in women and men notwithstanding, the study makes it clear that strategies to prevent cardiovascular disease in both women and men should be similar, he added.

Bangladesh invites CMs of NE States

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

DHAKA

Bangladesh has invited the Chief Ministers of all north-eastern States of India for an early visit, Bangladesh Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said here on Saturday.

At a media event organised by the Editors Guild of Bangladesh, Mr. Alam said there were several projects concerning Northeast India that were discussed during the just-concluded visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India, adding that both sides were determined to take the relationship to the "second phase".

"We requested the Indian Minister of Development of North East Region G. Kishan Reddy to visit Bangladesh, along with all the Chief Ministers of the northeast, when they can also be accompanied by high-profile officials and business representatives," Mr. Alam said.

The Minister noted that there were several initiatives that were put forth by Mr. Reddy in course of the bilateral talks during Ms. Hasina's visit to Delhi and that Ms. Hasina had given her consent to implement some of these schemes.

The Minister said that Ms. Hasina appreciated the ideas that were proposed by Mr. Reddy during the bilateral talks in Delhi, and that the India side was expected to process Dhaka's invite for the Chief Ministers of northeastern States.

Railways likely to review use of detonators

Practice of using explosives has held on despite advancements in communication technologies

S. VIJAY KUMAR

CHENNAI

The Indian Railways is considering withdrawing a decades-old policy of guards protecting the rear of the train stopped at home signal using explosives to prevent a collision.

Passenger and freight trains being stopped at the first stop signal or a home signal ahead of railway stations is a usual practice owing to operational reasons like the availability of line/path for the incoming train.

However, when the detonation of such trains exceeds 15 minutes, the general rules for Indian Railways prescribe for the guard to protect the rear of the train from any possible collision by a

guard multiple minor explosions with a loud noise when a train passes on them giving an alert to the loco pilot of obstruction ahead.

The practice continued despite advancements in signal and communication technologies over the years.

In a proposal sent to the Railway Board, Ajoy Kumar Behera, the Principal Chief Operations Manager of East Coast Railway, said in day-to-day operations there were numerous instances of trains, mostly freight trains, being brought to a stop at the rear after 15 minutes in Absolute Block System.

Since the policy decision would impact train operations across the network, the Railway Board has written to General Managers of all zonal railways calling for their views on withdrawing or modifying the rules, sources in the railways said.

train approaching from behind.

The guard is duty-bound to place detonators at certain distances that will trig-

ger count of lines not being available at the station.

Mr. Behera said it was felt if the train stops at the home signal, irrespective of whether the cause is apparent or not, there may not be any need to protect the train at the rear after 15 minutes in Absolute Block System.

The Minister said that there were several initiatives that were put forth by Mr. Reddy in course of the bilateral talks during Ms. Hasina's visit to Delhi and that Ms. Hasina had given her consent to implement some of these schemes.

The Minister noted that there were several initiatives that were put forth by Mr. Reddy in course of the bilateral talks during Ms. Hasina's visit to Delhi and that Ms. Hasina had given her consent to implement some of these schemes.

The Minister said that Ms. Hasina appreciated the ideas that were proposed by Mr. Reddy during the bilateral talks in Delhi, and that the India side was expected to process Dhaka's invite for the Chief Ministers of northeastern States.

Consultation afoot: The Railway Board awaits the views of General Managers of all zonal railways. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

Photo: V.V. Krishnan

King Charles III proclaimed Britain's monarch

He says he is aware of the great inheritance and responsibilities of sovereignty, vows to follow the inspiring Queen

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

With a trumpet fanfare and gun salutes, Charles III was officially proclaimed King at a pomp-filled ceremony on Saturday, at which he pledged to emulate his late mother Queen Elizabeth II and serve for the rest of his life.

A court official wearing a feathered bicorne hat declared Charles "our only lawful and rightful" monarch from the balcony of St James's Palace after a historic Accession Council meeting of senior royals, clergy and government.

The centuries-old tradition of the council was televised live for the first time as it officially announced the 73-year-old King Charles as monarch after seven decades as heir apparent.

"I am deeply aware of this great inheritance and of the duties and heavy responsibilities of sovereignty, which

have now passed to me," King Charles said in a speech before swearing an oath.

"In taking up these responsibilities, I shall strive to follow the inspiring example I have been set."

Eight trumpeters accompanied the proclamation that was followed by a rousing three cheers for the new king by red-jacketed Coldstream Guards soldiers, doffing their distinctive bearskin hats.

Ceremonial gun salutes boomed simultaneously across the U.K. and the proclamation – a relic from the past where the new monarch needed to be announced to their subjects – was also read publicly in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

King Charles automatically became monarch upon the Queen's death aged 96 on Thursday, but the proclamation is the latest step in the setpiece 10-day programme building up to her state funeral.



Reign begins: King Charles III greeting the members of the crowd in London on Saturday. •AFP

An emotional King Charles set the tone for his reign in a televised address on Friday in which he hailed his "darling mama" for her "unswerving devotion" during her record-breaking seven decades on the throne.

The speech dominated the front pages of Britain's newspapers on Saturday, with his heartfelt tribute to his mother headlining the *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Ex-*

press, *Daily Mail* and *The Sun*.

King Charles looking pensive as he arrived at Buckingham Palace for the first time as king made the front page image on *The Independent*, *The Guardian* and *The Times*, which also carried the words "God Save the King".

King Charles also named his elder son and heir Prince William, 40, as the new

Prince of Wales, while expressing love for his younger son Harry and daughter-in-law Meghan. The move means Prince William's wife Kate assumes the Princess of Wales title once held by his mother and King Charles' ex-wife, the late Princess Diana.

But in an unannounced move, the two brothers emerged with their wives to speak to well-wishers outside Windsor Castle outside London.

The younger generation of royals shook hands with the crowd, although they remained on opposite sides of the road.

Have to move on'

Crowds have also massed outside Buckingham Palace both to mourn the Queen and to wish King Charles well, greeting him with cheers and even kisses when he arrived from Scotland on Friday. "I'm sad, but you have to move on. I think the

king will be different," said 53-year-old Londoner Sarah Berdien. "The Queen has always been the Queen – always the same, no drama."

Recruitment worker Dany Van Laanen, 36, said King Charles has "big shoes to fill" as he replaces his widely venerated mother, who was the only monarch that most in the U.K. had ever known. "I do hope he will manage to modernise the monarchy."

King Charles – who has seen his popularity recover in recent years from the time of Diana's death in a 1997 car crash – takes the throne at a moment of deep anxiety in Britain over the spiralling cost of living and the Ukraine crisis.

The constitutional monarch, who is supposed to remain outside politics, has intimated he will now steer clear of pronouncements on issues that he has previously been outspoken on such as climate change.



Blown to pieces: A destroyed military tank lies on a road at Balakliya in the Kharkiv region on Saturday. •AFP

Russia announces troop pullback from Kharkiv

Kyiv claims advances in east Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KHARKIV

Russia's Defence Ministry said on Saturday that it is pulling back forces from two areas in Ukraine's Kharkiv region where a Ukrainian counter offensive has made significant advances in the past week.

Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said the troops would be regrouped from the Balakliya and Izyum areas to the Donetsk region. Izyum was a major base for Russian forces in the Kharkiv region.

Mr. Konashenkov said the move is being made "in order to achieve the stated goals of the special military operation to liberate Donbas", one of the eastern Ukraine regions that Russia has declared sovereign.

The claim of pullback to concentrate on Donetsk is similar to the justification Russia gave for pulling back its forces from the Kyiv region earlier this year.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces said on Saturday they had entered the town of Kupiansk in east Ukraine, a key supply hub that had been held by invading Russian forces for several months.

Kyiv's Army in recent days has been pushing

deeper into the east of the country, routing Russian forces in a counter-offensive that officials say has seen some 30 towns and villages in the northeastern region of Kharkiv liberated.

Ukrainian special forces published images on social media, which they said showed their officers "in Kupiansk".

The town "was and will always be Ukrainian," the statement added.

The images showed a handful of camouflage-clad soldiers carrying automatic weapons gathered around an armoured vehicle.

A regional official separately posted an image of Ukrainian soldiers in the east Ukrainian town of around 27,000 people alongside the text: "Kupiansk is Ukraine."

The town was captured by Russian forces less than one week after Moscow launched its full-scale of invasion of Ukraine on February 24.

The complete capture of Kupiansk by Ukrainian forces would pose a serious problem for Moscow as the town sits on supply routes towards other Russian positions on the eastern frontline.

Queen Elizabeth II's funeral on Sept. 19

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

The state funeral for Queen Elizabeth II will be held at Westminster Abbey in London at 11:00 a.m. on September 19, royal officials said on Saturday.

Buckingham Palace also confirmed that the Queen, who died on Thursday aged 96, will then be taken to St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, west of London, for a committal service.

The Queen's body is currently in an oak coffin, with a wreath of flowers on top, in the ballroom of Balmoral Castle, in northeast Scotland. Royal officials called it

"a scene of quiet dignity".

The Queen's coffin will be taken on a 290-km trip by road from the remote estate to the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh on Sunday.

In the Scottish capital, the coffin will be taken from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to St Giles's Cathedral to lie at rest until Tuesday.

It will then be taken by air to Buckingham Palace in London, before lying-in-state at Westminster Hall from Wednesday.

The funeral is expected to be the "biggest policing and protective operation" in U.K. history.



Britain's Prince William, left, with Prince Harry in London. •REUTERS

that his time on the throne will come sooner rather than later.

Prince William has in re-

Prince William pays tribute to 'Grannie'

'She was by my side at my happiest moments & during the saddest days of my life'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Prince William on Saturday promised to honour the memory of Queen Elizabeth II by supporting his father, King Charles III, "in every way", in a heartfelt statement after his grandmother's death.

In his first comments since the Queen's death and as the newly appointed Prince of Wales, William, 40, said "it would be some time before the reality of life without Grannie will truly feel real".

Prince William has become heir now that his father is King, with expectations

cent years taken up more of official duties due to the Queen's age and ill health in a clear sign of his future role.

He called the Queen an "extraordinary leader",

praising her "absolute" commitment to Britain, the Commonwealth and the 14 other countries where she was also head of state.

"So much will be said in the days ahead about the meaning of her historic reign," he added.

"I, however, have lost a grandmother. And while I grieve her loss, I also feel incredibly grateful."

Prince William – King Charles' elder son from his

first marriage to the late Princess Diana – said he had benefited from the Queen's wisdom and reassurance throughout his life.

"She was by my side at my happiest moments. And she was by my side during the saddest days of my life," said Prince William.

"I thank her for the kindness she showed my family and me. And I thank her on behalf of my generation for providing an example of service and dignity in public life that was from a different age, but always relevant to us all."

"My grandmother famously said that grief was the price we pay for love."

+ Taliban close girls schools in east that had briefly opened

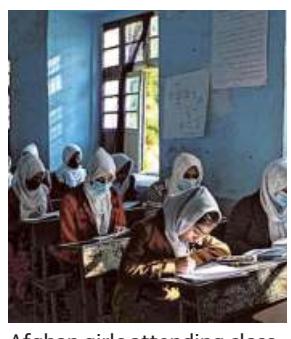
Dozens of former students protest on the streets of Gardez

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

Taliban authorities on Saturday shut down girls schools above the sixth grade in eastern Afghanistan's Paktia province, according to witnesses and social media posts. The schools had briefly opened after a recommendation by tribal elders and school principals.

Earlier this month, four girls schools above grade 6 in Gardez, the provincial capital, and one in the Samangan district began operating without formal permission from the Taliban Education Ministry.

On Saturday, all five



Afghan girls attending class at the Tajrobawai Girls High School in Herat. •AP

schools were once again closed by the Taliban.

Dozens of tearful former students protested on Saturday in the streets of Gardez,

according to social media posts.

Mohammad Sediq, a resident of Gardez, said he had been happy that his two sisters could go to school, but the Taliban disappointed him by closing the girls schools.

A year after the Taliban took power in Afghanistan, teenage girls are still barred from school and women are required to cover themselves from head to toe in public, with only their eyes showing.

Hard-liners appear to hold sway in the Taliban-led government despite initial promises to the contrary.

U.S. nod to \$40 mn aid to Sri Lanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

The United States on Saturday announced \$40 million in aid to buy fertilizer and other key agricultural inputs in time for the next cultivation season in crisis-hit Sri Lanka.

USAID Administrator Samantha Power, who is visiting Sri Lanka, made the announcement after she met farmer representatives in Ja-Ela outside Colombo.

She said the money will be in addition to the \$6 million announced earlier to assist low income farmers.

Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis and acute shortages of essentials like food, fuel and medicines.

