



Crack the IAS Interview with the BYJU'S Comprehensive 3-Stage MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAM

The Most Intensive Preparation Program for the UPSC Personality Test

STAGE 1

4-Panelist Mock
Interview & Feedback
with video recording

STAGE 2

1:1 Session with
Prof. D. P. Agrawal
(Former Chairperson, UPSC)

STAGE 3

Interaction with
Selected Students for
extra inputs

BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE INTERVIEW PANEL INCLUDE



Prof. D. P. Agrawal
Former Chairperson, UPSC



Dr. S. Y. Quraishi
IAS Retd., Former Chief Election
Commissioner



Prof. Dr. Pushpesh Pant
Ex. Dean, SIS, JNU, Delhi



C. Uday Bhaskar
Defence & Internal Security Expert



Ambassador Amit Dasgupta
IFS Retd., Former Ambassador,
Philippines, Country Director, New
South Wales University, Sydney



G. Subba Rao
IAS Retd., Former Chairman, Gujarat
State Police Complaints Authority



Arun Kumar Mago
IAS Retd., Former Chief Secretary,
Maharashtra



Prabhakar Mani Tripathi
Eminent Psychologist

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAM

- 1:1 Sessions with a panel of serving civil servants on DAF, Home State, International Relations, Internal Security, Social Issues, Hobbies and Personality Development
- Comprehensive Corrective Feedback for the interview
- Analysis of Interview Transcripts of previously selected students

Candidates in Delhi can attend the program in person. Outstation candidates can opt for Online Sessions

Program starts
27th February, 2021

To register call
+91 98736 43487



FOR THE LOVE OF READING

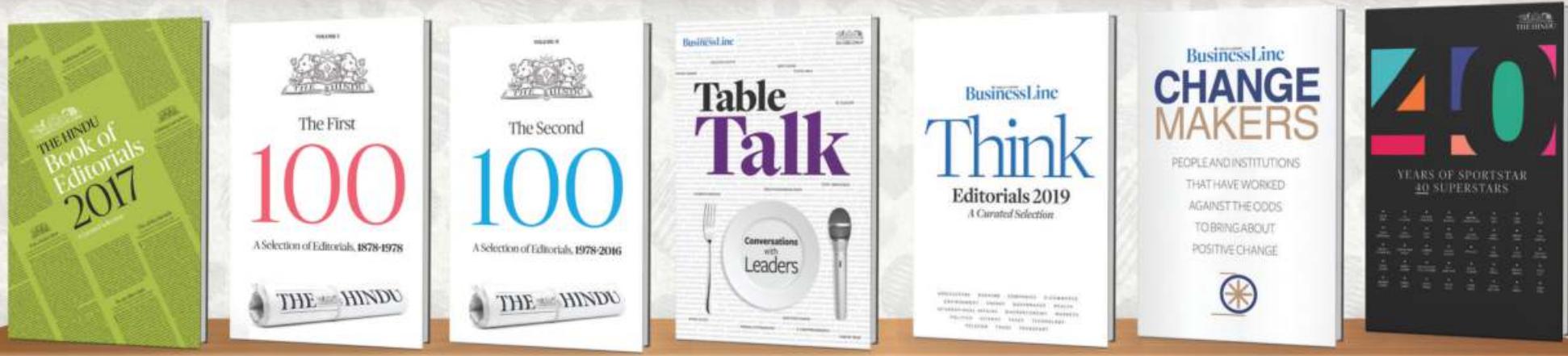
FLAT 50% OFF*

LIMITED PERIOD OFFER
ON FEBRUARY 13TH & 14TH, 2021

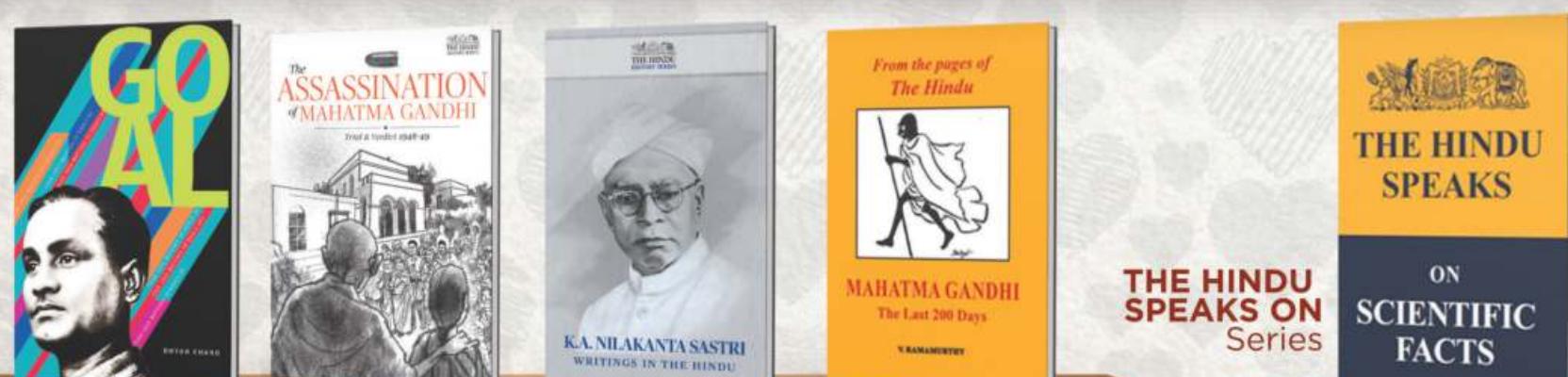
SHRINE
Series



PREMIUM
Series



HISTORY
Series



KIDS
Series





Governor Kishan Reddy denied VVIP aircraft for Dehradun trip

Page 10



India fastest to reach 70 lakh vaccinations, says Health Ministry

Page 10



In call with Xi, Biden talks of 'unfair economic practices'

Page 11



Kanepi stuns Kenin; Barty and Nadal progress

Page 13

NEARBY



'Front-line workers more eager to get the jab'

NEW DELHI

A total of 15,807 beneficiaries – 12,933 front-line workers and 2,874 healthcare workers – were administered the COVID-19 vaccine in the city on Thursday, the highest so far, said a Delhi government spokesperson. "Front-line workers are showing more enthusiasm to get vaccinated compared to health workers," said a government official.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Revised airfare bands to be in force till March 31

NEW DELHI

Air travel has become costlier, with the Union government on Thursday increasing the minimum and maximum fares an airline can levy on a given route with immediate effect. The minimum fare has gone up by 10% and the maximum by nearly 30%, according to the Civil Aviation Ministry order. There are seven fare bands, which vary according to the duration of a flight.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10



Artificial Intelligence Driven Prelims Crash Course 2021 with MK YADAV

REGISTER NOW

9560082909@theiashub.com

Rescue efforts resume in Tapovan dam tunnel

Reports of rising water level in Dhauliganga halted work

DEvesh K. PanDeY
VijaiTa Singh
New Delhi

Rescue operations at the NTPC's Tapovan hydel project tunnel in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, where about 35 workers were trapped after a snow avalanche triggered flash floods on Sunday, continued on Thursday. There was, however, a brief halt due to reports of an increase in the water level of Dhauliganga river, on which the project is built.

With two more bodies being recovered, the toll in the accident has risen to 36.

Joint rescue team

"The joint team has now resumed work inside the tunnel. Earlier, following information about a rise in the water level, we had taken some precautionary measures for about an hour," said an official. Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla chaired a meeting to review the progress of the rescue and relief work.

"Secretary, Defence Research and Development Organisation, has been asked to depute experts for analysis of the situation and for taking appropriate remedial measures in coordination with the Central and State



Search goes on: Members of a rescue team at work inside a tunnel in Tapovan, Uttarakhand, on Thursday. ■REUTERS

More water is building up in the Rishiganga'

A fresh pool of water may be building up in the Rishiganga river that could tip over a mass of rock and debris, thereby impeding ongoing rescue operations in Uttarakhand. ▶ PAGE 10

agencies," said a Ministry statement.

In the early hours of Thursday, the team started a drilling operation to peep into an interlinked silt tunnel, in the hope of establishing contact with the trapped workers.

Dams in the para glacial zone a danger

Ravi Chopra, Director, People's Science Institute, who has been a critic of hydropower projects in Uttarakhand, elaborates on the causes of the recent deluge. ▶ PAGE 10

The joint team had been clearing sludge and debris from the main project tunnel for the past four days, but was not able to reach the T-junction where workers are suspected to be trapped.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

<

IN BRIEF

Farmers improve facilities for prolonged protest

NEW DELHI
Installation of CCTV cameras for enhanced security, electric fans to beat the heat in the coming months and even a separate optical fibre line for wifi facility in case there is another internet shutdown at the protest site. These are some of the measures taken by the agitating farmers at the Singhu border to prepare for a long haul as a resolution of the stalemate over the new farm legislation seems unlikely anytime soon.

'Some shaming country's law and order for political gains'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The BJP government at the Centre was "fully committed" towards doubling the income of farmers, said the party, adding that some people were engaged in "shaming the country's law and order" on the pretext of the peasant movement for their political interest.

The comments were made at the Kisan Sammelan, which was organised to discuss the Union Budget among the Capital's farmers over "doodh jalebi", where the party accused the Opposition of seeking to make its "politics shine" in the name of the farmers' movement.

"Even after 70 years of Independence, no one ever thought about the condition of poor farmers living in the villages. Today, in the name of movement, some people are trying to make their politics shine by spreading confusion against the Centre," said Kisan Morcha national president Rajkumar Chahar.

**DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT**
4th FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006
Visit us at : <http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>

PUBLIC NOTICE

E-Waste Management Rules, 2016 came into force w.e.f 1st October 2016. These Rules mandates all the refurbishers of E-Waste to channelize the same through registered dismantler(s)/recycler(s) and obtain authorization from concerned State Pollution Control Board/ Committee.

Refurbishers:

All the refurbishers of electronic waste operating in NCT of Delhi may take note of above provision and apply for authorization under the said Rules by submit an application in **Form-1 (a)** through online mode. The refurbishers shall ensure that no damage is caused to the environment during the storage and transportation of e-waste(s) as per the guidelines issued by CPCB.

Bulk Consumers:

Further, Bulk Consumers of electrical and electronic equipment (i.e., listed in Schedule-1) such as Central Government or State Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings, Banks, educational institutions, multinational organisations, international agencies, partnership and public or private companies that are registered under the Factories Act, 1948 and the Companies Act, 2013 and Health Care Facilities which have turnover of more than one crore rupees or have more than twenty employees shall maintain records of e-waste generated by them in **Form-2** and make such records available for scrutiny by the concerned State Pollution Control Board.

Also Refurbishers and Bulk Consumers shall file annual returns in **Form-3**, to the State Pollution Control Board on or before the 30th day of June following the financial year to which that return relates.

Any violation of the provisions of the Rules and notified guidelines will attract penal action as per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Please visit website of Delhi Pollution Control Committee (<http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>) for more details.

DIP/SHABDARTH/0621/20-21

Member Secretary

Singhu locals demand removal of barricades

They gathered at the border to meet officers to discuss issue, say they were told to come again today

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

The locals of Singhu on Thursday said they waited all day to meet senior police officers to request them to remove the barricades installed at the entry of the village but they were returned without being heard.

They said the barricades were installed on January 29 and since then, they have been facing several problems related to vehicular traffic.

Problems faced

Government employee Pradeep Sehrawat, 31, from the village, said it takes them more than an hour to cross a distance of 1.5 km as they have to take a narrow path from inside the village. This particular distance – in case the barricades were not installed – would take only a few minutes to cross, using the main road.

"The path from inside the village is so narrow that only one car can cross at one time," he said. The locals also



Locals wait to meet senior officers near the Singhu border on Thursday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

said women and children are now not free to walk and roam inside the village.

"The bikes are speeding inside the village all the time. Often children get hit by two-wheelers. Women feel unsafe as well," he said.

Those going to office, school and other destinations

get late and sometimes have to pay a heavy price.

Sandeep Dubey, who runs a school inside the village, said three days ago, his aunt complained of chest pain and had to be rushed to hospital in Madhuban Chowk. "It took us an hour and a half to reach the hospital. Even ambulance

couldn't be called here," he said, adding that teachers complain of not being to reach because of lack of public transport. "There are hardly any buses coming here. Only a handful do."

The locals also said that accidents have become rampant inside the village. Mr.

The bikes are speeding inside the village. Often children get hit by two-wheelers. The path inside the village is so narrow that only one car can cross at a time

PRADEEP SEHRAWAT
Resident of Singhu village

Sandeep said that two days ago, a small tempo driver and his helper fell in the drain because of the *kaccha* path.

"With extreme difficulty, villagers pulled them out of the drain. No complaint was filed with the police," he said.

Sintu Kumar Jha, 24, said his sister got late for a competitive examination last week. "We had left at 7 a.m. for an exam at 8.30 a.m. and still got late," he said.

Mr. Dubey added: "Around 7.30 p.m., they [officials] told us that senior officers won't be able to meet and we should come on Friday morning."

Activist uploads video seeking release of Deep Sidhu

Lakha Sidhana, wanted in R-Day violence case, asks protesters to raise their voice against the arrests

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Gangster-turned-activist Lakha Sidhana – wanted in Red Fort violence case – uploaded a video on social media on Wednesday, calling out for support for arrested activist Deep Sidhu.

On Tuesday, the police arrested Sidhu, a former Punjabi actor, from Haryana's Karnal.

In the video, he is seen asking protesters to raise voice against the arrest of Sidhu and other people.

The farmers' leaders should hold talks with the government until the police



Supporters of Deep Sidhu protest at the Singhu border on Thursday, demanding his release. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

release the arrested persons and withdraw FIR against them, said Mr. Sidhana.

He insisted on more and more people joining the farmers' protest.

The police said after videos and photos of Sidhu that establishes his presence at Red Fort, they have managed to establish his presence at Red Fort by going through his call data records.

Sidhu's location traced

Finding his call location was the key. "Our technical team found that Sidhu's mobile location was in and around the Red Fort premises on Republic Day. Next, in the evening, he was around the Singhu border but during late night his location was traced to Kurukshetra

in Haryana. Then he switched off his phone," said the officer.

On January 27, he switched on his phone to recharge an OTT platform, which gave police a lead in the case.

Later in the day, his location was traced to Patiala. He kept using other mobile numbers but police kept tracking him and finally nabbed him from Karnal, the officer said.

"We have asked details of his bank account to find out the source of the money he spent on farmers' protest," said the officer.

It is the second such initiative after *Trolley Times*, another four-page newsletter published in Punjabi and Hindi to "clarify real news amid fake news and represent people's voices".

Newsletter on women to be published, distributed at farmers' protest sites

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A newsletter called *Karti Dharti* – written by women and about women – will be published and distributed at least in two protest sites here on Friday. The newsletter is the brainchild of an IT analyst and freelance writer.

The first page of the first newsletter also has an article on Nodeep Kaur, a Dalit woman who was supporting the agitation and was arrested on January 12 by Haryana Police.

Chandigarh-based Sangeet Toor was invited for a talk about a month ago on women's participation in the ongoing protest against the farm laws. "A speaker there asked me if there was any newsletter or paper being published on this subject. That's when we thought, why not?"

However, what set things moving was "media clampdown". Ms. Toor said recently that media is not even being allowed to freely report on the farmers' protest. "Government crackdown on media freedom led us to think that we really need to push it out," she said.

On the content, the team is Ms. Toor, three students from the University of Delhi, a Pakistan-native professor based in New York, and a few other women. The designing of the newsletter is by Chandigarh-based costume designer Navjeet Kaur, and the funding and production of the letter is by Ms. Toor's sister, Sargam Toor.

"The newsletter, in the beginning, will solely concentrate on the participation of women in the protest. The first edition is basically about the experience of women after January 26 tractor parade. Coming issues will have other stories as well, but not this one because there is hardly anything that is written about women in the protest, what is going in their mind and what they are facing," she said.

The newsletter will be published in two scripts – Gurumukhi and Shahmukhi –, which means Punjabi and Punjabi in Persian script respectively.

"Shahmukhi because it is mostly used in West Punjab and Punjabi has been written in Shahmukhi for centuries there. Baba Farid, Shah Hussain wrote Punjabi in Shahmukhi," she said. This newsletter was also to be published in Hindi. However, the woman working on the version had to dissociate herself for personal reasons.

For Saturday, 2,500 copies are being printed to be distributed at Singhu border and Tikri border. Ms. Toor said that she will further travel to Punjab and distribute the newsletter.

It is the second such initiative after *Trolley Times*, another four-page newsletter published in Punjabi and Hindi to "clarify real news amid fake news and represent people's voices".

