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SC axes 51-year-old curb, single women get equal abortion rights

Bench says prohibiting single women with pregnancies up to 24 weeks from accessing abortion while allowing married women with the same term to get the care amounted to discrimination; artificial distinction is not constitutionally sustainable

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

In a historic judgment, the Supreme Court on Thursday declared that single women with pregnancies between 20 and 24 weeks are entitled to access the same safe and legal abortion care as married women.

A three-judge Bench, led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, pried open the restrictive grip of a 51-year-old abortion law which barred unmarried women from terminating pregnancies that are up to 24 weeks old.

The judgment came in an appeal by a person who wanted to terminate her pregnancy before her term completed 24 weeks. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971

prohibits unmarried women who are between 20 and 24 weeks' pregnant to abort with the help of registered doctors.

"The rights of reproductive autonomy, dignity and privacy give an unmarried woman the right of choice as to whether or not to bear a child on a similar footing

as that of a married woman," Justice Chandrachud held in an order issued on a petition filed by a person who chose to remain anonymous.

The court declared that prohibiting single women with pregnancies up to 24 weeks from accessing abortion while allowing married

reproductive rights include the right to access education and information about contraception and sexual health. The right to choose whether or when to have children. The right to choose the number of children...

JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD, Supreme Court



Sexual assault of wife can take the form of rape: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Sexual assault by a man of his wife can take the form of rape, the Supreme Court said on Thursday in a significant judicial recognition of 'marital rape', at present not recognised as an offence under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The court said this in a judgment on single women's right to abortion.

CONTINUED ON
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IN BRIEF

Draft delimitation report: AAP team flags 'anomalies'

NEW DELHI
An AAP delegation visited the SEC office on Thursday and flagged "anomalies" in the draft report on delimitation of municipal wards.

CITY
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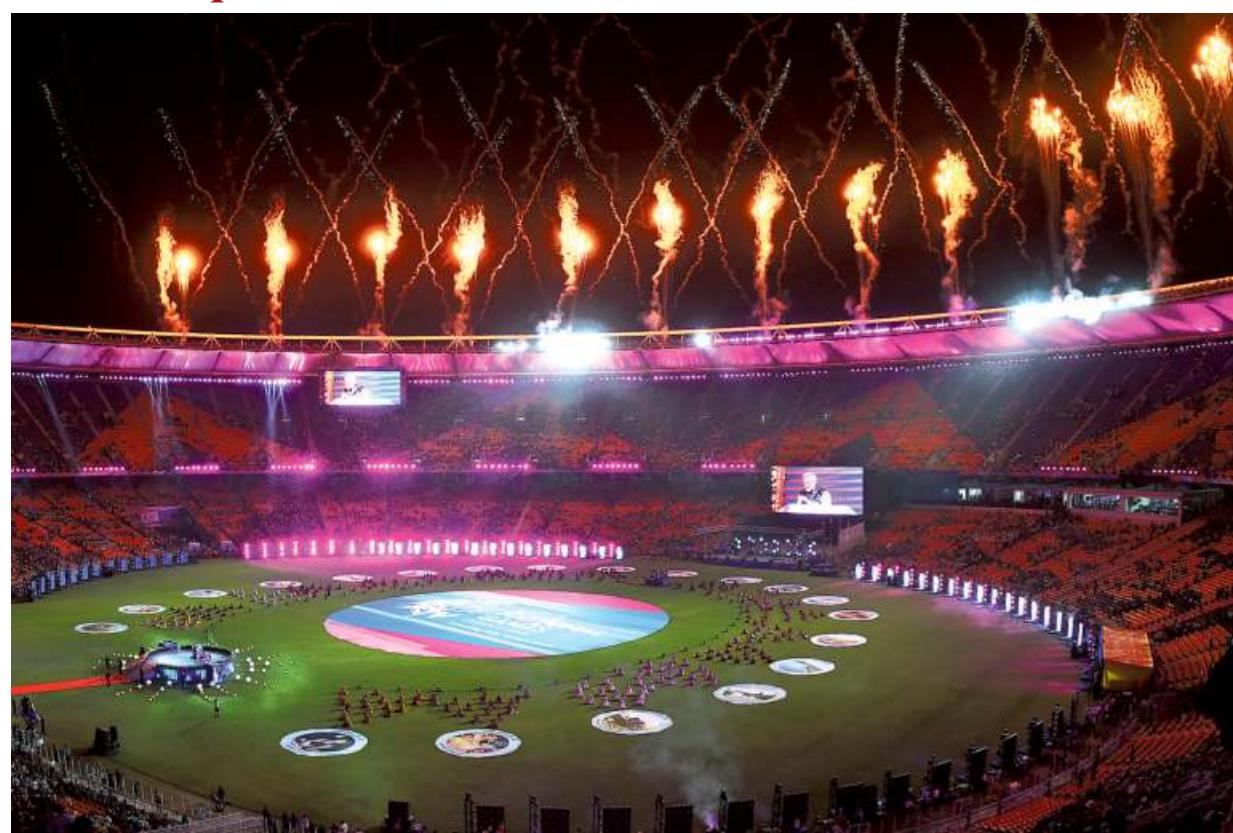
Akhilesh re-elected SP president

LUCKNOW
Akhilesh Yadav was on Thursday unanimously re-elected president of the Samajwadi Party for the third consecutive time.

STATES
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National sports arena



Fireworks go up as Prime Minister Narendra Modi declares open the 36th National Games at the Motera stadium in Gujarat on Thursday. Nearly 15,000 sportspersons and coaches from the country will be taking part in the event to be held till October 12. V.V. KRISHNAN (REPORT ON PAGE 19)

Punjab CM in firing line of Oppn. as RTI query reveals 42 vehicles in his convoy

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is yet again facing the heat of the Opposition in the State after a query under the Right to Information Act revealed that 42 vehicles had been provided for his convoy since June.

The Opposition parties accused the Chief Minister of adopting a "self-contradicting stand" around "VIP culture". Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa said the RTI reply revealed that the State Transport Corporation had given Mr. Mann's convoy more vehicles than his three predecessors.

"In his first (2007-2012) and second terms (2012-



The RTI reply has revealed that the State Transport Corporation gave the CM more vehicles than his three predecessors. FILE PHOTO

2017) as CM, Parkash Singh Badal was given 33 cars. Similarly, Amarinder Singh had 33 vehicles in his cavalcade till the end of his term. From September 20, 2021 to March 2022, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi had 39 cars in his convoy," Mr. Bajwa said.

He said Mr. Mann was not practising what he preached before becoming the Chief Minister. "Would Mr. Mann mind letting the people know what purpose this convoy serves? Why does he spend taxpayers' money so recklessly? How can he afford to

have such a huge cavalcade?" he said.

BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa accused Mr. Mann of squandering public money and said the revelation was "shocking".

Passing the buck
The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government remained tight-lipped on the issue. Asked to comment on the RTI reply, Malwinder Singh Kang, AAP chief spokesperson in the State, suggested approaching Navneet Wadhwa, the media-in-charge of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). Mr. Wadhwa said the Information & Public Relations officials would respond.

Sonali Giri, Director, IPR, told *The Hindu* she is not authorised to speak on behalf of the CMO.

Ashok Gehlot out of race, Digvijaya Singh in the fray

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Emerging out of Congress president Sonia Gandhi's 10 Janpath residence after an hour-long meeting, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday owned moral responsibility for the political crisis in his State, announced his withdrawal from the Congress presidential race and asserted that Ms. Gandhi will decide his continuance as Chief Minister.

Party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, who had two rounds of meetings with Ms. Gandhi, said she would take that decision in "a day or two".



On a day of high drama, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh joined the party's electoral contest by picking up a nomination form. Mr. Venugopal issued an

advisory to Rajasthan lawmakers not to raise internal matters in any public forum.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

UNESCO lists 50 iconic Indian textiles

It mentions causes for their dwindling popularity and provides strategies for their preservation

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

UNESCO on Thursday released a list of 50 exclusive and iconic heritage textile crafts of the country. Toda embroidery and Sungadi from Tamil Nadu, Himroo from Hyderabad, and Bandha tie and dye from Sambalpur in Odisha were some of the textiles that made the cut.

Handmade for the 21st Century: Safeguarding Traditional Indian Textile lists the histories and legends behind the textiles, describes the complicated and secret processes behind their making, men-



Making the cut: Hand-embroidered shawls made by the Toda community of the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu on display. FILE PHOTO

tions the causes for their dwindling popularity, and provides strategies for their preservation.

According to UNESCO,

one of the major challenges to the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the South Asia is the lack of proper inventory and documentation. The publication, which aims to bridge this gap, brings together years of research on the 50 selected textiles. Some of the iconic handcrafted textiles documented from north India are Khes from Panipat, Chamba rumals from Himachal Pradesh, Thigma or wool tie and dye from Ladakh, and Awadh Jamdani from Varanasi.

Finding a place
From the south, Ikkal and Lambadi or Banjara embroidery from Karnataka, Sikalnayakanpet Kalamkari from Thanjavur have been included.

Kunbi weaves from Goa, Mashru weaves and Patola from Gujarat, Himroo from Maharashtra and Garad-Koirial from West Bengal also find a place among the 50 iconic textiles.

CONTINUED ON
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Russia set to annex four Ukraine regions today

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

At a grand ceremony in Moscow on Friday, Russia will formally annex four regions of Ukraine – Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, and Luhansk – that its troops seized, the Kremlin has said, after it suggested using nuclear weapons to defend the territories. The threats from Russian officials have not deterred a sweeping counter-offensive from Kyiv, which has been pushing back Russian troops in the east.

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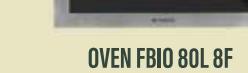


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AAP team flags 'anomalies' in draft delimitation report

Party demands recarving of wards with uniform distribution of voters; Congress flays Kejriwal's 'silence' on major issues, BJP says ruling party taking 'sadistic pleasure' in criticising 'fair' work

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

An Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) delegation visited the State Election Commission office on Thursday and flagged "anomalies and discrepancies" in the recently published draft report on delimitation of municipal wards.

The delegation said that the process was "politically motivated" and demanded recarving of wards with uniform distribution of voters.

The ruling party's move drew flak from the Opposition parties, with the Congress claiming that the draft report is against "Dalits and minorities" and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal is "silent" on the issue. The BJP said AAP is in the habit of deriving "sadistic pleasure" by raising fingers at the "fair" working of statutory consti-



QQ The delimitation exercise seems politically motivated... How can there be wards with populations of 30,000 and 90,000 at the same time
DURGESH PATHAK
AAP in-charge of MCD

tutional bodies.

AAP in-charge of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi Durgesh Pathak said wards with more people from lower income groups have been pushed further to the margins by increasing their population and wards where rich people live have been handpicked to make their population smaller.

"The delimitation exercise seems politically motivated and variation of population sizes is a huge concern. How can there be wards with populations of

among other factors.

The need for the delimitation exercise arose after the Centre notified the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022, which proposed the merger of the three erstwhile municipal corporations and a reduction in the number of wards to "not more than 250". The SEC published the draft report on September 12, providing three weeks (till October 3) for public feedback.

The sources said the final report will be sent to the Centre between October 10 and 18 for approval after which it will be published. "There will be no rotation of wards since this is a fresh exercise. First, the final report will be published in the official gazette and then a separate notification for the reservation of wards will be issued," said a source.

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Pending salaries in MCD mounting post-merger'

Muneef Khan

NEW DELHI

Four months after the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was re-united, the civic body's struggle to clear the backlog in payment of salaries to its employees has worsened.

According to the MCD, a total of ₹1126.43 crore is required to pay the salaries and pensions of its employees up to September. This is a massive rise in the salary gap which stood at ₹752.53 crore in July.

Post the merger of the three erstwhile municipal corporations, salaries of

The civic body needs ₹1126.43 crore to clear the backlog, say officials

bring parity, officials told *The Hindu* that the civic body's financial situation has "worsened" after the merger and the salary gap has continued to fluctuate.

"We are running on minimal funds and the internal revenue is not going to help. We have received one portion of the funds from the Delhi government to pay salaries, but we cannot exhaust it. Most of our revenue goes into paying salaries in order to avoid the gap from increasing but if this continues for another month, there will be stiff resistance from the employees," said a civic official.

Although the MCD's official response is that it is "making all efforts" to close the salary gap and

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For more information about the process and the schedule, candidates are advised to visit OJEE websites (www.ojee.nic.in, www.odishajee.com).

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h-10:

AAP, MCD spar over ₹1 cr. relief to 'COVID warriors'

Ruling party alleges civic body not forwarding files; municipal corporation says it sent 70 cases but the Delhi government approved only seven and rejected three

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday alleged that the Delhi government is not able to give compensation of ₹1 crore each to families of the deceased sanitation workers, who were 'COVID warriors', as the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is not forwarding the requisite files.

The MCD dismissed AAP's allegation saying it had sent 70 cases to the Delhi government for ₹1 crore compensation, but the latter approved only seven cases and rejected three.

"I am requesting the MCD Commissioner to give me an appointment for a meeting. I in-



A MCD worker spraying disinfectant at a containment zone during the peak of the pandemic. FILE PHOTO

tend to discuss the issue of compensation of ₹1 crore, which should have been provided to the families of the COVID warriors of the MCD. If he refuses to accept my demand, then all AAP office-bearers and workers will gherao the Civic

Centre next week," AAP MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak said.

The MCD said in a statement that since the matter has been flagged now, "the pending 60 cases will see the light of day" and the Delhi government will provide relief to the families of the "martyred COVID warriors".

"The corporation would also like to put it straight that regularisation of swachhta sainiks has been hindered by non-release of funds by the Delhi government," the MCD statement read.

The Congress and the BJP had recently accused Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of ignoring the families of sanitation workers who risked their lives while working during the peak of COVID-19 in Delhi.

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Shot fired in Holy Family Hospital emergency; one injured

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

One person was injured when a shot was fired in the emergency ward of Holy Family Hospital in Jamia Nagar around 10 p.m. on Thursday.

A senior police officer said that two groups of students had a scuffle earlier in the day. "After getting injured, they again fought in the hospital," the officer added.

A member of one of the groups was injured in the firing and was rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre, said a hospital source.

"No other patient or hospital staffer was injured. The situation was immediately brought under control," the hospital said in a statement.

DCP (South East) Esha Pandey said the police are verifying the facts and a case under the relevant sections has been lodged.

Test rape survivors for HIV, DCW tells city hospitals

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Thursday asked the Delhi government-run hospitals to test rape survivors for HIV. The Commission also issued a notice to the Health Department seeking information about the number of cases in which HIV tests were conducted for the survivors and the accused, as well as the SoPs in place to prevent transmission of the virus.

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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



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R.Surendra Prasad,
R.Goutham Prasath
Daughters-in-Law:
Mital Surendra & Jayanthi Arun
Grandson: S.Aswin & S.Harshad

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

GUVNL invites tenders for procurement of power from 600 MW grid connected Solar Photovoltaic power projects to be developed in the Solar Park of GSECL located at Khavda through Tariff based Competitive Bidding process (followed by e-reverse auction) with Greenshoe option for additional 600 MW through RfS No.GUVNL/600 MW/Solar (Phase-XVII) dated 29.09.2022. For tender documents please visit the website: www.bharat-electronic-tender.com and www.guvnl.com. The last date of bid submission is 15-11-2022.

General Manager (RE & IPP)

Request for Proposal (RfP)

RfP No. 2/CE/TSIC/2022-23 dt: 29.09.2022

Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (TSIC), the nodal agency of Government of Telangana for development of industrial infrastructure in the State, invites Request for Proposal (RIP) for "Development of IT Tower at Malakpet, Hyderabad, Telangana, India on Joint Development Basis".

The Request for Proposal (RIP) document can be downloaded from www.tsic.telangana.gov.in and <https://tsic.cgg.gov.in/> from 30.09.2022.

Last date for submission of Proposals: 29.10.2022, 17.00 Hrs (IST).

s/o- Vice Chairman & Managing Director

Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited

"Panishtaram Bhavan", 6/Floor, 5-8-508/B, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad, PIN: 500004, Telangana

Ph: 23237625, Fax: 040-23240205, Email: vcnd@tsic.telangana.gov.in

R.O. No.: 750-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23, DL 29.09.2022

Timings

DELHI

FRIDAY, SEP. 30
RISE 06:14 SET 21:07
RISE 10:29 SET 21:07
SATURDAY, OCT. 01
RISE 06:14 SET 18:08
RISE 11:36 SET 21:57
SUNDAY, OCT. 02
RISE 06:15 SET 18:07
RISE 12:42 SET 22:56

Delhi Weather max min

Delhi City 34 23

Safdarjang 34 23

Palam 34 25

Delhi Palam Today 35°C

The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant and misty. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant with mist.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 35°C A dry weather to continue. A pleasant and misty morning turns warm and uneasy day. Night will be pleasant and misty.

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DEATH

A TRIBUTE

He walked steadily, with head held high and spirit serene, into his sunset. We watched his form melt into dusk upon the horizon.

We will behold, and hold, in the returning dawn of memory, his smile, his strength, his saga of service.

Akhilesh re-elected SP president for third consecutive term

Mayank Kumar

LUCKNOW

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav was on Thursday unanimously re-elected president of the Samajwadi Party (SP) for the third consecutive time at the party's national convention here.

The party's national general secretary, Ram Gopal Yadav, announced the re-election of Mr. Yadav.

Many party leaders pitched for Mr. Yadav's candidature for Prime Ministership, but in his speech, Mr. Yadav, 49, stated that focus should be on the bigger target to defeat the divisive forces which are threatening the harmony of the country.

The SP chief attacked the BJP, alleging that the ruling dispensation is against farmers, youth and women.

The Samajwadi Party chief asked workers to be



Akhilesh Yadav being felicitated after his re-election on Thursday. SANDEEP SAXENA

ready to fill prisons against the misrule in the State. "Samajwadi people should be ready to fill up jails as the time has come. Our leader *netaji* [Mulayam Singh] has even said that when you are not getting justice then this is the way ahead," said Mr. Yadav.

In its political-economic resolution passed during the convention, the party alleged that unemployment and inflation were rising and the government had failed on all fronts.

Bharat Jodo Yatra provides a shot in the arm for Congress

18-day mass-contact programme spearheaded by Rahul Gandhi in Kerala appears to have galvanised party leaders at the grassroots after successive defeats in Assembly elections

Biju Govind

KOZHIKODE

The Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appears to have galvanized party leaders in Kerala into action, besides reinforcing a spirit of camaraderie among United Democratic Front partners.

Although the slogan of the yatra is aimed at uniting India from religious polarisation, Congress leaders feel that Mr. Gandhi's 18-day mass-contact programme through eight districts has been able to drive his political point home in the State.

"The meetings with social, political and cultural leaders and the interactions with women and students were highly effective. As also, the conversations



Farewell greetings: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with party workers during the last leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kerala on Thursday. PTI

with farmers from Kottayam and Idukki, northern districts including Wayanad and Kozhikode," Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

Despite the yatra drawing flak from the ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI-M] leadership in the State and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders initially, Mr. Gandhi remained fairly unruffled.

"We were unfazed by these remarks as the KPCC was sure of the yatra's success," Mr. Sudhakaran said.

CPI(M) leaders had criticised the yatra, saying it was spending 18 days in Left-ruled State and just two in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh.

However, Jairam Ramesh, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary in charge of communications, took a dig at the CPI(M) by calling the party the "A team" of the BJP and likened Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in terms of ideology and management style.

The BJP termed the yatra as hollow, describing the programme as essentially a family-saving campaign to keep the Gandhis in control of the party.

Shinde tried to join Congress in the past, say MVA leaders

Shoumojit Banerjee

PUNE

few months ago, Mr. Khaire elaborated.

"He [Mr. Shinde] had been after Prithviraj Chavan to join the Congress but nothing came after it. Today, he blames Uddhav Thackeray for allying with Congress to form the MVA but what about his own inclinations at the time?" said Mr. Khaire, an influential Sena leader from Aurangabad district.