E-mail: aceijlpr.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PWD ZONE-I JAIPUR
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Infront of Jaipur Club, Jaipur (O) 0141-2223525
No. ACE-I/Zone-I/INIT No. 09/2022-23/D-1490 Date: 06.09.2022

NOTICE INVITING BID

Redevelopment/reconstruction of Rajasthan House at New Delhi on EPC Mode work in New Delhi is invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 P.M. dated 07.09.2022 to 06.10.2022. Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppr.raj.nic.in>) of the state; and pwd.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 130.00 Cr.
UBN: PWD2223WLRC06934

(V.L. DHANKHAR)
Additional Chief Engineer
P.W.D. Zone-I Jaipur
DIPR/C/11666

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES ZONE, UDAIPUR
Near Akashvani Chetki Circle, Udaipur (Rajasthan) 313001
Phone no. : 0294-2414794 Email- acudaipur2019@gmail.com
No. ACE/Actt./Durgarpur/2022-23/J3555 Dated 02/09/2022

E-NIT No. 12/2022-23

Bids for the work "Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Amarpara Minor Irrigation Project, Simwara, Distt- Dungarpur" are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM, dated 28.09.2022. The approximate value of procurement is Rs. 1,372.52 lacs.

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppr.rajasthan.gov.in>, www.water.rajasthan.gov.in & www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in NIB :- WRD2223A0336 UBN:- WRD2223WLOB01241 Additional Chief Engineer Water Resources Zone, Udaipur

SOUTHERN RAILWAY (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION)
E - Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-1-13-2022-2023 & T-SG-36-AMC-ISS2-22-23 DT.07.09.2022.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchirappalli invites online tender on behalf of The President of India, for the following works up to 14.00 hrs on 29.09.2022.

Item No. **Tender Notice No.** **Name of the Work**

1. T-SG-36-1-13-2022-2023 S&T work in connection with various Engineering works over TRJ Division.

2. T-SG-36-AMC- ISS2-22-23 Comprehensive annual maintenance contract of Integrated Surveillance System (ISS) at Tiruchirappalli station and Comprehensive AMC for the CCTV cameras at outdoor locations of Tiruchirappalli junction station for two years.

Item No. **Cash Value in Lakhs** **Earnest Money Deposit Amt** **Validity Offer** **Period of Completion in months**

1. ₹ 133.81 Lakhs ₹ 2,16,900/- 60 Days Twelve Months

2 ₹ 9.45 Lakhs ₹ 18,900/- 45 Days Twenty Four Months

Closing Date and Time: 29.09.2022 @ 14:00 Hrs

If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time. The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued will be accessed through <https://www.ireps.gov.in> GST will apply as per extant norms of GOI.

Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, DRM office complex, Tiruchirappalli - 620001

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

SOUTHERN RAILWAY ELECTRICAL (TRD) BR

SNAPSHOTS

**Ozone layer damage**

Smoke from Australia's extreme wildfires between December 2019 and February 2020 increased atmospheric temperatures and probably made the hole in the ozone layer bigger. The plumes of smoke that rose into the atmosphere caused temperatures to spike by 3°C over Australia.

**Flood in Pakistan**

With rivers breaking their banks, glacial lakes bursting, Pakistan is experiencing its worst floods this century. At least one-third of the country is under water, some 33 million people have been displaced and more than 1,200 have died. Scientists say that heatwaves and a stronger monsoon led to floods.

**No difference**

The updated COVID-19 vaccines that have been approved in the U.S. and the U.K. offer roughly the same protection as existing vaccines, suggests a preprint. The analysis found that the Omicron-specific boosters have marginal benefits compared with an extra dose of older vaccines.

Why cloudburst forecast in India still remains elusive

Monitoring stations on the ground can hardly capture cloudburst characteristics due to their highly localised and short occurrence

ROXY MATHEW KOLL

Cloudbursts occur over a small geographical region of 20 to 30 sq. km.

In India, cloudbursts often occur during the monsoon season, when the southwesterly monsoon winds bring in copious amounts of moisture inland. The moist air that converges over land gets lifted as they encounter the hills. The moist air reaches an altitude and gets saturated, and the water starts condensing out of the air forming clouds. This is how clouds usually form, but such an orographic lifting together with a strong moisture convergence can lead to intense cumulonimbus clouds taking in huge volumes of moisture that is dumped during cloudbursts.

Tall cumulonimbus clouds can develop in about half an hour as the moisture updraft happens rapidly, at a pace of 60 to 120 km/hr. A single-cell cloud may last for an hour and dump all the rain in the last 20 to 30 minutes, while some of these clouds merge to form multi-cell storms and last for several hours.

More prone areas

Cloudbursts, hence, occur mostly over the rugged terrains over the Himalayas, the Western Ghats, and northeastern hill States of India. The heavy spells of rain on the fragile steep slopes trigger landslides, debris flows, and flash floods, causing large-scale destruction and loss of people and property.

Recent cloudbursts that caused significant devastation occurred over the Himalayan foothills in Himachal Pradesh (in the year 2003), Ladakh (2010), and Uttarakhand (2013). Cloudbursts were reported from the northeastern States and Western Ghats States during



Causal Factor: Strong monsoon wind surges along the coast can result in cloudbursts. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Why forecasting cloudbursts is a challenge

Efforts to monitor and forecast cloudbursts are still at a nascent stage

1 As per the IMD definition, over 100 mm of rainfall in one hour is called a cloudburst. It usually occurs over a small geographical area (20-30 sq. km).

2 Rainfall of 100 mm per 2 hours translates to 100 litres for every square metre where a cloudburst occurs. For a small region of 20 sq. km, it is about two billion litres of water in an hour.

3 Tall cumulonimbus clouds causing cloudbursts can develop quickly (in about 30 minutes) as the moisture

updraft happens rapidly – 60–120 km/hr

4 Cloudbursts occur mostly over the rugged terrains over the Himalayas, Western Ghats, and northeastern hill States of India

5 In India, cloudbursts often occur during the monsoon season, when the SW monsoon winds bring in copious amounts of moisture inland

6 Satellites fail to detect cloudburst systems as the resolution of the

precipitation radars are much smaller than the area of individual cloudburst events

7 Multiple doppler weather radars can monitor moving cloud droplets and help to provide forecast for the next three hours. But radars are expensive and installing them widely may not be feasible

8 The change in monsoon extremes and cloudbursts are in response to the 1-degree Celsius rise in global surface temperature

the precipitation radars of these satellites can be much smaller than the area of individual cloudburst events, and hence they go undetected. Weather forecast models also face a similar challenge in simulating the clouds at a high resolution.

The skillful forecasting of rainfall in hilly regions remains challenging due to the uncertainties in the interaction between the moisture convergence and the hilly terrain, the cloud micro-physics, and the heating-cooling mechanisms at different atmospheric levels. The IMD's forecasts, and in general, the weather prediction scenario, have advanced such that widespread extreme rains can be predicted two-three days in advance. Cyclones can be predicted about one week in advance. However, cloudburst forecasts still remain elusive.

Multiple doppler weather radars can be used to monitor moving cloud droplets and help to provide nowcasts (forecasts for the next three hours). This can be a quick measure for providing warnings, but radars are an expensive affair, and installing them across the country may not be practically feasible.

A long-term measure would be mapping the cloudburst-prone regions using automatic rain gauges. If cloudburst-prone regions are co-located with landslide-prone regions, these locations can be designated as hazardous. The risk at these locations would be huge, and people should be moved, and construction and mining in nearby regions should be restricted as that can aggravate the landslides and flash flood impacts.

Climate change is projected to increase the frequency

and intensity of cloudbursts worldwide. As the air gets warmer, it can hold more moisture and for a longer time. We call this the Clausius-Clapeyron relationship. A 1-degree Celsius rise in temperature may correspond to a 7-10% increase in moisture and rainfall. This increase in rainfall amount does not get spread moderately throughout the season. As the moisture holding capacity of air increases, it results in prolonged dry periods intermittent with short spells of extreme rains. More deeper cumulonimbus clouds form and the chances of cloudbursts also increase.

Frequent occurrences

Cloudbursts are reported frequently from across the country. The climate change signal is conspicuous, but we do not have long-term (20 years or more) hourly data to attest it. With IMD enhancing its automatic weather stations, we may have hourly data that can help map cloudburst-prone regions.

The change in monsoon extremes and cloudbursts we see now are in response to the 1-degree Celsius rise in global surface temperature. As emissions continue to increase and global commitment to reduce emissions proves insufficient, these temperatures are set to hit 1.5°C during 2020-2040 and 2°C during 2040-2060. We will need urgent action and policies to protect lives and property from extreme events that will amplify as the global temperature change doubles.

(Roxy Mathew Koll is a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and a lead author and reviewer of recent IPCC reports.)

Aiming to build molecular neuromorphic computing technology

This can pave the way for computing that mimics the brain and helps establish artificial intelligence

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

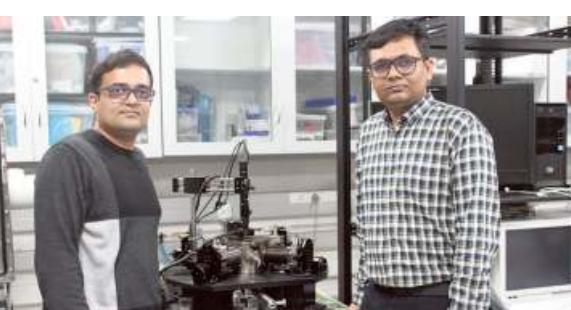
Artificial Intelligence and machine learning can cause a veritable revolution in the working of the world today, yet their development is hindered by the fact that the present state of the art in electronics does not match up to what is needed.

In a move towards developing devices that can mimic the workings of neurons in the brain, researchers from Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (IISc), have designed neuromorphic devices using organic materials that have not been used hitherto. Their work since 2014 aimed towards this.

Organic materials had

been considered the poorest of different material types in making computing components because they were fragile and unstable. "We chose this genre as our horse for the race because we believed that if there was a way to resolve these performance issues, the functionalities we could extract out of these materials could blow anything else that exists," says Sreetosh Goswami from the Centre for Nanoscience and Engineering (CeNSE), IISc.

He and his collaborators have published significant papers in this field since 2017 in *Nature Materials*, *Nature Nanotechnology*, *Advanced Materials* and *Nature*, establishing that organic mate-



Advantage: The same device can be operated in analog and digital regime by tuning the activation energy, says Sreetosh Goswami (left). ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

rials can compute reliably and, in some aspects, are even better than inorganic materials. "The molecular system (transition metal complexes of azo aromatic ligands) is a brainchild of my father, Prof. Sreebrata Goswami," says Dr. Sreetosh Goswami in an email to *The Hindu*.

The plastic brain
The human brain which inspired the researchers in their work, in the words of Sreebrata Goswami, who is now with CeNSE, IISc, "vastly outperforms any artificial electronic analogues in terms of its learning, cognition and decision-making ability." Its remarkable per-

formance uses up just 20 watt of power over a space of 1260 cc. Some of the properties that it exhibits which are desirable include interconnectedness and reconfigurability.

"The neurons in the brain operate on the verge of chaos with a highly non-linear feedback mechanism. We are in search of materials that can capture such properties, an elusive goal..." ex-

plains Prof. Sreebrata Goswami.

Functionalities
Molecular materials are characterised by interactions between molecules and ions, which then present a multi-dimensional landscape of parameter space that can be tinkered with to develop suitable functionalities. The question they asked in a recent paper published in *Advanced Materials* was whether they could manipulate these many-body interactions to achieve plasticity and reconfigurability in the devices. They did this by measuring the current-voltage curves as a function of temperature over a wide range. They could capture

responses quenched, or flattened out as temperature was lowered. "We could make it work because our molecular devices are robust, and the switching mechanisms have a thermodynamic component that still occurs even when the device is cooled," says Santi Prasad Rath, who is a Post-Doc at CeNSE, IISc, and the first author of the paper published in *Advanced Materials*.

Dr. Sreetosh Goswami says, "We are fairly confident that we will be able to develop a functional neuromorphic platform based on our metal complexes which could be world's first molecular neuromorphic technology."

JNCASR's novel molecule prevents obesity in mice

Currently, there are no reliable drugs available for obesity and its associated disorders

**TAPAS K. KUNDU
ADITYA BHATTACHARYA**

In spite of all the discipline of diet and exercise, are you still finding it difficult to stay in shape? The developed world suffers from numerous cases of obesity due to a more sedentary mode of life offered by the comforts of the first world. In contrast, in the developing world, due to irregular food habits and economic stress, a large number of individuals have an accumulation of visceral fat in the stomach area as well as in the liver.

Although obesity is more of a lifestyle-related health disorder, it can lead to several other diseases such as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, diabetes and osteoarthritis. Surprisingly, there are no reliable drugs available for obesity and its associated disorders.

While there are several drugs undergoing clinical trials for tackling obesity, many have already fallen through due to undesirable side effects in human patients.



Safe: Pre-clinical studies indicate that the molecule is almost non-toxic in nature, say Tapas Kundu (right) and Aditya Bhattacharya. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

molecule that could specifically inhibit this modification and thereby arrest or ameliorate obesity.