FIRs against CDV for posing as policemen

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three FIRs have been registered against civil defence volunteers for impersonating as policemen while checking for mask violation in the city, said an officer on Thursday.

He said the police received several PCR calls and complaints where people were harassed by "CDV".

Police to public

The police said "we appeal that people may verify their identity (CDV) before accepting any challan".

The officer said three FIRs have been registered in North East, New Delhi and West district and the volunteers have been arrested and sent to jail.

EOW files FIR against Haryanvi singer, others in cheating case

Sapna Chaudhary faces embezzlement, conspiracy charges

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing has registered an FIR against Haryanvi singer Sapna Choudhary and others on charges of alleged misappropriation of funds, cheating and criminal conspiracy, officers said on Thursday.

The FIR was registered against them on Wednesday as per a complaint by Pawan Chawla, director of P&M Movies Pvt. Ltd., a firm engaged in the business of celebrity management and events, they said.

According to the FIR, Ms. Choudhary approached the complainant in March 2018 through a common friend af-

ter her exit from a popular reality show and showed keen interest to work with the firm for financial stability. After several discussions, an artist-management agreement was executed between Mr. Chawla and Ms. Choudhary in 2018.

As per the terms and conditions, she was not allowed to work or join any other company or have contact with any clients of the complainant. From May 2018 onwards, she took around ₹4 crore loan from Mr. Chawla, citing various personal reasons, as per the FIR.

Breach of trust

"The accused persons have committed breach of trust and misappropriated huge amount collected by organising several events clandestinely. The intention of the accused was to extract money by way of loan extended to over ₹3.5 crore on the pretext of emergent need for purchase of house and other emergencies," the FIR stated.

from inside and her son was crying and screaming. She got the door unlocked and found her son bleeding from his private parts. When she confronted the domestic help, he escaped from there, the complainant alleged.

Domestic help held for sexually abusing 2-year-old boy

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 16-year-old boy was apprehended for allegedly sexually assaulting a two-year-old boy in west Delhi's Subhash Nagar, police said on Thursday.

The accused, hailing from

Bihar, had been working as a domestic help at the victim's house for two-and-a-half years, they said.

The matter was reported on Tuesday by the victim's father. In his complaint, he alleged that at about 11.50 p.m.,

We are taking all necessary COVID 19 Precautionary Measures

BLAZERS SUITS & JACKETS SALE

Formals & Wedding collection

upto 60% off

Formal • Casual • Party Collection

Men & Women wear

By Economy Sales: 9212758425

RAYMOND Colours LOUIS PHILIPPE PARK AVENUE

PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chak.)
WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

Man, 3 friends arrested for killing woman

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 21-year-old man and his three friends have been arrested for allegedly stabbing a woman to death after she put pressure on him to get married to her, the police said on Thursday. The accused – Sumit Kumar, a driver – hatched a conspiracy with his three friends – Ravi, Arun and Amit – and killed the 32-year-old woman. She was already married, they said.

Timings**DELHI**

FRIDAY, FEB. 12
RISE 07:02 SET 18:09
RISE 07:35 SET 18:44
SATURDAY, FEB. 13
RISE 07:01 SET 18:10
RISE 08:11 SET 19:42
SUNDAY, FEB. 14
RISE 07:01 SET 18:11
RISE 08:44 SET 20:37

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 26 10
Safdarjung 26 10
Palam 24 11

Delhi Palam Today
27°C Moderate to isolated dense fog likely during cool morning, comfortable day with partly cloudy sky and light winds.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
27°C Moderate to dense fog at morning. Dry comfortable weather during day with partly cloudy sky.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

IN BRIEF

DJB to extract water before summer: Jain

NEW DELHI

Minister Satyendar Jain on Thursday directed Delhi Jal Board officials to extract 55 million gallons per day of extra water through tube wells inside all water treatment plant complex before the summer, according to authorities. "The DJB will use defunct tube wells for groundwater recharge to maximise rainwater harvesting," Mr. Jain said.

AAP for ₹25 lakh relief to Uttarakhand victims

NEW DELHI

The AAP on Thursday said that the Central and State governments should provide ₹25 lakh compensation to families of people who lost their lives or got injured in the Uttarakhand tragedy. "The State government has given ₹2 lakh and the Central government another ₹2 lakh. I believe that the compensation amount should be ₹25 lakh," said AAP MP Sanjay Singh.

DTC employees gherao head office over salaries

NEW DELHI

Delhi Transport Corporation employees on Thursday gheraoed the headquarters of the public transporter over delayed disbursal of salaries and pension. Delhi Parivahan Mazdoor Sangh general secretary Kailash Malik said over 500 staffers participated in the demonstration.

'Consider as representation plea against tree felling for metro work'

HC asks SC-appointed panel to look into environment issues

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked a Central Empowered Committee (CEC), set up by the Supreme Court, to look into environment issues to consider as representation a petition to change from over-ground to underground the nature of Phase-IV of metro expansion to prevent cutting of over 11,000 trees.

Justice Prathiba M. Singh said the issue raised in the petition was in the domain of the CEC and therefore, the petitioners have to first approach the committee.

Adverse effect
The petitioners – P.C. Prasad and advocate Aditya N. Prasad, had contended that fell-



ing over 11,000 trees for the project would have an adverse effect on the ambient air quality of the Capital where pollution is at "critical" levels.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's (DMRC) counsel said the top court on February 2 had directed the CEC to look into the issue and file a report within four weeks.

The counsel further said the CEC has fixed a meeting on Thursday at 3 p.m. and the petitioners can join the same.

Metro phase-IV

The petition had claimed that the Phase-IV expansion of the metro which involves three corridors – Delhi Aerocity to Tughlakabad, RK Ashram to Janakpuri West and Majupur to Mukundpur – was being constructed on "deemed forest land" for which no forest clearance has been obtained.

The plea had also claimed that cutting trees in such huge numbers "will cause irreparable damage and harm to the environment as well as health of the residents of New Delhi".

Furnish report on forest land, NGT tells Haryana

Violation in land allotted to IOCL: plea

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging diversion of forest land in Gurugram for non-forest purposes to the Indian Oil Corporation, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed State government authorities to furnish a report on the same.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the Deputy Commissioner Gurugram and the Divisional Forest Officer to ensure compliance.

"An action-taken report may be filed jointly by the Deputy Commissioner, Gurugram and the Divisional Forest Officer, within two months. We do not find it necessary to seek response from any other party though several other entities have been impleaded in the application," the Bench said.

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by the



Manav Awaaj Trust against diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes in violation of law.

The plea alleged that the site allotted to the IOCL by the Haryana government was a part of forest land and could not be used for non-forest purposes.

"In spite of the said stand of the Forest Department, the Municipal Corporation Gurugram has failed to take remedial action to enforce the law. Use of forest land for non-forest purposes is also in violation of MoEF notification with regard to the Aravalli Range," the plea said.

HC refuses to interfere in East Kidwai Nagar revamp project

Petition claims plan was in gross violation of MPD-2021

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday declined to interfere with the East Kidwai Nagar redevelopment project noting that the project has been accorded the sanction by the authorities concerned.

The project has been considered by various authorities like the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, National Monuments Authority, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Unified Traffic & Tran-

sportation Infrastructure [Planning and Engineering] Centre [UTTIPEC], New Delhi Municipal Council, Delhi Urban Arts Commission, etc," Justice Navin Chawla said. "It would not be for this court to find deficiencies in such sanction applying different yardstick," Justice Chawla said.

The High Court's judgment came on a petition claiming that the project was in gross violation of the Master Plan for Delhi-2021. The plea submitted that Kidwai Nagar (East) being a govern-

'Centre sanctioned 2-acre land at ₹2 crore to build Delhi BJP office'

BJP leader Chahal terms it 'false propaganda' by AAP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The AAP on Thursday alleged that the BJP government has sanctioned more than 2 acres of land at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg at just ₹2 crore to Delhi BJP to build their office.

'Was allotted for school'
"This land was not for building any political party office but this land was to build a school. We all know that the BJP has a big headquarters in this area already, and now the BJP-ruled Central government has given another spot to build their party office just opposite to the

office repeatedly. "The BJP should come clean and tell us whether they have any shame or not to own such a party office despite having such a negligible number of seats in the State or not," the AAP leader said.

In retaliation, the BJP sought to assert with documents that it was allotted 809 sq metres of land at DDU Marg for its office. BJP Delhi general secretary Kuljeet Singh Chahal termed it a "false propaganda" by the AAP".

"The government policy is that all political parties should be allotted land in Delhi," Mr. Chahal said.



Saurabh Bharadwaj

headquarters," said AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj.

He said that the BJP-ruled Central government has asked the AAP to pay crores of rupees as rent for their party headquarters and the BJP government had also tried to evict them from the

Front-line staffers keener than healthcare workers to get jab'

15,807 beneficiaries get vaccinated in the Capital, 12 adverse events reported

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Virus spread

Total number of COVID-19 cases **6,36,529** (Delhi)

Total deaths **10,886**

New cases in the past 24 hours **142** (Delhi)

New deaths **2** (Delhi)

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

while front-line workers include government employees, police, teachers and others.

CoWIN platform is yet to be made for this, according to officials.

142 new cases

Meanwhile, the Capital witnessed 142 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 6,36,529, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Thursday.

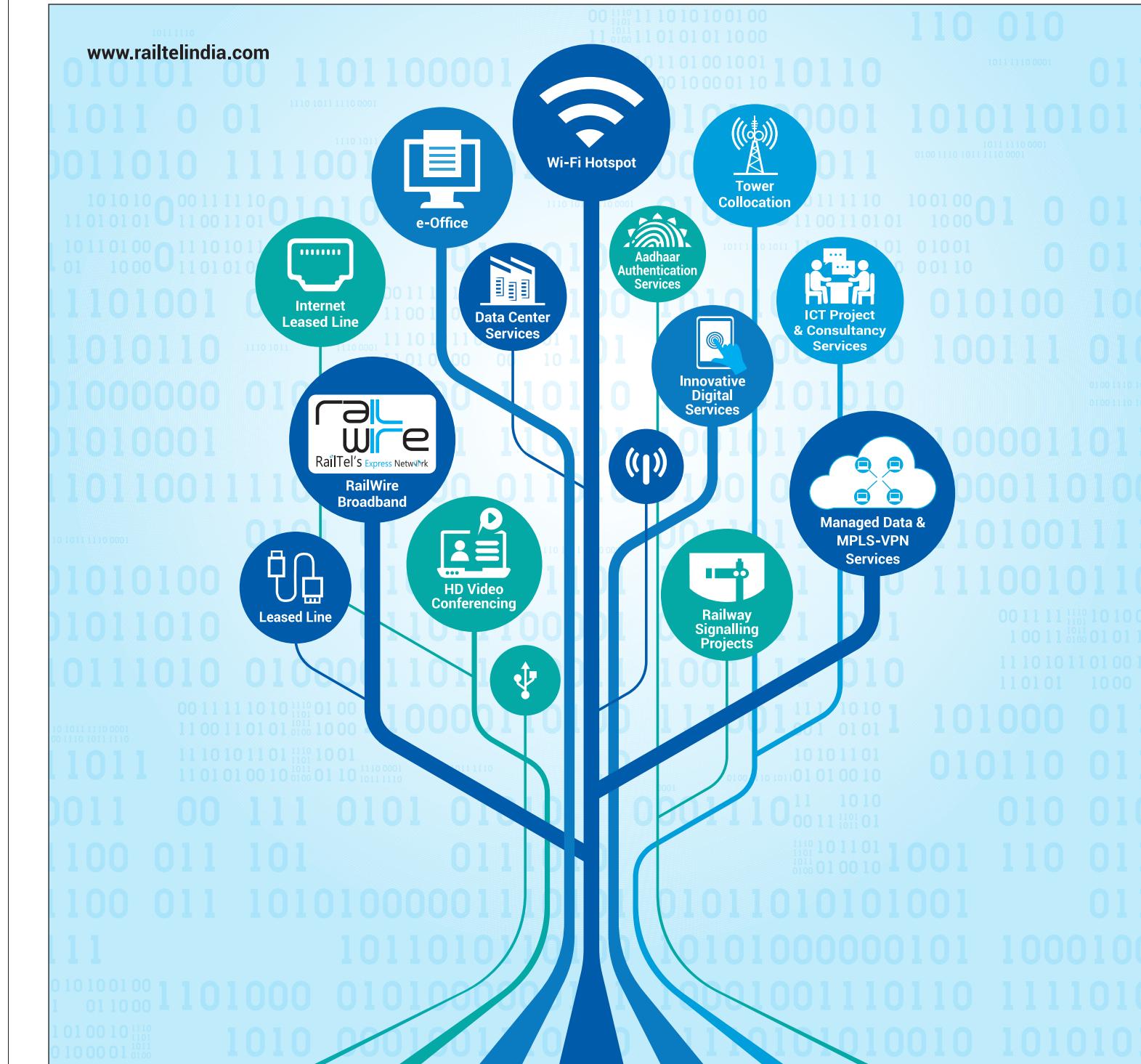
Though there is a daily list of front-line and healthcare workers to be vaccinated, people whose names are already registered, but not part of the daily list, can also get vaccinated.

Second dose

Though the Central government had said that the second dose of the vaccine will be administered from February 13, changes in the

number of people vaccinated compared to healthcare workers. Yesterday [Wednesday] also, of the total beneficiaries, about 10,000 were front-line workers," a Delhi government official told *The Hindu*.

Healthcare workers include, doctors, nurses, sanitation staffers and others,



CREATING TELECOM AND ICT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR YOUR DIGITAL GROWTH

RailTel – Contributing Towards Strategic and Critical Network Infrastructure Services

- One of India's largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers. (Assessment of the telecom and telecom data services industry in India' issued by CRISIL dated September, 2020)
- A zero-debt in Fiscal 2020 and profitable company, paying dividend since Fiscal 2008.
- Exclusive right of way over 67,415* route kilometers (RKM) along railway tracks.
- 59,098* RKM optical fiber network connecting 5,929* railway stations in India.
- 7,289* Point of Presence.
- Retail Broadband 'RailWire' has 3,05,746* subscribers and 5,023* Access Network Providers (ANPs).
- 5,929* railway stations have RailWire free public Wi-Fi with 14 million unique users/ day (in Fiscal 2020).
- Implementing partner for National Knowledge Network (NKN) and Bharat Net.



RailTel Corporation of India Limited

(A Government of India Undertaking)

Mini Ratna (Category-I) CPSE

• ISO 9001:2015 • ISO/IEC 20000-1:2018 • ISO/IEC 27001:2013 • CMMI Maturity Level-4

SERVICES: • HD Video Conferencing Service • Data Center and Cloud Services • Retail broadband service – RailWire • Leased Line • Virtual Private Network • NLD For Voice Carriage Network • Internet Leased Line • Consultancy Services • Signalling Services • Tower Collocation • State Wide Area Network Management.

PROJECTS: • Content on Demand (CoD) in trains • Video Surveillance System • Wi-Fi • Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) • Implementation of NIC e-Office.

RailTel Corporation of India Limited is proposing, subject to, applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the red herring prospectus dated February 9, 2021 ("RHP") with RoC Ms on February 10, 2021. The RHP is available on the websites of SEBI, BSE and NSE at www.sebi.gov.in, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and is available on the website of the BRMs at i.e., www.cldcapital.com and www.sbicaps.com. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. Please note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to the same, please see the section entitled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 25 of the RHP.

The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "U.S. Securities Act") or any state securities laws in the United States, and unless so registered, may not be offered or sold within the United States except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable U.S. state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold outside the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S and applicable laws of the jurisdictions where such offers and sales are made. There will be no public offering in the United States.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:

www.thehinduads.com

011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

CHAKRABORTY'S
IAS ACADEMY

ONLINE AND OFFLINE FACILITIES AVAILABLE

ESSAY Essay Writing Orientation Course

8-10 Classes (approx 20 hours)

TEST SERIES Personal Attention and Comprehensive

Feedback (Minimum 5 Tests)

Also Enquire for Political Science (Optional) Classes and Test Series

Contact: 8810623010, 9811104776

89, 1st Floor, Old Rajender Nagar, Behind SAFAL BOOTH, New Delhi-60

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL



India's leading organization based in Delhi invites

passionate individuals for the role of

CONTENT DEVELOPER for GS

in English Medium

• हिन्दी माध्यम

• English-Hindi Translator

(prior experience)

Skills Desired :

✓ Comfortable in translation (English to Hindi)

✓ Work Experience (at least 1 year)

✓ Have written Civil Services (Main) examination

Send your updated resume to

recruitment@visionias.in

Get 100% Fee Back On All UPSC courses!