Mr. Khaire's claims come a day after senior Congressman Ashok Chavan said that the Shiv Sena had wished to form an MVA-like alliance when the latter was in alliance with the BJP and Devendra Fadnavis was CM in the BJP-Se

"During the Fadnavis government, a delegation of Sena leaders had come to us with a proposal to form the government. Mr. Shinde was part of it," Mr. Ashok Chavan had said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location	30-Elect-28-T-R1-22-23-E3 Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of 02 Nos. WVT make lifts Installed (02 Nos.) at PHG side of New Delhi Railway Station and at Baroda House for three years.
Approx. cost of the works in	Rs. 7.98 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Bid Security	Rs. 16000.00
Date & time of submission of tender	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.reps.gov.in & Sr. Divl.Elect.Engineer/ General, New Delhi

2553/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	
Jharkhand Communication Network Limited (A SPV under DoIT & e-Gov, Govt. of Jharkhand) Office: Room No-1,3 rd floor, Above Cafeteria, Project Building, Dhrurwa, Ranchi-834004 CIN :U74999JH2017SGC009474 Contact : 0651-2446680	
CORRIGENDUM-II	
NOTICE FOR WALK-IN-INTERVIEW	
Please find below corrigendum-II on published NOTICE FOR WALK-IN-INTERVIEW for the post of Account Officer:- 8. Applications received after 10:30 AM on the date of Walk-In-Interview dated 12-10-2022 will not be considered/entertained. Document verification will be start from 10:30 AM. INTERESTED AND ELEGIBLE RETIRED GOVT.OFFICERS CAN WALK IN FOR THE PERSONAL INTERVIEW ON 12-10-2022. ALONGWITH DOCUMENTS AS PER S.N.O. 7 AT OUR OFFICE: Project Building, Dhrurwa, Ranchi. The advertisement PR No. is- 277922.	

Sd/-
PR.NO.278971 Information Technology(22-23):D JCNL, Ranchi.

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED	
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)	
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kuchery Chowk, Ranchi-384001, Jharkhand.	e-mail Id-pdt.juidco@gmail.com, juidcolimited@gmail.com CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752
CORRIGENDUM - 01	
PR Ref. No	: 277327
NIT No	: JUIDCO/NIT/KCTOKTC/RNC-500
Tender ID	: 2022_UDD_61344_1
Name of the work	: "Widening of existing road to 4 lane road with median from Kuchery Chowk to Kantali Chowk via Circular Road in Ranchi Jharkhand Length 2.772 Kms"

Sl. No.	Clause No./ Reference No.	As per uploaded RFP	As per Corrigendum - 01
1.	Clause 4.4 of ITB	Bids from Joint ventures of the SBD	Bids from Joint Ventures are acceptable * deleted

Sd/-
PR 278932 Urban Development and Housing (22-23)_D Project Director (Technical) JUIDCO Ltd.

SEARCH FOR MISSING	
	General Public is hereby informed that a female namely Ramawati Devi , W/o Mahendra , R/o K-89, Dakshinpuri, New Delhi has been missing from her house since 12.09.2022 at 05.00 AM. In this regard a DD No. 52A dt. 14.09.2022 has been registered at PS, Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:
Name: Ramawati Devi, Husband's Name : Mahendra, Age : 52 years, Height : 4'10", Complexion : Shallow Face	Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Red Color Sari and Cream color sleeper in feet.
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.	SHO P.S., Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi Ph.: 011-29052304, 29051917 8750870832

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location:-	30-Elect-26-T-R1-22-23-E3 Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of SCHINDLER make lifts (02 Nos.) installed at TKJ Railway Officer's Colony for three years.
Approx cost of the works in:-	Rs. 6.90 lacs
Address of the office :-	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security :-	Rs. 13800.00
Date & time of submission of tender :-	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender :-	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board :-	www.reps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

2556/2022

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I convey my sincere gratitude to our shareholders who have repaid faith in us. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Hon'ble Minister of State for Power and the officials of Ministry of Power for their support and guidance. I also thank the Board of Directors, our client utilities, employees, various ministries, government departments and other stakeholders of PFC for their continued support.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 21.09.2022
Chairman & Managing Director

(This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st September, 2022). For full text please visit www.pfcindia.com

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Shri R.S. Dhillon, CMD along with Ms. Peggy Frantzen, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg at the listing ceremony of PFC's Euro Green Bond on Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

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Roll out of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) is progressing smoothly, with enthusiastic participation by the states. Till now more than 20 States and UTs have got their reform action plans approved under the scheme. When implemented by 2024-25, the scheme will restrict pan India level AT&L losses to 12-15% and reduce the ACS-ARR gap to zero, which would bring about a marked improvement



Stronghold breached: Security personnel at the camp set up at Tisia village in Jharkhand after driving the Maoists out of Burha Pahar; and (below) residents of Hatedih village interact with a police officer. V.V. KRISHNAN

All quiet on the Maoist front

The fall of Burha Pahar, a command centre of the CPI(Maoist) in the jungles along the Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh border, signifies a broader trend — the ultras are on the retreat across the country. Despite the gains made in depleting the strength of the rebels, the Union Home Ministry's take-no-prisoners approach and expansion of security operations have raised human rights concerns. **Devesh K. Pandey** reports from the battlefields that are now calm

Every monsoon, fresh spells of rain revitalise the rivers, waterfalls, streams and multitudinous brooks that flow out of the hills of Burha Pahar, a forested area spread over 50 sq. km in the trijunction of Latehar and Garhwa districts in Jharkhand and Balrampur district in Chhattisgarh. The rolling landscape offers a tranquil getaway for urban travellers and an inviting challenge for adventure seekers.

However, for over three decades, large parts of this picturesque terrain remained inaccessible as it served as the command centre of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), a banned organisation of left-wing guerrilla fighters engaged in constant battles with Indian security forces.

Early this month, a counter-insurgency offensive codenamed Operation Octopus — jointly launched by special teams from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), its elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) unit, Jharkhand Jaguar, and the district police of Garhwa and Latehar — finally freed Burha Pahar from the control of Maoists. A large bunker was demolished and over 100 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were recovered. Union Home Minister Amit Shah termed the mission a "historic milestone" in the fight against Left Wing Extremism (LWE) and lauded the troops that had led the offensive.

The area was one of the last bastions of the Maoist insurgency, which traces its roots to a 1967 uprising in Naxalbari, a village in West Bengal. The Maoists organised uprisings among landless workers in West Bengal, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, and later spread to the mineral-rich States of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

In 2004, two armed wings, the People's War Group in Andhra Pradesh, and the Maoist Communist Centre in Jharkhand and Bihar, united to form the CPI(Maoist). In 2006, the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described the rebels as "the single biggest internal security challenge ever faced by our country". Armed conflict in the 'red corridor' has claimed the lives of about 16,650 security personnel in the past 40 years and 3,000 Maoists over the last two decades.

Following the trail

The Hindu followed the trail taken by the security forces to piece together the capture of Burha Pahar. Riding pillion on motorcycles driven by Jharkhand Police's Small Action Team commandos, the team began its 13-km journey from Barasam in Latehar district to Tisia village, which sits on the edge of the former Maoist stronghold. At Hatedih hamlet, the team met locals who complained about the State Forest Department's objections to them gathering wood for putting up fences in their fields. But they remained tight-lipped when questioned about the Maoists on the run. After climbing over boulders on the nearby Tetuk Nullah, the squad reached a makeshift bridge, where the motorcycles had to be dragged through the sandy riverbed while crossing a tributary of the Burha river. The final five km of the hour-long trip was a bumpy ride through slushy terrain.

"For the first time, we have entered deep into Naxal-dominated territory and established a base," said an officer supervising work at the new camp being set up in Tisia village. Within days, multiple tents, basic infrastructure and a power generator were set up at the site. Expecting an am-

bush, sandbag bunkers and a barbed wire fence were also put up. The officer said they planned to source water from a nearby hamlet.

The police said the Tisia camp would be instrumental in securing uninterrupted supply of essentials and conducting area domination exercises in the region that was once run by top Maoist commander Deo Kumar Singh alias Arvindji, who fearlessly roamed the forests on horseback. A member of the central committee of the CPI(Maoist) who carried a reward of ₹1 crore on his head, Arvindji died of an illness in 2018. He was succeeded by Oggu Satwaji alias Sudhakar, another central committee member, who carried a bounty of ₹1 crore in Jharkhand and ₹25 lakh in Telangana. Under his leadership, the Maoists continued to launch attacks. On June 26, 2018, six jawans of the Jharkhand Jaguar were killed in a landmine blast. In February 2019, Sudhakar and his wife Vydugula Aruna surrendered before the Telangana police. The charge of Burha Pahar then fell on central committee member Mithilesh Mehta alias Bhikhari. The same year, the Home Ministry set up more camps and relocated existing ones in consultation with States to plug the security vacuum. Since then, 108 camps have come up, including 22 in Jharkhand, five in Bihar and six in Odisha.

As the security forces closed in on the rebels, the number of arrests went up. The rate of surrenders also increased by 140% from 2,428 (2006 to 2014) to 5,816 up to May this year. In Jharkhand, among the 440 Maoists arrested last year were politburo member Prashant Bose alias Kishanda and central committee member Sheela Marandi.

This year, Rupesh Kumar Singh, who allegedly mobilised funds for the outfit's operations, was arrested along with 309 other members of the organisation. Twenty Maoists surrendered last year and 12, including zonal committee member Maharaj Pramanik, gave up arms this year. Encounters in Jharkhand led to the killing of six Maoists last year and five till August this year.

Tightening the noose

Over the past few years, a series of exercises have been undertaken to smoke out Maoists from Parasnath, Saranda, Kolhan and the Sarai Kelai-Khundi-Chaibasa trijunction in Jharkhand and choke their funding channels. Assets worth ₹22 crore have been seized in LWE-affected States.

Crackdowns by Central law enforcement agencies on Maoists, however, have not been without controversy as several human rights activists have been embroiled in cases for their alleged links with the banned outfit. The special wing of the National Investigation Agency has registered 55 such cases, with over 50% of them lodged in the past three years. In July last year, Father Stan Swamy,

an 84-year-old Jesuit priest, who spent five decades fighting for the rights of the tribal community in Jharkhand, died in judicial custody in Mumbai. He was one of the 16 human rights activists arrested by the probe agency under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for their alleged links with Maoists in the 2018 Bhima-Koregaon case.

Clampdown begins

On February 8 this year, the security forces launched Operation Double Bull based on a specific input about the presence of several key CPI (Maoist) leaders in Bulbul and Peshwar areas in Lohardaga district and Gotag in Latehar district.

Personnel from the CoBRA, Jharkhand Jaguar, bomb detection and disposal squads, 19 CRPF companies and local police took part in the exercise spread across 1,000 sq. km.

One Naxal commander was killed and three security personnel were injured in the offensive that lasted till February 21. The teams blocked the supply routes of Maoists,

forcing them to flee after a brief gunfight. After the final face-off at Harkatoli in the Pakhar hills, 14 Maoist leaders and their aides were arrested. Thirty firearms, 23 IEDs, and 194 kg of explosives, using which 750 small landmines powerful enough to blow off the lower limbs of security personnel could be made, were seized. "The operation had a debilitating impact on Naxal formations in Lohardaga, Gumla, Latehar, Simdega, Palamu and Garhwa districts. It created conditions for possible large-scale desertions and surrender of Naxals," said Amol Vinukant Homkar, Inspector General of Jharkhand Police, who heads the Operations and State Intelligence Bureau wings.

In an intercepted conversation, Maoist leader Bhikhari was heard saying he "fears for his life". He was arrested in Bihar's Gaya in March based on a tip-off from Jharkhand Police. Sourav, the son of politburo member Jagdish Master, a founding member of the erstwhile Maoist Communist Centre, replaced him as the head of operations in Burha Pahar. Of late, the area had become the headquarters for Maoist operations in the Koel-Sankhi zone comprising Palamu, Latehar, Garhwa, Gumla, Lohardaga and Simdega districts.



The security forces then turned their focus on adjoining Bihar where over the past three-four years, Maoist presence in the Chakarbandha forests, spread across Gaya and Aurangabad districts, and the Lakhisarai-Jamui-Munger trijunction in the Bhimbandha forests had emerged as a major challenge. The CRPF set up six camps in the State between February and March. In April, the para-military force launched Operation Chakarbandha, which resulted in the Maoists fleeing to Palamu and Chatra districts in Jharkhand.

Follow-up action in June and August led to the collapse of Maoist infrastructure in Bihar. All major leaders of the outfit in the Bhimbandha forests had either surrendered or were arrested, dealing a major blow to the insurgents. Most of the 2,500 landmines planted in the area were detected and destroyed. A CRPF official said the rebels earlier placed a series of IEDs that were "command-detected" by wired or wireless remote devices. However, in the recent past, they often carpeted the area surrounding their hideouts and bunkers with 30 to 50 IEDs containing just 250 gm of explosives that used syringes as pressure activators. The moment someone stepped on the IED, the syringe was depressed and the bomb went off. "The main objective was to incapacitate security personnel by blowing off their legs," the official said.

The final assault

Jharkhand Director General of Police Niraj Sinha said the inputs gleaned from the previous operations proved vital in executing the final assault on Burha Pahar. He said in mid-August, the advance of the security forces into the safe haven of the Maoists was hampered by heavy rain.

On September 4, after several brainstorming sessions, senior officers decided to launch Operation Octopus. Over 25 companies of joint forces were pressed into action to strike a final blow to the Maoists, said an officer who was part of the war room. Two teams — one from the CRPF camp in Pundag in Chhattisgarh and the other from Tisia and Nawatoli villages in Jharkhand — had to cross rivers, navigate dense forests, scale steep hills and evade landmines while making their way to Burha Pahar. The first team reached the Maoist hotbed the same night and the second unit soon joined it. After a brief exchange of fire, the Maoists took to their heels, the official said. Within hours, tents were set up and a helipad was built atop the hill as a contingency measure.

On September 21, CRPF Director General Kuldeep Singh said following the operations, Burha Pahar and the Chakarbandha forests had been "completely cleared off and captured". "We want to ensure that the Maoists get no chance to return to these areas now," he said. Mr. Singh said this year, in comparison with 2018, there had been a 39% reduction in incidents of LWE violence, a 26% dip in the number of casualties suffered by security forces and a 44% fall in civilian deaths.

The number of LWE-affected districts dropped by 24% to just 39 (128 police station areas) in 2022, he added. Of these, only 25 were in the category of most violence-prone districts, Mr. Singh said, adding that the areas under the control of the Maoists were now "shrinking".

On September 23, at a security review meeting chaired by Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, police officials said 27 Maoists had been killed and 1,131 arrested in the State since January 2020. A total of 108 gunfights took place between the Maoists and the security forces between January 2020 and August 2022, and 45 Maoists surrendered before the police. The officials said eight of the State's 24 districts were LWE-free.

On July 20, Minister of State for Home Nitin Gadkari had informed the Rajya Sabha that incidents of Maoist violence had declined by 77% from an all-time high of 2,258 in 2009 to 509 in 2021. "Similarly, the resultant deaths (civilians and security forces) have reduced by 85% from 1,005 in 2010 to 147 in 2021," the Minister said. Only 46 districts reported LWE-related violence in 2021 compared with 96 in 2010, Mr. Gadkari said.

Road to development

At the Tisia camp, villagers have gathered to witness the security personnel at work. "Just days before the camp came up, the Maoists were spotted in the jungles. They demanded cooked meals and threatened us with dire consequences if we spoke to the police. They have now fled," said Uday Kumar Yadav, a resident of Nawatoli, whose uncle was killed in an IED blast last year.

The security personnel said a team led by Latehar Superintendent of Police Anjan Anjan had helped them identify land for the Tisia and Nawatoli camps, and secure excavators and workers to flatten a boulder-strewn track. When strong currents in the Burha river made it difficult for tractors to transport construction material, Mr. Anjan suggested forming a bridge by placing sandbags on Hume pipes (concrete tubes). The bridge was built in just 12 hours, facilitating the movement of excavators and tractors. Within a few days, the camp site was cleared of boulders and levelled.

Not far away from the camp lies the ruins of a school building. When a villager pointed out that teachers seldom visited the school, Mr. Anjan gave orders for the construction of a makeshift school and the distribution of books and uniforms to students. He also urged the villagers to open shops to provide supplies to security personnel at the camp. "It will create long-term livelihood opportunities for them," Mr. Anjan said, adding that similar initiatives would be undertaken at Nawatoli where work is in progress to build a camp.

The fall of Burha Pahar offers the hope of development to villagers who have borne witness to the Maoists bringing government projects to a grinding halt. Officials cited the example of the Kutku Mandal dam on the North Koel river in the Palamu Tiger Reserve. They said construction of the dam had started in 1974, but it was stalled in August 1997 after the Maoists executed an engineer whom they had held responsible for flooding in the area that led to the death of several villagers. In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the completion of the project. "We are hopeful that counter-insurgency operations will instil confidence in the contractors to resume work," an administration official said.

The operation had a debilitating impact on Naxal formations and created conditions for possible large-scale desertions and surrender of Naxals.

AMOL VINUKANT HOMKAR
Inspector General of Jharkhand Police

Srinivas Ramanujam
srinivasa.r@thehindu.co.in

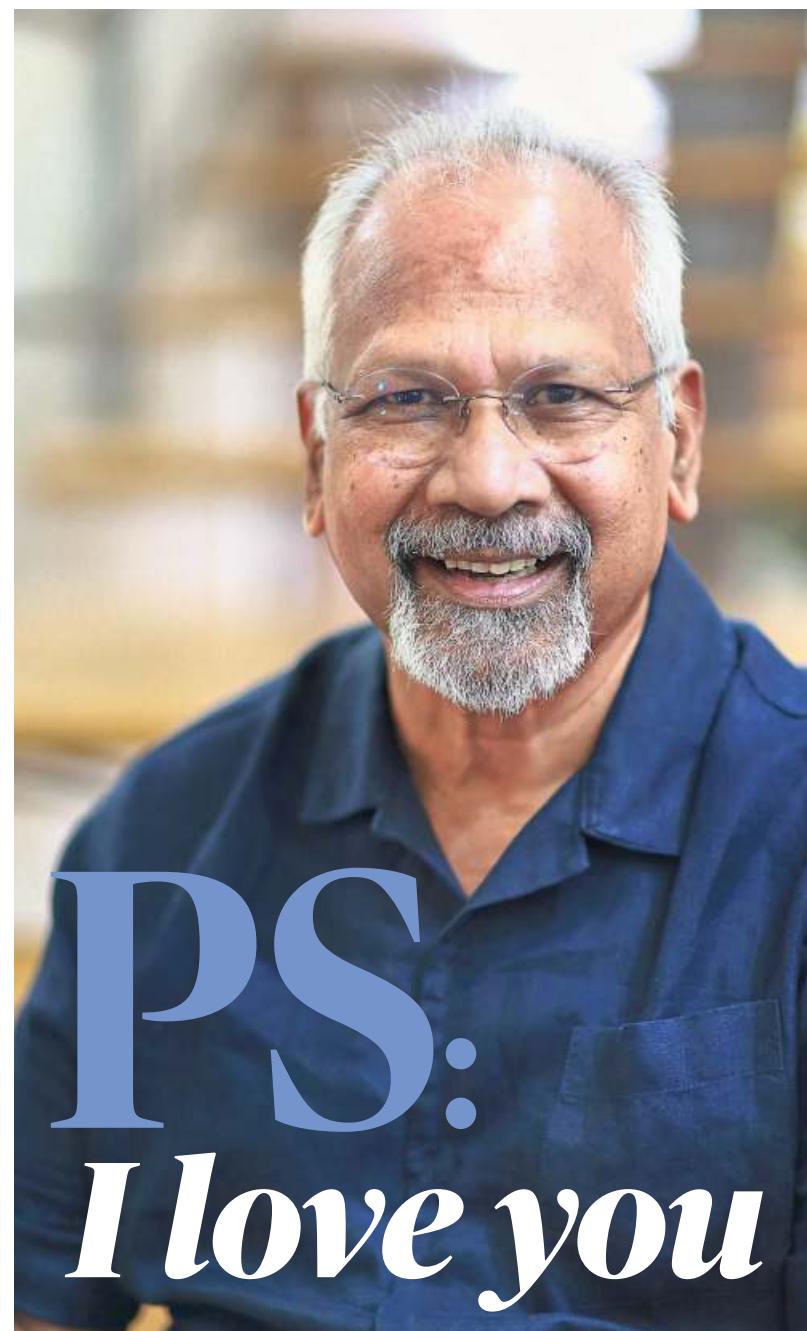
Mani Ratnam doesn't take tags seriously. Mention the tag 'pan Indian', the latest in-phrase in cinema, in the context of his latest magnum opus *Ponniyin Selvan (PSI)*, and the filmmaker shrugs, "I have no idea [if it's pan-Indian]," he smiles, adding, "Only the outside world gives such brackets. We've made a film as honestly as possible on the book it's based on. We'll accept whatever tags come along the way."

Described as India's first pan-Indian director by his peers SS Rajamouli and Shankar, Mani Ratnam seems content with the way his latest project, headed by an all-star cast including Vikram, Jayam Ravi, Karthi, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Trisha, has turned out. In a conversation at his Madras Talkies office, the director discusses why he continues to do what he does best: make films. Excerpts from the interview:

Question: Many actors, from MGR to Kamal Haasan, wanted to make this book into a film. Why was it a dream for you as well?