After many years of effort, we could finally demonstrate that one such semi-synthetic derivative of garcinol, a molecule naturally found in *Garcinia indica* (kokum) fruit rind, could selectively reduce the levels of this modification by inhibiting the catalytic activity of the enzyme responsible for it – the master epigenetic

enzyme p300. Since this molecule (LTK-14A) is very specific for only one enzymatic activity of the multi-functional enzyme p300, we expected minimal toxicity from this compound for biological applications.

Protective effect
As per traditional knowledge, kokum (*Garcinia indica*) extracts have been known to have a protective

effect against obesity. However, its exact molecular targets were not known. Furthermore, its major chemical constituent garcinol was found to be toxic as it targets many enzymes non-specifically.

This discovery is all set for

the next stages of drug development.

Our work on the discovery of this novel regulatory mechanism of obesity manifestation and its specific inhibitor has recently been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*.

This entire work is a result

of a collaboration between scientists from the Transcription and Disease Laboratory, Molecular Biology and Genetics Unit of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru and CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.

(Tapas K. Kundu and Aditya Bhattacharya are from the Transcription and Disease Laboratory, Molecular Biology and Genetics Unit, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru.)

indicate that this molecule is almost non-toxic. To increase its efficacy, we have also made a formulation with this molecule as its active component.

This discovery is all set for

the next stages of drug

development.

Our work on the discovery of this novel regulatory mechanism of obesity manifestation and its specific inhibitor has recently been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*.

This entire work is a result of a collaboration between scientists from the Transcription and Disease Laboratory, Molecular Biology and Genetics Unit, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru.)

seen around a star called an M-dwarf.

As the scientists looked at 43 planets, they saw a surprising picture. The densities of a large percentage of the planets suggested that they were too light for their size to be made up of pure rock. Instead, these planets are probably something like half rock and half water, or lighter molecule.

These planets are so close to their suns that any water on the surface would exist in a supercritical gaseous phase, which would enlarge their radius. That suggests the water is not in the form of oceans or rivers on the surface.

"It was a surprise to see evidence for so many water worlds orbiting the most common type of star in the galaxy," Rafael Luque from the University of Chicago said in a release.

Scientists from the Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands and the University of La Laguna decided to take a population-level look at a group of planets that are

Question Corner

Discovering water

How common are water-containing exoplanets?

A new study suggests that many more planets may have large amounts of water than previously thought – as much as half water and half rock. The catch? All that water is probably embedded in the rock, rather than flowing as oceans or rivers on the surface. Instead, the water could exist mixed into the rock or in pockets below the surface. The finding matches a theory of exoplanet formation that had fallen out of favour in the past few years, which suggested that many planets form farther out in their solar systems and migrate inward over time.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in



Big test: Dog trappers capturing stray dogs for administering anti-rabies vaccine. ■ VISHNU PRATHAP

Risk from rabies

Which virus causes the disease? What is the treatment protocol? Are vaccines effective?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: The death of a 12-year-old girl in Kerala from rabies, despite having multiple inoculations of the vaccine, has raised questions on the efficacy of rabies vaccines in India and their availability.

How does a rabies vaccine work?

■ Rabies is a disease that is caused by a family of viruses called the lyssaviruses and found in a range of mammals. The virus targets the central nervous system and is nearly 100% fatal to the host animal if it succeeds in infecting it. Though many animals from cats to crocodiles can be transmitters of the virus, it is most likely to spread to people from the bite of an infected dog or a cat as they are the most common pets. Despite being potentially lethal, the virus is slow-moving and it can be several weeks before the disease manifests into a fatal encephalitis which is why administering a vaccine, even after being bitten by a rabid animal, is effective. A shot of rabies immunoglobulin (rabies-antibodies against the virus derived either from people or horses) followed by a four-week course of anti-rabies vaccine, is nearly guaranteed to prevent rabies. This translates to the first dose being given on the same day as the immunoglobulin followed by vaccinations on the 3rd, 7th and 14th day. There are other regimens, such as five shots which include one on the 28th day approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) which clinics may consider, depending on the availability of the vaccine.

How is the vaccine made?

■ The vaccine is made up of an inactivated virus that is expected to induce the body into producing antibodies that can neutralise the live virus in case of infection. There are also test vaccines that involve genetically modified viruses. There is no single-shot rabies vaccine or one that offers permanent immunity. There are mainly two ways of administering the rabies vaccine.

It is widely known that vaccinating dogs is essential for the elimination of rabies. But experts say that like in people, vaccinating animals doesn't guarantee lifelong immunity from the disease

(PrEP). The advantage of a PrEP is that if bitten, one doesn't need a immunoglobulin injection, and two subsequent shots of the vaccine will suffice for full protection, unlike the four-course prescription in the case of PEP. However, the WHO doesn't recommend PrEP as a general preventive.

Are rabies vaccines easily available in India?

■ According to the Health Ministry, there are at least six rabies vaccines approved for India. They all contain inactivated virus made of duck, chicken or human cell cultures and are marked as safe, efficacious and with long immunity. Rabies vaccines are available for free in government dispensaries though vaccines administered in a private clinic can cost up to ₹500 per dose. However, reports of hospitals running out of vaccines continue to surface and knowledge about vaccines and treatment is still inadequate in India. The Health Ministry has said that no centralised database of vaccine availability is maintained, being a State-procured product, but that shortage had been reported in Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal and Karnataka. The Centre says that from 2016-18, around 300 laboratory-confirmed rabies deaths were reported in India. The WHO says India is endemic for rabies and accounts for 36% of the world's deaths. The true burden of rabies in India is not fully known; although as per available information, it causes 18,000-20,000 deaths every year. About 30-60% of reported rabies cases and deaths in India occur in children under the age of 15 years, as bites that occur in children often go unrecognised and unreported, it notes.

What about vaccines for animals?

■ Given that rabies treatment requires multiple shots of vaccine as well as immunoglobulin, sticking to the schedule is challenging. Governments of countries where rabies is endemic have frequently set targets to eliminate the disease – India has committed to do so by 2030. Yet it is widely acknowledged that this elimination requires vaccination of dogs. Like in people, vaccinating animals too doesn't guarantee lifelong immunity from the disease. Because dogs are deemed responsible for 99% of all rabies infections in people, the government in its 2021 plan, called the 'National Action for Plan – Rabies Elimination', aims to vaccinate at least 70% of all dogs in a defined geographical area annually for three consecutive years. With this, a degree of herd immunity is expected leading to eventual elimination within eight years. Rather than inoculate all dogs, the plan is to identify 'rabies hotspots' in the country and target them.

What is the G7 planning on Russian oil?

How will imposing a price cap on oil purchases from Russia help? How is India responding to the West's call?

SUHASINI HAIDAR

The story so far: On September 2, Finance Ministers of all G7 countries, the U.S., Canada, the U.K., France, Germany, Italy, Japan, as well as the European Union announced their plan to "finalise and implement a comprehensive prohibition of services which enable maritime transportation of Russian-origin crude oil and petroleum products globally", unless they are purchased at or below a "price cap" they will fix. The plan, however, doesn't include Russian gas, which Europe is still quite dependent on.

What is the price cap plan?

■ The price cap plan is the latest of the sanctions proposed by Western countries against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, as well as Belarus for its support to Russia. For the past few weeks, U.S. and EU officials have been trying to convince countries including India, China and Turkey to join the coalition or to at least support the price cap, which they say is in the interests of all oil buyers from Russia as it will give them leverage to lower purchase prices.

How will it be enforced?

■ For countries that join the coalition, it would mean simply not buying Russian oil unless the price is reduced to where the cap is determined. For countries that don't join the coalition, or buy oil higher than the cap price, they would lose access to all services provided by the coalition countries including for example, insurance, currency payment, facilitation and vessel clearances for their shipments. G7 countries say they are aiming to reduce the price of oil, but not the quantity of oil that Russia sells, so as to control inflation globally while



Supply crunch: The crude oil terminal Kozmino on the Nakhodka bay near the port city of Nakhodka, Russia. ■ REUTERS

hurting the Russian economy and its ability to fund the war in Ukraine. This could only work, of course, if all countries joined the coalition.

How has Russia reacted to the plan?

■ Russian President Vladimir Putin has lashed out at the plan, warning that Russia would not supply "anything at all" if it contradicts Russian interests. Speaking at the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) in Vladivostok this week, that Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined virtually, he threatened that Russia could stop supplies of gas, oil, coal, heating oil... leaving European countries to "freeze". On September 5, Russia also announced a halt on all supplies via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Europe due to "maintenance issues" arising from the EU sanctions already in place, raising fears of a very difficult winter for European countries.

Will the Modi government comply with the price cap?

■ The price cap is only the latest in a number of sanctions to hurt the Russian economy that the U.S. and EU have tried to bring India on board with: from asking

India to change its uncritical stance on Russia at the United Nations, to cutting down oil imports, to stopping defence and other purchases from Russia, and to avoid the rupee-rouble payment mechanism that circumvent their sanctions. Thus far, India has not obliged, and there is little indication that New Delhi is likely to, just yet. India's oil intake from Russia, which was minuscule prior to the war has soared 50 times over. When asked, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri rejected any "moral" duty to join the price cap coalition, and said his only duty was to providing affordable oil to Indian consumers. At the EEF, Mr. Modi said he wanted to "strengthen" ties with Russia in the energy field and boost India's \$16 billion investment in Russian oilfields. This week, Mr. Modi will also join President Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other leaders at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Uzbekistan, where the price cap issue will no doubt be discussed from the opposite viewpoint to the G7's. It also remains to be seen whether India will bargain with the U.S. to set aside sanctions against Iran and Venezuela, from which it cancelled oil imports under pressure from the U.S. in 2017-18, in exchange for joining the price cap coalition.

Why is the Kushiyara river treaty important?

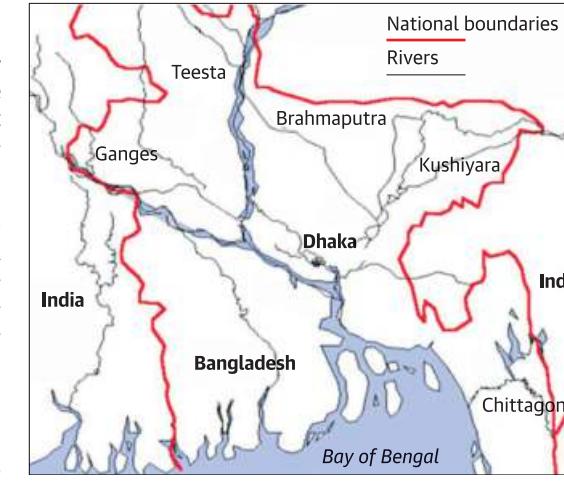
What is the status of the Teesta river water sharing proposal between India and Bangladesh?

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

The story so far: During Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India from September 5 to 8, the two sides signed a slew of agreements, including the first water sharing agreement since the landmark Ganga Waters Treaty, 1996. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on sharing of the waters of the Kushiyara river, a tributary of the Barak river which flows through Assam, and then on to Bangladesh. The agreement comes in a year when both lower Assam in India and Sylhet in Bangladesh have witnessed deadly floods highlighting the requirement for greater cooperation on flood control and irrigation-related issues between the two countries.

What is the Kushiyara agreement?

■ Over the last century, the flow of the Barak river has changed in such a way that the bulk of the river's water flows into Kushiyara while the rest goes into Surma. According to water expert, Dr. Ainun Nishat, the agreement is aimed at addressing part of the problem that the changing nature of the river has posed before Bangladesh as it unleashes floods during the monsoon and goes dry during the winter when demand of water goes up because of a crop cycle in Sylhet. Though the details of the agreement are not yet known, Dr. Nishat says that under this MoU, Bangladesh will be able to withdraw 153 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water from the Kushiyara out of the approximately 2,500 cusecs of water that is there in the river during the winter season. There are various estimates about the area that will benefit from this supply but it is generally understood that approximately 10,000 hectares of land and millions of people will benefit from the water that will flow through a network of canals in Sylhet benefiting the farmers involved in Boro rice, which is basically the rice cultivated during the dry season of December to February and harvested in early summer. Bangladesh has been complaining that the Boro rice cultivation in the region had been suffering as India did not allow it to withdraw the required water from the Kushiyara. The agreement addresses Bangladesh's concern over water supply along the river, during the winter months but flood control in the basin of



Kushiyara is expected to require much more work.

How will Bangladesh use the water?

■ The water of Kushiyara will be channelled through the Rahimpur Canal project in Sylhet. The Rahimpur Canal project in Zakiganj upazila or subdivision of Sylhet was built to help the farmers access Kushiyara's water but the facility used to remain dry during the lean season without serving the purpose for which it was built. The eight km long canal is the only supplier of water from the Kushiyara to the region and Bangladesh has built a pump house and other facilities for withdrawal of water that can now be utilised.

Why is the water from the Kushiyara so important for Rahimpur Canal?