Offer Dates Feb. 13 to 15, 2021

Valid only for First 100 enrollments * & C apply

Pre-register now!

9993-134-110

www.careerlauncher.com/upsc

SUCCESS CSAT

CSAT will not be a HURDLE anymore

COMPLETE CSAT COURSE @ Rs. 2999/-

Class Starts from 15th Feb.

For Course Features Contact:

8266938124

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HONOURABLE ADDITIONAL JUDGE FAMILY COURT, AT BANGALORE M.C. No. 3748/2018

BETWEEN:

Smt. Shuchita Bose ...Petitioner

AND:

Sri Rakesh Bahl ...Respondent

NOTICE TO READER

To, Sri Rakesh Bahl, S/o Late Prem Prakash Bahl, aged about 51 years, R/t 27/1, New Rohtak Road, New Delhi-110005.

Whereas, the above named petitioner has instituted the above case against the respondent for decree for divorce of the marriage and such other reliefs. They are hereby summoned to appear in person or through a pleader duly instructed before the 1 Additional Principal Judge Family Court, Bangalore.

Notice / Summons is hereby made that the said respondent is required to appear on 02/03/2021 at 11.00 AM, before the Hon'ble 1st Addl. P.J. Judge, Family Court, Bangalore, to answer the said petition, failing which the matter will be heard in your absence placing you as ex parte.

Giving under my hand and seal of this court on 02/02/2021.

By Order of the Court, Sherister, Family Court, Bangalore.

Advocate for Petitioner:

APARNA RAMESH, Advocate

No. 18, Chitrakoot, Ground Floor,

1st Cross, Kumaracit Layout,

High Grounds, Bangalore-560001.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Tulchand Ram Kumarwala S/o Bhura Ram Rao Ward No. 11, V.P.O.-Thanawala, Nagaur, Rajasthan-305006 have changed my name to Tarun Kumarwala by affidavit no. BC 014039 dated 01/02/2021 for all purposes

Usha Chander W/o Chandra Bose Kaniyamparampil, R/o 212, Bank Vihar Apartments, Plot No.16, Sector-22, Dwarka, Delhi-110075 have changed my Name to Usha Rani Kaniyamparampil.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)

Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/ downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & https://etender.upnic.in.

Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

Fresh-Tender Work

A) The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 25.02.2021 upto 5.00 PM. shall be opened/downloaded on dated 01.03.2021 at 11.00 AM.

S.N. Job No. Name of Work Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)

1. 130/CGM/Sr.M(E/M)-II/2020-21/E/1 Sealed tenders are invited on behalf of the Director, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE) Kosi-Katarmal, Almora - 263 643, Uttarakhand

TENDER NOTICE No.-GBPNIHE/Canteen/2020-21/16

Sealed tenders are invited on behalf of the Director, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE) Kosi-Katarmal, Almora from eligible reputed and registered Canteen Contractors for running existing canteen of the Institute for catering around 150 nos (approx) employees/students.

The last date of submission of tender is 24.02.2021. at 03:00 P.M. The full details of documents are available in the Institute Website http://gbpihed.gov.in.

Administrative Officer Email: ao@gbpihed.nic.in

Chief General Manager Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

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

TEST NOTICE No.-GBPNIHE/Canteen/2020-21/16

Sealed tenders are invited on behalf of the Director, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE) Kosi-Katarmal, Almora from eligible reputed and registered Canteen Contractors for running existing canteen of the Institute for catering around 150 nos (approx) employees/students.

The last date of submission of tender is 24.02.2021. at 03:00 P.M. The full details of documents are available in the Institute Website http://gbpihed.gov.in.

Administrative Officer Email: ao@gbpihed.nic.in

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

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS (Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction)

Application No. 1756 of 2020

Randstad India Private Limited, Having its Registered office of Plaintiff at Randstad House, Old No.5 & 5A, New No.9, Pycroft Garden Road, Chennai-600006.

Represented by its Manager, Mr. Srinivasan. ... Applicant Versus

Dalmia Consumer Care Private Limited, Having its Registered office at 4th Floor, Tolstoy House, 15-17, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110 001.

Also at:

Dalmia Consumer Care Private Limited, Property No 660, Khasra No. 1116, Opposite K Block Village-Bhilaswa, Jhangipuri, New Delhi-110033.

... Respondent NOTICE

Take Notice that the above application praying for disclosure of assets through an affidavit the particulars of all the moveable and immovable assets against the Respondent, came up before the Hon'ble Madras High Court on 04.02.2021. The Hon'ble Madras High Court has ordered Notice (substituted service) to the Respondent above named returnable by 06.04.2021. You are called upon to be present before the Hon'ble Madras High Court on the next hearing date of 06.04.2021 at 10.30 a.m., either in person or through counsel, to show cause why the above application should not be allowed. On your failure to be present, the matter will be decided in your absence.

M/s. V.V. Sivakumar Chethan Sagar and B. Kishore Of Dua Associates, Advocates Palani Centre, 32, Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar, Chennai 600 017.

Counsel for Applicant

Sections 147, 188, 269 and 270 of the IPC and Section 3 of the Epidemic Act 1897

have been invoked against the accused.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

is expected to hold kisan sabhas in Meerut and Binor

Aligarh police book RLD V-P Jayant Chaudhary

All programmes will go on as scheduled, says defiant leader

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

Jayant Chaudhary addressing a farmers' panchayat in Khurja on Wednesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

on February 13. Interestingly, the party had postponed its Saharanpur panchayat after the administration denied permission. However, local sources said, after the RLD successfully organised its panchayats despite prohibitory orders, Congress heavyweights like Imran Ma-

sood also seemed to have felt emboldened.

Responding to the action, Mr. Chaudhary tweeted that he was ready to be arrested. Addressing Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, he tweeted, "Baba bata dein kab aur kahan girafra deni hain [Tell me, when and where should I present myself for arrest]."

The RLD has been holding massive panchayats in western Uttar Pradesh against the Central farm laws. In Shamli too, Section 144 was in place but the party went ahead with the gathering. It was followed by panchayats in Amroha and Aligarh. On Tuesday, Mr. Chaudhary addressed a panchayat in the Khurja area of Bulandshahr, where the turnout was huge.

Everybody knows that Section 144 of the CrPC has been imposed in the district which entails that permission needs to be taken for any public meeting. No such permission was taken for the programme. That is why a case has been registered in the Gonda police station for violating prohibitory orders and sections of the Epidemic Act," said Shubham Patel, Superintendent of Police (Rural), Aligarh.

Sections 147, 188, 269 and 270 of the IPC and Section 3 of the Epidemic Act 1897

have been invoked against the accused.

"Everyday knows that Section 144 of the CrPC has been imposed in the district which entails that permission needs to be taken for any public meeting. No such permission was taken for the programme. That is why a case has been registered in the Gonda police station for violating prohibitory orders and sections of the Epidemic Act 1897," said Shubham Patel, Superintendent of Police (Rural), Aligarh.

Sections 147, 188, 269 and 270 of the IPC and Section 3 of the Epidemic Act 1897

have been invoked against the accused.

The present government is making fun of the farmers' pain. In the coming days, attempts would be made to break your unity," he cautioned.

Farmers' outfit flays Centre's 'stubborn' attitude

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

At a 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' in Punjab's Jagraon, Joginder Singh, president of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ugrahan), one of the largest outfit in Punjab, hit out at the Union government, accusing it of adopting a stubborn attitude on revoking the three farm laws and announced that farmers would not allow the implementation of these laws.

Stir to continue

Mr. Singh asked farmers to be prepared for a long struggle. "We want them [Union government] to clearly understand one thing that if our demands are not fulfilled we will continue with our agitation indefinitely," he added.

The prevailing 'mandi' system under the APMC Act (Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act) in Punjab and Haryana had been working well and it should continue.

Govt. adamant

When farmers don't want private players, then why is the government adamant. Private markets will fail the 'mandi' system. Same is true with contract farming. We are not in favour of it, let it be the way it was," Mr. Singh said. The government was attempting to impose an agricultural model through these laws, which had failed at the global level, he alleged.

National movement

Farmer leader Balbir Singh of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Rajewal) said the agitation, which started from Punjab, has now become a movement across the country. "Even people from across the world are praising our peaceful agitation. Everyone is also watching the way the government is adopting repressive methods to dislodge our movement."

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:

www.thehinduads.com

011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

CHAKRABORTY'S
IAS ACADEMY

ONLINE AND OFFLINE FACILITIES AVAILABLE

ESSAY Essay Writing Orientation Course

8-10 Classes (approx 20 hours)

TEST SERIES Personal Attention and Comprehensive

Feedback (Minimum 5 Tests)

Also Enquire for Political Science (Optional) Classes and Test Series

Contact: 8810623010, 9811104776

89, 1st Floor, Old Rajender Nagar, Behind SAFAL BOOTH, New Delhi-60

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL



India's leading organization based in Delhi invites

passionate individuals for the role of

CONTENT DEVELOPER for GS

in English Medium

• हिन्दी माध्यम

• English-Hindi Translator

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Dense/very dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, northwest Rajasthan, east Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN

Agartala	—	28.5	12.4	Kozhikode	—	33.4	23.2
Ahmedabad	—	32.5	13.0	Kurnool	—	33.3	18.2
Aizawl	—	22.7	10.7	Lucknow	—	28.3	11.3
Aligarh	—	29.7	11.7	Madurai	—	32.0	18.0
Bengaluru	—	30.0	14.5	Mangalore	—	34.6	19.8
Bhopal	—	29.4	19.8	Mumbai	—	34.6	17.0
Bhubaneswar	—	34.4	15.5	Mysuru	—	30.3	11.8
Chandigarh	—	25.0	10.1	New Delhi	—	26.1	9.6
Chennai	—	30.0	20.4	Patna	—	26.6	12.0
Coimbatore	—	31.6	17.4	Port Blair	11.1	30.7	22.0
Dehradun	—	26.1	9.4	Puducherry	—	30.2	18.8
Gangtok	—	14.8	8.4	Pune	—	32.7	13.1
Goa	—	33.0	19.4	Raipur	—	32.6	15.8
Guwahati	—	29.7	12.9	Ranchi	—	28.6	11.4
Hubballi	—	31.0	17.0	Shillong	—	18.3	7.1
Hyderabad	—	31.0	16.0	Shimla	—	18.2	7.0
Imphal	—	25.4	7.5	Srinagar	—	14.5	—
Jaipur	—	29.6	10.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	20.4
Kochi	—	31.6	22.0	Tiruchi	—	32.2	18.0
Kohima	—	19.5	5.8	Vijayawada	—	30.7	20.0
Kolkata	—	30.3	15.0	Visakhapatnam	—	29.5	19.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday

CITIES SO NO CO PM2.5 PM10 CODE

Ahmedabad	131	40	—	224
Bengaluru	7	104	30	.120	.113
Chennai	12	19	.51	.102	.088
Delhi	27	.67	.44	.410	.382
Hyderabad	4	113	.41	.116	.133
Kolkata	54	.29	.60	.334	.253
Lucknow	11	122	.53	.292	.338
Mumbai	10	.55	.50	.321	.299
Pune	—	.27	.22	.206	.133
Visakhapatnam	—	18	—	—	—	—

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NOx: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Cong. protests in Punjab against Centre's policies

Anti-people policies responsible for spike in fuel, gas prices'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGAH

The Congress on Thursday staged protests in parts of Punjab against the BJP-led government at the Centre, alleging that its anti-people policies were responsible for the spike in fuel and cooking gas prices.

State party president Sunil Jakhar, leading the protest in Abohar, hit out at the BJP government, accusing it of implementing policies that have adversely affected every section of society.

"When the Congress was in power in 2014, the price of crude oil in the international market was 104 US

dollar per barrel and now it is around 60 dollar per barrel, yet the fuel prices are being hiked. As a result, consumers in Punjab alone are facing an additional financial burden of ₹750 crore every month," he said.

'Subsidy reduced'
Mr. Jakhar said that the faulty policies of the BJP government has also increased the price of cooking gas drastically, while the subsidy on cylinders had been reduced by 90% compared to year 2014.

Referring to the ongoing farmers protest, he said that the BJP government had

enacted three farm laws to encourage black market and destroy the agriculture sector.

Farmers from different states have been struggling on the Delhi borders for the last two-and-a-half months to get the contentious laws repealed but iron nails have been laid on the roads to prevent 'annada' from entering Delhi. These nails were piercing democracy and if the current situation prevails then they will work as nails in the coffin of the BJP," he said.

"Only by withdrawing the black laws can the farmer be saved," he added.

'Exiled' Bengal leader hints at ST status for Koch-Rajbongshis

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

An "exiled" leader of West Bengal has hinted at his community, the Koch-Rajbongshi, being granted Scheduled Tribe (ST) status in Assam.

A self-proclaimed king of Cooch Behar in northern West Bengal and a spiritual leader, Ananta Rai has been living in Chirang near Bongaigaon town for a few years. He had claimed to have been in exile for fighting for the "independent state" of Cooch Behar.

"Good news for the Koch-Rajbongshi community is on the way," Mr Rai told journalists after Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid him a visit around noon on Thursday.

Mr Shah's visit is believed to be significant because of Mr Rai's clout in the community who comprise a sizeable chunk of voters in western Assam and northern West Bengal, which once formed the medieval Koch kingdom. The Koch-Rajbongshis are one of six communities – the others are Adivasi, Chutia, Matak, Moran and Tai-Ahom – that have been demanding ST status for decades. The BJP has been splurging on the Adivasis, referred to as "tea tribes". The Adivasis form about 20% of Assam's population.

Assam-Mizoram border tense, blockade on

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

There were no fresh incidents on the troubled Assam-Mizoram border but the situation remained tense as the economic blockade on Mizoram by Assam-based organisations continued for the second successive day on Thursday.

Trouble along a disputed stretch of the inter-State border flared up on Tuesday evening after miscreants, allegedly from Mizoram attacked people at Kachurthal in southern Assam's Hailakandi. Police said 10 people were injured and more than 40 houses and shops were set ablaze. Assam-based groups reacted by imposing an economic blockade.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division, 8th Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Kanakanapalya, Bangalore - 560011, Ph : 080-26570088

No: EE/CKP/E-PROC/14/2020-21 Date : 11.02.2021

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS

(Single and Two Cover) (Only Through E-Procurement)

(Standard Tender Document - KW1/KW2/KW3/KW4)

The Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division, BBMP, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the Construction of the following works.

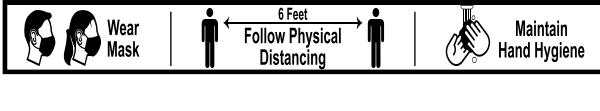
SL No.	Name of the work	Estimate Cost (In Lakhs)
1	Development work in Basket Ball ground in T Mariyappa Road, in Ward No. 144 (3rd Call).	90.00
2	Providing and Laying Sanitary pipeline in 10th D Main 10th B Main and adjacent roads in 1st Block Jayanagar Ward No. 153 (2nd Call)	55.00
3	Providing and laying Sanitary pipeline in 8th Cross, 7th Cross, and adjacent roads in 1st Block, Jayanagar Ward No. 153(2nd Call)	52.00
4	Providing and laying Sanitary pipeline in 4th Cross, 10th A Main Road and adjacent roads in 1st Block, Jayanagar Ward No. 153 (2nd Call)	52.00
5	Providing and laying Sanitary pipeline in 9th Cross, 6th Cross and adjacent roads in 1st Block, Jayanagar Ward No. 153(2nd Call)	52.00
6	Providing and laying Sanitary pipeline in 10th C Main and adjacent roads in 1st Block, Jayanagar Ward No. 153 (2nd Call)	55.00
7	Engaging silt and Tractor in Ward No. 119 (2nd Call) (SC Only)	12.00
8	Digging of Borewells and Providing pipelines in ward no. 145	13.00
9	Engaging of labours and depot collection in ward no. 145	10.00
10	Engaging silt & Tractor in Ward No. 145 (SC Only)	12.00
11	Providing RCC drain in Mothinagara cross road and Improvements to Palwan Krishnappa road in ward No. 119,	30.00
12	Improvements to drains and footpath in Kempegowdanagara at ward surrounding area in ward no. 142	20.00
13	Improvement work to parks in ward surrounding area in ward no. 142	25.00
14	Providing Borewell and Water supply lines in ward No. 142	20.00
15	Revocation of Primary Health center and Improve-ments works to surrounding area in ward no. 145	75.00
16	Maintenance of Roads in Siddapura Ward area in Ward No. 144	25.00
17	Pot Hole Filling in Ward No. 144 (Asphalt & Concrete)	10.00
18	Engaging of labours and depot collection in ward no. 144 - Siddapura	10.00
19	Digging of Borewells and Providing pipelines in ward no. 144- Siddapura	20.00
20	Additional Construction Work for Hospital at Sudhamanagar in Ward No. 118.	100.00
EMD	EMD Exempted as per GOK order no.CE675 Cost 12/2020, Bangalore, Dated : 22.12.2020 upto 31.12.2021 Only	

(1) Tender Documents may be downloaded Date : 19.02.2021 onwards.
(2) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 26.02.2021 at 15.00 in the office of the Executive Engineer (CKP), Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011. (3) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is 01.03.2021 upto 4.00 P.M. (4) Date of technical bid opening of Tenders is on 02.03.2021 by 4.30 P.M. (5) Date of Financial bid Opening of Tenders in on after Technical bid Approval. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-

Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division.