Answer: I was in school when I first read the book. It was an exciting adventure, and very entertaining and intriguing. Kalki is an amazing storyteller who had the ability to tell such a large story very personally. There is some sort of connection between the writer and everyone who has read the book. After I got into films and the opportunity presented itself, I wanted to make it for the big screen.

Q: Everybody who has read the novel imagines their own version of the principal characters. Was that expectation overwhelming for you as



PS: I love you

Director Mani Ratnam, whose magnum opus *Ponniyin Selvan* hits screen today, on what gives him the motivation to continue making films

Adil Hussain seeks answers

In his latest film, Adil Hussain questions the idea of identity and originality. He also has questions for the audience as he returns to the stage

Anuj Kumar
anuj.kumar@thehindu.co.in



Versatile Actor Adil Hussain returns to stage SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

will be showcased at the upcoming Busan International Film Festival.

A: After 2019, it is the second time that I have two films at the prestigious festival. There is Anant Mahadevan's *The Storyteller*, in the competition section. Based on Satyajit Ray's beautiful short story *Golpo Boliye Tarini Khuro*, it is about an artist's poetic revenge and questions the concepts of originality and plagiarism.

Then there is Padmakumar Narasimhamurthy's *Max, Min Meowzaki* which is the story of three generations of an affluent Tamil Brahmin family and depicts a clash of sociopolitical ideologies and the world view. I play the middle-generation IIT guy who has led his life in Mumbai. While his father, played by Nasser, is a Carnatic singer, his son is a rapper.

Q: Tell us about your ambitious project on Krishna.

A: I miss theatre and had started working on the piece during the pandemic. Written by my friend and guide Dilip Shankar, it is about the essential understanding of the Bhagvat Gita.

Our friend is talking about the gist of the *Gita*. What does the word intent mean? Is it intention or is it deeper than that? It is about discovering our essential operating energy. It doesn't matter what you say, what's important is what you are, essentially...

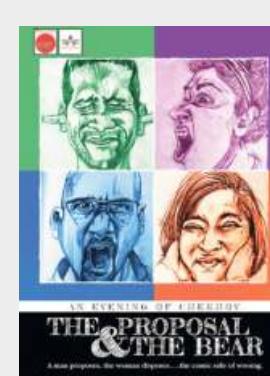
It is very mystical and the idea is to denude people of all identities. All masks down!

Q: Tell us about your two films that



Broadway Ramila

Some breath-taking stage design, lighting, costumes, music, sound and choreography are packaged in the three hour show of Sampurn Ramayana. Aryan Heritage Foundation's presentation this week weaves the epic story from the birth of Lord Ram to his coronation. At Netaji Subhash Place, Opposite NDM 2 Mall, Pitampura; At 7 p.m; Till October 4



An evening with Chekov

The Proposal and The Bear, based on two short comedies by the 19th century Russian playwright, Anton Chekov will be staged over the weekend. Directed by Sohaila Kapur, these are costume dramas on the art of courtship. At Akshara Theatre, Bala Kharak Singh Marg; September 30 and October 1, 7.30 pm; Tickets available on BookMyShow and; At Triveni Amphitheatre, Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House, On October 2, at 7.30 p.m. Seating on first come, first served basis



Kids art festival

Kukdokoo returns after two years with a curation of new interactive activities and a lineup of performances and workshops to boost children's interest in arts. The two-day festival is for children aged between two and 18 years. The idea is to intrigue the kids and instil a deep-seated love for art forms, both Indian and international, traditional and contemporary. At Airia Mall ground, Sector 68 Gurugram; October 1 and 2, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Entry ticket ₹499 per child with complimentary access to parents.

When rosogollas meet literature

Jugal's Literature Festival aims to be the first lit fest to celebrate the legacy of Bengal through the nuances of *mishti*, with panel discussions, open house forums, art exhibitions and interactive workshops

Bishwanath Ghosh

bishwanath.ghosh@thehindu.co.in

This winter will see the confluence of two things. Kolkata is famous for as a legendary city sweetshop plans to celebrate its 100 years with a literary festival.

Jugal's was founded by Jugal Kishore Ghosh in 1923 in Sealdah and the festival is the idea of his granddaughter Lahana Ghosh, who aims to use the event to glorify the sweet maker in order to make their profession more inclusive and appealing.

"The *mishti* (sweet) industry is largely male-dominated. We have next to negligible female representation. One of my primary goals is to make the industry inclusive. To achieve this, we might need to break a few traditions and customs but I think it is the right time," says Lahana, who assists her father, Krishna Kali Ghosh, in running the shop as its finance and operations manager.

"My dream is also to encourage the *kaarigar* (artisan). I consider sweet-making to be a culinary art form, one that's deeply intricate yet mostly disregarded in the modern world. Some of the skills take years to learn and master. But now, a *kaarigar*'s child no longer wants to become a *kaarigar*. My goal is to change that by offering them incentives to stay, thrive, and be



Sweet discussions Lahana Ghosh with her father at the workshop Jugal Sweet shop SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

proud of the art form that Bengal has sustained for 400-plus years," says Lahana, who recently returned from Canada after a career in the world of finance.

Dates for the three-day festival are still being finalised: it is likely to be held either in January (20 to 22) or in February (3 to 5). 2023. "Jugal's Literature Festival will be the first lit fest to celebrate the legacy of Bengal through the nuances of *mishti*. It will consist of panel discussions, open house forums, art and photo exhibitions,

and interactive workshops on *mishti*," Lahana states. She says each session will delve into the history, legacy, culinary footprint, economics, socio-cultural impact and, most importantly, the future of the dairy-dependent *mishti* industry. "We are bringing together the leading minds in the industry and beyond, including food historians, writers, culinary experts, dairy experts, economists and industrialists."

According to her, it is a struggle to justify the cost of human resources in the sweet industry as opposed to others with more mechanised production lines. "But *mishti* is a product of human emotion, meant to be handcrafted. It takes skill and often years of training to understand milk, its texture, how it works with different elements. Our head *karigar* makes ₹900 a day, which is more than what young chefs earn, and yet no culinary school graduate would want to come and work at a *mishti* workshop," says Lahana, adding that it is this mindset she is hoping to change.

Jugal's oldest outlet sits at the iconic location of 1, Mahatma Gandhi Road in Sealdah; today it has five more across Kolkata. After the founder's death in 1963, his brother-in-law stepped in and looked after the shop and also started training Jugal Kishore's youngest son, Krishna Kali, who was only six at the time. Growing up, the boy would come back from school and head straight to the shop where he would spend the entire evening learning the trade. Lahana is one of his twin daughters. Lahana plans to launch a dossier, documenting the journey of *mishti* through Bengal's history, literature, cuisine, politics and religion, during the festival. She adds, "The research activity will continue beyond the festival, with a larger goal of geo-mapping each and every *mishti* shop across West Bengal, starting with Kolkata."

this, but when there's a scene, they have to put in their best. I make it a point to tell my actors that the character they are playing has to be discovered together.

Q: You're well known for shooting songs aesthetically. In a climate of songs not forming a major part of the film narrative, will that change the way you tell a story?

A: Things are changing. Songs are no longer necessary to break the rhythm of the narration. In *PS* too, it's like that. It's not an exercise to shoot songs. It's an exercise to tell a story; in that, wherever songs are needed, they will come and go.

Q: In the promotional events, actor Vikram has spoken passionately about the glory of the Chola period. Do you see this film sparking off a cultural conversation about our past?

A: That's what history normally does. Now that there's a film out, there's a lot more interest in learning about our history. There are audiobooks and card games about the characters in the book, and somewhere down the line, the conversation will move towards the Cholas. That's a start. If we get in more history in today's entertainment, we will be richer.

Q: You could have made a smaller film but you still chose to make an epic...

A: Making a small film is as difficult as doing a large one. The issues with the latter are logistical, but the effort and passion is still the same. Trying to get something from paper to screen in a manner in which it elevates itself is what filmmaking is all about.

Q: After almost four decades in the industry and 25-plus films, what gives you the motivation to carry on?

A: That's all I know... (smiles)



To watch a video version of the interview, scan QR code



Srinivas Ramanujam
srinivasa.r@thehindu.co.in

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Q: Everybody who has read the novel imagines their own version of the principal characters. Was that expectation overwhelming for you as

Anuj Kumar
anuj.kumar@thehindu.co.in

Films are not just about eventfulness but also about psychological study of characters," says Adil Hussain, a rare actor who dabbles in both mainstream and independent cinema with equal ease.

Two of his films have made it to the upcoming Busan International Film Festival, Adil was in Delhi recently to participate in the India Habitat Centre Theatre Festival where the spotlight was on his contribution to theatre.

Edited excerpts:

Question: You play a layered character in *Wanphrang Diengdoh's Lorni - The Flaneur*, a private detective in search of a stolen culture. What made you do this independent film in Khasi?

Answer: There is a scene in the film where a shaman says the most valuable thing which can be or will be stolen are our words and stories. When I read the script, I felt this is a very important question to address. Our subconscious conditioning, how we behave, and how we look at the others, are mostly dependent on stories that we are brought up on.

It leads to another important question as to who are the original inhabitants of a place. In Assam, where I come from, there is a debate whether the Ahoms, who are said to have come from Thailand, are the original inhabitants or is it the Rabhas, the Miris, and the Karbis... Over the years, people have come in from West Bengal and East Bengal (Bangladesh) and now they are called outsiders. I don't know who is right or wrong but it is an interesting debate that I usually don't find in Indian films.

Like the protagonist, I also have a mixed identity. My maternal grandfather was a Sufi from Iraq who came and settled in India in 1875 and my maternal grandmother was born to an Englishman who ran steamers in the Brahmaputra and an Assamese girl.

Q: Tell us about your two films that

CMK

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
 Office of the Executive Engineer
 Irrigation Division, Deoghar

e-Procurement Tender Very Short-Notice
 Tender Reference No.: WRD/Irr. Div., Deoghar/SBD-IFB-02/2022-23

1.	Name of the work	Construction of S.L.R. Bridge at ch. 1148,350, Escape Channel at ch. 569/575 and C.D. at ch. 644.00 of Punasi Main Canal under Punasi Reservoir Scheme.
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 03,70,38,181.66 (Rupees three crore Seventy lakh Thirty eight thousand one hundred eighty one and paise sixty six) only
3.	Time of Completion	360 days
4.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	01.10.2022 11:00 A.M.
5.	Last date of Bid submission period of Tender on website	10.10.2022 Up to 5:00 P.M.
6.	Last date & Time for receipt of bids	11.10.2022 Up to 5:00 P.M.
7.	Date & Time of opening of technical bid	12.10.2022 11:00 A.M.
8.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer Irrigation Division, Deoghar
9.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	06432-355996
10.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	06432-232477

Note:- Only E-Tender will be accepted

 Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

 Executive Engineer
 PR 278926 Water Resource(22-23)#D Irrigation Division, Deoghar

HIMACHAL PRADESH
 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
 INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, Palampur Division, HPPWD, Palampur on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for Submission of Bid
1.	C/o Dharamshala Yol Dadi Palampur Holla	Rs. 19,76,822/-	13.10.2022	Rs. 39,600/-	22.10.2022
2.	C/o Dharamshala Yol Dadi Palampur Holla	Rs. 40,55,749/-	13.10.2022	Rs. 81,200/-	22.10.2022

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

Executive Engineer, HPPWD, Division, Palampur, PIN-176061,

Tel. 01894-230561,

e-mail:-ee-pal-hp@nic.in

On behalf of Governor of H.P.

HP / 4562/22-23

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

NORTHERN RAILWAY
'One Station One Product'

Applications are invited for 'One Station One Product' for setting up Stall/kiosk at Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi, Ghaziabad, Sonipat, Panipat, Meerut City, Muzaffarnagar, Gurgaon, Rohtak, Palwal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Pataudi Road, Meerut Cantt, Delhi Shahdara, Bahadurgarh, Subz Mandi, Delhi Cantt, Samalkha and Ganaur stations.

- The scheme is likely to be launched by second week of October-2022 and exact date will be informed accordingly.
- The period for setting up of the stall/kiosk will be one month per spell.
- A token fee of Rs. 2000 for one month shall be charged for each spell of one month.
- The following are the eligibility criteria for participant viz:- a) Holder of Artisans/Weaver ID card issued by Development Commissioner Handicraft, Development Commissioner Handloom, or by the requisite state/Central Government Authority. b) Individual artisans/weavers/craftsmen enrolled/registered with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) / National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) / Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) etc. c) Self Help Groups registered with PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme). d) Marginalized or weaker sections of society.
- The applicant will have to submit an undertaking to the Station Superintendent indicating that no activity would be undertaken to adversely affect the train operations, passenger safety and image of the Railways.
- Application should be addressed and can be submitted to Station Superintendent at station by the applicant till 15:00 hrs of 10.10.2022.
- Station Superintendent will make priority roster of all approved participants and priority will be established through a draw of lots conducted at the station in the presence of all approved applicants by the Station Manager/Sectional CMI.
- For any queries applicant may contact Station Superintendent or CMI of the respective stations.

2550/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
 Credit Recovery and Management Department
 Administrative Office : No.-24-B, Gandhi Nagar,
 Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail : cmd@cityunionbank.in,
 Ph : 0435-243232, Fax : 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
 The following properties mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs.48,59,207/- (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Seven only) as on 15-11-2021 together with further interest to be charged from 16-11-2021 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors No.1) Mrs. Mumtaz, W/o. Imitiaz Ahmed, at 3053, Gali Topi Wali, Sita Ram Bazar, Behind Kali Masjid, Delhi - 110006. No.2) Mr. Mohd Ali, S/o. Imitiaz Ahmed, at 3053, Gali Topi Wali, Sita Ram Bazar, Behind Kali Masjid, Delhi-110006.

Irrecoverable Property Mortgaged to our Bank

(Property Owned by Mr. Mohd Ali, S/o. Imitiaz Ahmed)

Entire Second Floor, with its roof right having area measuring 58 Sq.yds, part of property bearing 315/A, situated at Dhaman Gali, Gali Shankar, Kali Masjid, Delhi - 110006. Bounded as under: East: Gali, West: Others Property, North: Others Property, South: Property No.311.

Reserve Price : Rs.42,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Two Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

 Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale : 27-10-2022
 Venue : City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-Laxmi Nagar Branch, F-120, Main Bazar, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi - 110092, Telephone No. 011-22501110, Cell No. 9312620592.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:

- (1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. (2) The intending bidder may obtain the Tender Forms from the Manager, City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-Laxmi Nagar Branch, F-120, Main Bazar, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi - 110092. (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an MD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact Telephone No.011-22501110, Cell No. 9312620592. (5) The properties are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there-is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidder at 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of Confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory due (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

 Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 28-09-2022
 Authorised Officer : Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001. CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-243222, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : www.cityunionbank.com
NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
DRM'S OFFICE,
STATE ENTRY ROAD, NEW DELHI

Name of work and its location	30-elect-31-T-R1-22-23-E3 Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) or OTIS makes lifts installed over Delhi Division for three years.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 49.31 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security	Rs. 98600.00
Date & time of submission of tender	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

2554/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE
NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location:-	30-Elect-29-T-R1-22-23-E3 Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of THYSEN make lift installed at P.K. Road Officers Railway Colony block no. 247, 248, 249, 250, 251 & 257 New Delhi for three years
Approx cost of the works in:-	Rs. 14.60 lacs
Address of the office :-	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security :-	Rs. 29200.00
Date & time of submission of tender :-	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender :-	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board :-	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

2555/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr. P. C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Tasleem S/o Abdul Salam** R/o H.No.696, Gali No. 9 Kachchi Khajuri, Delhi have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under FIR No. 462/2016 dated. 26.08.16 U/s 356/379/34 IPC. has been registered at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Tasleem** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Tasleem** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, **Tasleem** of FIR 462/2016 dated. 26.08.2016 U/s 356/379/34 IPC. registered at PS. Kotwali, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **02.11.2022**.

By Order

 Ms. Meena Chouhan, MM-08
 Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1330/N/2022- Court matter

 Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu, Main Campus Chatha 180009 (J&K) Central Library (www.skuast.org)

Notice Inviting e-Tender (2nd time)

For and on behalf of SKUAST-Jammu, tenders are invited by e-tendering mode (2nd time) from Registered Book Sellers, Suppliers, Distributors, etc. for the supply of Books (Print) to Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology of Jammu for the year 2022-23. Note: (i) Further details regarding the matter can be obtained from the website for <http://jkttenders.gov.in> or www.skuast.org. (ii) Tenders are to be uploaded only on <http://jkttenders.gov.in> and the Book Seller, Supplier, Distributor, etc. who is registered on this website will be able to submit their bids online. (iii) The tenderer should read terms and conditions and further instructions carefully before filing the discount bids. (iv) Cost of tender document amounting to Rs 2000 and deposit of EMD amounting to Rs 60,000 submitted to the University by the 04 numbers of tenderer who has responded to earlier tender issued vide no. C-Lib/22-23/LAC/1049-53 dated 21.07.2022 (1st time) and found eligible, shall be considered. These firm(s) need not to pay tender fee again or submit EMD. (v) The Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu, reserves the right to accept or to cancel/ reject/ modify any list or item (s) of the tender at any stage without assigning any reason. Sd/-
 No. C-Lib/22-23/LAC/1571-1575
 University Librarian (Member-Secretary, LAC)
 Dated: 26.09.2022

 Bidders documents can be downloaded from the Website [Http://jkttenders.gov.in](http://jkttenders.gov.in). In the document download from the site should not be tampered, and if any such tampering is detected before or after the opening of bids, the bidders shall be penalized and blacklisted.

Other terms & condition shall remain unchanged same as given in the bid document which can be seen on the website.

3. Terms and conditions:-

- Scanned copy of Registration / Enlistment with HP PWD Department and contractor having experience in similar work or the work awarded and is being executed.
- Scanned copy of PAN/GST No. & Income Tax clearance certificate.
- Scanned copy of work done certificate of similar nature work.
- Scanned copy of Earnest Money and Cost of Form.
- Scanned copy of **Affidavit regarding genuineness and correctness of document attached**.
- As per new guidelines issued by Special Secretary (PW) to the Govt. of H.P Shimla vide order No. PBW (BA) 3/2020-21 dated-7-10-2021 negotiation for above & below will be applicable.</li



Government of Rajasthan



I M Shakti

Confidence & Pride of every Women



UDAAN

Announcement in the State Budget
For all the Girls and Women of the State

Resolution of Free Distribution of Sanitary Napkins

“ Menstruation is a normal natural process in women. Today we are living in the 21st century. Now we should openly discuss about menstruation. Women should talk about this in the family without any hesitation. We have started the scheme of free distribution of sanitary napkins. This scheme will prove to be an important step towards women empowerment. ”

Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

Why sanitary napkins are important



Lack of awareness about menstruation exposes the backwardness and mental conservativeness of the society. Educating girls and women about menstruation and most importantly, easy availability of sanitary pads is a praiseworthy initiative.

Dr. Sudhir Bhandari

Vice Chancellor, Rajasthan University of Health Sciences, Jaipur



Not using sanitary napkins or pads during periods can lead to urine infection, cervix infection, infection in the fallopian tubes and ovaries, infertility (infertility) and even cervical cancer. The free distribution scheme of sanitary napkins the state government is no less than a boon.

Dr. Pushpa Nagar

Sr. Prof., Dept. of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Sawai Man Singh Medical College, Jaipur

Rajasthan Samvad

According to a study, about 62% of women in the country use cloth instead of sanitary napkins during their periods. Use of unhygienic items during periods can also lead to serious diseases like cancer. Therefore, it is very important to use of sanitary napkins.

12 Sanitary napkins per month are distributed free of cost to women through Anganwadi centres and Schools in the State

Department of Information & Public Relations, Rajasthan



Sledgehammer style

The Home Ministry's decision to ban the PFI and its affiliates is a rushed one

There will be little reason for disquiet at the Popular Front of India being termed a radical Islamist organisation that propagates a politics of exclusivism and communalism even if it professes adherence to constitutional values and has, according to its claims, taken part in social and legal activities benefiting Muslims across India. That is because of actions by PFI cadre, in Kerala and coastal Karnataka in particular, resulting in religious and political violence, and vigilantism in the name of religious sentiments being hurt. While the PFI has grown as an organisation since its formation in 2006 – largely due to its assertive actions in the legal and social fronts that have coincided with the rise of Hindutva forces to political hegemony in India, its perceived political and electoral arm, the Social Democratic Party of India has received little support, with minority voters preferring to back secular parties or moderate communalist forces. The PFI is the Islamic variant of communal politics and the mirror image of the majoritarian current gripping several parts of India. It goes without saying that its activists who have been charged with violence, vigilantism and unlawful acts must be subject to legal scrutiny and brought to justice. But the outright ban on the PFI and its affiliated organisations – barring the SDPI which claims to be independent of it – by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) raises the question whether a sledgehammer approach is the correct course.