■ The water of the Kushiyara has been used for centuries in Sylhet's subdivisions like the Zalkiganj, Kanaighat and Beinabazar areas. But Bangladesh has witnessed that the flow and volume of water in the canal has reduced during the lean season. The utility of the river and the canal during the lean/winter season had gone down, affecting cultiv-

ation of rice as well as a wide variety of vegetables for which Sylhet is famous. The additional water of Kushiyara through the Rahimpur Canal therefore is the only way to ensure steady supply of water for irrigation of agriculture fields and orchards of the subdivisions of Sylhet.

What was India's objection to the Rahimpur Canal?

■ The Kushiyara water sharing agreement finalised during the August 25 Joint River Commission and signed during Prime Minister Hasina's visit was made possible as India withdrew its objection to withdrawal of Kushiyara's waters by Bangladesh through the Rahimpur Canal. Withdrawal of India's objection is likely the main part of the agreement, said Dr. Nishat. Before this, Bangladesh had carried out the Upper Surma Kushiyara Project which included clearing and dredging of the canal and other connected channels of water; but the channels could not be of much use to Bangladesh because India objected to the move and claimed that the dyke and other infrastructure interfered in border security as Kushiyara itself forms part of the border between the two sides. However, the agreement indicates that the economic benefits possible from the river outweighed the security concerns.

What are the hurdles to the Teesta agreement?

■ The Kushiyara agreement is relatively smaller in scale in comparison to Teesta that involves West Bengal, which has problems with the proposal. The Kushiyara agreement did not require a nod from any of the States like Assam from which the Barak emerges and branches into Kushiyara and Surma. The reduced water flow of the Kushiyara during winter and Teesta too, however, raise important questions about the impact of climate change on South Asian rivers that can affect communities and trigger migration. Bangladesh has cited low water flow in its rivers during the winter months as a matter of concern as it affects its agriculture sector. Dr. Nishat contends that the coming decades will throw up similar challenging issues involving river water sharing as the impact of the climate crisis becomes more visible with water levels going down in several cross-border rivers.

How does a COVID nasal vaccine work?

Which age group is eligible? When will it be rolled out? Will it be able to prevent infection?

RAMYA KANNAN

The story so far: On September 6, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation had approved Bharat Biotech's nasal vaccine for primary immunisation against COVID-19 in the 18-plus age group for restricted use in an emergency situation. It is hoped that Bharat Biotech's ChAd36-SARS-CoV-2 recombinant vaccine, to be administered nasally and developed in association with the University of Washington, will prove a powerful tool in the battle against the virus by preventing infections, something the other vaccines have not been able to do.

What does the vaccine do?

■ A nasal vaccine is delivered through the nose or mouth and it is expected to work on the mucosal lining, prompting an immune response at the entry points of the virus in the human body. It likely prevents the infection right there, thereby also blocking its spread. Scientists have called this sterilising immunity, where the virus is prevented from causing infection in the host effectively.

Early studies at Washington University, according to a report published on the varsity's website, "showed that nasal delivery of this vaccine creates a strong immune response throughout the body, especially in the nose and respiratory tract. In animal studies, the nasal vaccine prevented infection from taking hold in the body."

Emily Waltz explains in an article in *Nature*, that the COVID-19 vaccines currently in use do a good job of

reducing disease severity and preventing hospitalisation, but don't block mild illness or transmission that well. The reason for that is that they are injected into the muscle. "Intramuscular shots prompt an immune response that includes T cells, which destroy infected cells, and B cells, which produce antibodies that 'neutralise' pathogens – binding to them to stop them entering healthy cells. These cells and antibodies circulate through the bloodstream. But they aren't present at high enough levels in the nose and lungs to provide rapid protection. In the time it takes for them to journey there from the bloodstream, the virus spreads, and the infected person gets ill."

Is a nasal vaccine the best defence against COVID-19 so far?

■ "Exactly how successful these vaccines will be is unclear. Expecting a vaccine to stop transmission of a virus or prevent even mild illness – achieving what is called sterilising immunity – is a high bar. Bharat [Biotech] and CanSino [Chinese vaccine maker that has secured a licence to use another nasal vaccine] won't know whether their vaccines can achieve this until they have conducted further efficacy studies," explains Ms. Waltz.

Both Bharat Biotech and CanSino have announced that their trials have been successful but have not released data. She points to two other nasal vaccines that have reportedly been deployed in populations, one in Iran and the other, an intra-nasal version of Sputnik V in Russia,

but says scant data is available from either of them.

In a release, Bharat Biotech said: "The product – iCOVACC – is stable at 2-8°C for easy storage and distribution. The reactogenic events and adverse events that were documented during the trial were highly comparable to the published data from other COVID-19 vaccines. Product development data will be submitted to peer-reviewed journals and will be made available in the public domain."

The University of Washington article indicated that two clinical trials of the nasal vaccine were conducted in India. "A phase 3 trial involving about 3,100 previously unvaccinated people who received two doses of the nasal vaccine, and a booster trial with about 875 people who received a single dose of the nasal vaccine after two doses of another COVID-19 vaccine. These trials, which concluded in August, indicated that the vaccine is safe and effective at eliciting a strong immune response in people when used either as a primary vaccine or as a booster."

What next?

■ Early publication of trial data and a speedy rollout of a nasal vaccine would be ideal. By avoiding the jab, the nasal vaccine might be more appealing to people not yet vaccinated. It can be an option for children too, for whom it has not been authorised for use yet.

Also, though two vaccines were authorised for use in the 5-12 and 6-12 age groups in April, there is no sign of a rollout for these candidates.

LIZ TRUSS

Promises to keep, an emotional vacuum to fill

New U.K. Prime Minister is tasked with responding to the energy crisis, enacting supply-side reforms to boost growth, revitalising the Conservative Party and also leading the nation in mourning a monarch

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

If there is one person that the newly minted United Kingdom Prime Minister Liz Truss would probably wish to have a quiet conversation with during her first week in office, it is Tony Blair, the former Labour Prime Minister. Mr. Blair set alight the imagination of a nation mourning the sudden death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in a 1997 car crash in Paris, when he described her as the "people's princess." At a time when the royal family faced criticism for lacking in its public response to the tragedy, Mr. Blair's words brought solace to the British people and established his credentials as a leader attuned to the pulse of the nation.

Ms. Truss now faces similar circumstances, with the passing of the country's longest reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, upending the Prime Minister's well-laid plans for her early days at 10 Downing Street. Those plans include an estimated £100 billion package intended to cap skyrocketing energy prices at their current level, a fiscal intervention whose size has few past precedents except in wartime. The Truss government will also launch, in weeks ahead, a comprehensive response to the looming challenge of the wobbly U.K. economy, likely including tax cuts, eschewing "handouts," enacting supply-side reforms to boost growth, and bolstering with resources the struggling National Health Service and the defence sector.

Yet these policy imperatives may have to play second fiddle, in a political

sense, to the collective emotional needs of a nation once again mourning the death of a respected member of the royal family. Can Ms. Truss, who was in the presence of the Queen earlier this week after she won the race to be the country's next Prime Minister, rise to the challenge? A glance backward at her path to higher office through many years in the trenches of the Conservative Party suggests that she has the personal and leadership traits that might just help her accomplish this.

Indeed, if there is one strength that Ms. Truss has demonstrated in the past, it is the sheer adaptability of her politics, her flexibility of political posture in response to big-picture expediencies. For example, in the early years of Ms. Truss' political career, she started out as a member of Liberal Democrats Party, a great political distance to the position she currently occupies.

Born in 1975 in Oxford to a mathematics professor father and nurse mother, Ms. Truss has described her parents as "left-wing," recalling the many discussions on political activism at their family dining table. When she was still young, she attended alongside her mother marches for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, "an organisation vehemently opposed to the [former Prime Minister Margaret] Thatcher government's decision to allow U.S. nuclear warheads to be installed at RAF Greenham Common," not far from London.

After finishing school in Leeds in the early 1990s, Ms. Truss went on to read philosophy, politics, and econom-

ics at Oxford University – considered to be the classic route to the prime ministerial chair in the U.K. – where she also became president of the university's Liberal Democrats. Her liberal politics clearly ran deep at the time for she also on the record spoke at a Liberal Democratic conference in favour of abolishing the monarchy. Yet by the end of her time at Oxford she jumped ship to the Tories, an act that is said to have come as a shock to her left-leaning parents but one that some of her friends recognised as natural philosophical progression given that she was a "market liberal."

Thatcher's image

Ms. Truss' transformation into a hardcore Conservative came several years further down the road, when, as she rose through the ranks, she carefully started cultivating an image akin to that of Margaret Thatcher's.

The other major transition that Ms. Truss underwent in her political position was regarding her switch from being a diehard Remainer on Brexit to becoming former Prime Minister Boris Johnson's frontline warrior to negotiate the terms of post-Brexit trade deals with the EU

popular with the hard-line wing of the Conservative party. Regardless, the Ms. Truss' government will face a challenge on this front on September 15, when they are required to respond to EU legal action on the alleged failure to implement this protocol.

Ms. Truss' critics have often described her as a politi-

cal "chameleon" or "shape shifter" with a pragmatic edge. Her most recent handling of the saga of Mr. Johnson's exit certainly does point to her changeable politics. While she was astute enough to steer clear of the Conservative coup that led to Mr. Johnson's ouster from Downing Street, she managed nevertheless to avoid being labelled as an unshakable Johnson supporter, a fine distinction that paved the way for her subsequent rise to the top job.

Future challenges

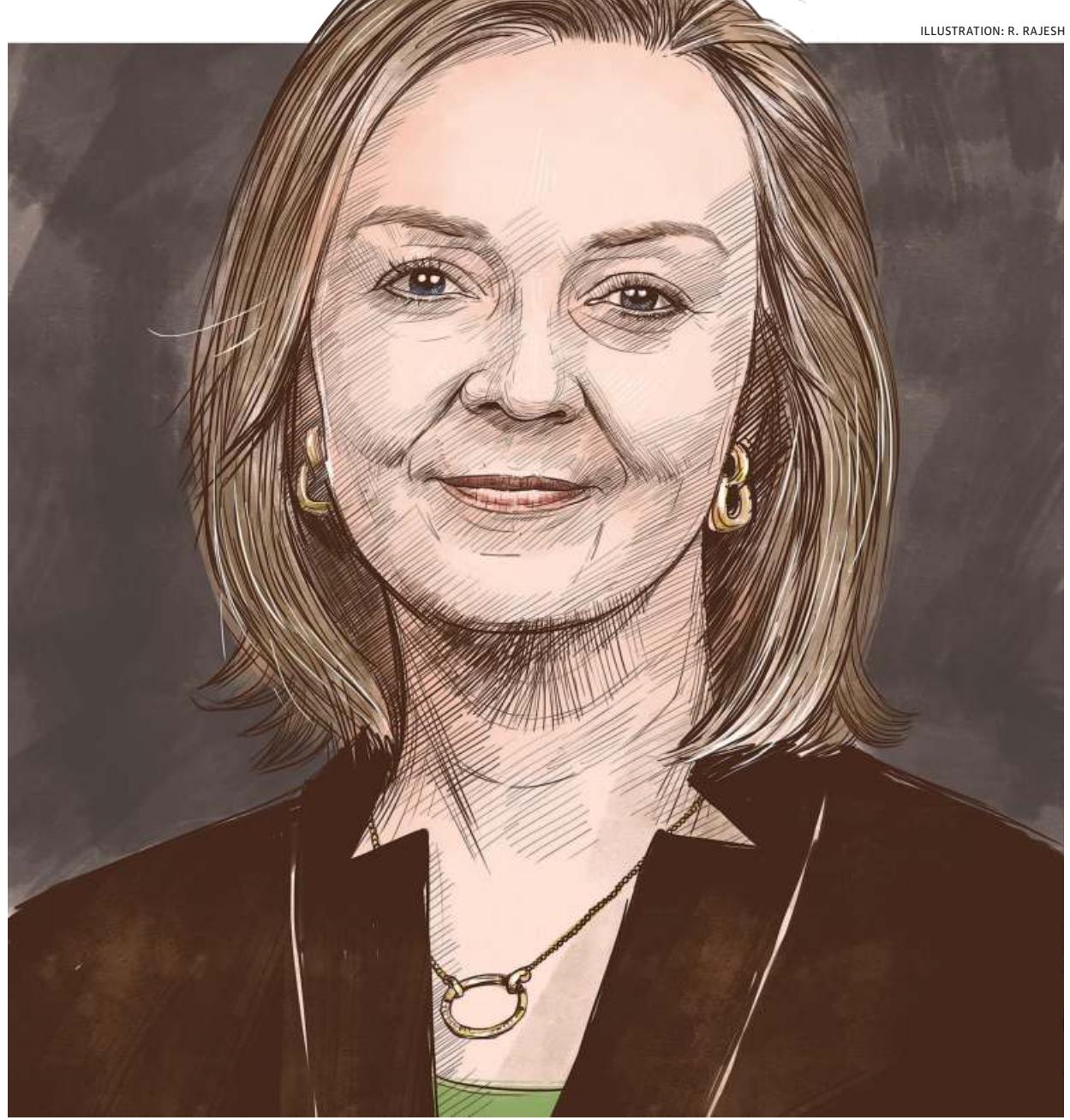
Doubtless a future challenge that Ms. Truss will have to deal with is the fact that in the contest for the prime ministerial chair against former Chancellor Rishi Sunak she secured the backing of 81,326 of her party's members, while her rival Garnered

60,399 votes. This was a far narrower margin than expected and represents less than 50% of Conservative Party members, given that nearly 20% of them did not vote. This means that now Ms. Truss will have to convince a substantial proportion of her party members that her approach to tackling the multi-pronged economic and energy crisis in the country is the optimal one. This would apply to her major policy initiatives that she has spoken of so far, which include her plan to introduce £30bn in tax cuts, reversing the rise in National Insurance, temporarily dropping green levies on energy bills, and scrapping a planned rise in corporation tax.