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



STATE COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL TRAINING, ODISHA

RFP No.265 Dated 11.02.2021

RFP for "Selection of Professional Agency for carrying out Inspection and Grading of Government & Private Polytechnics of Odisha"

SCTE&VT, Odisha invites proposals from Agencies of National & International repute for "Selection of Professional Agency for carrying out Inspection and Grading of Government & Private Polytechnics of Odisha" as detailed in the RFP document. The RFP document can be downloaded from Council website <http://scetvodisha.nic.in>

Sd/-
Vice-Chairman
OIPR-44002/11/0011/2021

Abbreviations used: UR-Unreserved, EWS-Economically Weaker Sections, OBC-Other Backward Class, SC- Scheduled Caste, ST-Scheduled Tribes

Advt. No: Admn.(Estt.)/02/01/2021

Member Secretary, AICTE

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr



Order at the border

The disengagement at the LAC is vital for the broader relationship with China

India and China finally reaching an agreement on disengagement at Pangong Lake, which has been at the heart of the recent LAC tensions, is a promising start towards restoring peace in the border areas. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said both sides will cease their forward deployments on the north and south banks of the lake in a phased, coordinated, and verified manner. China's Ministry of Defence announced an agreement "to start synchronised and organised disengagement". Both sides have agreed to a temporary moratorium on patrolling in the disputed areas north and south of the lake. The withdrawal of armoured elements, including tanks that have been in dangerously close proximity, began on Wednesday. All frontline personnel will subsequently be withdrawn over the next two to three weeks. North of the lake, China's troops will return to their base at Sirijap, east of Finger 8, while India's troops will similarly return to their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa post, at Finger 3. India previously patrolled on foot up to Finger 8 – there is no motorable road access from India's side to areas east of Finger 4 – while China has dominated up to Finger 4, having already built a road there and enjoying superior logistics. Starting last summer, Chinese troops had prevented India from reaching Finger 8, leading to the crisis. Now, the entire contested area, from 4 to 8, will become a buffer zone and all temporary infrastructure built after April 2020 will be withdrawn. Similarly, both sides will return to their bases south of the lake, where India will vacate the heights it occupied in an effective countermove in late August in the Kailash range, which gave India much needed leverage to negotiate as well as demonstrated its resolve to match China's actions.

The stand-offs on the north and south banks, involving troops and artillery, remained the hardest nut to crack over nine long rounds of talks between military commanders. With this agreement, the only pending problems now are smaller, less concerning stand-offs involving fewer troops in Patrolling Points 15 and 17A in the Gogra-Hot Springs area, which will be taken up 48 hours after disengagement at Pangong Lake is completed over the next few weeks. In the Depsang plains, there is no stand-off situation or heavy deployment of troops, but a long-running dispute over the LAC and blocking of patrols that predates the current crisis and as yet remains unresolved. The success of the new disengagement plan will finally depend on whether it is implemented on the ground in letter and in spirit. The events of last year have left enormous distrust, which remains a hurdle and China's actions on the ground have not always matched its commitments. Both sides should keep in mind what is at stake for the broader relationship between the two most populous countries, which ultimately hinges on peace on the border.

Tender cut

Instead of shutting out cryptocurrencies, the government must ensure smart regulation

The government's statement about bringing in a law on cryptocurrencies is welcome, as it could put an end to the existing ambiguity over the legality of these currencies in India. The vagueness exists notwithstanding the fact that the government has, from time to time, suggested that it does not consider them to be legal tender. It has not, however, been able to channel this understandable disapproval – arising out of the fact that such currencies are highly volatile, used for illicit Internet transactions, and wholly outside the ambit of the state – into any sort of regulation. In 2018, the RBI did send a circular to banks directing them not to provide services for those trading in cryptocurrencies. But this was eventually set aside by the Supreme Court, which found the circular to be "disproportionate," given that the central bank had consistently maintained that virtual currencies were not banned in India. Also, the RBI could not show that entities that it regulated were adversely impacted by exchanges dealing in virtual currencies. The Minister of State for Finance, Anurag Thakur, who on Tuesday confirmed in the Rajya Sabha that a Bill was in the offing, highlighted the complexity in regulation. He said, "Regulatory bodies like RBI and Sebi etc also don't have a legal framework to directly regulate cryptocurrencies as they are neither currencies nor assets or securities or commodities issued by an identifiable user."

This legal ambivalence has not, however, been able to prevent cryptocurrencies from having a growing clientele in India. Their attraction may only grow now, given that the most well-known of them as also the most valuable, Bitcoin, has hit new peaks in price and is gaining influential followers such as Tesla founder Elon Musk. So, what will the Bill seek to do? Those associated with this niche but growing ecosystem will be worried about this question the most. Cryptocurrency exchanges, which have sprung up, are reportedly lobbying with the government to make sure these currencies are regulated rather than banned outright. Smart regulation is preferable, as a ban on something that is based on a technology of distributed ledger cannot be implemented for all practical purposes. Even in China, where cryptocurrencies have been banned and the Internet is controlled, trading in cryptocurrencies has been low but not non-existent, as an India inter-ministerial committee found out. Despite this and the fact that most countries it studied had opted for regulation, this committee still went ahead to recommend an outright ban. Of course, it encouragingly also batted for an official digital currency as well as for the promotion of the underlying blockchain technology. The government must resist the idea of a ban and push for smart regulation.

The agonising cost of ham-handed development

India's leaders must recommit themselves to the ideas and activism of environmentalists involved with Uttarakhand



NACHIKET CHANCHANI

Following flash floods at Chamoli in Uttarakhand, defence personnel are looking for missing persons in a mélange of rock, mud, water, and debris, airlifting rations to inaccessible villages, and repairing bridges and telecommunication networks. Social scientists are assessing the disaster's impact on the region's economy. Scientists and policy makers are debating whether climate change or unchecked development in an ecologically fragile region was primarily responsible for the disaster and the death toll. News reports of ancient temples having been swept away in the Alakananda's raging waters are bringing back traumatic memories of the Kedarnath floods in 2013. All these developments show the profound significance attached to this region and they prompt a historian to ask two fundamental and interrelated questions: How did the Uttarakhand Himalayas emerge as a *deva bhumi* and how did it develop into a focus of Hindu pilgrimage?

Borderland to sacred place
A study of the archaeological record and inscriptional evidence suggests that many and varied agents and processes played important roles in gradually transforming this borderland into a sacred landscape. Artefacts found in the Himalayan foothills that are datable to the period extending from 300 BCE and 600 CE include an Ashokan rock edict, brick altars for conducting *ashvamedha yagnas*, coin hoards, and sculptures.

The forms of these artefacts and their find-spots indicate deepening contact between communities living in the Gangetic plains and in the foothills. These very develop-

ments fostered the growth of Haridwar and Kalsi as cosmopolitan towns and as "gateways" into the Himalayas. Initially, mendicants in search of retreats, merchants eager to enlarge trading networks, adventurous princes in their quest to establish principalities, and artisans in search of employment passed through these gateway towns. Eventually, in the seventh century, a regional tradition of stone temple architecture commenced in the Uttarakhand Himalayas. The earliest shrines in this tradition were built at Paletti and Lakhamandal, just upstream from Haridwar and Kalsi, by visiting sovereigns.

Early developments
However, these two sites with royal patronage never became major *tirthas*. Instead, Jageshwar, situated well east of Lakhamandal and Paletti attained this stature. Between the seventh and tenth centuries, builders at Jageshwar modified local geography and ecology to encourage comparisons between it and celebrated locales such as Kashi and Devadaravana, Shiva's legendary deadwood forest. Eventually, Jageshwar came to have 150 stone temples. These early developments at Jageshwar are relatable to the sway of the Pashupatas and other Shaiva ascetics and not to the rise of local dynasties. In fact, the influence of these ascetic groups in this period distinguishes Uttarakhand from adjoining kingdoms where aristocratic lineages were the primary power brokers.

In time, the development of a distinctive architectural tradition, increases in the priestly population, greater availability of skilled craftsmen, and the emergence of small principalities, helped further alter the status of this borderland and perceptions of it. By the twelfth century, architects, master-masons, and sculptors from lands as far away as Gujarat travelled to Uttarakhand to build temples in elaborate typologies associated with their homelands.

Issued by a hill ruler, the charter instructs priests living at nearby villages of Joshimath and Pandukeshwar to help *brahmacharis*



And by the thirteenth century, larger entourages of ascetics, and occasionally rulers from distant lands began undertaking pilgrimages to established and emerging *tirthas* in this mountainous region. Their journeys and activities ultimately paved the way for the Char Dham Yatra.

The pilgrimage circuit
The Char Dham Yatra today consists of a pilgrimage to Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri. Like many other *tirthas* in Uttarakhand, Badrinath and Kedarnath have long been associated with gods and sages. For instance, in the *Mahabharata*, Badrinath is described as the site of Narayana's discourse to Nara. Kedarnath is mentioned in the *Skanda Purana*, in medieval lists of *jyotirlingas*, and in the names of temples built as far away as Karnataka.

Additionally, both Badrinath and Kedarnath are associated with Adi Shankara who is said to have visited them in the eighth century. Possibly his followers played a role in constructing temples at Pandukeshwar where medieval edifices built in the Dravida and Nagara modes stand side-by-side. The oldest historical evidence of the establishment of a sacred centre at Badrinath comes from a charter dating to the ninth century preserved at Pandukeshwar.

Issued by a hill ruler, the charter instructs priests living at nearby villages of Joshimath and Pandukeshwar to help *brahmacharis*

upstream at Badrinath. Centuries later, in 1808, when a motley troupe of Englishmen reached the Badrinath temple in disguise, they reported it as welcoming 45,000–50,000 pilgrims annually. Given its location in an avalanche-prone valley above the tree line, it is likely that the Badrinath temple has been built and rebuilt several times in its history. Like the present Badrinath temple, the temple standing at Kedarnath today, dates to the early modern period.

As sites located close to the glacial sources of the Ganga and the Yamuna, Gangotri and Yamunotri have also been given sacred associations. Historically sought out by fearless sadhus, in the more recent past they have been visited by intrepid Englishmen eager to participate in ongoing efforts to map India. In the early 20th century, the Jaipur royal family supported the construction of a temple at Gangotri. The shrines at Yamunotri today are ever newer.

Shifts, ecopressures

Demographic, political, social and economic shifts that have occurred in the past six decades have led to an increase in the number of pilgrims visiting sacred centres in Uttarakhand. After 1962, the Indian government recognised that the world's highest and loftiest mountain range no longer served as an insurmountable wall. To safeguard against future incursions, a massive development programme along the country's mountainous northern border was launched. Agencies such as the Border Roads Organisation, the Indo Tibetan Border Police, and the THDC India Limited (formerly Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited) were established. They were granted sizeable budgets, and charged with the construction of roads, tunnels, bridges, cantonments, hospitals, dams, and telecommunication pylons.

Over time, these efforts stimulated the region's economy, nurtured new settlements, and intro-

duced infrastructure that facilitated pilgrimage to select sacred centres. The foundations laid by the agencies intensified after 2000 when owing to regional demands for greater political autonomy, Uttarakhand was carved out of sprawling Uttar Pradesh. Recognising religious tourism as an important source of income for a landlocked State mostly covered by snowcapped peaks and dense forests, a succession of governments have created further amenities for pilgrims, widely publicised initiatives, and embarked on the construction of new dams, multi-lane highways, and railroads. As a result of these efforts, many more individuals now undertake sacred journeys, which until 60 years ago were made by only the bravest, fittest, and most determined pilgrims.

Revisiting ideas

The 2013 Kedarnath floods and the flash floods that have swept through the Alakananda Valley earlier this week suggest that ham-handed development in the name of god, or otherwise, can come at an agonising cost. Now is the time for our leaders to recommit themselves to the ideas and activism of Chandrasekhar Bhattacharya, Gaura Devi, Guru das Agrawal, Ravi Chopra, Sunderlal Bahuguna, Vandana Shiva, and other Gandhian environmentalists and social workers. Over the past few decades, they have mobilised local communities to protect Uttarakhand's forests, created local employment, and questioned the wisdom of constructing large hydroelectric projects in a seismically sensitive sacred landscape. They have also reminded us that unless we change our course of action, another Himalayan miscalculation is imminent.

Nachiket Chanchani is an associate professor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, U.S. and the author of *Mountain Temples and Temple Mountains: Architecture, Religion, and Nature in the Central Himalayas*.

In Biden's policy pursuit, the world order challenge

Uncertainties around the Iran nuclear agreement could lead to tectonic changes in the new global and regional order



TALMIZ AHMAD

the agreement.

Regional concerns

In office, Mr. Biden has shown little urgency on the JCPOA matter. Clearly, there are some serious issues at stake here. Despite the sanctions, Iran's regional influence remains significant, based on the backing of Shia militia in such diverse locales as Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen and Syria. The Iranian ability to mobilise militants across the region is viewed by Israel and some of the Gulf Arab states as threatening their security, the latter being concerned about Iran's influence with their Shia populations as well.

The capabilities of Iran's precision missiles and drones are also a matter of regional anxiety. Iran has focused on the domestic development of missiles due to international sanctions on defence supplies. Iran views them as defensive assets that give it a deterrence capability. Given the advanced air and missile power available with Israel, Saudi Arabia and some other Gulf states, there is no prospect of Iran curtailing its missiles and drone programmes.

Mr. Biden in office has already revealed that despite some differences in policy content and diplomatic style, his term is likely to show more continuity than change where the U.S.'s core interests are concerned, specifically in its ties with Russia, China and India.

For instance, in his CBS interview on February 7, Mr. Biden said he had not spoken to the Chinese President, Xi Jinping, who "doesn't have a democratic bone in his body", and anticipated "ex-



treme competition" on global economic issues. The U.S. Secretary of State, Antony J. Blinken, was tough with his counterpart in their telephonic conversation, and raised "human rights and democratic values" in the context of Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong.

Biden's policy approaches

Again, Mr. Biden is likely to reverse his predecessor Donald Trump's personal accommodative approach towards Russia and adopt the U.S.'s traditional confrontational posture. The White House said that, in his conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on January 26, he made it clear that the U.S. "will act firmly in defence of our national interests" in response to actions by Russia" and brought up Ukraine, the cyber attacks and the poisoning of Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

Mr. Biden's Iran policy is likely to match Mr. Trump's hardline approach on substantive matters, but without the bravado and crude brinkmanship of the former President. On January 29, the Pentagon spokesperson described Iran as a "malign actor" in the region, referred to Iran's "active ballistic missiles" programmes, the fact that it is still "re-spinning centrifuges", and highlighted the need to protect the U.S.'s regional partners.

ers from Iran's "acts of terrorism" – these issues and the accompanying rhetoric are the same as those of the Trump administration. This approach also panders to Iran's regional rivals who wish to see the Islamic republic emasculated and isolated. There will thus be no dramatic change in the U.S.'s approach to Iran on the nuclear question. The appointment of a Special Envoy for Iran, Robert Malley, suggests that the U.S. is looking at a long-term diplomatic engagement not just on nuclear issues but on all matters that have security implications for the U.S. and its regional partners.

To encourage this dialogue, the U.S. could offer some palliatives to Iran, such as International Monetary Fund providing funds to combat the novel coronavirus pandemic, but with no early easing of sanctions on oil sales. Iran may quickly find that it has to largely depend on its own resources to manage its interests at home and in the region. Its elections in June could thus put in place leaders who see no benefits in working cooperatively with western powers.

The international lines

Battle lines will thus remain in place in the region – Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates will be in a face-off with Iran and its allies, Iraq, Syria and its Shia militia – in a prolonged war of attrition that does not resolve any issue, but continues to wreak death and destruction.