The MHA notification, released on September 27, declared the PFI and its affiliates as an "unlawful association" that was "pursuing a secret agenda to radicalise a particular section of society towards undermining democracy", and the ban for five years followed a series of raids and arrests. This omnibus approach towards banning the PFI and effecting indiscriminate arrests instead of a clear case-to-case judicial process of bringing guilty activists and leaders to book, could only end up strengthening the sense of disquiet at the treatment of minorities in the country and could also further radicalisation among disaffected sections. Deradicalisation is not just a task left to law enforcement agencies; it should be the consequence of reorienting governance to live up to the secular values propounded by the Constitution – something that has taken a beating in recent years. Meanwhile, the organisation has responded to the ban by announcing that it stands disbanded following the notification. The ban must not be utilised as a means to target Muslims, specifically political dissidents and democratic activists who have engaged in legitimate protests against discriminatory pieces of legislation such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Evolving chair

Clarity is needed on the relationship of the CDS with the Service Chiefs

The Government on Wednesday announced the appointment of former Eastern Army Commander Lt. Gen. Anil Chauhan, 61, as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), nine months after the untimely death of India's first CDS, Gen. Bipin Rawat in December 2021. He could be in office for almost four years. His appointment is until further orders, or when he turns 65. Lt. Gen. Chauhan will pick up the stalled process of transformation and reorganisation of the armed forces and bring in synergy that was envisaged along with the creation of the post. An ambitious component of the new vision is the proposed reorganisation of the armed forces into integrated theatre commands, which is yet to get the required consensus among military leaders. When the office of the CDS was created in 2019, its mandate was to ensure "jointness" of the three services in operations, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance, within three years of the first CDS assuming office. That ambition was disrupted by the death of Gen. Rawat, and then the delay in the appointment of his successor. Lt. Gen. Chauhan has served a range of command, staff and instrumental appointments including that of Director General of Military Operations, and brings hope and experience.

The nine months and changes in eligibility criteria it took before the appointment could be made point to the fact the CDS is still an evolving institution. The arbitrary changes which expanded the pool of eligible candidates for appointment as CDS may have diminished the dignity of the evolving office. In 2019, the Ministry of Defence was reorganised and a new department of military affairs was carved out with the CDS as its secretary. That did not, however, ensure clarity in terms of functions and roles across the Defence Ministry. The CDS is also the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister and Permanent Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, which requires him to straddle administrative and operational functions. More clarity is needed regarding the functions of the CDS, particularly his relationship with the Service Chiefs in terms of operational roles and administrative duties. While the big focus is likely going to be the theorisation process, the other tasks before him would be to bring in fiscal prudence and optimisation in utilisation of the defence budget especially given the tough economic outlook. The war in Ukraine has also underscored the need to accelerate the effort to build indigenous capacities in defence manufacturing and resilient logistical chains to be prepared for future wars effectively.

After the floods, Bengaluru needs to clean up its act

The floods have abated in Bengaluru. As individuals struggle to clean their houses, the silt on the roads left behind by the receding water – now a fine dust that flies in the air choking us – is a reminder of those difficult times.

Various analyses now attribute Bengaluru's flooding to more rainfall – in the future, it is expected to increase to an average of 1,000 mm per annum from the current 650 mm per annum – and unplanned, overcrowded growth that is destroying the greenery, tanks and wetlands.

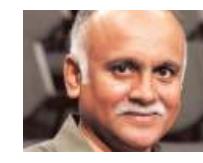
Clearly, we must decongest the city, plant more trees, save wetlands, even reclaim them, desilt drains, enlarge sewers, deconcretise pavements and stop the clogging of waterways with unsegregated garbage. The State government announced tough measures such as the demolition of unauthorised encroachments impeding drainage streams in the city, but quickly backed away. It now plans to divert drains to avoid already built-up areas. This is not a solution because nature will carry on inundating encroachments until people abandon them of their own volition.

The 'grease' of the system

Everybody has a favourite villain to blame – from the builder mafia to the migrant, from the lack of spatial planning to uncontrolled violations of building bye-laws. Yet, the herd of restive elephants in the room is led by a particularly malevolent matriarch: corruption.

Everybody decries corruption outwardly, but submits to it meekly. Fear apart, it is also a matter of convenience, of time saved and of benefits, often through the violation of rules. Some justify corruption as the grease that keeps the fast-growing economic engine of Bengaluru whirring smoothly. However, corruption cripples economic growth in ways not readily apparent. Apart from transferring inordinate wealth to the undeserving, it creates a slew of vested interests, who resist anti-corruption process reforms.

Understanding how corrupt officials, politicians,



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regulators and private players act in concert is essential to successfully implementing corruption-reducing strategies. Further, we must understand that the corrupt often use the honest to further their subversive agendas. Examples abound.

Most game theories concerning the dynamics of corruption reveal that the original sinner is often, paradoxically, a well-intentioned government. A good, but misguided government could make narrowly rigid rules, thus giving venal politicians and bureaucrats the leeway to bend them. For example, building bye-laws are so labyrinthine that the strictest law-abiding citizen cannot comply with them. That provides opportunities for agents who bypass the system's rigidities. Ironically then, corruption actually reduces red tape. Hence, not many complain about resorting to bribing to get work done through a parallel, 'efficient' system.

One could also have a good government that aims to reduce red tape, making overly lax rules capable of being interpreted differently. In this 'anything goes' system, frontline officials invent discretionary practices to create impediments and seek bribes. 'You show me your face, and I'll show you the rule,' is an old and cynical adage.

The loopholes

Next, our narrow, legal definition of corruption enables many in a corrupt system to escape culpability. Indian law recognises only corrupt acts by public servants to be 'acts of corruption' under the law. As private corruption is not criminalised, many government actions are outsourced to private agents, who collect 'handling fees' on behalf of their partners in crime within the government. Witness builders' agents, who collect bribes openly to have properties registered, even as the government IT enable such processes, aiming at efficiency and honesty.

E-Governance is often not the effective solution as claimed. E-enabled systems often only relocate the locus of corruption; they do not solve all of it. Large databases, such as land records, when moved to paperless systems are vulnerable to manipulation. Encroachments are enabled when old records are destroyed and new ones are created. Power shifts from land administrators to the one who possesses the digital signature. The data entry operator becomes an all-important and corruptible cog in the wheel.

How then do we tackle corruption? How do we destroy the entrenched resistance to true reforms, which harmonises citizen and collective interest in protecting the environment and promoting a healthy economy? Worldwide experience reveals no easy way out. The battle against networks of corrupt interests of

politicians, bureaucrats, the private sector and regulators, has been a hard fought one. There are uneasy transitions and fake equilibriums in this battle of attrition; the corrupt do not cede ground easily.

Kick-start these strategies

Successful anti-corruption strategies rely on actions across three fronts.

First, regular assessments and evaluations of ongoing anti-corruption measures, eliminate the possibility of declaring false victories. They help in red-flagging new corruption opportunities, even as old ones are eliminated. A cycle of ongoing process reforms gets initiated.

Second, a genuine regime of whistle-blower protection assures honest citizens, politicians, bureaucrats and judges of protection, as they otherwise fear the adverse repercussions for uncovering illegal activities. Whistle-blowers today are exposed to danger. They draw attention to themselves and are vulnerable to attacks, ranging from character assassination, to counter accusations, to physical harm.

Confidence-assuring whistle-blower protection measures can lead to exposure of more corruption, particularly at higher levels. Swift punishment of the guilty, could instil a sense of fear and reduce the feeling of impunity that the corrupt enjoy.

Third, there has to be a conscious move towards promoting ethical behaviour.

Unfortunately, moral science education has been tainted by religious colours; but surely, are we not able to develop agnostic, religion-neutral ways of educating young people to be empathetic, kind, mindful of their larger responsibilities to the community, be honest, and intolerant of corruption?

All these strategies have been tried successfully in countries and cultures that have been able to reduce corruption substantially. This in turn has translated into better quality of services, and thus, a better quality of life. In turn, this nurtures creativity and bolsters the economy. Surely, Bengaluru deserves such a future.

However, there is one necessary ingredient remaining, going by the experience of cities and countries that have cleaned up their acts. If anti-corruption strategies are to be successful, the process needs enlightened leadership. No extent of process changes will succeed if the leadership – it need not be a single leader, but a network of high-ranking individuals cutting across the government and non-government sectors – is corrupt or insincere. In a democracy, waiting for such a leadership to emerge miraculously from so-called benevolent dictators is wishful thinking. The emergence of such a leadership depends upon us.



India lacks a complete paediatric cardio-care service

It is overwhelming for parents to be told that their child may have heart defects. It is worse when the child does not get treated in time due to lack of paediatric cardiac care in the vicinity of his/her home.

Congenital Heart Disease (CHD), which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, U.S., acknowledges to be the most common congenital disorder, is responsible for 28% of all congenital birth defects, and accounts for 6%-10 % of all the infant deaths in India.

Paediatricians say timely medical intervention can save 75% of these children and give them normal lives. The lack of a national policy for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases in children keeps a huge number outside the ambit of treatment. It is estimated that over 1,00,000 children keep getting added to the existing pool of children awaiting surgery.

According to the Pediatric Cardiac Society of India (PCSI), the prevalence of congenital cardiac anomalies is one in every 100 live births; or an estimated 2,00,000 children are born with CHD every year. Only 15,000 of them receive treatment. At least 30% of infants who have complex defects require surgical intervention to survive their first birthday but only 2,500 operations can be performed each year. A case in point is the premier All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), where infants are waitlisted till 2026 for cardiac surgery.

A distressing perception, ground realities
A retired health bureaucrat says that there has been more neglect and little improvement in child health care because creating a comprehensive paediatric cardiology care service is usually considered economically unviable – it is resource intensive and requires infrastructure investment that politicians and policymakers choose to evade.

There are 22 hospitals and less than 50 centres



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in India with infant and neonatal cardiac services. Geographically, these centres are not well distributed either. A 2018 cardiology department report of AIIMS, highlighted how South India accounted for 70% of these centres; most centres are located in regions with a lower burden of CHD. For instance, Kerala has eight centres offering neonatal cardiac surgeries for an estimated 4.5 lakh annual childbirths. Populous Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, with an estimated annual childbirth of 48 and 27 lakh births per annum, respectively (Census of India, 2012), do not have a centre capable of performing neonatal cardiac surgery.

It taxes the vulnerable and the marginalised

For 600 districts with a 1.4 billion population, there are only 250 paediatric cardiologists available. The doctor to patient ratio is an abysmal one for half-a-crore population.

According to the *Annals of Pediatric Cardiology* journal, the United States had 2,966 paediatric cardiologists in 2019 – a ratio of one per 29,196 population. Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab, Odisha (besides U.P. and Bihar) have a higher CHD burden but do not have paediatric cardiologists in the government sector. There are four paediatric cardiologists for 38 Delhi government hospitals. Now, Jaipur (Rajasthan), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Madurai (Tamil Nadu), Bhubaneshwar (Odisha), Palwal (Haryana), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), are on the map of paediatric cardiac care, but largely in the private sector.

Apart from the low number of paediatric cardiologists and cardiac surgeons, and critical care centres, poverty is another barrier before treatment. Transporting sick neonates from States with little or no cardiac care facilities to faraway centres for accurate diagnosis and treatment burdens parents financially.

It is not just unaffordability but also inaccessibility that constraints paediatric services. In addition, there is the non-availability of crucial equipment that is essential for diagnosis of heart diseases in the unborn. Accentuating the problem is the general lack of awareness about early symptoms of CHD among parents.

Antenatal checks are crucial

The Child Heart Foundation, a non-governmental organisation working in Siliguri (West Bengal), Jalandhar (Punjab) and Delhi, with underprivileged children with CHD, has been flagging the need for fetal echocardiography.

Paediatricians say antenatal detection of congenital anomalies is crucial for neonatal care and management. But certain congenital defects such as accurate heart health assessment are not visible in a normal ultrasonography of an unborn baby. Fetal echocardiography done in a pregnant woman of 18 to 24 weeks allows better visualisation of the structure and function of the heart. There are programmes worth emulating such as Kerala's 'Hridayam (for little hearts)', aimed at early detection, management and support to children with CHD or the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme offering free specialised surgeries.

The National Health Protection Scheme (Ayushman Bharat), is expected to financially assist 10 crore poor families but has still to take off. So far, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have apparently got going.

A 2018 article by the Department of Cardiothoracic Cardiology, AIIMS, states, 'paediatric cardiology is not a priority area in the face of competing demands for the resources'.

Nothing seems to have changed, and as another World Heart Day (September 29) has passed by, we need to act fast to help India's many children in need.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ban On PFI

Although none can claim the PFI and its affiliates have a lily-white reputation and their political interventions are above board and altruistic, it seems the outright ban might be counterproductive. The measure is akin to diagnosing a malaise incorrectly and applying the wrong remedy. Ayyasari Raveendranath, Aranmula, Kerala

The ban on the PFI and its

associates is a correct move after information about its activities that are detrimental to harmony and security. But we also expect similar bans on other organisations propagating hatred, violence and untruths. There needs to be a probe into the affairs of outfits mushrooming across the country in the name of majoritarianism and spreading hatred. K. Nehru Patnaik, Visakhapatnam

Violence, bloodshed and religious fundamentalism are totally unacceptable and antithetical to the ethos of a civilised and democratic nation as ours. The need of the hour requires all right-thinking citizens, especially the Muslim clergy and liberals, to stand up and condemn and denounce the PFI-type cult of violence and its skewed vision. B. Suresh Kumar, Coimbatore

Elusive unity
It is ironic that an Opposition that is far from being a united house is talking about becoming a joint front and force without any road map on how to accomplish this. At the same time, regional parties have posed a successful challenge to the party in power at the Centre. One cannot ignore the role of regional parties as they have upheld the federal nature of the Constitution. Finally, the

Congress needs to reshape itself drastically if it wants to be a Opposition force. H.N. Ramakrishna, Bengaluru

Opposition unity is a distant dream as none of the leaders is willing to give up his or her one-upmanship. It could be a cakewalk for the ruling party in 2024, unless something miraculous happens by then. Varghese K.C., Manimala, Kottayam, Kerala



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How much should India prop up the rupee?



PARLEY

Last week, the rupee weakened against the dollar past the 81-mark to a record low. In recent months, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been intervening in the forex market to smoothen the decline. With the RBI dipping into its kitty for this purpose, Indian foreign exchange reserves have fallen by about \$94 billion in 12 months to about \$545 billion until mid-September. How much more forex can the RBI afford to use in reducing currency volatility? Does the benchmark interest rate, as a policy tool, have a role to play? Dharma Kirti Joshi and Lekha Chakraborty discuss these questions in a conversation moderated by K. Bharat Kumar. Edited excerpts:

Dharma Kirti Joshi

is Chief Economist, CRISIL Ltd

**Lekha Chakraborty**

is Professor, NIPFP; and Member, Governing Board of Management of International Institute of Public Finance, Munich

What is your view on the RBI's actions to stem the rupee's decline? How much of its forex reserves should it use for this?

Dharma Kirti Joshi: The use of forex reserves is appropriate at this juncture. You build your reserves during good times and spend them during bad times. Right now, reserves are being spent in trying to curb currency volatility. You can't defend the rupee at a particular level, because that would be swimming against the tide, which is not possible in this environment. But you can make it less volatile. Having said that, there is also a limit to how much you can lean on the reserves. They can burn out pretty quickly if you are aggressive in your interventions. So, you need a multi-pronged approach, which involves several measures, which the RBI has already taken to increase the supply of U.S. dollars in the Indian market, such as easing provisions for remittances, allowing short-term foreign portfolio investments in government securities, etc. We can even think of a scheme similar to the one introduced in 2014 to attract NRI investments.

You also need to let the rupee depreciate in an orderly manner. Some, but not too much, depreciation will partly help the export sector, as global demand is the key influencer of exports, and currencies of our competitors are also weakening. So, the vulnerability that stems from high current account deficit (CAD) can get addressed to some extent.

The interest rate channel also needs to be used. In Friday's monetary policy announcement, we believe the RBI will go in for a 50 basis point hike. Part of it will be to address domestic concerns and part of it will also help mute the impact of the U.S. Federal Reserve's rate hikes.

Lekha Chakraborty: There is a limit to the



Containing volatility: The Reserve Bank of India building at Connaught Place, New Delhi. GETTY IMAGES

RBI continuously managing volatility because exchange rate management is not its mandate, but price stability through inflation containment is. The root cause of this rupee volatility is the Federal Reserve's decision to raise rates. They are in an aggressive, hawkish mode, which is spurring foreign portfolio investors to move out of emerging markets. So, bridging the interest rate differential is the policy tool we should be using, because volatility management can also give a panic signal to the market. In the [current] Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meetings, if we can front load that for macroeconomic stability, and for stability in the currency markets, that could be effective. I can understand that geopolitical uncertainties, the war in Ukraine, energy price volatility, all contribute to this situation, but predominantly, it is the Western world going hawkish, with U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Jay Powell at the Jackson Hole meetings talking about "keeping at it... until the job is done", referring to a series of interest rate hikes... given all that, the predominant narrative for us should be interest rate defence, rather than continuous currency market management by intervening to control the volatility. Let the rupee depreciate.

For an economy like India's, what is the level of forex reserves in terms of number of months of import cover? Is this measure adequate?

DJ: The import cover is one way to measure reserves adequacy, but it's a very narrow one. There are other measures such as the Guidotti-Greenspan rule that looks at external debt that is less than one year, i.e., short-term debt. Forex reserves should be sufficient to service those. From that point of view, we still have adequate reserves.



There is a limit to the RBI continuously managing volatility because exchange rate management is not its mandate, but price stability through inflation containment is.

LEKHA CHAKRABORTY

Is the real effective exchange rate (REER) that measures trade competitiveness with other nations using a basket of currencies a good guidepost for the RBI in forex management?

LC: It may not be a good approach. I would stick to the interest rate defence. On Friday, if the MPC moves back to 'neutral' from an 'accommodative' stance, and front loads the rate hike, that could be an effective way to target macroeconomic stability. During the taper tantrum in 2013, what helped us was addressing the macroeconomic fundamentals. Mounting inflation is also feeding into import costs. And that is widening the CAD. But even earlier, we have lived with CAD of 4% of GDP; what is important is how you finance this deficit. If we can finance the CAD with capital inflows, and prevent hot money outflow with the aid of interest rates, that could be an effective long-term solution.

As a policy tool, is the interest rate lever adequate?

DJ: I would broadly agree that the interest rate instrument has to be used; what it means is that interest rates are being raised not only to control inflation, but also to address external imbalances. But let's also look at past episodes of sharp depreciation of the currency which we have seen during the global financial crisis, during the taper tantrum. They tell us that that the currency weakens very sharply during these episodes of global shocks, but it also corrects. If you plot it over a 15-20-year period, you will see that the overshooting of the currency typically gets corrected after the event is over. So, the aim now should only be to ensure that volatility is not too high, not to steer the currency in any direction.

If the CAD hits 4%, as is being projected by some agencies, what are the consequences for the economy?

LC: We must look at the CAD and the capital account holistically. The focus should be on how we can stem capital that is flighty. Even during the tenure of Raghuram Rajan [as RBI

Governor], the CAD went up to 4%. But the moment hot money became flighty, panic set in. Till then, we were comfortably financing the CAD with capital flows. Again, if you can manoeuvre the interest rate effectively, that can stem the outflow. But in using this tool, we have to focus on the real interest rate and economic growth, i.e., R and G, for public debt management. If the R is going to be greater than G, then we are in an unsustainable situation. The only way to address these concerns such as fiscal consolidation, twin deficit crisis, given that the real rate of interest is negative, given the hawkish mode of the Fed, is to raise rates.

A falling rupee was supposed to have exacerbated our external debt situation. Is that less of a concern now?

DJ: As per an RBI report, the stock of unhedged exposure of Indian corporates is about 44%, which means that 44% of the outstanding debt has not been hedged and is vulnerable to forex volatility. Weakening of the rupee, if sustained, will create stress in pockets. But the rupee hasn't seen the kind of weakness that it saw during the taper tantrum; it was a massive depreciation over a very short period. Now, it is extremely orderly; it is even more orderly than in 2017-18, when the Fed was raising rates, trying to normalise policy. The pace of rupee depreciation has not been very severe this time to cause concern. But in this volatile global environment with a very aggressive Fed, we need to keep our fingers crossed.