In the broader canvas of British politics, there is an urgent need for revitalising the Conservative Party and under-

scoring its capability in terms of dealing with the post-Brexit world to the advantage of the British people and U.K. businesses. This also involves helping the party escape the reputational quagmire of sleaze scandals that held back the Johnson government and, in today's context, genuinely representing the spirit of the nation as it mourns the loss of Queen Elizabeth.

For Ms. Truss, her greatest learning at 10 Downing Street might be that while her political flip-flopping may proffer certain advantages, it can sometimes come with a high cost. It could well be that in the highly visible role of Prime Minister, Ms. Truss finds that voters hold her to a higher standard, one that is premised on dogged commitment and holding firm to promises made.



In focus

■ Liz Truss went to Oxford University and was active in liberal politics. But by the end of her time there, she jumped ship to the Tories.

■ Ms. Truss' transformation into a hardcore Conservative came several years later, when, as she rose through the ranks, she carefully started cultivating an image akin to that of Margaret Thatcher's.

■ The other major transition that Ms. Truss underwent in her political position was regarding her switch from being a diehard Remainer on Brexit to becoming former Prime Minister Boris Johnson's frontline warrior to negotiate the terms of post-Brexit trade deals with the EU

MAGSAYSAY AWARD

In the eye of controversy

CPI(M) cites 'anti-communist stance' for declining the award for Shailaja

SUMEDA

A controversy over the 'joint' decision of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), or CPI (M), to decline the 2022 Ramon Magsaysay Award nomination for former Kerala Health Minister K.K. Shailaja has brought into focus the prize and the former Philippines President in whose name the award was instituted in 1957.

Though the CPI(M) has cited the 'anti-communist' stance of Ramon Magsaysay in his political career to justify its decision, the party has come under strong criticism for rejecting the prestigious award that has exponentially grown in stature since its inception six decades ago. Regarded as the Asian equivalent of the Nobel, the Ramon Magsaysay Award has over the years established its independent legacy, with the late President in whose name the award was instituted shifting to the background.

Tracing the history
Born in 1907, Ramon Magsaysay (in picture, centre) quit his job at a bus company to join the Philippine Army when Japan invaded the islands during Second World War. Magsaysay led guerrilla forces against the Japanese. The U.S. took note of his leadership and appointed him as the military governor of his home province, which was also the start of his political journey. Ramon Magsaysay went on



to become the seventh President of the Philippines.

During his presidency from 1953 to 1957, Magsaysay enjoyed widespread public support for spearheading military, administrative and agrarian reforms. Political scientist Jose Veloso Abueva, who is also Magsaysay's political biographer, refers to him as 'the people's president'. "...He [Magsaysay] was their man, their leader and hero like no other president ever was before him... The images that came across sharply in the media were those of a man who would take off his shoes and walk in the mud with the farmers, eat with his hands, leap over ditches. And from the time he became Secretary of National Defence up to his tenure as President, he was portrayed as a non-nonsense reformer who cleaned up the military and the bureaucracy," he says.

During his presidency, Magsaysay led a campaign against the Hukbalahap or Huks, a communist-led and peasant-based rebellion, with the assistance of the U.S. The Philippines formed the Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation in 1954 to prevent communism from gaining ground.

Ramon Magsaysay was favoured to win the next presidential election, but the 49-year-old was killed in a plane crash in Cebu island on March 17, 1957.

The award

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF), a private family foundation with its headquarters in New York, established a non-profit organisation 'the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF)' in 1957, which instituted the award to recognise persons and organisations in Asia who have "helped others generously without anticipating public recognition", regardless of race, creed, sex, or nationality".

On August 31, 1958, the

Magsaysay Award was given to five individuals and a Philippine-based organisation to commemorate the birth anniversary of Magsaysay. Since then, a select few Asian personalities and institutions are annually recognised for their transformative social work. More than 300 people and 25 organisations from 22 countries have been awarded so far. While a majority of awardees have been from Asia, some others have been honoured for their work in Asia.

Initially, the award was given in five categories – government service, public service, community leadership, journalism, literature and creative communication arts, and peace and international understanding. A new category to honour young Asian leaders was added in 2000. It is funded by a grant by the U.S.-based Ford Foundation. In 2009, the Foundation discontinued the award in fixed categories, except for emergent leadership.

In 2022, four people that have won the award are psychiatrist Sotearia Chhim (Cambodia), paediatrician Bernadette Madrid (Philippines), activist-filmmaker Gary Benchehrib (Indonesia) and ophthalmologist Tashdi Hattori (Vietnam).

Ms. Shailaja would have become the first woman recipient from Kerala had she accepted the nomination. Freedom fighter Vinoba Bhave was the first Indian to receive the award.

HEMANT SOREN

Weathering the political storm

From an engineering dropout to Jharkhand CM, he has come a long way

AMARNATH TEWARY

For more than a fortnight, Hemant Soren had been busy keeping his flock of legislators together after Governor Ramesh Bais reportedly received a communication from the Election Commission of India (ECI), seeking the Jharkhand Chief Minister's disqualification as an MLA in connection with a case lodged against him involving a stone chips mining lease in 2019. The mysterious envelope from the ECI was said to be received by the Governor's office on August 25. Fearing poaching of MLAs by the Opposition BJP, the Mr. Soren-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) had even shifted some of them to neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

Amid the evolving situation in the tribal State, the UPA leaders met the Governor on August 31 and submitted a memorandum, urging him to clear the air regarding the ECI communication. The Governor reportedly assured them that he would bring the matter to a closure in two days.

On September 5, Mr. Soren went on to prove majority of his government on the floor of the House to assert his hold over the alliance. The Governor, meanwhile, left for Delhi and returned to State capital Ranchi after a week on September 8.

Mr. Soren faced the political stalemate with a composed demeanour, saying he was well-prepared to

counter any move by the Opposition to bring down his government. During the trust motion in the 81-member Assembly, as many as 48 UPA MLAs voted for the government, while the BJP staged a walkout. Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahato said since the government had won the trust vote, "there is absolutely no uncertainty" over its fate. Though the mystery over the ECI communication is far from over, Mr. Soren seems to have weathered the political storm, at least for now.

Reluctant politician
Mr. Soren, 47, son of three-time former Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) patriarch Shibu Soren and Roopi Soren, was

reluctant to join politics and wanted to become an engineer. He joined the Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra in Ranchi to pursue B.Tech. in mechanical engineering, but the sudden death of his elder brother, Durga Soren,

due to brain haemorrhage in May 2009, pushed him into politics as an engineering dropout.

Mr. Soren is married to Kalpana and the couple have two sons. His younger brother, Basant Soren, a JMM MLA from Dumka, was recently in news over his controversial comments that he was on a visit to Delhi to buy "undergarments". Mr. Soren also has a younger sister, Anjali.

Mr. Soren was elected to the Rajya Sabha in June 2009. He resigned from the Upper House in January 2010 after he was elected to the State Assembly from the Dumka constituency. He was quick to rise to the position of Deputy Chief Minister in September 2010, with BJP leader Arjun Munda as the Chief Minister and the JMM being an alliance partner.

Mr. Soren had evolved into a "mature" one.

With the sword of disqualification still hanging over his head, it remains to be seen if Mr. Soren can continue to beat the odds.

For the first time on July 15, 2013 with the support of the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal. Between 2015 and 2019, he served as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the House. He was again elected as the 11th Chief Minister of the State in December 2019 with the support of the Congress, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) and others. The president of the JMM, Mr. Soren currently represents the Barhait constituency.

Spearheaded protests
In 2016, when the then-BJP government led by Chief Minister Raghuvar Das tried to amend the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908 and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act, 1949 which allowed transfer of Adivasi land for building roads, canals, educational institutions, hospitals and for other government purposes, the Opposition led by Mr. Soren staged strong protests against the Amendment Bill till it was withdrawn in August 2016.

The protests, many in Jharkhand say, put Mr. Soren at the centre stage of Jharkhand politics and made him the true heir of their Guruji, Shibu Soren. From a reluctant politician, Mr. Soren had evolved into a "mature" one.

With the sword of disqualification still hanging over his head, it remains to be seen if Mr. Soren can continue to beat the odds.

With the sword of disqualification still hanging over his head, it remains to be seen if Mr. Soren can continue to beat the odds.

Mr. Soren was sworn in as the Jharkhand Chief Minis-

ter for the first time on July 15, 2013 with the support of the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal. Between 2015 and 2019, he served as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the House. He was again elected as the 11th Chief Minister of the State in December 2019 with the support of the Congress, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) and others. The president of the JMM, Mr. Soren currently represents the Barhait constituency.

Spearheaded protests
In 2016, when the then-BJP government led by Chief Minister Raghuvar Das tried to amend the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908 and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act, 1949 which allowed transfer of Adivasi land for building roads, canals, educational institutions, hospitals and for other government purposes, the Opposition led by Mr. Soren staged strong protests against the Amendment Bill till it was withdrawn in August 2016.

The protests, many in Jharkhand say, put Mr. Soren at the centre stage of Jharkhand politics and made him the true heir of their Guruji, Shibu Soren. From a reluctant politician, Mr. Soren had evolved into a "mature" one.

With the sword of disqualification still hanging over his head, it remains to be seen if Mr. Soren can continue to beat the odds.

Mr. Soren was sworn in as the Jharkhand Chief Minis-

ter for the first time on July 15, 2013 with the support of the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal. Between 2015 and 2019, he served as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the House. He was again elected as the 11th Chief Minister of the State in December 2019 with the support of the Congress, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) and others. The president of the JMM, Mr. Soren currently represents the Barhait constituency.

Spearheaded protests
In 2016, when the then-BJP government led by Chief Minister Raghuvar Das tried to amend the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908 and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act, 1949 which allowed transfer of Adivasi land for building roads, canals, educational institutions, hospitals and for other government purposes, the Opposition led by Mr. Soren staged strong protests against the Amendment Bill till it was withdrawn in August 2016.

The protests, many in Jharkhand say, put Mr. Soren at the centre stage of Jharkhand politics and made him the true heir of their Guruji, Shibu Soren. From a reluctant politician, Mr. Soren had evolved into a "mature" one.

With the sword of disqualification still hanging over his head, it remains to be seen if Mr. Soren can continue to beat the odds.

Mr. Soren was sworn in as the Jharkhand Chief Minis-

ter for the first time on July 15, 2013 with the support of the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal. Between 2015 and 2019, he served as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the House. He was again elected as the 11th Chief Minister of the State in December 2019 with the support of the Congress, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) and others. The president of the JMM, Mr. Soren currently represents the Barhait constituency.

Spearheaded protests
In 2016, when the then-BJP government led by Chief Minister Raghuvar Das tried to amend the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908 and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act, 1949 which allowed transfer of Adivasi land for building roads, canals, educational institutions, hospitals and for other government purposes, the Opposition led by Mr. Soren staged strong protests against the Amendment Bill till it was withdrawn in August 2016.

The protests, many in Jharkhand say, put Mr. Soren at the centre stage of Jharkhand politics and made him the true heir of their Guruji, Shibu Soren. From a reluctant politician, Mr. Soren had evolved into a "mature" one.

With the sword of disqualification still hanging over his head, it remains to be seen if Mr. Soren can continue to beat the odds.

Mr. Soren was sworn in as the Jharkhand Chief Minis-

ter for the first time on July 15, 2013 with the support of the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal. Between 2015 and 2019, he served as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the House. He was again elected as the 11th Chief Minister of the State in December 2

Adani offer for ACC gets dull response

Investors tender just 8.28% of ACC shares at open offer, 1.35% of Ambuja Cements stock, filings show

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
Adani Group's ₹31,000-crore open offer to acquire 26% additional stakes in Swiss firm Holcim's two Indian listed entities ACC Ltd. and Ambuja Cements closed on Friday amid lacklustre response from public shareholders.

According to ACC's regulatory filing, till 6:40 p.m. on Friday, about 40.51 lakh equity shares were tendered against the original offer of 4.89 crore shares, which is just 8.28%.

Similarly, for Ambuja Cements only 1.35% of shares were tendered.

According to the latest regulatory updates on Saturday morning, only 6.97 lakh shares of Ambuja Cements had been tendered in the escrow demat account com-



Cement foray: Adani said in May it would buy a controlling stake in Holcim's India businesses for \$10.5 billion. • REUTERS

pared to the original offer for 51.63 crore shares from the public shareholders.