Alternatively, we could see a genuine regional effort to ease tensions and promote regional confi-

dence, spearheaded by Qatar, working with Russia and, possibly, China. Qatar's Foreign Minister has already proposed direct engagement with Iran. Perhaps, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, already facing heat from the Biden administration, will see the value of this approach as they had done during heightened tensions in the Gulf waters in 2019: the UAE had then discussed maritime security with Iran, while Saudi Arabia had encouraged mediation efforts by regional states.

As Mr. Biden pursues policies of an earlier era, he will find that much has changed in West Asia and the world since he was last in office. Not only is Russia now an influential player in the region, China, too, with its Belt and Road Initiative, has high stakes in regional stability. The Sino-Iran 25 years agreement, which was leaked last year, envisages their substantial and long-term cooperation in political, security, military, economic, energy and logistical connectivity areas. Its formal finalisation was deliberately postponed by both sides to see what the U.S. elections would throw up.

With Mr. Biden being confrontational, they are likely to pursue this partnership more openly and robustly.

Mr. Biden will thus witness a new world order, shaped by a coalition of Russia, China and Iran, in which the U.S. is no longer the most significant role-player.

This tectonic change will define international affairs in coming decades.

Talmiz Ahmad is a former diplomat

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Might of the state
Targeting responsible journalism that mirrors the dissent and protest of citizens and baselessly promoting the accusation of a foreign inspired/funded conspiracy while allowing unbridled freedom to irresponsible journalism of the kind done by a leading TV anchor who was in the news speaks volumes about the intolerant spirit of the present government. Protests and agitations are a part and parcel of a healthy democracy. Trying to

defame or smother all genuine protests and journalism using the might of the state amounts to autocracy. Why democratically elected governments in the largest democracy are so intolerant towards dissent and protests is intriguing. The quite deplorable war against Twitter and NewsClick in connection with the farmers' protests reminds me of the UPA's notorious IB report following the Kudankulam protests, alleging that NGOs were engaging in anti-national activities. Whether it was the UPA or the NDA now, people agitating for genuine causes are always anti-nationals!

SUKUMARAN C.V.,
Palakkad, Kerala

Virus origins
More than a year after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are none the wiser about its origins. The findings of WHO's expert team, though tentative, seem to buttress the Chinese government's

protestations of innocence. Transparency is a prerequisite for this investigation as WHO must provide definitive answers.

S.S. PAUL,
Chakdaha, Nadia, West Bengal

Helping students
I write this as a retired teacher. It is a fact that

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The fourth paragraph of a report, "2.2% UAPA cases from 2016 to 2019 ended in conviction" (February 11, 2022) mentioned section as 194A IPC. It should have been 124A of IPC.

A sentence in a report, "Joe Biden and Modi talk of democratic institutions, norms" (February 10, 2021) said: "...presumably a reference to China's aggression along the Line of Control." It should have been Line of Actual Control.

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



and are ready to consolidate 'foundation abilities', there is no need to eliminate the vacation period or extend the academic year of these little ones.

T. MICHAEL JOSEPH,
Karaikal

Is India's Digital Services Tax discriminatory?

PARLEY

It is not contrary to international tax principles and does not discriminate particularly against U.S. firms

Last month, a United States Trade Representative (USTR) investigation report found India's Digital Services Tax (DST) to be discriminatory. It said the tax is "inconsistent with prevailing principles of international taxation", and burdens or restricts U.S. commerce. India has denied these charges. The bone of contention is a 2% tax that India has charged since April 2020 on revenues from digital services, applicable only to non-resident companies. In a discussion moderated by Sriram Srinivasan, Suranjali Tandon and Nikhil Kapoor discuss this issue. Edited excerpts:

India introduced a 6% equalisation levy in 2016. From then to taxing a broader basket of online services in 2020, how do you view what India has done, especially in the context of the rest of the world?

Suranjali Tandon: We have to rewind to 2013, when the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) programme by the OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development] was launched at the behest of the G20 countries. Under the 15 action points, action point one was to look at the tax challenges of the digital economy. By 2015, action point one still remained a work in progress.

The main problem was to find a new way of taxing digital companies that are not adequately taxed because of how the rules are designed. So, the primary concern was that companies don't have a physical location in the markets where they operate. And use the intangibles, which are hard to value.

India, in 2016, became the first country to implement the equalisation levy, on advertising services at 6%. This was basically on payments made to a non-resident by a resident advertising on the platform. The thinking was that when a solution is reached at the global level, this would sort of be phased out.

In 2019, in a sharp departure from its original thinking, OECD put out a policy note saying that there's an elephant in the room, which is the redistribution of taxing rights, which this action point seems to

bring up again and again, and unless we address this, finding a consensus will be difficult.

Different countries took different positions. India, originally in 2018, had introduced a test for significant economic presence in the Income Tax Act, according to which, if a company had users in India, it sort of defined its economic connection with India, and therefore gives India the right to tax. While this was introduced in the Act, it did not have any value because the treaties would have to incorporate a similar provision for it to be applicable.

Fast forward to 2020, and the U.S. in the G20 meeting said even if OECD does not find a consensus, there should be an option of applying some safe harbour basis, which is to say that the company can choose whether this consensus applies. This startled a lot of countries. They were apprehensive that tomorrow if a safe harbour basis were to be applied, would it serve the purpose.

And to contextualise India's equalisation levy, this was the sort of conversation brewing at the international level. In a surprise move, the new equalisation levy, which expands the scope significantly, even to e-commerce, was introduced in 2020. And after that, the U.S. has taken a stance that it would interrogate such measures as a hindrance to its commerce and trade. And irrespective of the position that the U.S. takes on this, countries such as France, India, and 10 countries against which the investigations have been initiated, have taken a position to say that this might be perhaps an interim solution.

Nikhil Kapoor: In 2016, the Akhilesh Ranjan Committee Report had suggested that in order to create a level-playing field between online businesses and brick-and-mortar businesses, digital businesses which do not have a physical presence in India but are able to enjoy a sustainable economic presence should be paying a certain amount of tax. This was how the equalisation levy of 2016 was conceptualised.

India has always maintained that once there is a global consensus, it would cease to keep the equalisation levy in force. India has been engaged in the global discussions at the OECD level. And OECD had promised to deliver a consensus-based solution by mid-2019. That did not happen owing to the pandemic, but because of the growing needs of India to generate tax revenues, this was a sudden move that took the entire digital community by surprise.

Unlike the 2016 levy, this 2020 levy was devoid of any sort of public consultation. It was a major surprise for the digital community. And that is perhaps why the first two deadlines for paying the equalisation levy 2020 was also missed by a lot of multinationals.

Even other countries introduced DSTs akin to India's equalisation levy. However, these have not been devoid of public consultation. For instance, the U.K. DST underwent significant public scrutiny, and the result is that it is more sound than what perhaps India's levy is.

How different is the U.K. tax?

NK: One of the primary criticisms against India's equalisation levy is that it is a tax on revenue as opposed to being a tax on profits. The U.K. allows companies to not pay any tax if their net operating margin is negative.

Another would be a transaction that involves three jurisdictions. Take the example of an Indian user located in the U.K., receiving services from a U.S. company. The U.K. DST contemplates that only 50% of the revenues from such a transaction would be chargeable to the U.K. DST. This makes it a better law.

Another major difference is that companies that sell their own inventories are explicitly excluded from the scope of the U.K. DST. Whereas, India's equalisation levy covers everything under the sun.

ST: The U.K. makes a slight departure in terms of details and it's slightly different from how India has implemented it. But the U.S. also looks at the U.K. taxes in some way as discriminatory.

The USTR report finds India's DST problematic. But is it discriminatory?

NK: The investigation finds that India's equalisation levy discriminates against U.S. companies in particular. The reason for it is that the tax incident by design is on non-resident companies. And because the incident of the equalisation levy is mostly on U.S. companies, which is 72%. It's arbitrary, as per the U.S.

I don't really find any objection to this because the law is arbitrary. But there are several grounds which are not in consonance with what could be a valid reason to call a certain act as discriminatory. For instance, the report claims that India's approach to taxing just non-residents is quite unique, but that is not true.

The USTR report also says that the same services offered non-digital are not taxed, and this is leading to a ring-fencing of the digital economy. The Akhilesh Ranjan Committee Report said the idea behind the equalisation levy was to create a level-playing field between the ordinary businesses that have a physical presence in a country and pay regular taxes and the ones that are operating digitally that can avoid such taxes. I cannot say that the law is very clear but to say that it's discriminating particularly against U.S. companies would essentially be overstepping.

The report also claims that DST taxes companies with no permanent establishment in India, contravening international tax principles.

Now, the BEPS project is based on the fact that digital companies are able to enjoy sustained economic presence in other jurisdictions without being physically present. The international community is moving towards a scenario where such transactions ought to be taxed. Therefore, to say that it's contrary to international tax principles would be overstepping a little.

The report also claims that DST taxes a company's revenue rather than its income. This is inconsistent with international tax practice that income, not revenue, is the appropriate basis of corporate taxation.

Over here also, since the issue of taxing digital companies is unique, a lot of scholars have argued that taxing revenue for digital transactions as location-specific rent is more feasible than a digital presence, because it would lead to lesser compliance costs.

ST: Why is it seen as discriminatory? One is that they say that it applies to only U.S. companies. I find there's a problem with the argument, because if the market itself is dominated by U.S. firms, the fact that it applies to those firms may be the result of the market structure.

Is it unreasonable? Well, to the extent that clarifications were not issued, perhaps it's unreasonable.

But other than that, the threshold that India has laid down for the equalisation levy is actually much below what the EU envisages.

The report also makes the mention of it violating the principles of international tax. If the companies that currently operate within that framework do not stand up to the measures or the principles of inter-



C Other countries introduced DSTs akin to India's equalisation levy. However, these, unlike India's, have not been devoid of public consultation.

NIKHIL KAPOOR

storied are explicitly excluded from the scope of the U.K. DST. Whereas, India's equalisation levy covers everything under the sun.

ST: The U.K. makes a slight departure in terms of details and it's slightly different from how India has implemented it. But the U.S. also looks at the U.K. taxes in some way as discriminatory.

The USTR report finds India's DST problematic. But is it discriminatory?

NK: The investigation finds that India's equalisation levy discriminates against U.S. companies in particular. The reason for it is that the tax incident by design is on non-resident companies. And because the incident of the equalisation levy is mostly on U.S. companies, which is 72%. It's arbitrary, as per the U.S.

I don't really find any objection to this because the law is arbitrary. But there are several grounds which are not in consonance with what could be a valid reason to call a certain act as discriminatory. For instance, the report claims that India's approach to taxing just non-residents is quite unique, but that is not true.

The USTR report also says that the same services offered non-digital are not taxed, and this is leading to a ring-fencing of the digital economy. The Akhilesh Ranjan Committee Report said the idea behind the equalisation levy was to create a level-playing field between the ordinary businesses that have a physical presence in a country and pay regular taxes and the ones that are operating digitally that can avoid such taxes. I cannot say that the law is very clear but to say that it's discriminating particularly against U.S. companies would essentially be overstepping.

The report also claims that DST taxes companies with no permanent establishment in India, contravening international tax principles.

Now, the BEPS project is based on the fact that digital companies are able to enjoy sustained economic presence in other jurisdictions without being physically present. The international community is moving towards a scenario where such transactions ought to be taxed. Therefore, to say that it's contrary to international tax principles would be overstepping a little.

The report also claims that DST taxes a company's revenue rather than its income. This is inconsistent with international tax practice that income, not revenue, is the appropriate basis of corporate taxation.

Over here also, since the issue of taxing digital companies is unique, a lot of scholars have argued that taxing revenue for digital transactions as location-specific rent is more feasible than a digital presence, because it would lead to lesser compliance costs.

ST: Why is it seen as discriminatory? One is that they say that it applies to only U.S. companies. I find there's a problem with the argument, because if the market itself is dominated by U.S. firms, the fact that it applies to those firms may be the result of the market structure.

Is it unreasonable? Well, to the extent that clarifications were not issued, perhaps it's unreasonable.

But other than that, the threshold that India has laid down for the equalisation levy is actually much below what the EU envisages.

The report also makes the mention of it violating the principles of international tax. If the companies that currently operate within that framework do not stand up to the measures or the principles of inter-

national tax, the introduction of a tax to plug that gap should not be looked at as a perverse move.

What could happen next? Retaliation by way of tariffs?

NK: See, this issue becomes very political in the sense that Section 301 investigations had themselves become obsolete before the Donald Trump administration came in. Now, Section 301 investigations are unilateral in nature, because the USTR is essentially deciding whether a measure is violative of the U.S.'s rights. So, there is an inherent bias as to what the findings are going to be. But I believe they would want to collaborate with India and find an amicable solution rather than imposing strict trade tariffs, which is what happened between France and the U.S.

The criticism against Section 301 investigations is that after the WTO law and the dispute settlement mechanism came into picture and the scope of the General Agreement on Trade in Services were expanded to include services as well, countries have been of the view that an international body should be looking at such disputes. And because it's not the Trump administration now, the way Section 301 investigations are going to be used in the future is still something that remains to be seen.

How do you see a consensus on the broader issues emerging?

ST: There are a few ways forward. The position that India has taken is to remain committed to the OECD process, to influence it, and to say that there are ways to tweak this design, because it will be put out in June 2021. So, the design could be worked out better to take into consideration the interests of the developing countries. Second, the United Nations is taking some sort of leadership on this to design its own proposal, which is an automated DST which is to say that within the existing treaty framework today, we introduce a withholding on payments that are made from markets to jurisdictions. And third, which I think is a possibility, maybe to apply the DST and then allow countries to bilaterally negotiate with their respective partner countries a process of crediting this tax.



Suranjali Tandon
is Assistant Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy



Nikhil Kapoor
is Research Fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

A resilient future for Uttarakhand

The need of the hour is to invest in long-term crisis response mechanisms and resilience solutions

A. NAMBI APPADURAI

Days after a glacier burst in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand caused flash floods, the scientific community is still struggling to understand what triggered the disaster. At the time of writing this article, the death toll was 34 with more than 170 people missing. The floods have also caused heavy damage to public and private infrastructure, including the NTPC's Tapovan-Vishnugad hydropower project and the Rishiganga mini hydro project. The incident was reminiscent of the 2013 disaster in Uttarakhand which killed thousands.

Why is Uttarakhand vulnerable? Uttarakhand is located in the midst of young and unstable mountains, and is subject to intense rainfall. But these natural characteristics can't be solely responsible for devastations the State has witnessed in the past decade. For years geologists, glaciologists and climate experts have voiced their fears about an impending disaster due to climate change, rapid and indiscriminate construction activities, and the subsequent ecological destruction in the region.

The occurrence of the current glacier burst was loosely attributed to erosion, a build-up of water pressure, an avalanche of snow or rocks, landslides or an earthquake under the ice. According to the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, a rock mass, weakened from years of freezing and thawing of snow, may have led to the creation of a weak zone and fractures leading to a collapse that resulted in flash floods. What has intrigued experts and the local community is that this avalanche occurred unexpectedly, out of the regular flood season.

Experts also identified large-scale human settlements and expansion of agricultural activities leading to massive deforestation, as a possible trigger. Studies have shown that widespread settlements, farming, cattle grazing and other anthropogenic activities could destroy the natural barriers that control avalanches and floods, thereby enhancing the possibilities of a glacial lake outburst flood. The Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment Report (2019) had pointed out that one-third of the Hindu Kush

Himalaya's glaciers would melt by 2100 and potentially destabilise the river regime in Asia, even if all the countries in the region fulfilled their commitments under the Paris Agreement. It also warned that any ecologically destructive activities would lead to more intensified disasters like landslides.

Experts and activists have incessantly asked for scrutiny into the construction of hydroelectric power projects in Uttarakhand. There have also been allegations about the use of explosives in the construction of dams and other infrastructure. In 2014, an expert committee led by Dr Ravi Chopra, instituted to assess the role of dams in exacerbating floods, provided hard evidence on how haphazard construction of dams was causing irreversible damage to the region.

Some immediate steps The need of the hour is to invest in long-term crisis response mechanisms and resilience solutions. A few immediate steps include: (i) investing in resilience planning, especially in flood prevention and rapid response; (ii) climate proofing the infrastructure such as by applying road stabilisation technologies for fragile road networks and strengthening existing structures like bridges, culverts and tunnels; (iii) strengthening embankments with adequate scientific know-how; (iv) reassessing development of hydropower and other public infrastructure; (v) investing in a robust monitoring and early warning system; (vi) establishing implementable policies and regulatory guidelines to restrict detrimental human activities, including responsible eco- and religious tourism policies; and (vii) investing in training and capacity building to educate and empower local communities to prevent and manage risks effectively.