Can you put a figure to how much more the rupee can decline?

LC: I will not take a guess on how far we can allow the rupee to depreciate because it's all ad hoc configuration of the demand and supply... our exchange rate is market-determined. So, let the market forces play out. I only want to clarify my point that the RBI needs to intervene only if the rupee is on a sustained free fall. I will be comfortable if forex reserves in terms of the import cover are close to 15 months. So, that's the way we learned last year around September, the import cover was close to 15 months, when forex [reserves] were at their all-time high. This can be a guiding measure, not a threshold or anything. RBI's liquidity guidance is yet another.



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NOTEBOOK

The case for serial listening

Podcast, perceived as an "intelligent" medium, is a fertile ground for storytelling, especially in journalism

P.J. George

On September 20, 41-year-old Adnan Syed walked out of a Baltimore court after his conviction in the murder of one Hae Lee Min was overturned. Hae Lee Min's body was found in 1999. Mr. Syed had been in jail for 23 years.

As a case of possibly wrongful decades-long incarceration, this was nothing new for the U.S. However, this was the 'Watergate' moment for a medium that has been coming into its own over the last 20 years.

Mr. Syed's case formed the core of *Serial*, a podcast hosted by journalist Sarah Koenig that, in an arc of 12 episodes between 2014 and 2016, picked holes in the prosecution case against Mr. Syed. *Serial*'s episodes have been downloaded over 340 million times, and it sparked the wave of 'true crime' podcasts in the U.S. that really pushed the medium into the mainstream. Over one-third of Americans listen to podcasts regularly now, with growth across all age groups. By some estimates India now has over 95 million active monthly podcast users, only behind the U.S. and China.

Podcasts have also been growing as a business, as evidenced by the fact that international podcasting star Joe Rogan brought his Joe Rogan Experience over to the Spotify stable in a deal that is said to be worth over \$200 million. Advertising on podcasts, which was at \$105 million in the U.S. in 2015, stood at \$1.4 billion in 2021.

The rise of podcasts is not surprising. The growth rates of on-demand media in the form of streaming platforms have been outpacing by-appointment media such as linear television and radio for some time now. It is also not surprising that as phone screen sizes and bandwidths expanded, on-the-go media consumption moved from text to images and audio. After all, it has been only about 400 years since text entered mass circulation, while humans evolved to learn from visual and auditory cues.

Podcast also currently enjoys the benefit of being perceived as an "intelligent" medium; one so far unsullied by the shenanigans of social media or the ca-



cophony of TV. This may be partly due to the notion that the ability to hold forth on a subject for a good length of time requires knowledge or experience. Of course, this notion can be deceiving, as has been proven on the Internet.

This medium also subverts the dominant Web 2.0 consensus that shorter is sweeter. Hence, while seconds-long Tik-Toks, Reels and Shorts rule the roost on social media platforms, on podcast platforms it is not odd to find listeners willing to listen to speakers for two or three hours – most podcasts are between 25 and 60 minutes long. Given the human brain's ability to dedicate processing power elsewhere while performing mundane tasks, it is easy to cook or clean while binge listening to ancient history or modern crime playing in the background.

These make podcasts a fertile ground for storytelling, especially in journalism. The medium's rapid ascent also makes it a necessary one to tell your story. However, the current aesthetic of the podcast is minimalist, which puts the conversation starkly at the centre of a mostly naked stage. The bells and whistles of radio shows developed in large broadcasting stations are mostly frowned upon here. The music is ideally fleeting and functional. Without the visual and audio aids, some journalists may flounder; some may also soar. It is not surprising then that sharp interviewers like Kara Swisher, the doyen of Silicon Valley journalism, have shifted to podcasts as a primary medium. You may not see Mark Zuckerberg sweat under her questioning, but you can definitely feel the heat.

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Ambassadors of the IAF dazzle the Guwahati skies with daredevil stunts to celebrate 75 years of Independence



The Surya Kiran aerobatics demonstration team of the Indian Air Force performs a drill during an air show in Guwahati on September 27, 2022. The air show was organised by the Eastern Air Command in association with the Government of Assam to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence. RITU RAJ KONWAR

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 30, 1972

Marcos asks half a million civil servants to resign

Manila, Sept. 29: President Ferdinand Marcos ordered to-day the compulsory resignation of all civil servants – estimated at 500,000 – to enable the Philippine Government to get rid of corrupt, inefficient, ignorant and non-essential workers. To signal the start of the revamp of the Government's civil service under his Martial Law proclamation, Mr. Marcos announced he had dismissed or accepted the resignations of more than 450 officials including several judges and a number of internal revenue and customs officers. The President said that under the new service rules he was enforcing all Government workers throughout the country must submit their resignations by October 15 to allow their immediate superiors to retire them on a selective basis. In other developments on the seventh day of Martial Law, Mr. Marcos directed the Motion Picture Censor Board to ban all films depicting crime, sex, violence and revolutionary themes from Filipino screens. The seven-point directive also instructed the Board to bar "films which tend to undermine the faith and confidence of the people in their Government and/or duly constituted authorities." The Government last night ordered the indefinite closure of all high schools, colleges and universities to enable military authorities to purge them of suspected communist subversives.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 30, 1922

Anglo-Indian fears

Simla, Sept. 29: On the question of Indianisation of Services, the President of the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association has addressed a letter to the Secretary, Government of India, Home Department asking for "a pledge in plain and unequivocal terms to the effect that there is not only no intention whatever on the part of Government to exclude members of my community from a fair share of appointments in the public service to which by reason of birth, tradition and loyalty to the State they are justly entitled, but that Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans may with confidence look to Government shortly to resist the attempts which were being made in certain quarters to encourage their increased employment in Departments of State.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Refugee students from Myanmar admitted into Mizoram schools

6,000 The number of children from Myanmar who have been enrolled in various schools across Mizoram. They had taken refuge in the State along with their parents following a military coup in their country. Of the 6,195 children, 5,221 were enrolled in government schools and 184 in government-aided institutes. PTI

Millions of children to miss school in Pakistan due to floods

3 In million, the number of children in Pakistan who may miss at least one semester because of flood damage to schools, following heavy monsoon rains likely worsened by climate change. Unprecedented deluges since mid-June have affected more than 33 million people, inundated millions of acres of land and devastated infrastructure, including education facilities. AP

Government defers proposal to make six airbags mandatory

6 The number of mandatory airbags that have to be part of eight-seater cars from October 1, 2023. The government has deferred the implementation of the proposal by one year. It had earlier planned to make six airbags mandatory for enhanced safety from October 1, 2022. The announcement was made by Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari. PTI

Post Afghanistan, terrorist numbers up in J&K; CRPF DG

200 The number of militants operating in J&K currently, according to outgoing Central Reserve Police Force DG Kuldip Singh. An uptick has been noticed in the number of foreign terrorists operating in the valley post the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. "However, the total number of terrorists is less now compared to earlier", Mr. Singh said. PTI

German inflation peaks, at the highest level in over 25 years

10.9 The percentage by which consumer prices accelerated in Germany in September. This was the highest increase in the country in more than a quarter of a century, driven by high energy prices. Analysts have warned that the energy crisis is yet to make itself fully felt. Costs for energy were 43.9% higher compared to September 2021. REUTERS

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The draft Telecommunication Bill, 2022

Does the new Bill dilute the powers of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India? What will be the effects of including OTT communication services within the definition of "telecommunication services"?

EXPLAINER

Trishee Goyal

The story so far: The Ministry of Communications released a draft of the Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022 last week for public comments. Since then, the draft has generated a significant amount of discussion on various changes that it proposes to make to the current telecom regulatory framework. The Minister for Communications, Ashwini Vaishnaw, has stated that the Bill would become law in the next 6-10 months.

What is the draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022?

The draft Indian Telecommunication Bill is an attempt by the government to update the extant regulatory framework in keeping with the advancements and challenges in the sector. This was much needed given that the three main legislations that occupy this domain are considerably outdated, with the most recent of these having been enacted more than 70 years back. These legislations are the Indian Telegraph Act enacted in 1885, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act enacted in 1933 and the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful) Possession Act in 1950. The Indian Telecommunication Bill looks to repeal these legislations and "restructure the legal and regulatory framework" for the telecommunications sector.

How does the draft telecommunication Bill affect over-the-top communication services?

Over-the-top (OTT) communication services refer to services that provide real time person-to-person telecommunication services. Some popular examples of these include messaging platforms like WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, Messenger, Duo, Google Meet etc. These platforms use the network infrastructure of telecom service providers like Airtel, Vodafone and Jio and provide features that compete with telecommunication services such as voice calls and SMS services. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) allege that these features result in a double whammy for them as they cut into their sources of revenue (voice calls, SMS) while not having to deal with infrastructure and licensing costs that they have to undertake. Therefore, TSPs have been demanding a level playing field with OTT services.

The current draft of the Bill expands the definition of "telecommunication services" to include OTT communication services. As a consequence of this, OTT telecommunication services may be subject to the same licensing conditions as TSPs. Under the extant framework, TSPs have to be issued the Unified Access Service Licence (UASL) for them to be able to provide telecom services in India. If OTT communication services are required to obtain the same licence, they would also be subject to a number of conditions such as maintaining 'know your customer' details of their users, adhering to certain encryption regulations and allowing lawful access to the government of their equipment and networks.

What are some of the consumer protection measures in the draft Bill? To curtail the ever-increasing incidence of spam calls and frauds, the draft Bill proposes that the identity of the person communicating using any form of telecommunication services shall be available to the user receiving such communication. This would mean that unlike now where only



THE GIST

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▼ The current draft of the Bill expands the definition of "telecommunication services" to include OTT communication services. As a consequence of this, OTT telecommunication services may be subject to the same licensing conditions as TSPs. If the OTT communication services are required to obtain the same licence, they would also be subject to a number of conditions such as maintaining 'know your customer' details of their users, adhering to certain encryption regulations and allowing lawful access to the government of their equipment and networks.

▼ For the first time, a specific provision enabling the government to order suspension of internet power has been introduced through the draft Bill. Civil society has however, raised concerns that the proposed provision gives the government power to order internet shutdowns while failing to incorporate safeguards such as judicial oversight that have been recommended by the Standing Committee on Information Technology.

How does the Bill facilitate TSPs?

The draft Bill clears up a lot of confusion around the allocation of spectrum. It lays down that while the primary route for allocation of the spectrum is auction, when spectrum is to be allocated for certain functions of the government such as defence or transportation, the administrative process is to be followed. It also allows the TSP to exploit its spectrum resource fully by enabling sharing, trading, leasing, surrendering or returning unutilised spectrum. The Bill also simplifies the process for restructuring, merging or demerging.

Since the government is a major player in the telecom sector, it was felt that a regulator which is at an arms' length from the government is necessary to ensure a level playing field

the phone number of the person making the communication is displayed, going forward the name of the person would also be displayed. As per the Communications Minister, this facility would not only be available for voice calls but also for users of OTT communication services.

The draft Bill provides that commercial communications which are advertising and promotional in nature should be made only with the prior consent of a subscriber

The draft Bill obligates licence holders to identify the users of its service through a verifiable mode of identification. To ensure that a user provides correct details, the draft Bill penalises providing wrong identification details with a ₹50,000 fine and suspending the operation of the specific mobile number or barring the person from using the telecom service for a certain duration. Further, the draft Bill also provides that commercial communications which are advertising and promotional in nature should be made only with the prior consent of a subscriber. While the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has previously issued the "Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations" in 2018, spam communications and sharing of contact details without any safeguards continues to be rampant. Its inclusion in the draft Bill takes it out from the purview of TRAI and gives government the power to take stringent measures against violators.

How does the draft Bill impact the position of the TRAI?

The TRAI was set up in 1997 as an independent and specialised regulator for the telecom sector. Given that the government is a

major player in the telecom sector in various roles such as provisioning of services, licensing and allocating spectrum, the need was felt to institute a regulator that is at an arms' length from the government to ensure a level playing field, fairness for private TSPs and for the protection of consumer interests.

However, the current draft considerably dilutes TRAI's position in a number of ways reducing it from a regulatory to a recommendatory body. First, the government would no longer be required to seek recommendations from the TRAI before issuing licences. Second, it also removes the power of the TRAI to requisition from the government information or documents that are necessary to make such recommendations. Moreover, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will no longer be required to refer back to TRAI the recommendations for reconsideration – those recommendations that it does not agree with, as it was required to do previously. The removal of such powers would not be keeping with international practice where telecom regulators are endowed with a greater degree of independence to ensure that investor confidence and consumer protection is maintained in the market.

What are the draft Bill's provisions on internet shutdowns?

For the first time in the Indian legal framework, a specific provision enabling the government to order suspension of internet power has been introduced through the draft Bill. Currently, suspension of internet services is ordered under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency and Public Safety) Rules, 2017 that have been made under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. However, civil society has raised concerns that the proposed provision gives the government power to or-

der internet shutdowns while failing to incorporate safeguards such as judicial oversight that have been recommended by the Standing Committee on Information Technology.

How does the Bill facilitate TSPs?

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Since the government is a major player in the telecom sector, it was felt that a regulator which is at an arms' length from the government is necessary to ensure a level playing field

On the issue of right of way (the legal framework for setting up telecom towers), it mandates that land owned by a public entity should be available expeditiously unless there is an express ground of refusal. This is likely to face opposition from States which have the power to administer lands within their territorial jurisdiction. Lastly, the draft allows the funds under the Universal Service Obligation Fund to be utilised for other purposes such as urban areas connectivity, research etc, expanding its current mandate from the limited aspect of enhancing rural connectivity.

The writer is a research fellow at the Centre for Applied Law and Technology Research, Vidhi Centre for legal policy



IN THE LIMELIGHT

Ponniyin Selvan I: how Maniratnam's interpretation of Kalki's novel could illuminate the books vs movies debate

While books and movies are different media, daring each other to surpass the wondrous imagination of the reader, the ultimate aim however, is to engage the audience, and give them a unique experience

Ramya Kannan

In terms of antiquity, the chicken and egg conundrum might predate it, but the question of movies versus books is also in the same philosophical league. Impossible to nail a theoretically acceptable answer, while empirical explanations may be aplenty. Sometimes, it just boils down to a personal preference. As we await Maniratnam's interpretation of Kalki Krishnamurthy's *Ponniyin Selvan* to play out on the silver screen, it is but natural that this age-old question is once again dragged, kicking and screaming, into the public realm.

The novel

Ponniyin Selvan, unfairly as some fans think, was a grossly underrated epic, in truth, an expansive narration of Chola history that never got its due in the world. It dwells extensively on the conspiracy to assassinate the crown princes of Sundara Cholan, the events that followed, and the eventual succession of the second son Arulmohini Varman, who was to achieve everlasting fame as Raja Raja Chola I. The novel certainly had everyone who had read it wrapped around its five volumes in rapture.

Serialised in the Tamil magazine *Kalki*, the author's seductive narrative style, the cliffhangers, the twists in plot, the intrigue served perfectly to whet the appetite of its first readers. Subsequent generations feasted on bound volumes of the pages of *Kalki*, which drew them into the fascinating vortex that was *Ponniyin Selvan*. While a couple of attempts were made in the past to render the epic on

screen, notably by MGR, none of them worked out. Until Maniratnam picked up the gauntlet. Incidentally, he tried unsuccessfully to make his dream project in the 90s and early 2010s.

An epic project

One of the main reasons for why none of the previous projects took off could be the sheer, daunting scale of the epic. How do you crunch five volumes, and literally a zillion characters into three hours or less? What do you include, what do you leave out? And among the Ponniyin Selvan cognoscente, who revere every little nuance, would it not be harakiri to leave chunks out because the medium cannot handle its entire scope. In their minds, Vandhiyathevan, Kundavai, Nandini, Alwarkadiyan Nambi and Arulmohini Varman are already fleshed out by Kalki's able illustrator - Maniyam. In their minds they've probably ridden the horse on Veeranarayananapuram Eri, taking in the aadiperukku festivities as Vandhiyathevan did, or rowed a boat across the seas to Sri Lanka, were the ultimate spires with Nambi or stood entranced by the beauty of the ladies, and fought fierce battles in Lanka.

The fact is that ever since man figured how to process film and run it on a spool, movies have been inspired by books, riding on their well-worn spines, daring to surpass the wondrous

Film as a medium by itself holds within it immense possibilities, particularly of spectacle, offering the ability to see, rather than just imagine

imagination of the reader itself. No doubt the hook of the written word is fascinating, because it allows the reader to create her or his own worlds. After all, as Paulo Coelho said, "A book is a movie running in the mind of the reader". What a movie does is to flesh that out without leaving much to the imagination, readers find. Not that the kernel of film as a medium by itself does not hold within it immense possibilities, particularly of spectacle, offering the ability to see, rather than just imagine.

The potential of the screen

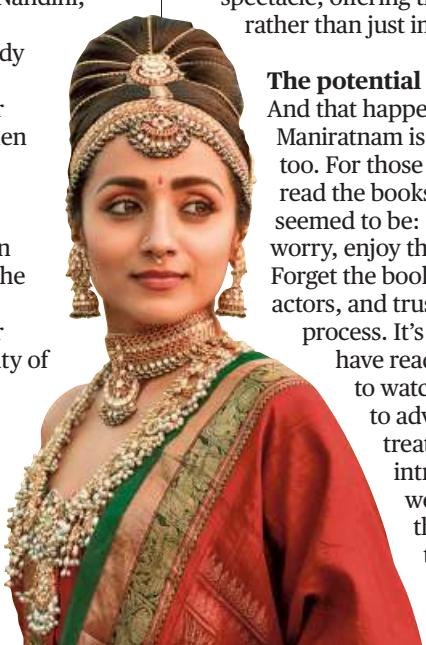
And that happens to be just what Maniratnam is recommending too. For those who have not read the books, his message seemed to be: 'You don't need to worry, enjoy the movie anyway.' Forget the book, he even told his actors, and trust the film-making process. It's not important to have read Ponniyin Selvan to watch PSI! He seemed to advise people to treat the movie as an introduction to the wondrous world of the Cholas; allow the film to guide their journey, experience this blockbuster as

they would do any other, without the baggage of what they have read or not read (if that is possible, indeed). No doubt in this avatar, the film becomes its own work of art, aligned to, but not encumbered by the book it is based on.

Quite like what the third film in the Harry Potter series was. Alfred Cuaron's *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* was truly that work of art that was equal to or even better than the book itself, no mean feat to pull a better one off J.K. Rowling. Or, for that matter what Francis Ford Coppola did so effortlessly with Mario Puzo's *Godfather* series, ably aided by Marlon Brando and Al Pacino among others. While OTT series might have it easier, with their relative temporal flexibility, the ability to stretch out their tale telling better, even these have seen some diversions from the original book version, either in terms of plots, or characterisation, or tweaks, varying the pacing, or backstories, in an effort to ensure the medium is exploited entirely by the message, and perhaps, vice versa.

That's what film makers and even authors aim at, ultimately. Dropping a hook to draw their audience in, holding them in awe or enchantment, rapture or shock, and allowing them to feel the catharsis that art offers. You might be a purist that still prefers a book over a film, and yet when someone dares to take on something as audacious as interpreting for the screen, the modern Tamil epic *Ponniyin Selvan*, it's probably something Kalki Krishnamurthy himself might have hoped to see.

Let curiosity guide you, and if you are not happy, there is always the book to go back home to.



THE DAILY QUIZ

September 30 is celebrated as International Translation Day to celebrate the work of translators and their role in aiding interpersonal communication. Here is a quiz on the world of translation

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

The theme for this year's translation day is 'A World Without Barriers'. What was it in 2021?

QUESTION 2

While Agatha Christie holds the Guinness World Record for the most translated author, this writer earned it for the most translated book. Who is the author and what is the title of the book?

QUESTION 3

In 2009, a global bank rebranding campaign failed due to the mistranslation of a tagline. The bank was later forced to scrap the campaign and shell out \$10 million to repair the damage done. Name the bank and the tagline.

QUESTION 4

Dogri, Mizo, Assamese, Konkani, Maithili,

and Meiteilon. These were among the eight languages that Google Translate added to its arsenal in 2022. Name the missing two.