The offer for both companies opened on August 26.

In May, Adani had made

an open offer at ₹2,300 per share for ACC and ₹385 per share for Ambuja Cements Ltd. following its deal to acquire a controlling stake in Holcim's businesses in India

for \$10.5 billion. However, on Friday when the open offer ended, shares of ACC settled at ₹2,365 on the BSE, 2.82% higher than the offer price. Ambuja Cements settled at ₹453.90 on the BSE, which is 17.9% higher than the offer price.

Though on Friday, which was the last day of the open offer, ACC had reported a spurt in volume by more than 2.13 times, while Ambuja Cements traded at a new 52-week high of ₹484.70.

Mauritius-based firm

The letter of offer for the open offer was extended by the Adani family group's Mauritius-based firm Endeavour Trade and Investment.

Endeavour is promoted by Acropolis Trade and Investment Ltd., which is held

by certain members of the Adani family.

On May 15, the Adani Group announced a deal to acquire a controlling stake in Holcim's businesses in India for \$10.5 billion (about ₹83,900 crore current value), marking the ports-to-energy conglomerate's entry into the cement sector.

Adani Group will acquire 63.1% of Ambuja Cements along with related assets. Ambuja's local subsidiaries include ACC, which is also publicly traded.

Ambuja Cements and ACC have a combined installed production capacity of 70 million tonnes per annum. The two firms together have 23 cement plants, 14 grinding stations, 80 ready-mix concrete plants and over 50,000 channel partners.

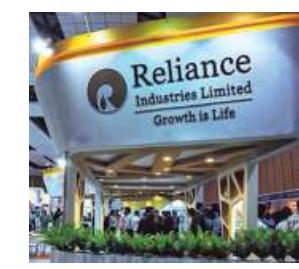
I-T nod not a must for RRPR warrant trade'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
RRPR Holding, the promoter group firm of NDTV, does not require any approval from the Income Tax Department for the conversion of warrants into equity shares, Adani Group firm VCPL informed the media company.

In a filing, NDTV said RRPR Holding and the company had received a letter from VCPL informing that it had approached the IT department on the issue, which in its reply said no such restriction applies on conversion of warrants.

Earlier, RRPR informed VCPL that its stake in NDTV had been provisionally attached by I-T authorities and required their approval for the transfer.



The acquisition will strengthen RIL's textile manufacturing business.

SPL produces polyester fibre, yarns and textile-grade chips through direct polymerisation as well as extruder spinning with value addition through texturising. It has a continuous polymerisation capacity of 2,52,000 tonnes per year and has two units – in Dahej in Gujarat and Silvassa in Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

RIL buys Shubhalakshmi Polyesters for ₹1,592 cr.

'Acquisition to bolster textile business'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd. has acquired polyester chips and yarn manufacturer Shubhalakshmi Polyesters Ltd. for ₹1,592 crore, the company said in a stock exchange filing.

"Reliance Petroleum Retail Ltd. (under name change to 'Reliance Polyester Ltd.'), a wholly owned subsidiary... today executed definitive documents to acquire polyester business of Shubhalakshmi Polyesters Ltd. and Shubhalakshmi Polytex Ltd. for cash consideration of ₹1,522 crore and ₹70 crore respectively, aggregating to ₹1,592 crore by way of slump sale on a going concern basis," the firm said.

'Rice exports may fall by 4-5 MT post ban, 20% levy'

About 21 MT shipped in 2021-22 fiscal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
India's rice exports could fall by 4-5 million tonnes (MT) this fiscal year due to the ban on shipment of broken rice as well as export duty on non-basmati rice, except for parboiled grains, exporters said.

India, which commands 40% share in the global rice trade, exported 21.23 MT of rice in 2021-22 fiscal as against 17.78 MT in the previous year. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the exports were at 9.51 MT in the 2019-20 fiscal.

During April-August period of the current financial year, government data, showed that the country had already exported 9.35 MT as against 8.36 MT in the

C India is exporting non-basmati rice for \$380-400 per tonne, lower than other countries

year-earlier period.

"The exports may fall to 16-17 MT in this financial year because of the ban on broken rice and 20% export duty," All India Rice Exporters Association (AIREA) former president Vijay Setia told PTI.

He said the country was exporting non-basmati rice for \$380-400 per tonne, lower than the rate of shipments from other countries.

The price realisation is "expected to improve at par with our competitors" after the government's latest decisions, Mr. Setia added.

Propel unveils EV truck for use in mines

M. SOUNDARIYI PREETHA
COIMBATORE

Coimbatore-based Propel Industries said it plans to shortly start commercial production of an EV dump truck it has developed.

MD V. Senthil Kumar said while Propel had obtained approval for use of the vehicle in mines, the EV truck would be rolled out next year for on road use after securing the required permits. Propel would invest in creating production capacities for the vehicle.

The EV has a motor with automatic transmission and the charging time varies from 1-3 hours. The battery and charging time would be customised depending on the power supplied at the buyer's mines.

Duroflex to invest ₹20 cr. in furniture production

To double capacity with unit at Indore

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Mattress maker Duroflex India, which recently forayed into furniture, said it is set to double production capacity.

"After being in the mattress business for over five decades, we ventured into furniture segment recently," said chief managing director Mathew Chandy. "Buoyed by the response, we plan to set up a new unit at Indore to double the production capacity," he added.

"We are a zero-waste company. Almost all the materials are reused, and some are sourced locally," he said.

Duroflex has a furniture making unit at Hosur and a second one has been planned at Indore, where it has sufficient space to make

both furniture and mattresses, Mr. Chandy said.

According to him, about ₹20 crore has been invested in the Hosur facility which can produce 2,500 sofa sets a month. An additional ₹20 crore would be invested in Indore to make 2,500 sofa sets a month.

The company hopes to clock a revenue of ₹100 crore in the first 12 months post the expansion.



China rate cut, property crisis likely to benefit Indian realtors

'Commodity prices may ease further, will be a direct benefit'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The recent decision by China's central bank to lower interest rates, a move believed to be targeted at averting a major property crisis in that country, is expected to turn beneficial for India's real estate sector, said industry officials.

"The commodity prices have eased since the beginning of this year, and with the fall of China's real estate market, the process is likely to get accelerated further," said Vipin Mittal, CEO Projects, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (India).

"Steel, aluminium, and copper prices have a direct impact on construction cost,



and any reduction in these augurs well for developers," he added.

"While billions of dollars of investments are in the pipeline, there is very high probability of those investing in China diverting their funds into the Indian real estate market," Mr. Mittal said.

"With the current slowdown in sales and investors' confidence in developers being shaken due to heavy debt ratio, Indian real estate market can emerge as the underdog where international investors will be able to confidently invest," said Rishabh Sirohi, founder, Legend Sirohi Realtors and president-elect Naredco NextGen.

"While tremors of China's interest rate cut will be felt in India, it will land on its feet owing to other countries looking at India as their potential investment opportunity," said Harrish Kumar Jain, vice-president, Brihanmumbai Developers Association (BDA).

SPORT

Chahat steals the show

Siva, Maana adjudged the best; Karnataka tops the charts

Y.B. SARANGI
GUWAHATI

Chahat Arora bettered the National record twice on her way to winning the women's 100m gold medal on the final day of the National aquatic championships at the Dr. Zakir Hussain Aquatic Complex here on Saturday.

The 25-year-old from Punjab clocked 1:14.38 in the heats to improve her record of 1:14.42 set in the Thailand Open last year. In the final, Chahat timed 1:13.61 to claim the title in style.

"I trained with (Asian Games medallist breastroker) Sandeep Sejwal for two months and it helped me improve my timing. He asked me to go for records in the heats to build the momentum," said Chahat, who set a new 50m breaststroke mark on day one.

S. Siva and Maana Patel won their third individual gold medals to be adjudged the best swimmers.

The results: Men: 200m freestyle: 1. Aneesh Gowda (Kar) 1:52.49, 2. Vishal Grewal (Del) 1:53.04, 3. Sambhav R. (Kar) 1:54.55; 200m butterfly: 1. Aryan Panchal (Guj) 2:02.97, 2. Sanu Debnath (RSPB) 2:04.97, 3. Bikram Changmai (Asm) and



Day to remember: Chahat broke her own 100m breaststroke National record twice. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

Harsh Saroha (Har) 2:05.24; 100m breaststroke: 1. Likith S.P. (SSCB) 1:02.54, 2. Danush Suresh (TN) 1:03.71, 3. Anoop Augustine (RSPB) 1:04.74; 100m backstroke: 1. S. Siva (Kar) 57.59, 2. Vinayak V. (SSCB) 57.81, 3. Utkarsh Patil (Kar) 58.38; Team championship: Karnataka (129 points); Best swimmer: S. Siva S. (3 gold, 1 silver, 1 NMR).

Women: 100m freestyle: 1. Shivangi Sarma (Asm) 57.73, 2. Avantika Chavan (RSPB) 59.29, 3. Mahi Swetraj (Bih) 59.78; 800m freestyle: 1. Bhavya Sachdeva (Del) 9:17.25, 2. Vritti Agarwal (Tel) 9:24.43, 3. Richa Mishra (AIP) 9:30.78; 200m butterfly: 1. Astra Choudhury (Asm) 2:22.59, 2. Kanya Nayyar (MP) 2:24.37, 3. Vritti Agarwal (Tel)

Diving: Men: 1m springboard: 1. Gaurav Rahavanshi (RSPB) 251.80, 2. Surajit Rajbanshi (SSCB) 242.45, 3. Anuj Shah (Mah) 239.80; Team championship: SCSB (32); Women: RSPB (24).

Water polo: Men: 1. RSPB, 2. SSSC, 3. AIP; Women: 1. AIP, 2. Kerala, 3. Bengal.

No play possible on third day

drives in his attempt for a hundred.

But alas! Drizzle turned into rain. The sun barely made an appearance, leaving the outfield wet. Not to mention the overnight rain.

That meant there was no play on the third day of the second cricket 'Test' between India-A and New-Zealand-A at the KSCA Stadium here on Saturday.

If there had been no rain, K.S. Bharat could have played more of his delightful

Theon for feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer P. Shroff's ward Theon, who is in good condition, should not find it difficult to win the President of India Gold Cup, the chief event of Sunday's (Sept. II) races.

1. MEDAK PLATE (1,400m) Maiden, 3-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2:45. 1. Ok Boss (5) Santosh Raj 60, 2. Dream Station (2) Akshay Kumar 57, 3. Above The Law (Md) Ismail 56, 4. Cash Register (3) Chouhan 54.5, 5. Challenger (10) R.S. Jodha 54, 6. Baisa (7) Kiran Naidu 53.5, 7. Redeem Our Pledge (1) Trevor 53.5, 8. Silver Lining (8) Afroz Khan 52.5, 9. Akash (6) Rafique Sk. 51.5 and 10. Silk Route (4) B. Nikhil 50.5.

1. DREAM STATION, 2. CASH REGISTER, 3. OK BOSS

2. TUDOR JET PLATE (1,800m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 2:15. 1. Canterbury (9) B.R. Kumar 56, 2. City Cruise (10) Nakhat Singh 56, 3. Hero Of The East (3) Akshay Kumar 56, 4. My Way On Highway (2) Mohit Singh 56, 5. Sergeant Reckless (6) Kiran Naidu 56, 6. Soorya Vahan (4) Md. Ismail 56, 7. Turgut (1) Afroz Khan 56, 8. Carnival Lady (7) Gaurav Singh 54.5, 9. Purple Rock (8) B. Nikhil 54.5 and 10. Voice Of A

1. THEON

5. TELANGANA AND ANDHRA SUB AREA TROPHY (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3:45. 1. Carlisle (7) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Cosmic (D) Deo 60, 3. Laurus (6) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 4. Starfish (2) Mohit Singh 54.5, 5. Divine Connection (8) R.S. Jodha 58.5, 6. Exclusive Spark (5) Md. Ismail 58.5, 7. Blue Label (13) Nakhat Singh 57, 8. Star Cruise (10) Kuldeep Singh

1. YALETOWN, 2. DYANOOSH, 3. DIVINE CONNECTION

6. RED SURPRISE PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 3:15. 1. Theon (2) P. S. Chouhan 62, 2. Pisarro (3) Trevor 55.5 and 3. N.R.I. Infinity (1) Akshay Kumar 50.5.

1. THEON

7. 9. THEO'S CHOICE (1) Kiran Naidu 57, 10. Wot's Up Jay (12) G. Naresh 54, 11. Soorya Kiran (11) Abhay Singh 53.5, 12. Blas In Class (14) Khurshad Alam 53, 13. Fatuma (3) P. Gaddam 53 and 14. Sweet Talk (9) Santosh Raj 53.

Lankan confidence vs Pakistan passion

Islanders hold a slight edge after scripting a remarkable turnaround; toss likely to play a crucial role

ASIA CUP

ASHWIN ACHAL
DUBAI

Going by the trend, the toss will play a crucial factor when Sri Lanka takes on Pakistan in the Asia Cup final at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium here on Sunday.