The time for wake-up calls is long behind us. India needs to urgently rise up to the challenge by applying innovative and inclusive solutions that support nature and marginalised communities, to restore and rebuild a resilient future for Uttarakhand.

A. Nambi Appadurai is Director, Climate Resilience Program, World Resources Institute, India. Views are personal



NOTEBOOK

From Myanmar to Pakistan, lots of words but no action

Military rulers have contributed little to improving the lot of common people

AMIT BARUAH

First speeches after coups are important. When a man in uniform takes over and deposes a civilian government, he goes on television to announce the contours of his mission. He usually promises order, stability and growth – a renewal of the nation after the disorder – and elections in a bit.

Two days after the February 1 coup ousting Aung San Suu Kyi and other National League for Democracy (NLD) leaders from power in Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing found fault with the November 2020 general elections that returned the NLD to power with an increased majority.

"After emergency provisions tasks are finished, free and fair multiparty elections will be held according to the Constitution. The winning party will be transferred state duty according to democratic standards," he promised.

On October 12, 1999, I

was in Islamabad and had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to report how General Pervez Musharraf ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from power in a bloodless coup.

At 2.50 a.m. on the morning of October 13, Gen. Musharraf went on State-run Pakistan Television (there were no private channels then) and announced that he had moved in as a "last resort" to prevent "any further destabilisation". Addressing "his countrymen", Gen. Musharraf stated, "I request you all to remain calm and support your armed forces in the re-establishment of order to pave the way for a prosperous future for Pakistan."

The olive greens and khaki leaders always promised order and stability. In Myanmar, the Senior General seems to suggest that his actions are in accordance with the Constitution and "proper" elections will lead to the restoration of "democracy".

Even in the pre-social media world, Gen. Musharraf took the title of "Chief Executive" and not Chief Martial Law Administrator (CMLA) like his predecessors Zia-ul-Haq, Yahya Khan and Ayub Khan. He was anxious not to give the impression that he was a full-fledged military dictator. There was a fourth, albeit civilian, CMLA - Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who took over a Pakistan that was reeling from the loss of its eastern wing.

Like in Pakistan, coups and decades of military rule in Myanmar have been institutional. There has been little room for a cabal of officers to take over (though attempts have

been made); coup leaders have survived (and thrived) only because they had institutional support from their officers and men. The international context is key for the survival of the generals – Ayub in Pakistan was much loved by the West, especially the Americans. Zia, from being shunned, turned out to be a "saviour" for the Americans in Afghanistan.

Gen. Musharraf, correctly accused of presiding over a military establishment that promoted terror groups, gave up Al-Qaeda leaders in instalments and placated an angry U.S. President George W. Bush. In contrast, the West never engaged

FROM PAGE ONE

Phased disengagement at Pangong Tso: Rajnath

"It is, therefore, our expectation that the Chinese side will work with us in full sincerity to resolve these remaining issues," he asserted.

India had consistently maintained that while bilateral relations could develop in parallel with discussions on resolving the boundary question, any serious disturbance in peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the border areas was bound to have adverse implications for the direction of our bilateral ties.

"The actions by the Chinese side since last year have seriously disturbed peace and tranquillity. Consequently they have also had an impact on the overall relationship," he observed.

After Mr. Singh's statement, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu denied opportunity to members to seek clarifications on the statement. He said it was a matter of national unity and security. "Discussions are to go on for the next 48 hours and we don't want to create a controversy; it is not good," he said, adding that he would

consider the demand for an in-camera meeting with the Minister.

Tanks and mechanised elements have started moving back from South Bank and distances, including the latitudes and longitudes, up to which they have to move back, had been agreed upon in the agreement, a defence official said.

Both sides have worked out a detailed step by step plan for pullback of troops and equipment, the official stated. Joint verification would be done together at each step, he added.

In a pre-emptive move on August 29 and 30, 2020, the Army had occupied some unoccupied heights in the Chushul sector from Thakung to Rechin La within the Indian perception of the LAC, foiling the Chinese People's Liberation Army attempts to dominate the heights.

As part of the agreement, the Indian Army will vacate these peaks and pull back troops and equipment, while China would remove structures between Finger 4 to Finger 8 on North Bank and withdraw troops.

Rescue efforts resume in Tapovan dam tunnel

NTPC officials later told the agencies that there was another tunnel about 12 metre underneath, where the workers might be located. "If the silt channel is intact and clear, an alternative access route can be created to reach the trapped workers. It is becoming more difficult to remove the sludge and debris from the main tunnel; a stretch of over 60-metre still remains to be cleared even after four days of round-the-clock work," said a senior National Disaster Response Force official.

The drilling operation was initiated early on Thursday. However, it had to be stopped after the drill hit hard rock at a depth of around 8 metre. More sophisticated equipment was being arranged for the purpose. Using machines, the

17 major OTT players adopt regulatory toolkit

"It further sets out clear tent poles that the OCCPs [Online Curated Content Provider] need to undertake to achieve a common goal of entertaining millions of Indians responsibly," Mr. Goenka added.

The IAMAI said the toolkit not only aims to set out guiding principles and code of ethics, it also addresses the feedback received from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the issues of conflict of interest and prohibited content.

The industry body said the toolkit will also provide for procedures to effectuate the

various provisions of the Code; assist the signatories in fulfilling their commitments and responsibilities as set out in the Code and achieve effective self-regulation goals as envisioned by the signatories in the Code.

The signatories to the toolkit, which is effective February 10 onwards, include ZEE5, Viacom 18 (Voot), Disney+Hotstar, Amazon Prime Video, Netflix, SonyLIV, MX Player, Jio Cinema, Eros Now, Alt Balaji, Arre, HoiChoi, Hungama, Shemaroo, Discovery Plus, Aha and Lionsgate Play.

Follow the law, Minister tells social media giants

Twitter and the Government of India are at loggerheads over issues related to content removal and freedom of expression.

The row intensified after the Centre asked the micro-blogging site to block 250 accounts using hashtags related to "farmer genocide", and about 1,178 accounts that security agencies suspect are backed by Khalistani sympathisers and Pakistanis.

Twitter said in a blog post that it withheld "a portion of the accounts but no action was taken against the accounts of news media entities, journalists, activists and politicians as it violated their policy of free speech".

Asked about why India has not become a hub of microprocessors despite

its demand to meet the

Clean-up begins on Kerala beach

3-member committee will probe oil spillage from Travancore Titanium Products

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Industries Department on Thursday constituted a three-member committee to investigate the leak of furnace oil from pipeline of the Travancore Titanium Products Ltd (TTP) here into the coast.

It has asked the panel to submit its report within 10 days.

The panel comprises A.P.M. Mohammed Haneesh, Principal Secretary, Industries Department; M. Mohammed Ali, managing director, Malabar Cements; and S. Chandrabose, managing director, Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (KMM).

Industries Minister E.P. Jayarajan said the leak, which had triggered concerns about environmental damage, warranted a comprehensive probe.

The panel will also submit a set of recommendations for preventing



Joint effort: Workers and locals removing contaminated beach sand in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the recurrence of such mishaps.

Protests by residents

Roughly 5,000 litres of furnace oil leaked into the sea following a pipeline rupture on Wednesday morning. The incident had sparked vehement protests by the local people who accused the TTP of negligence. Over Wednesday and

Thursday, the TTP removed approximately 15,000 kg of beach sand from a four-km stretch suspected to have been contaminated by the spillage. The sand is being stored on TTP premises for the time being as directed by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board. The cleaning will continue on Friday, TTP officials said.

Following pressure from local residents, the authori-

Arrest warrant against solar scam accused

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

The Kozhikode Judicial First Class Magistrate's Court here on Thursday issued an arrest warrant against solar scam accused Sarita S. Nair, Biju Radhakrishnan, and B. Manimon for not showing up in court to hear the verdict in a cheating case.

The case was that the trio had duped Abdul Majid, owner of Associated Steels Yard, into paying ₹42.7 lakh after promising him franchises in solar panel and windmill farm companies.

No exemption
Magistrate K.K. Nimmi adjourned the pronouncement of the verdict till February 25. The court also nullified the bail granted to the three accused and rejected their application seeking exemption from appearance in the case.

Biju had sought exemption stating that he was recuperating after an angioplasty while Sarita said she was undergoing treatment at the Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology in Thiruvananthapuram.

Biju has been named first accused in the case and Sarita, second. Both had been running a firm called Team Solar Renewable Energy Solutions on Chittoor Road in Kochi. The chargesheet against them was submitted in December 2013 and the trial began in January 2016. They were also tried in two other cases.

Prime accused found guilty in sex racket case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has moved the Supreme Court against the Kerala High Court's decision to grant bail to M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to Kerala Chief Minister, in connection with the gold smuggling case.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Mr. Sivasankar was influential and his release would hamper the investigation. The ED is probing the money laundering angle. Mr. Sivasankar was arrested on October 28

after his anticipatory bail petition was rejected by the Kerala High Court. His custody by the ED has been extended thrice in the past.

The case pertains to the smuggling of gold through diplomatic channels in Kerala. It had come to light after 30 kg of gold worth ₹14.82 crore smuggled in a consignment camouflaged as diplomatic baggage was busted by the Customs in Thiruvananthapuram in July 2019.

The ED, the National Investigation Agency and the Customs Department are all probing the case.

ED moves SC against bail for Sivasankar

'His release is likely to hamper probe'

STAFF REPORTER
KOTTAYAM

The Additional and District Sessions Court here on Thursday found Suresh, the prime accused in the Vithura sex racket case, guilty in one of the 24 cases registered against him in connection with the rape and exploitation of the victim for sex work.

On the steps taken to curb fake news, he said, "We respect social media. It has empowered common people. We respect criticism... But if social media is used to propagate hate, then action will be taken... If anyone uses social media to influence elections, strict action will be taken.

Based on the victim's statement, Suresh was arraigned as the prime accused. Of the 46 accused in the case, 20 have been acquitted by the court for want of evidence.

Nearly 200 in Karnataka diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a rare genetic disease

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

A gene therapy costing ₹16 crore is the only shot at life for nearly 200 children with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type I, a rare genetic disease, in Karnataka.

Last month, the therapy – Zolgensma – was offered free to a 14-month-old baby from Bhatkal (Uttara Kannada) who was the lucky winner of a lottery through a compassionate access programme by Novartis, the Swiss drugmaker. This lottery is held once in two weeks for SMA children across the world and doctors at Baptist Hospital, that has a dedicated Paediatric Neuromuscu-

lar Service, are hoping more children will benefit.

"The therapy is a one-time infusion that takes about an hour," Ann Agnes Mathew, consultant paediatric neurologist and neuromuscular specialist, at Baptist Hospital told *The Hindu*. The therapy was approved by U.S. regulators in May 2019 and has since then turned into a miracle drug for this rare disorder that destroys a baby's muscle control.

"SMA is a disease caused by loss of nerve cells, which carry electrical signals from the brain to the muscles. The protein needed for this signalling is coded by a gene for which everyone has two copies – one from the mother

ties also initiated steps to close the discharge point of the drain leading from the TTP campus into the seashore.

Damage assessment

The Pollution Control Board will carry out a detailed assessment of the damage caused by the oil leak. The board is also examining whether an assessment of the impact on the livelihood of fisherfolk can be incorporated into the exercise.

Following the leak, the PCB had issued detailed instructions regarding the remedial measures and directed the TTP management not to restart operations without its permission.

The Coast Guard is continuing to monitor the situation to ascertain whether the oil had spread into the deep sea.

A Coast Guard vessel stationed in the area reported that no spillage has been detected far from the shore so far.

HC allows minor to end pregnancy

It was past legally permissible period

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday allowed the medical termination of a young rape survivor's pregnancy that had crossed the legally permissible period for the foetus.

Justice P.V. Asha permitted the medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) on a petition by the mother of a 16-year-old girl. Her pregnancy had crossed 28 weeks, the oldest to be cleared by the Kerala High Court, legal sources pointed out.

The *Hindu* had earlier reported that the court had permitted medical termination of pregnancy for seven girls in six months.

The accused in the case is also a minor and has been sent to a care home for children in conflict with the law. The police have booked a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act.

A medical board reported that the foetus faced high risk of poor neurological development and the mental and physical development of the foetus was likely to be "very bad." The panel suggested termination of pregnancy considering the possible adverse psychological impact on the girl and the anomalies in the foetus. The board noted that there was the possibility of the child being born alive. However, the survivor and her guardian were not willing for resuscitation, it was reported.

The Kerala State Legal Services Authority, which took forward the petition, will offer legal support to the girl and try to get her compensation under the victim compensation scheme, said K.T. Nizar Ahamed, secretary of the Authority. Compensation would be granted based on the recommendation of the POSCO court, he said.

IN BRIEF



Abhaya murder case convict seeks bail

KOCHI Sister Sephy, one of the two convicts in the 1992 Sister Abhaya murder case, filed a petition in the Kerala High Court on Thursday seeking suspension of the life imprisonment awarded to her and her release on bail. The appeal of Fr. Thomas Kottoor, another convict, is also pending before the court.

TTD releases 25,000 tickets for festival

TRIRUMALA Devasthanams on Thursday released the online quota of 25,000 special entry darshan tickets (at ₹300 each) for the Ratha Sapthami festival at the temple of Lord Venkateswara on February 19. The TTD also decided to increase the daily quota of online tickets by 5,000 from the 20,000 tickets at present.

IIIT student ends life in Andhra Pradesh

VIZYAWADA A 17-year-old studying at IIIT Nuzvid allegedly ended his life on Thursday. Tirupathi Paramesh, a native of Vizianagaram district, was found hanging in his room by other students, the Nuzvid police said. He was in the second year of the six-year integrated undergraduate programme.

EC approves Jose K. Mani as KC(M) chairman

KOTTAYAM The Central Election Commission has approved Jose K. Mani's elevation as the Kerala Congress (M) chairman. The dispute over the authority of the KC(M) between Mr. Mani and P.J. Joseph began during the Pala bypoll last year. The party then split, with one faction being led by Mr. Mani and the other by Mr. Joseph.

Polls to A.P., Telangana MLC seats on March 14

Votes will be counted on March 17

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Thursday announced the schedule for elections to four graduates and teachers constituencies in the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh legislative councils. Polling will be held on March 14 and counting of votes will be on March 17.

The term of office of two members of the Telangana Legislative Council from Mahabubnagar-Ranga Reddy-Hyderabad Graduates' constituency and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Graduates' constituency is expiring on March 29 due to the retirement of the sitting members, the Commission said.

The EC said the polls

would be conducted in compliance with the prevailing COVID-19 precautions, including social distancing and mask wearing by all those involved in the process.

members of the Telangana Legislative Council from Mahabubnagar-Ranga Reddy-Hyderabad Graduates' constituency and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Graduates' constituency are

had to personally meet the Customs officials to get it released.

Pointing out that the current treatment options range from medicines, which increase these proteins, to replacing the faulty gene, the doctor said, "Zolgensma is a revolutionary treatment, which works by supplying a healthy copy of the faulty gene, which allows nerve cells to then start producing the needed protein. That halts deterioration of the nerve cells and allows the baby to grow more normally."

The drug has a 14-day shelf life and when it was sent from U.S. for the Bhatkal baby, it was stuck with customs for three days in mid-January making doctors jittery. Dr. Mathew said she had to personally meet the Customs officials to get it released. "When we explained the situation to them, they immediately released it. Any further delay would have been risky. The baby is doing fine now," she said.

their head or swallowing milk.

Pointing out that the current treatment options range from medicines, which increase these proteins, to replacing the faulty gene, the doctor said, "Zolgensma is a revolutionary treatment, which works by supplying a healthy copy of the faulty gene, which allows nerve cells to then start producing the needed protein. That halts deterioration of the nerve cells and allows the baby to grow more normally."

The drug has a 14-day shelf life and when it was sent from U.S. for the Bhatkal baby, it was stuck with customs for three days in mid-January making doctors jittery. Dr. Mathew said she

₹16 crore drug is their only hope of survival

Nearly 200 in Karnataka diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a rare genetic disease

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

A gene therapy costing ₹16 crore is the only shot at life for nearly 200 children with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type I, a rare genetic disease, in Karnataka.

Last month, the therapy – Zolgensma – was offered free to a 14-month-old baby from Bhatkal (Uttara Kannada) who was the lucky winner of a lottery through a compassionate access programme by Novartis, the Swiss drugmaker.

This lottery is held once in two weeks for SMA children across the world and doctors at Baptist Hospital, that has a dedicated Paediatric Neuromuscu-

Congress questions selective disengagement

Party flags stand-off in areas beyond Pangong Tso

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress questioned Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's statement on the disengagement exercise between Indian and Chinese troops on the LAC, asking the government why it has backed out from its earlier claim that the Chinese troops will be removed from all parts of Ladakh settling instead for "selective disengagement" only in the Pangong Tso area.