QUESTION 5

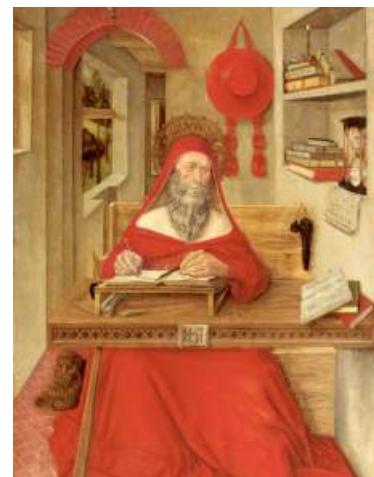
This hilarious segment in a late night TV show featured a singer singing a translated version of a hit 2019 song. The translated lyrics included the line - "I am an evil boy, ghosts". Name the song.

QUESTION 6

This translator won the JCB Prize for Literature for her debut translation of a novel which was nominated along with *Poonachi* by Perumal Murugan (translated from Tamil by N. Kalyan Raman). Name the translator and the book.

QUESTION 7

This film features a translator given the task of communicating with aliens. The movie talks about how language shapes our reality. Name the film.



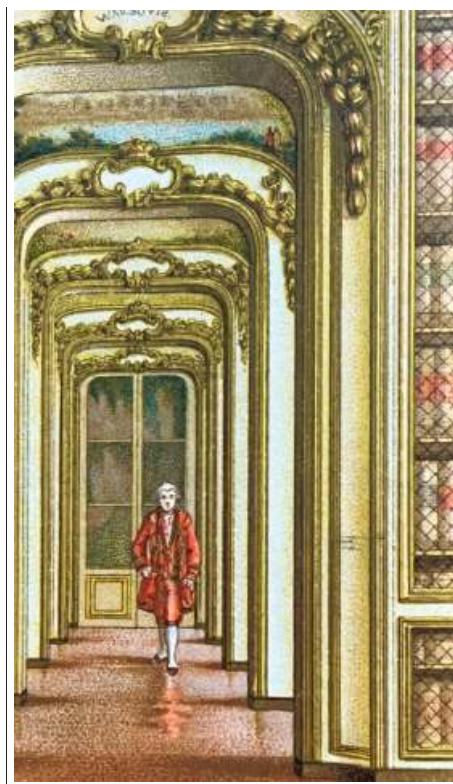
Visual question:

This painting by Antonio da Fabriano II shows the person who is known as the patron saint of translators. Who is he? WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. The upper chambers of the heart and the muscular walls that divide the heart into two sides. **Ans: Atria and Septa**
 2. The meaning of the terms 'tachycardia' and 'bradycardia'. **Ans: If the resting heart rate is above 100, it's called tachycardia and below 60, it's bradycardia**
 3. The common name for the *Balaenoptera musculus*. **Ans: Blue Whale**
 4. The difference between a heart attack and a stroke. **Ans: A heart attack is the result of a blockage in blood flow to the heart, while a stroke happens when there is a blockage in blood flow to the brain**
 5. This part of the body does not get blood from the heart. **Ans: The cornea**
 6. This procedure involves taking a healthy blood vessel and connecting it below and above the blocked arteries in your heart. **Ans: Coronary bypass surgery**
 7. This 1973 album by Pink Floyd has tracks that begin and end with heartbeats. **Ans: 'Dark Side of the Moon'**
- Visual: This doctor created medical history in December 1967. **Ans: Dr. Christiaan Barnard who performed the world's first human-to-human heart transplant operation**
- Early Birds:** Parminder Singh | Madhvi Sharma | Shailja Pandey | Shobhna | Abeer Goel

Compiled by: K. Abhinaya



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

What's the difference between 'He is a man of promise' and 'He is a man of promises', sir?"

"He is a man of promise" means that he has a bright future.

He is a poet of promise.

He is a young man of promise.

'He is a man of promises' means that he is a man who makes promises but doesn't keep them."

"Sir, what's the meaning of 'I wish I had met Ram'?"

"It means that the person concerned didn't meet Ram. He would have been happy if he had met him. 'I wish Sita had some money' means 'Sita does not have money but I would have been happy if she had'."

I wish he had come.

I wish they had studied English.

She never has time for reading and wishes she had.

I wish he had not married.

I wish you had done it.

I wish you had not bored him.

I hope you understand the meaning now."

"Yes, sir. Sir, how do you distinguish 'elderly', 'aged' and 'old' from each other?"

"A person is aged when he is very old. 'Aged' carries connotations of weakness. An elderly person is one who is no longer young. He is past the prime of life and is on his way to becoming 'old', but not yet old. 'Elderly' is used only of persons and not things."

He is an elderly person.

'Aged' can be used of persons and things.

He is an aged man.

It is an aged elephant.

It is an aged banyan tree.

You have generally respect for the elderly and the aged. 'Old' has both positive and negative connotations. It depends on the context.

He was born old.

He is an old fool.

He is a venerable old man.

An aged man is older than an old man. An elderly person is younger than an old person."

"Sir, is it correct to say 'I am in the receipt of your letter'?"

"No. It should be 'I am in receipt of your letter'. There should be no definite article before 'receipt' in this context. So you also say, 'I acknowledge receipt of your letter'. These two sentences are used only in formal contexts. Normally you say 'I have received your letter'. This is simpler and better. Always try to be simple in your speech and writing. Let's stop here. Goodbye."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

Word of the day

Insouciant:

marked by blithe unconcern

Synonyms:

casual, nonchalant, carefree

Usage:

Their attitudes were fairly insouciant when you consider the scale of events which happened yesterday

Pronunciation: bit.ly/insouciantpro

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

IN BRIEF



NEET-PG counselling process begins after long delay

The Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) began the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Postgraduate) NEET-PG 2022 counselling choice-locking facility on Thursday. Candidates who have registered themselves for the counselling to various courses and have filled the choices can avail this facility for round-1 through the official site of MCC at mcc.nic.in. The declaration of provisional and final result will be on September 30 and the reporting for Round-1 can be done from October 1 to October 7, 2022. The announcement comes a day after the MCC withdrew the round-one seat allotment result of the NEET-PG counselling 2022.

L. Adimoolam of *Dinamalar* made director of PTI Board

K.N. Shanth Kumar was re-elected vice-chairman and L. Adimoolam was appointed a director of the Press Trust of India's Board of Directors at its Annual General Meeting held on Thursday. Mr. Shanth Kumar, who is the vice-chairman of the Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd., was elected for a second one-year term. Mr. Adimoolam is the publisher of *Dinamalar* daily's Coimbatore edition and is also its business and technical head.

175 alleged drug smugglers held in Operation Garuda

About 175 persons allegedly involved in drug smuggling have been arrested in different parts of the country in an operation led by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in close coordination with the Interpol, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the police forces. The multi-phase exercise code-named 'Operation Garuda' has been launched to dismantle the drug smuggling networks with international linkages through coordinated enforcement actions across the world, through the Interpol. According to the CBI, the operation has so far resulted in the registration of 127 cases and arrests along with the seizure of huge quantities of narcotics.

Rape case FIR against politician's son quashed

The Bombay High Court has quashed the First Information Report (FIR) against Binoy Kodiyeri, son of former Kerala CPI(M) secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, in an alleged rape case after he paid ₹80 lakh as compensation to the woman and the child born out of the incident. A Division Bench of Justices R.P. Mohitedere and S.M. Modak on September 27 disposed of the plea after Mr. Kodiyeri said he had transferred the amount and the woman decided to withdraw all the charges. In December 2020, the Mumbai Police had filed a chargesheet of 345 pages against Mr. Kodiyeri. He had been charged with rape, cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property, and criminal intimidation.

Ensure equal Net privacy for Indians and others: Centre

Social media companies, however big they were, have to comply with the laws of India and 'have to treat Indian citizens with an equal degree of privacy', the government tells Supreme Court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI



The government on Thursday stated in the Supreme Court that it expects social media companies, however 'big' they were, to treat Indian users' privacy on a par with foreign customers.

"My stand is clear. However big the multinational corporation be, if you are operating in India, you have to comply with the laws of India and have to treat Indian citizens with an equal degree of privacy as you treat others across the world," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta declared the government's commitment to protecting Internet privacy during a hearing before a Constitution Bench headed by Justice K.M. Joseph.

Mr. Mehta said, "Many directions of the Central government are flouted."

Many legal directions under the statutory regime are flouted." He said the government is in the process of making a law to protect social media users.

"Government is alive to the situation. The preparation of making the Bill is already going on. This issue requires more of a legislative response than a judicial intervention," said the Solicitor General, asking the Bench to wait for the new law.

To Justice Joseph's statement, "If the government was keen to bring legisla-

tion, it would have done so. This case is pending for nearly five years", Mr. Mehta said a draft Bill had been earlier tabled and then withdrawn.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, for the petitioners, argued that corporations have to adopt a "golden mean or value" even in the absence of domestic online privacy laws.

Waiting for outcome
The Bench decided to wait for the outcome of the government's efforts to bring a Bill and posted the case for January 17 for final

disposal.

The case is based on a petition by Karmanya Singh Sareen and Shreya Sethi challenging a 2016 policy of instant messaging app - WhatsApp - to give Facebook access to information and personal details shared by millions of its users.

Against free speech
The petitioners had said the policy was a violation of their privacy and free speech.

The duo had moved the apex court after the Delhi High Court upheld the contract.

The High Court had taken a nuanced position by confirming the legality of the policy while directing WhatsApp to "delete completely" from its server information or data or details of all users who choose to delete their account.

States to up vigil on communally charged posts on social media

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Security advisory calls for taking down of objectionable content online by following SOPs

for enhanced vigil and heightened security arrangements at communally hyper-sensitive and sensitive locations, police sources told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

Asked for comment, Tamil Nadu Director-General of Police C. Sylendra Babu said that 'Social Media Monitoring Cells' and 'Cyber Forensic Cells' were established in all cities and districts in the State to block communally sensitive or any other objectionable content posted on social media platforms.

The Centre urged the States to take effective steps to curb the misuse of cyberspace by miscreants to stoke communal passions by circulating provocative messages, photos or videos.

Enhanced vigil

The advisory called for taking down such objectionable content and blocking user accounts by following the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

It underlined the need

No updates in 'risk levels' in Canadian travel advisory

Kalol Bhattachjee
NEW DELHI

No new updates were made to the 'risk levels' and 'safety and security' sections of the Canadian government's travel advisory for India, *The Hindu* has learned.

The official Canadian response in this regard came following Indian media reports that claimed Ottawa, in a "tit for tat" advisory for India, had urged nationals to avoid border States such as Gujarat and Punjab.

The information in the 'risk level' and 'safety and security' sections of the travel advisory has not been recently updated and has been in place for a long period of time, and publicly available," said a High Commission of Canada Spokesperson on Thursday.

"The update made on September 27 was related only to the 'Health' section and more specifically to the 'COVID-19 and International Travel' and 'Monkeypox: Advice for travellers' sub-sections," the spokesperson added.

+

At end of U.S. tour, Minister indicates F-16 issue came up in talks with Blinken

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Washington, DC. PTI

sibly for counter-terrorism reasons."

Standing beside Mr. Blinken on Tuesday at a press appearance, Mr. Jaishankar had said India was a \$2,000 per capita economy and the price of oil "is breaking our back".

"And by the way, that was also applied to the energy scenario as well. So, in fact, that particular subject, there were a wider set of discussions and consultations involving others beyond [the U.S. Department of] State as well," the Minister said, alluding to energy insecurity and energy issues caused by the Russia-Ukraine war, including a cap on energy prices being worked out by the Group of Seven (G7) advanced economies.

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Mr. Jaishankar, on Wednesday, said "overall" his sense was that India-US ties are "in a good place" and the relationship had "great capability and potential". He characterised the bilateral conversation as "solid, positive, product".

A day earlier, Mr. Blinken had characterised the relationship as "simply one of the most consequential in the world".

FAITH

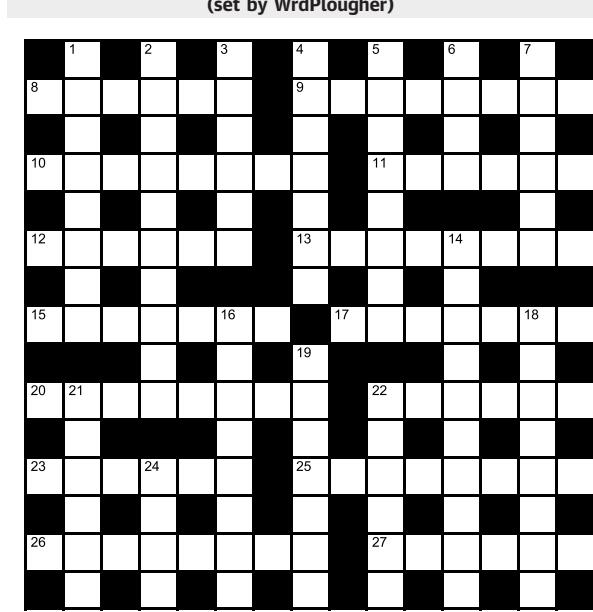
Tyaga, the only path

Though many of us are aware that the ultimate goal can be reached only by renouncing one's attachment to the world, we also realise the challenges and hurdles in this path. In this context, the narrative of Vrtrasura in the Bhagavata Purana inspires the spirit of Vairayoga that the asura typifies even when he faces imminent death during his confrontation with Indra, pointed out Sri Sankararama Dikshitar in a discourse.

In the battlefield, God appears before him and he offers his prayers to him. He is sure he will die in this battle for no one can oppose the divine power of the Vajrayudha. Like many of us who may wish that this is our final birth, but know for certain this is not to be, Vrtrasura accepts that once he dies, he will be pushed once again into the samsara chakra leading to further entanglement. He does not wish for other higher worlds such as swarga loka, Brahma loka, patala loka, etc. Neither does he long for attainments such as kingship or yoga siddhi. For, wealth and power that appear attractive only lead to passion, concern, anxiety, discord, misery and physical pain. But the greatest and most valuable asset is His grace which will lead us out of this cycle of birth. This is the only choice of all His devotees who wish to remain steeped in His auspicious qualities at all times.

Knowing that he will die and will have to be reborn, he prays to the Lord to grant him a birth where he will have occasion to have Sat Sanga. For, in the company of the pious devotees, the chances of insulating one from the worldly pulls are possible. His prayer to God is to grant him a mind that seeks Him alone in his next birth.

TH CROSSWORD + 13674



Across

- 8 Castle piece that is sacrificed for a leap, oddly (6)
- 9 Programmes shows on screen (8)
- 10 One-under — a score one added to rounds on a golf course? (8)
- 11 Drape a bust for show (6)
- 12 Groups of nuns dancing around briefly in a circle (6)

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



SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13674

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

KABUL

Taliban fire into air to disperse women's rally backing Iran protest



Taliban forces on Thursday used gunfire to disperse a women's rally in the Afghan capital in support of protests in Iran over the death of a woman in police custody. Chanting the same "Women, life, freedom" mantra used in Iran, nearly 25 women protested in front of Kabul's Iranian Embassy before Taliban forces intervened. AFP

YANGON

Suu Kyi jailed for another three years by Myanmar junta court



Myanmar's junta sentenced an Australian economist to three years in prison on Thursday while also handing down another conviction to ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, a source said on Thursday. Sean Turnell was an adviser when the military ousted Suu Kyi's government in a coup. AFP

HELSINKI

Finland closing border to Russians with EU tourist visas



Finland said it would bar Russians with Schengen tourist visas from entering the country from Thursday midnight. Authorities cited damage to "Finland's international relations" as a justification for the decision and said Russia's mobilisation had a "significant impact" on the Finnish assessment. AFP

PARIS

Iran arrests reporter who covered Amini funeral, says lawyer



Iran on Thursday arrested a reporter who covered the funeral of Mahsa Amini, her lawyer said. Elahe Mohammadi was summoned by the judicial authorities but was then arrested by security forces while she was on her way to questioning, her lawyer Mohammad Ali Kamfirouzi wrote on Twitter. AFP

'India wants a relationship of mutual sensitivity with China'

Jaishankar's comments come after the remarks by Chinese Ambassador to India, claiming that the situation along the LAC was moving towards being 'normalised'

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said India sought a relationship with China but one that was built on mutual respect. His comments were made at a press briefing on Wednesday in Washington DC in the context of Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong claiming that the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) was moving towards being "normalised" and "overall stable". Mr. Jaishankar had said earlier – such as in Bengaluru in August – that the relationship with China was not normal and could not be normal as the border situation was not normal.

"No, look, I think, if the spokesperson [sic] of a Fo-



Taking a stand: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken hold a press conference at the State Department in Washington on Tuesday. AFP

reign Ministry were to say something, I would urge you to seek comment from the spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry of the corresponding country," said Mr. Jaishankar, who is con-

cluding an approximately 10-day visit to the UN in New York and to Washington DC.

"I think what I have said to my mind represents accurate policy assessment

of where the state of our relations are. We continue to strive for a relationship with China. But one that is built on mutual sensitivity, mutual respect and mutual interest," he said.

U.S. confirms American citizen killed in Kurdistan

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel on Thursday confirmed that a U.S. citizen was killed in the Iranian rocket attack that targeted dissident sites in Iraq's Kurdistan region on Wednesday.

Mr. Patel said he could not make any further comment on the case due to privacy considerations.

Washington said on Wednesday no U.S. officials or military personnel were killed in the strike.

European Union grapples with runaway energy prices

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

The European Union (EU) on Friday will seek urgent ways to bring down skyrocketing energy prices as winter looms, with "sabotage" of gas pipelines from Russia this week injecting drama into the effort.

Energy Ministers will gather in Brussels to consider an emergency European Commission proposal that includes cutting power use in the bloc, imposing windfall levies on energy companies and discussing a price cap on wholesale gas supplies.

Europe has found itself

The EU country on the frontline of the energy crunch is Germany, the bloc's export powerhouse

over a barrel as fossil fuel deliveries from Russia dry up. EU sanctions on Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine, which include shunning Russian oil starting in December, have prompted the Kremlin to retaliate by severely reducing supplies of natural gas.

Unexplained leaks on the undersea Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines from Russia to Germany have ag-

gravated the situation.

Alarm is rising sharply among Europeans faced with climbing energy bills.

The EU country on the frontline of the energy crunch is Germany, the bloc's export powerhouse which had long been dependent on Russian gas.

After recording a jump to 10% inflation, its government said it will borrow 200 billion euros to shield German households and businesses from "an energy war".

The European Commission is trying to leverage the COVID-era cooperation to forge a common EU approach on energy.

Ian the terrible



Havoc unleashed: Partially submerged boats at a marina in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian in Fort Myers, Florida, on Thursday. The National Hurricane Centre said the eye of the "extremely dangerous" hurricane made landfall in the afternoon. AFP

Amid crisis, Lebanon fails to elect new President

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Lebanon's Parliament failed to elect a new President after a first round of voting on Thursday amid deep divisions over a replacement for Michel Aoun whose term expires next month.

A majority of lawmakers cast blank ballots, suggesting the election process is likely to drag on, an outcome Lebanon can ill afford as it wrestles with a crippling financial crisis.

Speaker Nabih Berri said he would call a new session of Parliament "when an agreement is reached on the next President" – a process that could take months in a country where constitu-



New chapter: Lebanese lawmakers count the votes after casting their ballots at Parliament building in downtown Beirut. AFP

tional deadlines are routinely missed.

Thursday's session was attended by 122 of Parliament's 128 members, of whom 66 cast blank ballots.

Christian politician Michel Moawad, the son of former president Rene

Moawad, emerged as the front-runner but his 36 votes fell well short of the 86 needed to win in the first round.

Under Lebanon's long-standing confessional power-sharing system, the presidency is reserved for a Maronite Christian.

A walkout by some MPs meant there was no second round of voting.

Deep divisions among lawmakers have raised fears Lebanon could be left without a president after Mr. Aoun's mandate expires at the end of October.

The incumbent's own election in 2016 came after a 29-month vacancy at the presidential palace as lawmakers made 45 failed attempts to reach consensus on a candidate.

Launch of the process

A statement by Mr. Aoun's office said the President was "satisfied with the launch of the electoral process" and expressed hopes Parliament would continue to meet to elect a president within the constitutional ti-

meframe. The political parties that must now agree on the next head of state have yet to appoint a new government to replace the outgoing one after its mandate expired in May.

The crisis has caused poverty rates to reach more than 80% of the population, as food prices have risen by 2,000%, the United Nations has said.

The international community has pressed Lebanese lawmakers to elect a new President in "timely" fashion to avoid plunging the country deeper into crisis.

Last week, France, Saudi Arabia and the United States issued a joint statement urging MPs to "elect a president who can unite the Lebanese people".

U.S. announces \$810 mn in funding for Pacific islands

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The United States on Thursday announced \$810 million in new funding for Pacific island nations at a summit with President Joe Biden amid inroads by China in the strategic but sparsely populated region.