Chasing luck

In the eight matches played at this venue in this tournament, the chasing team has won six times. The two captains, Dasun Shanaka and Babar Azam, will be desperate to call it right and field first.

Sri Lanka will enter the fixture with the slight edge, having comfortably won the dress rehearsal Super 4 game against the same opponent on Friday.

Sri Lanka has scripted a remarkable turnaround, winning four matches on the

trot after suffering a crushing eight-wicket loss to Afghanistan in the tournament opener a couple of weeks ago.

Pathum Nissanka, whose unbeaten 55 sank Pakistan on Friday, is a stable presence at the top of the order.

Adventurous

His partner Kusal Mendis, going at a tournament strike-rate of 158.16, is an adventurous stroke-maker. Left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka, who shapes it into the right-handers, is dangerous with the new ball.

"We're getting very good comments from Sri Lankans back home. They send us good wishes and love. It's so nice to win and give something back to the people," captain Shanaka said. "Our confidence is massive after winning four consecutive games."

Pakistan, depending on

which version shows up on the day, can be exhilarating or frustrating.

The good side showed up against India and Afghanistan in the Super 4, while the dull face put a downer on proceedings in the Sri Lanka outing.

Spinners Mohammad Nawaaz and Shadab Khan have been among the wickets, and speedster Naseem Shah is in rhythm. It is only the poor run of batters Fakhar Zaman and Azam that poses a concern.

"Sri Lanka will take confidence into the final. Pakistan will take passion and learning into the final," Pakistan head coach Saqlain Mushtaq said.

Mushtaq does not buy the theory that the toss will influence the result. "If you want to become champion, you don't even think or talk about the toss," the former Pakistan off-spinner said.

Pakistan-Sri Lanka H2H in T20Is



	M	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Overall	22	13	9
In Dubai	3	1	2
In Asia Cup	2	1	1

THE FINAL

Form Guide

(last five matches, latest game first)

Pakistan L W W W L

Sri Lanka W W W W L

Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST.

Unadkat and Gaja cut North East to size

Debutant team bowled out for 235 after West declares at overnight 590 for two

DULEEP TROPHY

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

Jaydev Unadkat's early triple strike (3/35), followed by Chintan Gaja's four-wicket haul (4/38) which cleaned up the tail, ensured West Zone took a 355-run first-innings lead over North East Zone in the Duleep Trophy quarter-final here on Saturday.

West Zone skipper Ajinkya Rahane declared at the overnight score with his team sitting pretty at 590 for two.

For North East, Ankur Malik provided some rearguard action with a quick 81 off just 95 balls to bail out his side from deep trouble before the debutant team was bowled out for 235.

Overcast conditions
Earlier, under overcast conditions at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Unadkat proved too good for the North East batters as he removed opener Kishan Lyndoh bowled and Muhammed



Ankur Malik.
■ K. PICHUMANI

Al Bashid off successive deliveries in the fifth over.

At the other end, medium-pacer Gaja had Jonathan Rongsen bowled and when Unadkat had the other opener Techi Doria caught at slip, North East was struggling at 20 for four.

It was then left to Ashish Thapa (43) and skipper Ho-

kato Zhimomi (32) to steady things for North East as they added 62 runs for the fifth wicket.

When Malik walked out, his side was struggling at 84 for six but he played without inhibition, taking on the bowlers and adding 67 runs for the seventh wicket with Zhimomi.

The all-rounder went after left-arm spinner Shams Mulani hitting him for seven boundaries in his knock. The 19-year-old got down on his knees and targeted the leg-side fence with his sweep shots clearing the in-field with ease.

Malik was dropped on 43 by Rahul Tripathi at back-point and the youngster got to his half-century in style with a punch through covers off Gaja.

Despite securing the crucial first-innings lead, West Zone chose not to enforce the follow-on and ended the day at 12 for one in its second innings, and led by 367 runs.

The last day's play gives a chance for West Zone's other

batters to have a hit in the middle before the semifinals.

The scores:
West Zone – 1st innings: 590/2 decl.

North East Zone – 1st innings: Techi Doria c Rahane b Unadkat 11, Kishan Lyndoh b Unadkat 2, Muhammed Al Bashid c Het b Unadkat 0, Jonathan Rongsen b Gaja 2, Hukito Zhimomi c Het b Gaja 32, Ashish Thapa c Mulani b Sheth 43, Dippu Sangma c Het b Sheth 2, Ankur Malik b Gaja 81, Kishan Singh lbw b Mulani 22, Rex Rajkumar Singh (not out) 28, Bishworit Singh c Jani b Gaja 1; Extras (lb-7, nb-4): 11; Total (in 81.5 overs): 235.

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-13, 3-16, 4-20, 5-82, 6-84, 7-151, 8-189, 9-229.

West Zone bowling: Unadkat 15-3-35-3, Gaja 15.5-4-38-4, Sheth 12-1-51-2, Jani 10-2-29-0, Mulani 26-10-65-1, Jaiswal 3-0-10-0.

West Zone – 2nd innings: Het Patel b Dippu 7, Rahul Tripathi (batting) 5, Hardik Tamore (batting) 0; Total (for one wkt. in 9 overs): 12.

Fall of wicket: 1-8.

North East Zone bowling: Dipu 5-1-6-1, Rex 4-1-6-0.

batters to have a hit in the middle before the semifinals.

The scores:
West Zone – 1st innings: 590/2 decl.

North East Zone – 1st innings: Techi Doria c Rahane b Unadkat 11, Kishan Lyndoh b Unadkat 2, Muhammed Al Bashid c Het b Unadkat 0, Jonathan Rongsen b Gaja 2, Hukito Zhimomi c Het b Gaja 32, Ashish Thapa c Mulani b Sheth 43, Dippu Sangma c Het b Sheth 2, Ankur Malik b Gaja 81, Kishan Singh lbw b Mulani 22, Rex Rajkumar Singh (not out) 28, Bishworit Singh c Jani b Gaja 1; Extras (lb-7, nb-4): 11; Total (in 81.5 overs): 235.

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-13, 3-16, 4-20, 5-82, 6-84, 7-151, 8-189, 9-229.

West Zone bowling: Unadkat 15-3-35-3, Gaja 15.5-4-38-4, Sheth 12-1-51-2, Jani 10-2-29-0, Mulani 26-10-65-1, Jaiswal 3-0-10-0.

West Zone – 2nd innings: Het Patel b Dippu 7, Rahul Tripathi (batting) 5, Hardik Tamore (batting) 0; Total (for one wkt. in 9 overs): 12.

Fall of wicket: 1-8.

North East Zone bowling: Dipu 5-1-6-1, Rex 4-1-6-0.

Dhull masterclass highlights day three

Shorey, Rana lend admirable support as dominant North takes first innings lead

S. DINAKAR
PUDUCHERRY

The manner he walks to the crease, takes guard and settles in his stance... Yash Dhull oozes confidence and belief.

Dhull is technically impressive too with his judgement in the corridor, a still head, body balance in offence and defence and footwork that adjusts to the length.

Dhull's iridescent 193 (243b, 28x4, 2x6) here at the quaint CAP ground on Saturday was a masterclass from the 19-year-old Delhi youngster.

All but through
And North Zone, replying to East's 397, was 433 for three at close on day three and all but through to the Duleep Trophy semifinals, on a pitch that just refuses to deteriorate.

Himanshu Rana (62 batting, 82b, 8x4), who struck the ball firmly, and skipper Mandeep Singh (34 batting) were together at stumps.



Ruling the bowling: Dhull was all poise and panache in his brilliant knock of 193. ■ S. KUMAR

The brilliant Dhull was the cynosure, batting with with composure and flair.

The solidity in his methods with a sound defence is unmistakable. Dhull has a forward press as a trigger but doesn't commit himself.

Those flowing strokes of pacemen and spinners off either foot, the scorching cover-drives, the blazing cuts, the scintillating straight

drives, the pulsating pulls and the whiplash flicks were all there.

And he found the gaps with a surgeon's precision.

Well begun is half done and the opening pair of Dhull and Manan Vohra (44) put on 128 in 29.2 overs.

Vohra, who struck the ball crisply, was stumped off left-arm spinner Shahbaz Na-deem.

China outwits Japan, makes it to the final

Australia takes its appointed place

K. KEERTHIVASAN
BENGALURU

China played a tactically superior game to outsmart Japan 54-51 in a semifinal match of the FIBA Asian women's under-18 basketball championship here on Saturday.

After a patchy show in the group matches, China pulled itself up magnificently in the knockouts, and set up a final clash with Australia – the top seed and World No. 4 – on Sunday.

Earlier, Australia was ruthless in its 70-61 victory over Chinese Taipei in the other last-four clash.

China maintained a han-

dy nine point-lead till the first four minutes of the final quarter. The tide then, however, began to change. With hardly two minutes remaining, Yokoyama and Nami Tsuno scored a two-pointer each and Japan further reduced the lead to two points (51-53). But China held on for victory.

The results (semifinals): Australia 70 (Dallas Loughridge 14, Petrie Jessica 11, Isobel Borlase 19, Isla Jaffers 15) bt Chinese Taipei 61 (Jui Chen Sung 25, Yu Lan Chang 14, Yu Wen Hsiao 13).

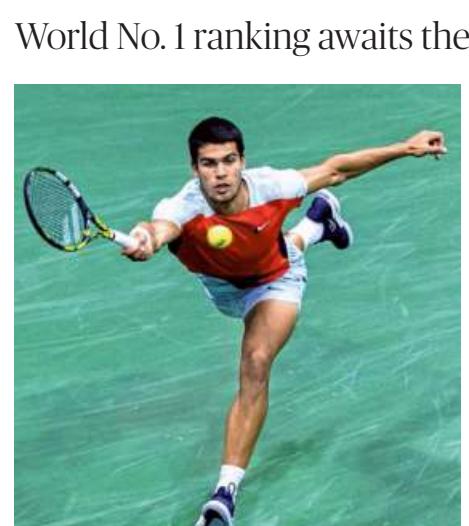
China 54 (Duoling Hu 11, Huixuan Chu 18, Wenxia Li 15) bt Japan 51 (Chinami Yokoyama 10, Haru Owaki 10).



Ruthless: Isobel Borlase was Australia's top-scorer in the win over Chinese Taipei. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

Alcaraz to battle Ruud for crown

World No. 1 ranking awaits the winner of the summit clash



Top shots: Alcaraz overcame Tiafoe in a marathon while Ruud moved past Khachanov in four sets. ■ AFP & AP

U.S. OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Carlos Alcaraz defeated Frances Tiafoe in a gladiatorial US Open semifinal on Friday, setting up a showdown for the title and World No. 1 ranking against Casper Ruud.

The 19-year-old Spaniard triumphed 6-7(6), 6-1, 6-7(7), 6-3 to become the youngest men's Grand Slam finalist since compatriot Rafael Nadal captured the first of his 22 Slams at the 2005 French Open.

Norway's seventh-ranked Ruud earlier defeated Russia's Karen Khachanov 7-6(5), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 to script a remarkable turnaround; toss likely to play a crucial role

For Alcaraz, who unleashed 59 winners, it was

THE RESULTS

Men: Semifinals: 5-Ruud (Nor) 27-Khachanov 7-6(5), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2; 3-Alcaraz (Esp) bt 2-Tiafoe (USA) 6-7(6), 6-3, 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-3.

Final: 1-Salisbury & Ram (GBR/USA) bt 2-Skupski & Koohof (GBR/Ned) 7-6(4), 7-5.

his third successive five-setter as he closes in on a maiden Slam and becoming the youngest ever World No. 1.

World No. 26 Tiafoe, who knocked Nadal out in the last-16, was hoping to become the first American man in a Major final since Andy Roddick at Wimbledon in 2009.

Top seeds Salisbury and Ram defeated Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands and Neal Skupski of Britain 7-6(4), 7-5. It was the pair's second successive title in New York as they became the first back-to-back champions at the tournament since 1996.

Skupski wore a black ribbon on his shirt as the two British players paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth who died on Thursday.

By her own assessment, she is hitting the form that saw her reach a career-best ranking of 18

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs New Zealand: 3rd ODI, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.50 a.m.
England vs South Africa: 3rd Test, day 4, Sony Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
Durand Cup: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 6 p.m.
Formula 1: Italian GP, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m.
Asia Cup: (final), Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
U.S. Open: Sony Ten 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday).

IN BRIEF



Yuvraj Singh Sandhu wins J&K Open

JAMMU
Yuvraj Singh Sandhu of Chandigarh scored a resounding win at the ₹40 lakh J&K Open golf tournament here on Saturday. Sandhu (69-70-65-71), the overnight leader by four shots, shot a steady one-under 71 in the last round to total 13-under 275 for the tournament and claim his fourth career win and third title this season. PTI

Manish and Aakruti take the honours

JALANDHAR
Manish Yadav beat top seed Tanishq Jadhav 6-0, 5-7, 6-4 in the boys' final of the AITA National series junior tennis tournament at Jalandhar on Saturday. In the girls' final, Aakruti Sonkusare beat Sejal Bhutada in straight sets. **The results (finals):**
Under-18 Boys: Manish Yadav bt Tanishq Jadhav 6-0, 5-7, 6-4.
Girls: Aakruti Sonkusare bt Sejal Bhutada 6-2, 7-5.