At a press conference at the party's headquarters in Delhi, Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala said the Defence Minister sought to mislead and misinform, without giving full assurance on Chinese withdrawal from India's territory in the aforementioned areas.

He said the Modi government had so far claimed that there had to be "complete disengagement and withdrawal of troops by the Chinese in the entire Ladakh area".

The Congress leader asked, "Why is the Modi government then agreeing to a selective disengagement only in Pangong Tso Area and that also by presumably changing the LAC to India's disadvantage?"



Randeep Surjewala

the LAC? Is this not a blatant compromise on India's territorial integrity?"

The Congress charged the government with agreeing to withdraw "our men from the vantage points on Kailash ranges on the southern bank of Pangong Tso area that our forces manage to capture in the last few months".

The Congress demanded an explanation from the government on agreeing to leave the dominant positions without any quid pro quo by China.

2013 stand-off

"One of the most strategic and provocative incursions into the Indian territory by Chinese is in 'Depsang Plains'. Chinese have occupied our territory 18 km inside the LAC up to Y-Junction (bottleneck) and are stopping our armed forces from patrolling up to the PP-10, PP-11, PP-IIA, PP-12 and PP-13," Mr. Surjewala said.

He said that unlike the present capitulation by the Modi government, the UPA had successfully repulsed Chinese troops, after a six-month stand-off in 2013 when they had intruded up to the U-junction.

Blatant compromise'
Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Mr. Surjewala asked, "Is it not tantamount to redrawing the LAC to India's disadvantage and creating a buffer zone between Finger 3 and Finger 8 on our side of

the LAC?"

Goa-based Stilldistilling Spirits came up with the newest Indian rum offering this year.

We speak to founder Kasturi Banerjee about her journey from banking to brewing

ANISHA MENEZES

Kasturi Banerjee does not believe in half measures. Leaving behind an illustrious career in banking spanning 16 years, the former director of Compliance at an MNC bank, has taken the spirit industry by storm. She is the founder and CEO at Stilldistilling Spirits, based in Goa, that sprung into 2021 with Maka Zai, ('I want' in Konkani), a home-grown duo of white and gold rum with a distinctly Indian flavour.

The banker-blender-meanders through the bylanes of nostalgia as she talks about her debut, "Being a banker in Mumbai, I had a hectic social life. This piqued my interest in the hospitality industry, so when the time came to carve my niche, that's where I headed. I first took a bartending course. I also conducted whiskey tasting sessions, but there came a time when I wanted to make my own spirit instead of talking about others," explains Kasturi.

Getting started, she took all the time and guidance she wanted, getting in touch with Tulleeho, a provider of beverage education, training and consulting services. Tulleeho has been witness to the changing trends in the Indian beverage market, and its founder and CEO Vikram Achanta says, "We've been tracking the fast emerging craft spirits sector, which is primarily represented by whisky and gin brands. When Kasturi offered us the opportunity to help advise her and the company, it gave us



insight into the building of a product and a brand, ground up, in a rum category, that we think is going to be the next big thing."

To market, to market

Rum has primarily been a drink of the tropics, with big brands from Central America (Zacapa-Guatemala), Venezuela (Diplomático), and the Philippines (Don Papa) dominating the market. According to Persistence Market Research, South Asia has been identified as one of the largest consumers of rum across the globe with India and the Phi-

ippines having the highest number of consumers.

Kasturi adds, "India is the second largest producer of sugar in the world, so we have a wealth of raw material here. I tested over 120 samples of sugarcane before zeroing in on my suppliers. We make our small batch craft rum with fine molasses and wood-matured cane spirit." Maka Zai's White Rum is called the Bartender's Edition, she says, "A nod to the most hardworking people at a party. Our white rum is made with sugarcane grown in and around the Panchganga river in Ma-

rashtra, where the heavy rainfall makes the sugarcane sweater, and the rum picks up influences of the red soil, making it floral, spicy and herbaceous." The Gold Rum is called the Tribute Edition. "With a two-and-a-half years old aged spirit from Punjab, it is blended on the Goan seashore with hints of praline, dry dates, figs, caramel, cinnamon and honey". The Bartender's Edition is priced at ₹1,000 per bottle and the Gold ₹1,300.

Kasturi brought in her experience as a mixologist to the aesthetic at Maka Zai. Each bottle is

Rum under the Goan sun



a nimble 475 grams, made in Firrozabad. "Our bottle provides a certain ease of pour for a bartender, whether you're holding it at the neck or at the base. Being in the business, the minutiae is important," explains the Master blender. The labels bear the native Olive Ridley turtle, with miniature sun and navigator motifs on the contours.

"We chose the Olive Ridley because it lays its eggs on Goan soil, travels up to 9,000 kilometers but makes its way back home, to six nesting sites at Agonda, Galgibaga, Morjim and Ashvem. Our tagline, 'Cheers to the chase' is an ode to this journey of love," summarises Kasturi, who is busy running training sessions at bars and restaurants after the launch of the rum.

Three cheers (From far left) Kasturi Banerjee, Anurag Bhatnagar, and Abhirup Bhattacharyya; Maka Zai Gold and White • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Her team comprises Anurag Bhatnagar, the business head whose 20-year career has traversed marketing platforms across Southeast Asia and West Asia, and Abhirup Bhattacharyya, the brand ambassador. While the distillery has tasted early success with its first batch selling out, Stilldistilling Spirits is taking it slow. "We are currently focussing on Goa. It's early days and these sunny shores are a perfect launchpad, with bars, restaurants and chef-led ventures popping up across the State," she signs off.

Have you eaten hibiscus yet?

The ubiquitous flower is increasingly being consumed for its stress-relieving appeal



ANASUYA MENON

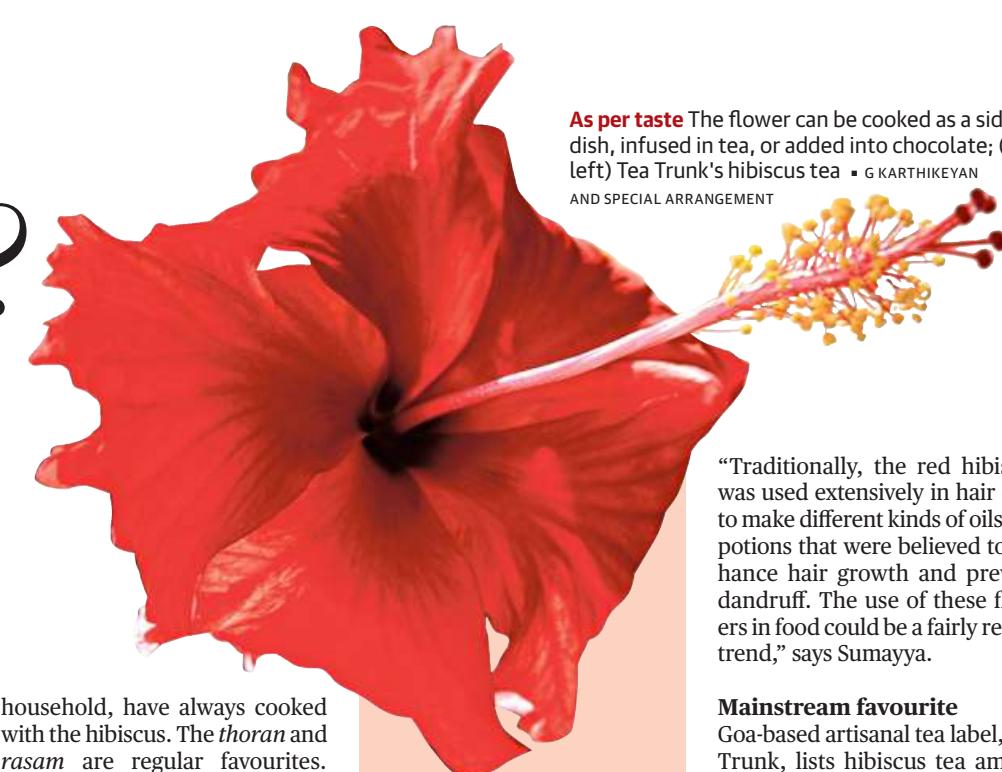
In tea, in rasam or as a mouth-watering thoran (stir-fry)... How do you take your hibiscus?

The common flower that grows wildly in almost every tropical garden and front yard is now making its way onto dining tables.

There are over 200 varieties of the flower seen in India, however, only the five-petaled, red one is used for food. The 'brilliant-red' Rosa sinensis has been through a

variety of culinary experiments lately, with celebrity chefs cooking everything from quesadillas to masala prawns with it, not to mention a variety of teas and fancy sherbets.

The lockdown months of 2020, however, saw more people experimenting with the flower at home. Homemaker Remya Sandeep, who has a mini forest of hibiscus plants in her garden at Malayalappuzha in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district, tried an energy drink with it. "We, in this



As per taste The flower can be cooked as a side-dish, infused in tea, or added into chocolate; (far left) Tea Trunk's hibiscus tea • G KARTHIKEYAN AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hibiscus tea recipe

INGREDIENTS

- 6 five-petaled red hibiscus flowers
- 1 ginger
- 1 cinnamon
- 3 glasses of water
- Honey as needed
- 2-3 tsp lemon juice

METHOD

Pluck just the petals of the flowers and wash them (the stamen and the calyx have to be removed). Boil the water and add the piece of ginger and cinnamon to it. Once boiled, add the petals to it. Steep for three to five minutes. Then strain the liquid, add honey, and lemon juice to your taste.

psychologist and a lecturer at a college in Paravur, Kerala.

Sumaya Edamuttam from Thrissur, an active member of a tree lovers' group that works towards conservation of indigenous species of plants, says the hibiscus flower lives just for a day. On days when her plants are flush with flowers, she makes tea with them or an old-world squash.

Soklet's hibiscus chocolate topped with pumpkin seeds was an experiment for a chocolate festival in Seattle, two years ago. It was a best-seller

"Traditionally, the red hibiscus was used extensively in hair care to make different kinds of oils and potions that were believed to enhance hair growth and prevent dandruff. The use of these flowers in food could be a fairly recent trend," says Sumaya.

Mainstream favourite

Goa-based artisanal tea label, Tea Trunk, lists hibiscus tea among its best-sellers. "People have become more aware of the different options available now and are open to trying out new tastes," says Snigdha Manchanda, the founder of Tea Trunk, over a phone call from Goa. The brand sells two variants – hibiscus petals and hibiscus green tea. An iced-hibiscus tea is also available.

"Its natural ruby red colour and tangy taste makes it ideal for an iced-tea... a little bit like cranberry juice," says Snigdha. She recommends the tea for cocktails, too. "Hibiscus flowers have antioxidants, so it works well as a relaxing drink," Snigdha adds.

Pollachi-based single-origin chocolate brand Soklet sells a hibiscus chocolate topped with pumpkin seeds.

The tang of the flower, say its makers, adds to the unique flavour of the chocolate sourced from their plantations at the foothills of the Anamalai. Done as an experiment for a chocolate festival in Seattle, two years ago, the chocolate made it to their best-seller list.

"We found that the sourness of the hibiscus paired well with our chocolate, and the pumpkin seeds give a nutty crunch," says Karthikeyan Palaniswamy, co-founder of Soklet.

"There are plenty of hazelnuts and almonds in the market, we wanted something distinct that goes with our brand's ethos," he adds.

HORS D'OEUVRES



Berrylicious brain freeze

Naturals Ice Cream has introduced a variety of berry-flavoured ice creams as part of their Berry festival. The festival begins on February 14, and is being held at all Naturals outlets across India. The menu lets your winter berry love continue for a few weeks longer, with ice cream flavours such as mulberry, blueberry, raspberry, black currant and gooseberry. All these will be available as single scoops, double scoops (cup and cone), and family packs (500 grams). However, this year, the berry festival is being held for a shorter period than usual, due to a shorter supply of berries during the pandemic it. Instead of the set 30 days, the 2021 edition of the festival will be held only on a till-stocks-last basis.

Valentine hiccups

Jimmy's Cocktails is set to elevate your date night with its Valentine's Day limited edition party pack. This DIY cocktail kit comes with four pre-mixed cocktails, two crystal glasses, a copper peg measure, and a garnish fork-stirring spoon. It delivers to multiple cities around the country. The gift pack comes in an attractive gold and white box, topped with a pink and gold sleeve with a romantic message. Jimmy's Cocktails Whiskey Sour is a blend of Indian lemons and Persian limes spiced up with cinnamon and balanced with bitters, that can be poured over your own whisky. Sex on the Beach is a tropical blend of Nagpur oranges, Egyptian peach and Danish cranberry with a dash of triple sec, ready to be mixed with your spirit of choice. The Cosmopolitan is a blend of Danish cranberries, Persian limes with a dash of orange and triple sec topped with vodka. The Mango Chili Mojito is a twist on the classic mojito cocktail, made with Indian Alphonso mango, Persian limes, mint and a hint of red chili, best enjoyed with rum.

Priced at ₹1,499, the combo pack can be ordered on jimmyscocktails.com, amazon.in, lbb.in/shop, shop.mensxp.com, and cred.club.



Farm and pharma
Alongside regular vegetables and herbs for seasoning work is on at the Simpy Farm work to grow medicinal plants on contract with pharmaceutical companies

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hyderabad-based hydroponics farm, Simply Fresh has now forayed into medicinal plants for nutraceutical companies

PRABALIK M BORAH

Even before the team at Simply Fresh, a hydroponics farm, began to work on their greenhouses for produce, they decided to dig a rainwater harvesting pit.

The pit was dug on six acres of their newly-acquired 250 acres of farmland near Komuravelli village in Siddipet, Telangana. The first farm by Simply Fresh was at Shameerpet. This rainwater harvesting pit and the water processing plant meets the farm's irrigation needs up to nine months.

While passing through the sleepy village with colourful wooden-framed mud houses and an enormous swamp, one would not expect to encounter a hydroponic farm at the end. The staff at Simply Fresh however takes pride in calling the farm a sustainable food factory. Sachin Darbar, the CEO, asserts that Simply Fresh is India's largest plant factory. Since its inception in 2013, the company that gave Hyderabad and the F&B industry fresh salad leaves – right from red romaine to rocket leaves – cherry tomatoes, jalapenos and crunchy fruity peppers, has now forayed into raw material (medicinal plants) for nutraceuticals (medicinal food products).

Sachin says, "In a country like ours, where we have scarcity of water especially for agricultural use, we can reduce our water consumption drastically by up to 1/10th of the traditional farming water consumption by using hydroponic and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. While we sold our fresh produce like a range of lettuces, vine crops, leafy greens and fresh herbs, we dedicated a section of our farm for research and development of medicinal

plants. We were not ready to approach any pharmaceutical company till we were satisfied with the products and the nutrient contents in them. After our medicinal plants were lab tested, we found the medicinal produce grown hydroponically have three times more alkaloid content than field-grown plants. And, we started marketing it."

The list of medicinal plants grown by Simply Fresh for nutraceutical extracts includes high curcumin content turmeric, ashwagandha, ginger, safed, musli, shatavari, bacopa, Centella asiatica, holy basil, Gymnema sylvestre and *Phyllanthus amarus*. These serve as raw material for nutraceutical companies. We did R&D for rare and different species with the motive of conservation through cultivation. Having met the standards of the nutraceutical companies, and complied with the rules, we have started contract farming for a few," informs Sachin.

The agricultural scientists at the farm inform they have combined hydroponic soil-less farming with AI technology, making it more effective. Chief scientific officer Satya Prasad explains, "Factors like crop profiling – analysing seeds for better



Agricultural scientists at the farm have combined hydroponic soil-less farming with AI technology making it more effective

germination, measuring nutrient requirement of plants along with automated AI-controlled greenhouses for maintaining an ideal environment for plants are all done using AI technology. Our greenhouses are digitally controlled by an AI platform called 'Farm in A Box' (FiAB), which determines and detects climate conditions and requirements for the plants and alters the environment to suit their needs."

Water way to grow



Painting the future of the planet

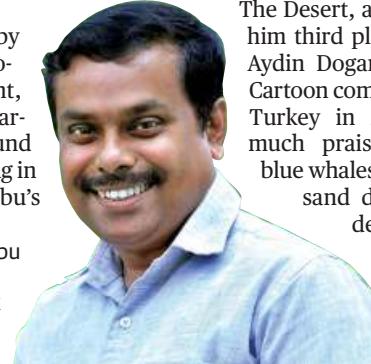
A work by artist Shibu CB has been nominated in an international cartoon contest on global warming



ANASUYA MENON

Across a vast expanse of caked brown earth walk two men, carrying a precious drop of water. The single drop gleams against the drab backdrop. The bleakness of the imagery could well denote our planet's future, says Shibu CB, whose work has made it to 1.5 C, an international cartoon contest on global warming and ecology.