The White House said \$600 million will be in the form of a 10-year package to clean up and develop dirty waters to support the tuna industry, while the United States will also expand climate and development aid and its diplomatic presence.

Mr. Biden later on Thursday will address the

This will allow the U.S. to increase its diplomatic footprint in the Cook Island and Niue

first-ever Washington summit of Pacific Island nations, including 12 heads of state or government, in hopes of using a personal touch to reconnect with a region that has been tied closely to the United States since the Second World War. With the U.S. until now often seen as taking the region for granted, China has asserted itself strongly in recent years through investment, police

training and, most controversially, a security pact with the Solomon Islands.

The Biden administration also announced that the United States would recognise Cook Islands and Niue, a self-governing territory whose foreign and defence policies and currency are linked to New Zealand. The step will allow the United States to increase its diplomatic footprint in the Cook Island and Niue, which have fewer than 20,000 inhabitants.

Western officials and analysts fear that Beijing will use the Solomon Islands as a base to expand militarily into the Pacific."

IN BRIEF



Mercedes-Benz targets more than 30% growth in sales

With an order backlog of 7,000 units - its highest ever - Mercedes-Benz India is expecting to close this year with a more than 30% growth in sales compared with last year as demand for its vehicles are on the rise, said MD & CEO Martin Schwenk. "We have very high order book," Mr. Schwenk said. "We do not see any cooling effect on the demand which is pretty healthy," he added. Attributing the demand pull to the product portfolio, he said, "So far we have reported 30% higher sales as compared to the same period last year."

'Housing sales rose 49% in July-Sept. across 8 key cities'

Housing sales rose 49% year-on-year to 83,220 units in the July-September period across eight major cities on pent up demand, despite rise in interest rates and property prices, according to housing brokerage firm PropTiger.com.

Sales stood at 55,910 units in the same quarter last year. Housing sales in Mumbai jumped more than two-fold to 28,800 units from 14,160 units in the previous year. Pune witnessed 55% growth in sales to 15,700 units from 10,130 units, Delhi NCR saw 22% increase in housing sales to 5,430 units from 4,460 units. In Bengaluru, sales of residential properties increased 20% to 7,890 units from 6,550 units. However, sales fell by 5% each in Chennai and Kolkata, data showed. PTI

Govt. aims to borrow ₹10,000 cr. less in FY23 on tax mop up

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday slashed its market borrowing target for FY23 by ₹10,000 crore, indicating buoyant tax collections which would be enough to bear ₹44,762 crore additional expenditure on free ration distribution.

In addition to the Budgeted collection from direct and indirect taxes, the government is also expecting gains from the windfall profit tax on oil that was levied from July 1.

In a statement, the Finance Ministry said the government would borrow a total of ₹5.92 lakh crore during the October-March period of the current fiscal, including from issuance of its maiden Sovereign Green Bonds (SGB) of ₹16,000 crore.

The government had in Budget for 2022-23 project-



ed a gross market borrowing of ₹14.31 lakh crore.

Of this, the government decided to borrow ₹14.21 lakh crore during 2022-23.

"Accordingly, the balance amount of ₹5.92 lakh crore (41.7% of ₹14.21 lakh crore) is planned to be borrowed in the second half of the fiscal year 2022-23 through dated securities," it said.

The gross direct tax collections till September 17 grew 30% to more than ₹8.36 lakh crore.

Don't rely on incentives, subsidies, Goyal tells exporters

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday asked services exporters not to depend on small subsidies or incentives to increase exports and instead enhance competitiveness.

He said the industry should work on increasing and strengthening their competitiveness to tap global markets.

Ambitious targets of exports should not be affected by "small support subsidies and incentives. That has been the bone of contention between some services sectors and the government," Mr. Goyal said.

The sector has time and again demanded continuation of Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS). The government has discontinued the scheme.

External debt slid by \$2.5 billion in Q1 on valuation gains: RBI

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI

India's external debt during the first quarter of 2022-23 declined by \$2.5 billion to \$617.1 billion over end-March 2022, the Reserve Bank of India said.

The external debt to GDP ratio declined to 19.4% at end-June, from 19.9% at end-March.

Valuation gains due to the appreciation of the U.S. dollar vis-a-vis the Indian rupee and major currencies including the yen and euro were placed at \$14.4 billion, RBI data on India's external debt as of end-June 2022 show.

"Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by \$11.9 billion instead of a decrease of \$2.5 billion," the central bank said.

At end-June 2022, long-term debt (with an original maturity of above one

year) was placed at \$487.3 billion, recording a decrease of \$10.6 billion over its level at end-March 2022.

On the other hand, the share of short-term debt (with an original maturity of up to one year) in total external debt increased to 21% at end-June 2022, from 19.6% at end-March 2022.

U.S. dollar-denominated debt remained the largest part of external debt, with a share of 54.7% at end-June, followed by rupee-denominated debt (30.4%), SDR (6.3%), yen (5.1%), and the euro (2.8%). Outstanding debt of the general government declined while non-government debt rose.

Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by \$11.9 billion

Centre creating enabling policies; States must work to woo investors'



Even as the Centre is pushing to position India as an alternative to China for manufacturing of electronics through various policy initiatives, the State governments now need to play their role in welcoming investors to tap the huge opportunity in the sector, the Minister of State for IT and Electronics Rajeev Chandrasekhar told *The Hindu*.

"The government of India is [an] enabling government, we create policies, we create framework, make it easy to do business, but the investments flow into States, the jobs are created in the States. And therefore, State governments need to play their role in attracting

treat them carefully "because this is only the first step... there will be a second round of investment or a third round of investment."

'Alternative to China'

Replying to a query, he said, "Our objective is not to shift anything from China to India. Our objective is to position India as an [alternative] manufacturing destination that can be a competitive, efficient destination vis-a-vis China."

The Minister, who on Friday will inaugurate a new manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu by Taiwanese firm Pegatron - which is among the largest contract manufacturers for Apple - added that some of the States that are proactively working for electron-

ics manufacturing are Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. "These are fast emerging as electronics hubs... if you look at the Chinese example, they all started in 3-4 areas as small clusters and the clusters grew. So, these are four existing clusters, I believe the fifth cluster will be in Dholera, Gujarat," he said.

Current account deficit widened to 2.8% of GDP in Q1

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI



Going by the underlying trends, India's current account deficit may be 3.5-3.7% of GDP in FY23

RUPA REGE NITSURE
Chief Economist at L&T Financial Holdings

and on a year-on-year basis, on the back of rising exports of computer and business services.

"CAD will certainly widen further despite the moderation in crude oil prices," said Rupa Rege Nitture, chief economist at L&T Financial Holdings.

"India can attract more capital inflows if and only if it shows an improvement in growth prospects. Going by the underlying trends, India's CAD may be 3.5-3.7% in FY23," she noted.

While debits were to the tune of \$254.9 billion, credits totalled \$231 billion.

Net services receipts increased, both sequentially

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	56,410	-0.33
US Dollar	81.30	0.24
Gold	49,960	1.37
Brent oil	88.78	0.66

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	816.40	-10.70
Apollo Hosp	4391.70	122.75
Asian Paints	3384.80	-185.85
Axis Bank	719.00	2.55
Bajaj Auto	3476.70	-69.20
Bajaj FinServ	1635.90	-16.30
Bajaj Finance	7104.75	-97.75
Bharti Airtel	764.65	3.20
BPCL	303.25	-2.75
Britannia Ind	3864.50	-11.30
Cipla	1115.85	-18.70
Coal India	213.90	3.10
Divis Labs	3693.65	-9.70
Dr. Reddy's Lab	4360.70	-91.00
Eicher Motors	3624.10	-4.20
Grasim Ind	1655.80	-13.35
HCL Tech	923.05	2.25
HDFC	2237.50	-6.55
HDFC Bank	1382.35	-7.20
HDFC Life	528.00	13.55
Hero MotoCorp	2536.30	-55.05
Hindalco	371.20	10.45
Hindustan Unilever	2700.55	-1.55
ICICI Bank	843.90	-5.60
IndusInd Bank	1142.25	1.35
Infosys	1398.65	3.95
ITC	333.05	8.10
JSW Steel	618.25	1.75
Kotak Bank	1765.30	-27.30
L&T	1815.50	-19.95
M&M	1258.35	15.95
Maruti Suzuki	8624.85	-101.90
NestleIndia	18979.15	138.20
NTPC	159.55	1.60
ONGC	126.65	4.10
PowerGrid Corp	208.00	0.30
Reliance Ind	2325.30	-7.15
SBI Life	1239.80	1.00
State Bank	521.75	-3.10
Shree Cement	21287.05	442.55
Sun Pharma	930.70	12.85
Tata Consumer Product	792.60	-1.05
Tata Motors	402.25	3.15
Tata Steel	96.85	1.65
TCS	2997.30	-38.35
Tech Mahindra	1007.10	-22.60
Titan	2531.50	-45.45
UltraTech Cement	6175.90	2.95
UPL	656.80	-6.90
Wipro	392.80	-5.25

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
#49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bangalore-560001
E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in

Date: 29.09.2022

No. DMG- 17012/5/2021

C. No. 558708

NOTIFICATION AND NOTICE INVITING TENDER
"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for iron ore mineral blocks"

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 10(B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 and amendments notified thereunder, clarifications issued by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India and also the Supreme Court Judgments and orders in Samaja Parivartha Samudaya and Ors v/s. State of Karnataka and Others W.P. (C) 562 of 2009, the Government of Karnataka is conducting the 'second attempt' of auction for 2 Category 'C' iron ore blocks for grant of Mining Lease and hereby invites tenders through electronic auction.

List of Category 'C' iron ore blocks for grant of Mining Lease through auction

S. No.	Name of the block	District	Mineral	Concession Area (in Sq.Km)	Estimated Resources (in MMT)	Tender fee
1.	B.R. Yogendranath Singh ML No. 2186	Bellary	Iron ore	15.89	2.84	INR 2,00,000+ 18%GST
2.	Sri. Allum Veerabhadrapa ML No. 2436	Chitradurga	Iron ore & Manganese	24.53	Fe-3.645 Mn-0.93	INR 2,00,000+ 18%GST

The 'second attempt' of the two blocks (2 iron ore), as identified above, is being undertaken as per clause (b) of sub-rule 11 of Rule 9 of Mineral (Auction) Rules 2015 and amendments thereof.

Any person, firm or company who satisfies the eligibility criteria can participate in the auction. Technical and financial bids for the above listed block are invited online. Apart from the online Technical Bids, bidders will have to submit duly executed original physical copies of their Technical Bids to the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka.

Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd (<http://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp>).

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves at the above website. On successful registration, bidders will obtain login ID and password, which are necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and summary of the block shall be available free of cost at the website of MSTC Limited (<http://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp>). For participating in the bidding process, the registered bidders will have to purchase the block specific tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd as per fees mentioned in the table for each block.

The GST at the rate of 18% on the purchase of tender document shall be applicable. The GST applicable is to be paid by

CRICKET

Injured Buttler 'progressing well,' but won't rush his return



England's limited-overs captain Jos Buttler said he is making good progress in his recovery from a calf injury but will not rush his return ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup, which begins in just over two weeks. He is currently with the England squad in Pakistan, watching the team from the sidelines in their seven-match T20 series.

FOOTBALL

PM congratulates Chhetri on release of 'Captain Fantastic'



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday congratulated legendary Indian footballer Sunil Chhetri after FIFA announced the release of a series on his life and career. "Well done Sunil Chhetri! This will certainly boost football's popularity in India. @chetrisunil11," tweeted PM Modi.

GENERAL

Federer appreciates Kohli's video message



Virat Kohli on Thursday shared a heart-warming video for tennis legend Roger Federer. Replying to the message, the Swiss great thanked the Indian batter. "Thanks @ViratKohli I hope to make it to India soon," he wrote in his Instagram story. Federer called time on his remarkable career last week.

GOLF

Rory McIlroy laments that 'Golf is ripping itself apart'



Rory McIlroy said that the LIV Series golf continues to create a divide across the sport that isn't beneficial for any of the parties involved. "I don't want a fractured game. It's no good for anyone. There is a time and a place for it. I just think right now, with where everything is, it's probably not the right time."

Spectacular show of light and sound marks the inauguration

PM Modi highlights his Government's wholehearted support for sportspersons and sports at the colourful event that juxtaposed traditional performances with advanced augmented reality technology

NATIONAL GAMES

Y.B. Sarangi
AHMEDABAD

A spectacular opening ceremony, highlighting the country's desire to emerge as a soft power of sports and Gujarat's superb organisational skills, marked the formal inauguration of the 36th National Games at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Thursday.

A remarkable show of light and sound covered by 50 Doordarshan cameras which were employed on a short notice of 15 days, enthralled more than one lakh spectators at the world's biggest cricket venue which was turned into a mega platform for the sporting extravaganza featuring more than 8000 athletes from across the country.

Soft power of sports
Inaugurating the National Games, Prime Minister Narendra Modi underlined



Let the Games begin: Prime Minister Narendra Modi acknowledging the crowd's cheers during the opening ceremony. VIJAY SONEJI

the need to make the country a sports power. "The victory of the players, their strong performance, also paves the way for victory for the country in other fields. The soft power of sports enhances the country's identity and image manifold," he said.

The PM highlighted his

Government's wholehearted support for sportspersons and sports, including the indigenous ones. He said the Games mascot 'Savaj' (lion) reflected the mood of fearless participation among Indian youth.

While applauding the Gujarat Government for the prompt hosting of the

Games, the Prime Minister virtually inaugurated the Swarnim Gujarat Sports University to be established in Vadodara.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel emphasised on his State's initiative for the use of technology and skill development in sports.

Indian Olympic Association secretary-general Rajeet Mehta said the conduct of the Games at a short notice would push the country to try hosting the 2036 Olympics.

Ankita takes oath

Tennis player Ankita Raina took the oath on behalf of the athletes at the ceremony, also attended by top sportspersons such as Neeraj Chopra, P.V. Sindhu, Gagan Narang, Ravi Dahiya, Mirabai Chanu and Anju Bobby George.

The colourful event – juxtaposing traditional performances with advanced augmented reality technology – began with musical shows by different artistes, including Mohit Chauhan and Shankar Mahadevan, and went on to exhibit a virtual 'Torch of Unity' and march past by the participating teams.

It concluded with attractive Gujarati folk dance 'garba', coinciding with the Navaratri celebrations, to the tunes of popular Hindi film songs.

Mirabai the favourite to win the women's 49kg crown

Y.B. Sarangi
GANDHINAGAR

Olympics silver medallist Mirabai Chanu will be the biggest star attraction in weightlifting competitions, starting at the 36th National Games here from Friday.

Mirabai, who had taken a silver behind Sanjita Chanu in women's 48kg in 2015, has grown in stature following her World title victory in 2017 and Olympics silver in 2021.



Steady rise: Mirabai has grown in stature following her World title in 2017 and Olympics silver in 2021. PTI

49kg crown this time despite the presence of Sanjita.

Besides the two, Commonwealth Games silver medallist Bindyarami Devi will be part of a strong Manipur women's contingent.

case.

Besides the two, Commonwealth Games silver medallist Bindyarami Devi will be part of a strong Manipur women's contingent.

Prominent archers to be seen in action at the Games

Sports Bureau
AHMEDABAD

The National Games archery events, beginning at the Sanskradhama ground here on Friday, will be the year-end for India's top archers.

Olympians Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das, Pravin Jadhav, Jayanta Talukdar and

young talent Parth Saranlakhe among the men and the talented Ankita Bhakat, Komalika Bari, Ridhi Phor and Dipti Kumar among women are some of the prominent names who will be seen in action in recurve competitions.

But fans will miss the experienced Deepika Kumari, who has chosen to take a break.

In compound, the decorated Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini among men and triple Worlds silver medallist V. Jyothi Surekha, Priya Gurnar, Muskar Kirar, Avneet Kaur and Pragati among women are some of the attractions.

Non-shooting stars get a feel of the range



Taking aim: Sindhu tries her hand at firing a rifle as Gagan Narang and her father look on. SAI

Santdeep Dev
AHMEDABAD

Two-time Olympic medalist P.V. Sindhu, World Athletics Championship bronze medal winner Anju Bobby George and Commonwealth Games medalist Trupti Murgunde visited the Ahmedabad Military and Rifle Training Association range in Khanpur on Thursday to meet the shooters and get a hands-on experience of the sport during the 36th National Games.

London 2012 bronze medallist Gagan Narang was also present to help familiarise the trio with a few tricks of the trade.

The stars arrived in the afternoon and proceeded to the 25m range first to try and aim at the target using an air rifle. Sindhu went first, followed by Anju – who misfired into the tarmac – and Trupti.

Gagan, an expert in the

Focus on promising talents in the absence of 'Big Three' grapplers

Sports Bureau
GANDHINAGAR

In the absence of the Big Three – Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya and two-time World championships bronze medallist Vinesh Phogat – the focus will be on some promising talents when wrestling bouts of the 36th National Games start at the Mahatma Man-

dir here on Friday.

A long season has taken its toll on several leading wrestlers, including Bajrang and Vinesh who recently landed medals in the World championships in Belgrade, making them to pull out of the event.

Former Worlds bronze medalist Narsing Yadav, Commonwealth Games gold medalist Naveen Malik, Olympian Sonam Ma-

lik, two-time Commonwealth Games medallist Divya Kakran and the reigning World under-20 champion Antim Panghal are among the prominent faces who will add some shine to the sporting extravaganza.

The occasion will provide a good opportunity to the second and third line of wrestlers to show their skills.



Divya Kakran. FILE PHOTO

Chance for many track and field athletes to showcase their prowess



Raring to go: Birmingham Commonwealth Games steeplechase silver medallist Avinash Sable. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Sports Bureau
GANDHINAGAR

Even though Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra will not take the field, up-and-coming athletes will use the 36th National Games as an opportunity to prove themselves in an inspiring year, studded with some fine Indian performances in the World championships and the Commonwealth Games.

The Games poses a scheduling issue for the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), which may be keen to host the National Open athletics meet, which is one of the im-

portant events in the annual calendar, and other events.

While some top athletes such as Avinash Sable, Abdulla Aboobacker, Amlan Borgohain, Hima Das and Dutee Chand will raring to go and display their supremacy, others may prefer to stay out of the Games and conserve energy for the National Open meet.

Even in the backdrop of a calendar that saw several dope positive cases, the National Games may provide enthusiasm to several athletes to use it as a stepping stone in their preparation for the Asian Games.

Bumrah set to miss T20 World Cup with back injury



Recurring trouble: Bumrah missed Wednesday's match due to back pain that he felt during practice on Tuesday. PTI

Amol Karhadkar
RAJKOT

India has been dealt a major injury blow ahead of the T20 World Cup, with pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah virtually ruled out of the marquee event in Australia, starting next month.

The Hindu understands that Bumrah is highly unlikely to board the plane to Australia next week. The development comes a day after Bumrah couldn't take the field for the first T20I against South Africa.

On Wednesday, a team spokesperson revealed that Bumrah was unavailable for the game due to "back pain" felt during "Tuesday's practice session". Given his recurring back injury, the decision-makers were unwilling to take

chances with the fitness of one of their key players.

Bumrah was earlier ruled out of the Asia Cup due to the back injury. In his last T20I on September 25, the third match against Australia, he conceded 50 off four overs – his worst T20I figures.

Shami in the mix
Bumrah's unavailability brings Mohammed Shami, originally named as a standby, into the mix. However, Shami was not a part of the T20Is against Australia and South Africa as he is yet to recover from Covid, after testing negative for the same on Wednesday.

Bumrah's injury puts a question mark on India's bowling make-up in the lead-up to the major event.

IN BRIEF



Injured Mo Farah pulls out of Sunday's London marathon

Mo Farah has been forced to withdraw from Sunday's London marathon due to a hip injury. The four-time Olympic gold medallist was due to run the race for the first time since 2019 after making a return to the track in a failed attempt to compete at last year's Olympics in Tokyo. Farah has never won the London marathon in three previous attempts, with his best finish coming in 2018 when he was third.

Shagun gets past Ridhima to enter the final

Shagun Kumari defeated Ridhima Singh 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 to set up a title clash against top seed Jaya Kapoor in the Asian under-16 tennis tournament at the Vijayant Khand Stadium in Lucknow on Thursday.

The results: Boys: Semifinals: Aditya Mor bt Daksh Kapoor 6-4, 6-2; Aradhya Kshiti bt Aasharya Mehra 6-1, 6-3; Doubles: Final: Aditya & Praneel Sharma bt Pranav Mishra & Namish Sharma 6-3, 6-1.