J.S. Bedi re-elected Delhi Race Club chairman

NEW DELHI
J.S. Bedi was unanimously re-elected as the chairman of the Delhi Race Club at its 82nd Annual General Meeting recently.

Managing committee for 2022-2023: Messrs J.S. Bedi, O.P. Katyal, Sultan Singh, Rajesh Sahgal, Dhiraj Dhar Gupta, B.M. Mehra, Naveen Sawhney, Vinay Goculdas, Gautam Shaidhar Kotwal, Col. H.S. Soodhi, VSM (Retd.), Arun Seth, H.S. Bedi, S.K. Grover, M.S. Narula, and Santosh Kumar Rai, IAS (govt. nominee).

Sasikumar enters final

SPORTS BUREAU

Second seed Sasikumar Mukund beat Daniel Rodrigues of Portugal 6-1, 7-5 to reach the final of the \$25,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Sintra, Portugal, on Saturday.

In the final, Mukund will play seven seed Duarte Vale of Portugal.

In the \$15,000 event in Madrid, Digvijay Pratap Singh and Alberto Senise of Spain were beaten 10-8 in the super tie-break of the doubles final by Luis Francisco and Pablo Masjuan Ginel (Esp.) bt Alberto Senise (Esp.) & Digvijay Pratap Singh 1-6, 6-3, [10-8].

Saketh to replace Bopanna

Latter withdraws owing to knee injury ahead of the tie against Norway

DAVIS CUP

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

The Indian aspirations for the Davis Cup World Group tie against Norway suffered a jolt as World No. 19 doubles star Rohan Bopanna withdrew owing to a knee injury.

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) secretary-general Anil Dhupar, already in Norway, stated that Saketh Myneni would be the replacement.

Saketh will rush to Lillehammer for the tie to be played on September 16 and 17 on indoor hard court.

Saketh has had a very successful season so far, winning half a dozen Challenger doubles titles, most of them with Yuki Bhambri, who is a



In and out: While Saketh has had a successful season so far, the services of Bopanna will be missed. ■ FILE PHOTOS

key member of the squad.

Ramkumar Ramanathan, Prajnesh Gunneswaran and

Sasikumar Mukund are the other members of the team as recorded in the Davis Cup

DELHI ROUND-UP

Debjani and Nasir win inter-ministry carrom titles

NEW DELHI: International player Debjani Tamuly of the Ministry of Defence beat Geeta Shankar of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) 24-5, 11-23, 20-14 for the women's title in the All India inter-ministry carrom tournament organised by the Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board.

In the men's final, Md. Nasir of CAG beat Sanjeev Bhatnagar of Railways 22-21, 18-19, 24-3.

The results: Men (final): Nasir bt Sanjeev Bhatnagar 22-21, 18-19, 24-3; **Third place:** Syed Ali bt VK Singh 25-4, 18-21, 22-2.

Women (final): Debjani Tamuly bt Geeta Shankar 24-5, 11-23, 20-14; **Third place:**

Radhika bt Shweta Sharma 25-9, 24-10.

Govt. Model SSS, Jalandhar rallies to hold NCC Red

Government Model Senior Secondary School, Jalandhar came back from a three-goal deficit to draw with NCC Red 3-3 in a Pool N match of the 50th Nehru Junior hockey tournament.

Sehbaz Singh scored twice and Prabhdeep Singh once as the Jalandhar school, trailing 3-0 at half-time, went on the attack in the second half to split points as the tournament entered Phase III of competition.

In another game, Guru Gobind Singh Sports College, Lucknow thrashed SS Senior Secondary School, Khunti 12-0 in Pool K with Ajeet Yadav scoring five goals. The four pool toppers

in Phase III will advance to the semifinals.

The results:

Pool K: Guru Gobind Singh Sports College, Lucknow 12 (Ajeet Yadav 5, Rahul Rajbir 2, Mohd. Zaid 2, Akash Pal 2, Manoj Yadav) bt SS School, Khunti 0.

Pool L: MP Hockey Academy, Bhopal 3 (Mohd. Konain Dad, Aashir Aadil Khan, Ajay Kumar Gond) bt Municipal Govt. HS, Sundergarh 2 (Ankit Singh, Vivek Lakra).

Pool M: Naval Tata Hockey Academy, Jamshedpur 3 (Abhishek Tigg 2, Kunal Yadav) bt CRZ School, Sonepat 1 (Rohit Rana).

Pool N: NCC Red 3 (Alok Kundalana, Amit Toppo, Karan Lakra) drew with Govt. Model SSS, Jalandhar 3 (Sehbaz Singh 2, Prabhdeep Singh).

The benefit match between Indian Maharajas and World Giants will be led by Virender Sehwag and Jacques Kallis respectively.

Delhi will be hosting three league stage matches,

website. Sumit Nagal was also named in the six-member squad and has already reached Norway.

India captain Rohit Rajpal and the coach Zeeshan Ali are also in Norway and the team is expected to assemble in strength shortly to get acclimated to the conditions and prepare in right earnest.

Norway has named Casper Ruud, the US Open finalist, who could become the World No. 1 if he wins the Grand Slam in New York.

The other members of the team Viktor Durasic (34), Lukas Hellum Lilleengen (1089), apart from Herman Hoeyeraal and Simen Sunde Bratholm without any world rank, offer hope to the Indian team.

BCCI president Ganguly lauds Kohli

Says there should be no captaincy comparison between them

CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI



tougher because of quarantine and all that went on. But the rewards are good."

Asked whether he gave Kohli any advice when he was struggling for form, Ganguly said: "I don't get to see them. The poor guys travel a lot." "Everybody has been under media scrutiny. Just the names keep changing over a period of time. I won't get to know half of it because I didn't read so much. I would enter a hotel and the first thing I would say at the reception, 'Boss, don't put the newspaper under my door in the morning'.

"But now, obviously, it's a lot more; social media is on your computer and phone. But I think cricketers find a way to shut that off," Ganguly added.

Finch to quit ODIs



been a fantastic ride with some incredible memories," said Finch, who has skippered the ODI side 54 times.

CA chief Nick Hockley paid tribute to Finch as "a wonderful exponent of the 50-over format".

He made his ODI debut against Sri Lanka in 2013 and soon became a mainstay at the top of the order, playing a key role in the 2015 ODI World Cup-winning side.

Infantino, Chaubey discuss women's football development in India

Infrastructure and grassroots were on the agenda

FOOTBALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DOHA

FIFA boss Gianni Infantino discussed infrastructure, grassroots and men's and women's football development in India with the newly-elected All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey, the world governing body said.

Speaking after the meeting, Chaubey thanked Infantino for his words of encouragement, and praised the role FIFA plays in developing football across the globe.

Preparations
The AIFF is in the final stages of its preparations to host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup from October 11.

Chaubey talked about his hopes for the upcoming tournament, and how he



New innings: Infantino held a meeting to congratulate Chaubey upon his election. ■ TWITTER/INDIANFOOTBALL

and the FIFA president discussed harnessing the opportunity it creates across the vast country.

"The AIFF, allied with the Government of India, has identified 40 places, 40 cities and areas where this FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup replica will be taken, and then each of the 40 places will have one match, one football match," Chaubey ex-

plained. "We will ensure that people living across India will come to know about how the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is going to take place.

"And I'm sure, having a (female) President of India this time and a FIFA Women's World Cup being played, it's going to have a huge impact for Indian women across the globe."

Shekar wins a double



Champions: V. Shekar and N. Prathima who won the men's and women's titles. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Second seed V. Shekar bounced back from a slow start to beat third seed K. Karthik 4-6, 6-4, [10-2] in the final of the AITA wheelchair tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Saturday.

In the final, it was Karthik who raced to a 5-0 lead, but Shekar got into his rhythm and dictated the flow of the contest thereafter. It was a double crown for Shekar, as

he later partnered S. Balachandar to clinch the doubles title, beating D. Mariappan and K. Karthik 6-4, 6-3. The women's title was bagged by N. Prathima as she cruised to a 6-0, 6-1 win over M.K. Mubina.

The results (finals): Men: V. Shekar bt K. Karthik 4-6, 6-4, [10-2]. **Doubles:** S. Balachandar & V. Shekar bt D. Mariappan & K. Karthik 6-4, 6-3.

Women: N. Prathima bt M.K. Mubina 6-0, 6-1.

U-17 WWC host city logo unveiled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the official host city logo of the state for the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, on Saturday. Bhubaneswar is one of the three host cities.

Momentous
Patnaik said, "Odisha is emerging as a leading sports destination and hosting the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 is a momentous opportunity for our state."

"The official Host City Logo launch of Odisha is an important milestone which also signifies the progress of women's football."

"We are excited to host the best young female footballers from across the world and especially, the Indian team who will be playing all their group games at the Kalinga Stadium.

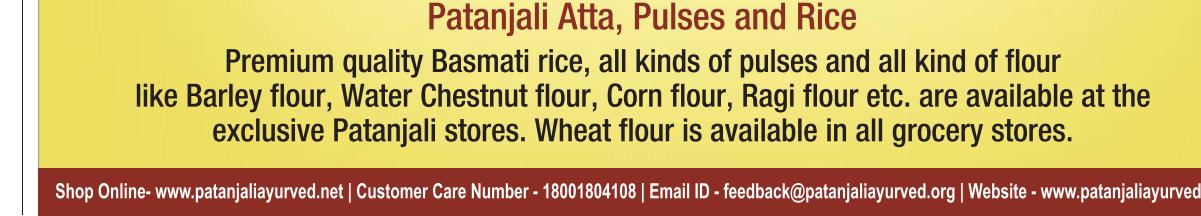
Patanjali Ghee and Oil Range



Patanjali Spices



Patanjali Atta, Pulses and Rice



Premium quality Basmati rice, all kinds of pulses and all kind of flour like Barley flour, Water Chestnut flour, Corn flour, Ragi flour etc. are available at the exclusive Patanjali stores. Wheat flour is available in all grocery stores.

Shop Online: www.patanjaliayurved.net | Customer Care Number - 18001804108 | Email ID - feedback@patanjaliayurved.org | Website - www.patanjaliayurved.org

Still waters:
The snake boat named *Payippadan* of the Vembanad Boat Club arriving for an early-morning practice session on the Punnamada lake at Kumarakom in Kottayam of Kerala.



Ready for water:
Oarsmen of the club warm up before practice.



Roll call: A coach taking attendance of oarsmen at the club's training camp at Kumarakom.



Taking guard: Oarsmen and coaches of the club pray before the start of practice.



Roar of the regatta

After a two-year pandemic-induced break, boat races are back in full energy and rhythm on the backwaters of Kerala

TEXT AND IMAGES BY THULASI KAKKAT

After a two-year hiatus, the shorelines of central Kerala are swaying to the energy and rhythm of boat races that add a punch to the Onam celebrations. With the season under way, traditional wooden boats of varying sizes and designs are churning the backwaters of the region. The familiar scene of oarsmen splashing the waters in unison, taking the long snake boats to heady speeds, has returned this harvest season.

The race calendar starts with the Champakulam boat race in June-July

and culminates by November-end with the President's Trophy Boat Race in Kollam.

Local warlords of yore are believed to have introduced the sleek, wooden boats, which shoot through the water like an arrow, to transport warriors. Over time, their ownership changed hands – from the royalty to the aristocracy and subsequently to the village zones, called Karas, and then to clubs. The boats can be 28 metres to 42 metres in length with elongated front and raised rear portions. Nearly 100 oarsmen, including the helmsmen with long oars, power them.

At stake is the pride of the club or community which owns and

operates the boat and hence, strenuous preparation lasting several weeks and rehearsals precedes the races. As the competition heats up, the training camps get longer. Each camp incurs an average expense of around ₹80 lakh.

The rowers are a diverse mix, with even kayakers from the Navy and the Army joining. The trials are a show of harmony and camaraderie with people lining up on the shorelines and cheering the teams. The race season has recently undergone an F1-style makeover in which teams are now fighting in a league with an overall prize money of ₹5.86 crore, the fourth highest for all sports in India.



Strutting the stuff: Snake boats participating in the Nehru Trophy Boat Race on the Punnamada lake in Alappuzha line up for a mass drill.



In unison: Oarsmen splash water as they take part in the Nehru Trophy Boat Race.



Pushing the limits: Oarsmen of a snake boat practise for the prestigious Nehru Trophy Boat Race, on the Vembanad lake at Mutherimada in Kottayam district.



Intense competition: Snake boats participating in the Nehru Trophy Boat Race.



Need for speed: Oarsmen practise for the Nehru Trophy at Mutherimada.