Girls: Semifinals: Jaya Kapoor bt Arzan Khorakiwala 6-3, 6-2; Shagun Kumari bt Ridhima Singh 5-7, 6-2, 6-1; Doubles: Final: Jaya & Shagun bt Sidhak Kaur & Ridhima Singh 6-3, 6-1.

Vivaan Kapoor, Shreyasi Singh finish 15th in mixed trap

Vivaan Kapoor and Shreyasi Singh shot 140 and missed the mixed trap second stage by two points in the Shotgun World Championship in Osijek, Croatia, on Thursday. Vivaan shot 72 and Shreyasi had 68, as the team placed 15th. The other Indian pair of Prithviraj Tondaiman and Manisha Keer shot 138 with equal share of 69 each, and ended up 24th among 56 teams.



Pakistan pacer Naseem Shah tests positive for COVID-19

Pakistan fast bowler Naseem Shah has tested positive for COVID-19 and will miss the remaining two Twenty20 Internationals against England, the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Thursday. Naseem was discharged from hospital on Thursday after being diagnosed with pneumonia and the PCB said he was "back in the team hotel where he will follow all Covid protocols."

Delhi Bulls signs Harbhajan Singh for Abu Dhabi T10

With the dust having settled on the Official Player Draft for Abu Dhabi T10's Season 6, Delhi Bulls has added bite and guile to its bowling line-up, bringing on board Harbhajan Singh. The sixth edition of 'Cricket's Fastest Format' will be held from November 22 to December 4, 2022. The former India international joins his ex-CSK teammate, the champion Dwayne Bravo who will also lead the side for this season.

Former FIFA referee Sumanta Ghosh passes away

Kolkata-based former FIFA referee Sumanta Ghosh, who officiated in pre-World Cup and pre-Olympic tournaments, died of prolonged illness here on Thursday. He was 70 and is survived by wife and two sons. Born on April 10, 1952, Ghosh became a FIFA referee in 1990 and retired in 1997. He officiated in pre-World Cup and pre-Olympics tournaments, AFC Club Championships, SAFF Cup and the Jawaharlal Nehru Cup among others. After retirement, Ghosh became a referees' instructor and AIFF Match Commissioner.

LIVE TELECAST

Pakistan vs England: 6th T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)
La Liga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

CM YK

Verstappen on the cusp of tasting glory again

Having already won 11 races this year, he is on track to beat the record for most wins in a season (13) held by the legendary Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel

SINGAPORE GP

S. Dipak Ragav
SINGAPORE

Max Verstappen will be chasing history at the Singapore Grand Prix, the chance to secure his second World drivers' title this weekend at the Marina Bay Street Circuit.

The reigning champion, who turns 25 on Friday, can cap his birthday weekend in style if he joins an elite list of only 16 drivers who have won multiple titles.

Handy lead

The Red Bull driver has a lead of 116 points over nearest rival Charles Leclerc of Ferrari and will need a 138-point lead at the end of Sunday over the pursuing pack to leave Singapore as a double World champion.

To seal the title under the glittering lights at the place that birthed the first night race in F1 history, Verstappen needs to do something he has not done before – win the Singapore GP and hope his rivals have a poor weekend.

Winning streak

Though his maiden title in 2021 came under controversial circumstances at the Abu Dhabi GP last year, Verstappen's second title is



History beckons: Verstappen in Singapore ahead of this weekend's Grand Prix. REUTERS

set to be one without any such asterisks attached to it.

Winning streak

The 24-year-old is on a five-race winning streak, having won 11 races this year already.

He is on track to beat the record of most wins in a season – 13 by Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel.

To illustrate how dominant he has been this year, in races he has completed, he has finished outside the

podium only once – the British GP – due to circumstances beyond his control, his car having collected debris which affected its performance.

After new rules were introduced at the start of the year, Verstappen took time to get used to the new generation of cars, with his teammate Perez matching him in performance.

However, Verstappen has been progressively able to extract a higher level of performance from the machine.

It is a long shot to win the title this weekend'

S. Dipak Ragav
SINGAPORE

the driver admitted next week in Japan is a more realistic target. "I think (Suzuka will be) my first proper opportunity to win the title. I'm looking forward to Singapore right now, but I'm also very excited for next week," he added.

Speaking about a memorable season, Verstappen said, "I have been enjoying it but I will enjoy it more after the season. What we've been doing as a team in general, after the difficulties we had at the beginning of the year, to then turn it around, really worked on the car. It was heavily overweight and making sure that it's in a competitive window now is great."

Akbar re-elected FMSCI president

Sports Bureau

CHENNAI

Akbar Ebrahim was re-elected as the president of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI) at its AGM held here on Thursday.

The FMSCI Council:
President: Akbar Ebrahim (Meco Motorsports).
Vice-president: Gautham B

Shantappa (Karnataka Motor Sports Club); **Councillors:** J. Prithviraj (Coimbatore Auto Sports Club), Bharath Vivek Chandhok (Madras Motor Sports Club), Pratin Chowdhury (Bengal Motor Sports Club), Hari Singh (Performance Cars Racing Trust), Raj Kapoor (Northern Motorsports), J. Balamurugan (Spitfire Motor Sports Pvt. Ltd.), Ketan Mehta (Indian Automotive Racing Club) and Vir Raina (Calcutta Motor Sports Club).

Radjabov beats Arjun in Armageddon game

CHESS

Sports Bureau

After a brilliant fightback, Arjun Erigaisi surrendered to Teimour Radjabov in the Armageddon game and bowed out of the *Chess.com* Global chess championship on Wednesday.

In the four-game rapid phase, Radjabov took the lead by winning the second game. He missed a chance to close the match in the third game that saw Arjun force a dramatic draw.

In the fourth game, where Arjun faced a must-win situation to force the Armageddon game, the Indian youngster won on demand.

In the tie-deciding Armageddon game, where Radjabov bid for 14 minutes and almost opted to play with white pieces, he slowly outplayed Arjun for a 3-2 verdict.

In the pre-quarterfinals, lone Indian Nihal Sarin will play China's No 1 Ding Liren.

Meanwhile, R. Vaishali let Russian contender and eventual runner-up Aleksandra Goryachkina off the hook before their final round ended in a 67-move draw in the FIDE women's Grand Prix chess in Astana (Kazakhstan) on Thursday.

Vaishali (5 points) finished tied sixth in the 11-round event. Kateryna Lagno (8) won the title.

WC fans do not need COVID-19 vaccination, says Qatar

Agence France-Presse

DOHA

COVID-19 vaccinations will not be mandatory for the million-plus fans going to the World Cup this year, Qatar said on Thursday.

But players and match officials may be forced into a secure "bio-bubble" if COVID-19 cases take off again, with the threat of expulsion from the tournament for those who breach the secure environment.

Qatar's health ministry warned in its World Cup guidelines that special measures would be ordered "in the event of a worsening pandemic situation in the country".

Varun Parikh catches up with Kartik Sharma in the lead

GOLF

RAKESH RAO

GURUGRAM

Varun Parikh fired the day's best five-under 67 to catch up with overnight leader Kartik Sharma in the lead after three rounds of the inaugural Kapil Dev Grand Thornton Invitational golf tournament at the DLF Golf and Country Club here on Thursday.

After a bogey on the second hole, Varun did not put a foot wrong all day. He fired birdies on the fourth and ninth holes and then produced four more birdies in the space of five holes between the 11th and 15th holes.

"I hit it solid and kept it in play. I hit a lot of fairways and greens and just followed my game-plan. I was a little calmer today as I knew that with a four or five-under you're always in contention at this course. I'm just going to stick to the same game-plan in the last round," said Parikh, winner of this year's PGTI Qualifying School.

With the top 13 players locked within six strokes, the final round of this ₹1 crore event promises an exciting finish.

The leading scores:
200 - Varun Parikh (73, 70, 67), Kartik Sharma (71, 67, 72); 202 - Syed Saqib Ahmed (74, 67, 71); 203 - Manu Gandas (74, 66, 73); 204 - Shamim Khan (76, 68, 70), Jamal Hossain (Ban) (73, 71, 70), Himmat Singh Rai (71, 70, 73), Sachin Baisoya (72, 68, 74); 205 - Abhinav Lohan (74, 71, 70).

Stage set for final round of National motorcycle racing

Sports Bureau

CHENNAI

There are heightened expectations ahead of the fifth and final round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship to be held from Friday (Sep. 30) till Sunday (Oct. 2) at the Madras International Circuit (MIC) here.

Commanding most attention are the two premier categories, Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open and Pro-Stock 165cc Open where the battle for championships could go down to the wire. Promoter Madras Motor Sports Club (MMSC) has put together a 20-race card for the weekend.



Gunning for glory: Veteran Rajini Krishnan (No. 67) has 161 points in the kitty going into deciding phase. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

has kept everyone on the edge of the seat," said MMSC president Ajit Thomas.

Veteran Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power), in sight of his 11th National career title, has 161 points in the kitty going into the Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open double-header that offers a maximum of 50 points.

Placed behind him on the leaderboard are Petronas TVS Racing's K.Y.

Ahamed (126) and Deepak Ravikumar (125). Thus, Rajini needs 16 more points this weekend to seal the championship.

Three-way battle
It is a three-way battle in the Pro-Stock 165cc category involving Pacer Yamaha's Mathana Kumar (126 points), Rajiv Sethu of IDE-mitsu Honda SK69 Racing (109) and Prabhu Arunagiri (Pacer Yamaha, 104).

Milka Surin, Sunita Rajput hammer 18 goals

Sports Bureau

Milka Surin and Sunita Rajput scored 18 goals in powering Naharkati New High School, Assam, to a 23-0 victory over Government Excellence School, Deoni, in a group-A preliminary league match of the Charanjit Rai 28th Nehru under-17 girls' hockey tournament at the Shivaji Stadium on Thursday.

The results (league):
Pool-A: Naharkati New HS, Assam, Milka Surin 10, Sunita Rajput 8, Priyanka Panika 3, Reshma Jagat 2) bt Government Excellence School, Deoni, 23-0.

Pool-B: SNP Institute, Pune, (Isha Rajurkar, Shaina Mulani, Tanishqha Jadav, Dyaneshwari Narawade) bt SN Trust HSS, Kollam (D Lekshmi) 4-1.

Pool-C: Rose Bud School, Devgadh, Baria (Kodarvi Tinkal) drew with Rachna Public School, Ghumanhera (Priya, Nisha, Ritika) 3-3.

Pool-D: St. Anthony's HS, Goa, (Jiya Murgod 3, Saloni Shinde) bt Punjab Public School, Nabha, 4-0.

Bopanna & Middelkoop enter semifinals

INDIANS ABROAD

Sports Bureau

NEW DELHI

Rohan Bopanna, seeded No.1 with Matwe Middelkoop, scored a 4-6, 7-6(5), 10-5], 10-5].

\$53,120 Challenger, Buenos Aires, Argentina: First round: Thiago Seyboth Wild (Bra) bt Sumit Nagal 5-7, 7-6(4), 7-5.

\$25,000 ITF men, Tay Ninh, Vietnam: Second round: Yu Hsiao Hsu (Tpe) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-4, 6-4; Yuko Mochizuki (Jpn) bt Digiwijay Pratap Singh 7-5, 7-6(4).

\$1,237,570 ATP, Seoul, Korea: Quarterfinals: Bruno Kuzuhara (USA) & Aziz Ouakaa (Tun) bt Sai Kartee Reddy (Ind) & Jeevan Nedunchezian (Ind) 6-4, 6-4.

\$1,019,855 ATP, Tel Aviv, Israel: Quarterfinals: Matwe Middelkoop (Ned) & Rohan Bopanna bt Denys Molchanov 6-3, 6-4.

\$25,000 ITF women, Santa Margherita Di Piave, Italy: First round: Sapto Sakellaridi (Gre) & Chiara Scholl (USA) bt Anna Baranovskaya (USA) & Jagmeet Kaur 6-0, 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF women, Guayaquil, Ecuador: First round: Tania Sabando & Valeska Ramirez (Ecu) bt Shria Atturu (USA) & Smriti Bhasin 6-2, 7-6(5).

LIVE TELECAST

Pakistan vs England: 6th T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

La Liga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Pakistan vs England: 6th T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.

G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE)
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora-263 643, Uttarakhand

TENDER NOTICE No.-GPBNIHE/NMSHE-TF-3(IInd Phase)/2022-23/08

E-tenders are invited on behalf of the Director, GPBNIHE, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora from eligible reputed and registered firms/suppliers /manufacturers for supply of Portable Solar Panel With Battery under NMSHE-TF-3(IInd Phase) project. The last date of submission of online tender is 17.10.2022 at 3.00 P.M.

The documents shall be submitted online at website <https://moefcc.euniwizade.com>.

The full details of equipments and documents are available in the Institute Website <http://gbpihed.gov.in>.

Office Superintendent
Email: store@gbpihed.nic.in

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

General public is hereby informed that this boy Namely: Babu, S/o: Shri Sunder Lal, R/o: Village Alwar, Rajasthan, Age: about 16-17 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Normal, Identification Mark: A mole on left side of cheek, Wearing: Chocolate colour t-shirt & jeans pant and brown colour of plastic chappie in feet, has been found Near CB water pump, Ring Road, Naraina, New Delhi since 12.07.2022 at 17:30 hrs area of P.S. Naraina, West District, Delhi. The Child Babu kept In Don Bosco Ashramayam, Palam, New Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 79-A, dated 12.07.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Naraina, West District, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about the family/parents of this person but no clue has come to light so far.

If any person having any information or clue about family/parents of this person kindly inform to the following.

SHO
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Naraina, West District, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-25891181, 8750871122
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/1139/WD/2022

Government of Jharkhand
Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs

4th Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru,

Ranchi -834002

DIRECTORATE OF FOOD AND

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND, RANCHI

Reverse E-Auction Procurement Notice

Tender Ref No:-Kha.up.Ni-01

Chi.Vi.Yo 3/2022- 1625 Dated – 28/09/2022

Empanelment of suppliers for supply of Sugar under Public Distribution System Scheme of Government of Jharkhand for the Second Half (October'22-March'23) of Financial year 2022-23 under Reverse E-Auction Mode

Bid Details

NIT/Bid Document No NIT-NH-01 Chi.Vi.Yo 3/2022-1625 Dated – 28/09/2022

Bidding Document Cost Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) (Non-Refundable & non-Adjustable) as a Demand Draft in favour of "Director, Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand Ranchi" in the office of Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand, Ranchi, 4th floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi - 834002 before last date of submission of bid documents.

Ernest Money Deposit (EMD)/Bid Security Rs. 20,00,000/- (Twenty Lakh) as EMD (margin money) in the form of Demand Draft in favour of "Director, Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand Ranchi" in the office of Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand, Ranchi, 4th floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi - 834002 before last date of submission of bid documents.

Document Sale Date & Timing i.e. Last Date & time for downloading RFP from website http://jharkhand.gov.in/food&htps://jhktenders.eproc.in

Online Bid Submission Period From 29/09/2022 to 20-10-2022

Technical E-Bid Opening Date & Time On 21/10/2022

Pre-Bid Meeting On 17/10/2022 at 16:00 IST through Google meet (meet.google.com/odp-fkfm-pri)

Date of Auction Will be published after technical evaluation

Name and concerned person for Correspondence Mrs Abhishek Tiwari Mobile no.- 9795046772, email- ibsupport@c1india.com

1. All eligible Individuals or partnership firm, Registered Company or Co-operative society or any legal organization should mandatorily register with C1 India Pvt Ltd for participation in Reverse Auction Registration Fee Rs. 5,000/- (Five Thousand).

2. Any changes/modification in the Tender documents in the tender documents will be posted on website <http://jharkhand.gov.in/food&https://jhktenders.eproc.in>.

Sd/-

Director

(Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs)

PR 278924 (Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs)22-23*D

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT

Tender No: 70695

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Electricity Department of Government of Puducherry invites Bids from interested entities meeting the Qualification Requirements and other conditions for bidding, as set out in the Request for Proposal(RFP) Document, to participate in the Competitive process for "Selection of Bidder for purchase of one hundred percent(100%) shares in Distribution Company responsible for distribution and retail supply of electricity and having Distribution License in the Union Territory of Puducherry".

The details of RFP along with important milestones are provided below:

1. Cost of RFP documents	INR 590,000.00 Inclusive of GST 18% (to be paid through RTGS)
2. Bid Security	INR 27,00,00,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Seven Crores) In the form of Bank Guarantee as per RFP.
3. Bank Details	Account Holder's Name: Drawing and Disbursing Officer Account No.: 34584469746 Account Type: Current Account IFSC Code: SBIN000900 Bank: State Bank of India Branch: 09090-Pondicherry
4. GST Details	GST No.: (34AAAG00342Q1Z7)
5. Sale of RFP	Start Date: 30.09.2022 End Date: 25.11.2022
6. Last date for submission of Queries	14.10.2022
7. Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	21.10.2022
8. Last Date of Bid Submission	25.11.2022 4.00 p.m.

For full details please refer the web link putd tenders.gov.in
Secretary to Government(Power)
Government of Puducherry
Goubert Avenue, Puducherry-605 001
Email: secyind.pon@nic.in Phone : 0413-2334144

No.296/DIP/AD/Press/2022-23

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-22/11673/2022-23 Date: 29.09.2022

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

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for work of (1) Formation of 18m & 30m wide Roads including asphalting, construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, HDPE Water Supply pipeline at Sub Layout of Plot No.1 at Gowribidnur 2nd Phase Industrial Area, Chikkaballapuram District. (2) Formation of Balance Length of 45m wide road no.1 & 32m wide road no.5 Junction, Construction of RCC Side Drains, Laying of HDPE Water Supply pipeline and providing road height guage/barrier at Hi-Tech Defence & Aerospace Park (IT Sector) Near KIAL, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

Last date for submission of bids is: 13.10.2022 upto 04:00 pm

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB, Bengaluru

Office of the Nagar Parishad, Lohardaga
Notice Inviting Tender

e-Tender Reference No. 07/2022-23 Date- 29-09-2022

S. No.	Name of the Work	Approx Value of work (in Rs.)	Earnest Money	Cost of Bid Document by DD (Rs.) (non refundable)	Period of completion
1	Development of Park, Lohardaga	2,64,30,942.00	2,64,310.00	10,000.00	15 Month

Note: Updated estimated cost should be considered for earnest Money.

Sl. No.	Procurement Officer	date of tender publish on website	Last date for submission of tender fee and earnest money.	Availability of tender on line for bidding	Place, Date & time of opening bid.
A	B	C	D	E	F

1. Executive officer Nagar Parishad, Lohardaga 06-10-2022 N.P. Lohardaga 28-10-2022 up to 3:00 P.M. To Date 27-10-2022 Time 5:00 P.M.

2. Executive officer Nagar Parishad, Lohardaga 06-10-2022 N.P. Lohardaga 29-10-2022 Time 03:30 P.M.

Further details can be seen on website <http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Officer
Nagar Parishad, Lohardaga

PR 278969 (Lohardaga) 22-23 (D)

झारखण्ड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
राष्ट्रीय उच्च पथ प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग
पीठीयोरी ग्राउण्ड के दरिंग, हजारीबाग – 825301 फैसले /फैन – 06546-222474

E-mail :- nhddivisionhazaribagh@gmail.com / eenhazari-jhr@nic.in

शुद्धि पत्र

Old PR No. - 267099 Road (21-22).D

इस कार्यालय की निविदा Tender Reference Number – NH/HAZARIBAGH/2022-23/02 (Construction of bypass around Chatra town on NH-22 Old NH-99 in the state of Jharkhand under EPC Model), Tender ID – 2022_MORTH_699473_1 से website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> पर प्रकाशित निविदा के Online availability एवं Date of opening को बढ़ाया जाता है एवं उसके लिए NIT एवं RFP को निम्न रूप से संशोधित किया जाता है।

Name of Column	Previous	Corrected
Application/Bid Due date	08.10.2022 upto 17.00 Hours Through website: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app only	03.01.2023 upto 17.00 Hours Through website: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app only
Last date of Submission of Online Challan and others documents in original	13.10.2022 upto Time 12.30 Hours Office of the Chief Engineer, National Highway Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi Engineer's Hostel-II, Golchakkar, Dhrura, Ranchi-834004	06.01.2023 upto Time 12.30 Hours Office of the Chief Engineer, National Highway Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi Engineer's Hostel-II, Golchakkar, Dhrura, Ranchi-834004
Time & date of opening	13.10.2022 at Time 15:00 Hours	06.01.2023 at Time 15:00 Hours

अन्य सभी सूचनाएँ एवं शर्तें यथावत रखेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता

राष्ट्रीय पथ प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग

राष्ट्रीयोरी ग्राउण्ड सरकार, लखनऊ

प्रिय आर्थिक वित्तीय विभाग, लखनऊ

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