Organised by the Russian Ecological Movement, the contest has artists from around the world sending in their works. Shibu's



Going places Shibu CB and the selected artwork
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

work has been nominated for the 'audience choice' prize, which is open for voting on the contest's Instagram page @1.5celsius. (www.instagram.com/1.5celsius)

International recognition is not new to Shibu, who has won a number of awards on various global platforms. Hailing from Cheirai, a small beach-side town in Ernakulam, Shibu's paintings have always dealt with global themes.

The Desert, a work that won him third place at the 24th Aydin Dogan International Cartoon competition held in Turkey in 2012, received much praise. It portrays blue whales jumping out of sand dunes in a golden-brown desert.

"There was no better way to portray global

warming," he says.

Shibu holds diplomas in drawing and painting, but he works as a full-time photographer.

"Photography is art too, but I have always believed I can express myself best on paper," he says. After his work at the studio, he spends quiet hours at home practising his art. "Art is akin to meditation for me. I draw what moves me."

The Ernakulam district administration honoured him with a cash award in 2011 for his contributions to the art world.

Cartoons, says Shibu, hold a special appeal as they are direct, communicate with the audience and make them think. He has been polishing and perfecting his craft. "Cartoons are not just art—they reflect your view of the world. They can make you think and they can even influence your perspective."

POOCH CAFE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PEANUTS



TIGER



CALVIN AND HOBBES



In call with Xi, Biden talks of 'unfair economic practices'

He highlights China's rights record and stresses on 'free and open' Indo-Pacific

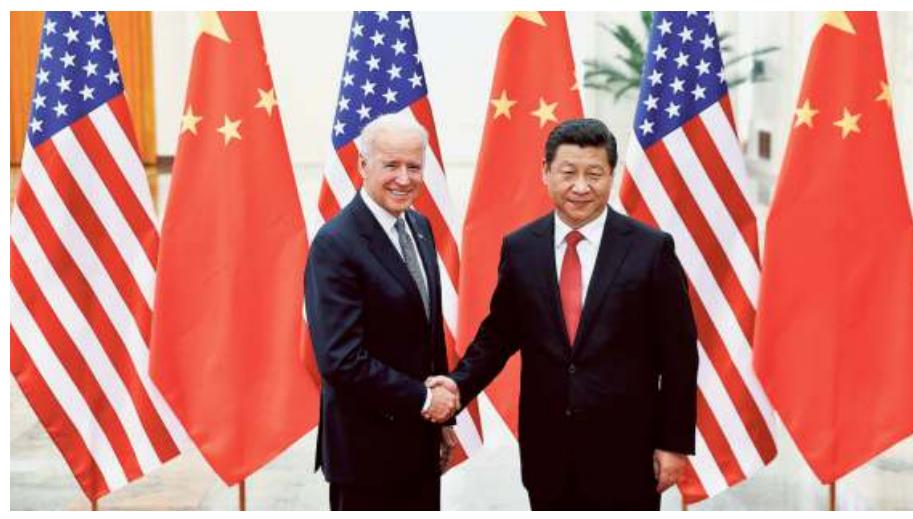
SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN

U.S. President Joe Biden spoke with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Wednesday evening (Washington time), the first call between the two leaders since Mr. Biden assumed office on January 20.

Mr. Biden highlighted concerns about Beijing's economic practices, its human rights record and "assertive actions in the region", while affirming his priority of preserving a "free and open Indo-Pacific", the White House said in a read-out of the call.

"President Biden affirmed his priorities of protecting the American people's security, prosperity, health, and way of life, and preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific. President Biden underscored his fundamental concerns about Beijing's coercive and unfair economic practices, crackdown in Hong Kong, human rights abuses in Xinjiang, and increasingly assertive actions in the region, including toward Taiwan," the White House said.

Mr. Xi, however, is reported to have said that Hong Kong, Taiwan and Xinjiang are matters internal to China, as per China's state-run Xinhua news agency. China and the U.S. should "jointly safeguard peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region", Mr. Xi said. "The Taiwan question and issues relating to Hong Kong, Xinjiang, etc., are China's internal affairs and concern China's sove-



Back in the day: Xi Jinping, right, shaking hands with Joe Biden in Beijing in 2013. • REUTERS

reignty and territorial integrity, and the U.S. side should respect China's core interests and act prudently," Mr. Xi said, as per Xinhua.

Strained ties
Mr. Biden, who, as Vice-President in the Barack Obama administration, had worked with Mr. Xi, has entered the White House at a time when U.S.-China relations are deeply strained over a trade war (started during the Trump administration) and growing Chinese assertiveness in Asia. The Trump administration – towards its end – had criticised Beijing for its human rights abuses against China's Uighur Muslim minority and crackdowns in Hong Kong. The Biden administration is conducting a review of Trump administration's trade policies on China as well as a review of the impact of Chinese tech compa-

nies on U.S. national security. The administration is also, at least for the moment, not going forward with a Trump administration ban on social media app TikTok and its takeover by a U.S. company, according to reports.

However, the Biden administration hopes to build on the Trump administration's strengthening of the Quad (the Indo-Pacific group of countries comprising India, the U.S., Australia and Japan), U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan recently said.

Tackling COVID-19

The Biden administration has said it will cooperate with China when it is in America's interest to do so, a message that was reiterated in the call as per the White House. "The two leaders also exchanged views on countering the COVID-19 pan-

demic, and the shared challenges of global health security, climate change, and preventing weapons proliferation. President Biden committed to pursuing practical, results-oriented engagements when it advances the interests of the American people and those of our allies," the read-out said. Mr. Xi told Mr. Biden that cooperation was the "only right choice" for the U.S. and China, who stand to lose from confrontation, according to Xinhua.

"The two sides should re-establish the various dialogue mechanisms, read each other's policy intentions accurately, and avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation," Mr. Xi is reported to have said.

Both read-outs made a reference to greetings being shared for the Chinese (Lunar) New Year – the Year of the Ox.

Chilling video footage of siege a key exhibit in Trump's trial

Former U.S. President did nothing to stem the violence'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Chilling security video of last month's deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, including of rioters searching menacingly for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Vice-President Mike Pence, has become a key exhibit in former President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, as lawmakers prosecuting the case wrap up their opening arguments for why Mr. Trump should be convicted of inciting the siege.

The House will continue with its case on Thursday, with Mr. Trump's lawyers set to launch their defence by the week's end.

The footage shown at the



Donald Trump

trial, much of it never before seen, has included video of the mob smashing into the building, distraught members of Congress receiving comfort, rioters engaging in hand-to-hand combat with police and audio of Capitol police officers pleading for back-up. It underscored how

dangerously close the rioters came to the nation's leaders, shifting the focus of the trial from an academic debate about the Constitution to a raw retelling of the January 6 assault. The footage included rioters roaming the halls chanting "Hang Mike Pence", some equipped with combat gear.

Earlier in the day, prosecutors laid out their case by methodically linking Mr. Trump's verbal attacks on the election to the violence that resulted when hundreds of loyalists stormed the building. Mr. Trump did nothing to stem the violence and watched with "glee", the Democrats said, as the mob ransacked the building.

Tencent executive held over 'graft'

REUTERS
BEIJING

Chinese tech giant Tencent Holdings Ltd. said a company executive is being held by Chinese authorities over allegations of "personal corruption", after a media report said the move was linked to sharing of personal data from its popular WeChat app.

The Wall Street Journal reported earlier that a Tencent executive has been held by Chinese authorities as part of an inquiry into a corruption case involving former law enforcement officials. The *Journal* reported that the executive, Zhang Feng, has been under investigation over alleged sharing of personal data collected by Tencent's social-media app WeChat.

IN BRIEF



French nun turns 117 after surviving virus

TOULON
Europe's oldest person, French nun Sister Andre, turns 117 on Thursday after surviving COVID-19 last month and living through two world wars, with a special birthday feast, including her favourite dessert – baked Alaska. AFP

'FB to follow audio social network Clubhouse'

SAN FRANCISCO
Facebook is looking to carve out its own spot on the audio social networking scene that has seen invitation-only startup Clubhouse rocket to popularity, *The New York Times* reported on Wednesday. AFP

Profits doubled in 2020, says AstraZeneca

LONDON
AstraZeneca said on Thursday that its profits had doubled in 2020, as the World Health Organization approved its jab for those over 65 and the global immunisation drive gained momentum. AFP

Erdogan's call for revamped Constitution stirs suspicions

Announcement seen as diversion from issues

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ANKARA

Four years after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan assumed sweeping powers, he has wrong-footed his opponents once again by calling for a new Constitution, sparking accusations of trying to set up a diversion from the country's woes.

Taking seemingly everyone off guard, Mr. Erdogan mentioned early last week during one of his near-daily speeches that "it may be time for Turkey to reopen the debate about a new Constitution".

The timing aroused immediate suspicions over the intentions of a man who has been at the apex of Turkish political life since 2003, first as Prime Minister and as President since 2014.

The 66-year-old Turkish leader is facing a sudden burst of student protests, an economy that was under strain even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck last year, and polls showing a melting support base.

The current Constitution was changed in a controversial 2017 referendum, which created an executive presidency.

It went into force barely a year later when Mr. Erdogan won re-election, with the amendments allowing him to consolidate his power.

Since then the only politicians demanding constitutional changes have been members of the opposition, all calling for a return to the previous parliamentary democracy.

'Change the agenda'

Few think this is what Mr. Erdogan has in mind.

"This is only an attempt to change the agenda so that the economy, the pandemic, farmers' concerns, traders' worries and rights violations aren't discussed," Idris Sahin, deputy chairman of the opposition Democracy and Progress Party (DEVA), said.

DEVA was launched last year by Ali Babacan, a former Erdogan ally who won the West's trust as Economy Minister.

Mr. Sahin dismissed Mr. Erdogan's move as "absolutely not a sincere idea", describing it instead as a belated response to opposition parties' attempts to dilute the executive presidency.

U.S. imposes sanctions on Myanmar

As the protests spread, Biden demands that the Generals relinquish power

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

YANGON

Anti-coup protesters on Thursday took to the streets of Myanmar for a sixth consecutive day, after U.S. President Joe Biden announced sanctions against the Southeast Asian nation's Generals and demanded they relinquish power.

There has been an outpouring of anger and defiance since the military ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi last week and detained her along with other senior figures of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

Security forces have used tear gas, water cannon and rubber bullets against the protesters, with isolated re-



Fight for democracy: Protesters shouting slogans in Yangon, Myanmar, on Thursday. • GETTY IMAGES

ports of live rounds also being fired. Police also ramped up their harassment of the NLD with a raid on its headquarters.

But demonstrators again marched peacefully on Thursday in Naypyidaw –

coup, with the U.S. leading calls for the Generals to relinquish power.

In the most significant concrete action to pressure the junta, Mr. Biden announced on Wednesday that his administration was cutting off the Generals' access to \$1 billion in funds in the U.S.

"I again call on the Burmese military to immediately release democratic political leaders and activists," Mr. Biden said, as he flagged further sanctions.

"The military must relinquish power."

European Union Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell has also warned the bloc could impose fresh sanctions on Myanmar's military.

Pak. test-fires 'high precision' ballistic missile

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Thursday successfully test-fired a short range surface-to-surface ballistic missile capable of hitting land and sea targets with "high precision" up to 490 km away, its military said.

In a statement, it said the Babur cruise missile was "launched from a state-of-the-art Multi Tube Missile Launch Vehicle". According to the statement, Pakistan's President Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Imran Khan and the military leadership congratulated engineers over the launch of the missile.

China pulls BBC World News off air for content 'violation'

Reports 'seriously violate' broadcast guidelines: NRTA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BEIJING

China's broadcasting regulator announced on Thursday it has pulled BBC World News from the air, saying the channel's content had "seriously violated" guidelines for reporting in the country.

In a statement, China's National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA) said BBC World News reports about China were found to "seriously violate" broadcast guidelines, including "the requirement that news should be truthful and fair" and not "harm Chi-



The BBC said it was disappointed with the Chinese regulator's move.

na's national interests".

The move comes after the BBC aired a report on February 3 detailing harrowing ac-

counts of torture and sexual violence against Uighur women in Chinese camps.

The NRTA "does not permit the BBC to continue broadcasting in China, and does not accept its new annual application for broadcast," the statement from Beijing said.

The BBC said it was disappointed with the move.

"The BBC is the world's most trusted international news broadcaster and reports on stories from around the world fairly, impartially and without fear or favour," a BBC spokesperson said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA	
E-TENDER NOTICE IFB No: NHP/TSGW/2020-21/Works/314241-II	
TENDER ID NO. 2021_GWDTS_615718	
Following online tender is invited by the Ground Water Department, Govt of Telangana from eligible bidders under National Competitive Bidding, Govt of Telangana State Data Centre & Exhibition Centre in Ground Water Department, Hyderabad under National Hydrology Project (NHP).	
Important Dates: Start Date of Download: 12/02/2021 (10.30 hrs) Date of Pre-bid Meeting: 19/02/2021 (11.30 hrs) Last Date of Submission: 17/03/2021 (15.00 hrs). The details of IFB will be available on https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app/ , https://gwd.telangana.gov.in/ and http://nph.mowr.gov.in/ .	
DIPR R.O.No.: 1011-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21	
Sd/- Director & Nodal Officer, NHP Ground Water Department	

Office of the Chairman, NEET UG Medical & Dental Admission / Counselling Board-2020 and Principal, Government Dental College (RHJS College of Dental Sciences), Subhash Nagar, Behind T.B. Hospital, Jaipur Phone: 0141-2280090 Websites: www.education.rajasthan.gov.in/ medicaleducation.rajasthan.gov.in/	
No. State UG Counselling Board / 2020/322 Dated: 09.02.2021	
NOTIFICATION (Residual seats allotments BDS) NEET UG (MEDICAL / DENTAL) COUNSELLING 2020 (STATE OF RAJASTHAN)	
In continuation to this Board's notification dated 16.01.2021 and Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 08.02.2021 in writ petition no. 54 of 2021 regarding lowering of the qualifying cut-off percentile for BDS course, the registration will remain open from 09.02.2021 to 16.02.2021 and the process for allotments (residual seats) for BDS course will be carried out as per the schedule given in the detailed notification dated 09.02.2021 available at the website www.rajuagam2020.com	
Revised Minimum qualifying criteria for BDS Course:	
Category	Revised Percentile in NEET 2020
GEN	40th percentile and above (113 marks and above)
GEN PH	35th percentile and above (99 marks and above)
OCB, MBC / SC / ST / ST-SA	30th percentile and above (87 marks and above)
SC / ST / OBC / MBC-PH	30th percentile and above (87 marks and above)
Chairman NEET UG Medical & Dental Admission / Counseling Board-2020	
DIPR/C/1387	

GOVERNMENT POLYTECHNIC MAYURBHANJ. At-Tikarpada, P.O.-Podia Astia, Via- Shyamakhunta, Dist.-Mayurbhanj(ODISHA),PIN- 757049 Website: www.gpmayurbhanj.org.in/ Email id-principal@gpmayurbhanj@gmail.com	
Tender call Notice No- 94/GPM, dt.10.02.2021	
Sealed Tenders are invited from reputed Manufacturers (OEM)/Suppliers having valid GST/PAN for supply of Laboratory Equipment for Metallurgical Engineering, Library Books & Laboratories' Charts. For complete information regarding the tender please visit our Institute website www.gpmayurbhanj.org.in/ .	
sd/- Principal Govt. Polytechnic Mayurbhanj.	
OIPR-14047/11/0001/2021	

Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA) Urban Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand 777, Satavt Tower, Kaulagarh Road, Rajendra Nagar, Dehradun Telephone +91-135-2753894, TeleFax +91-135-254895 Email: uusdaip@gmail.com , Website: www.uusdaip.org					
Ref. No: UUSDA/P-76/132 Date: 10.02.2021					
BID SUBMISSION DATE EXTENSION					
The "Program Director", Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA), Government of Uttarakhand" (the Employer) extends the Bid Submission date of the works as detailed below;					
No.	Name of Work	IFB Number	Date of Publication	Date of Submission (As published)	Date of Submission (Revised)
1.	Development of Sewerage System involving STP, Trunk Sewer and Allied Works including 5 Years Operation and Maintenance, at Raipur, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.	UIUDP/OCB - N/WW - DDN - 02/2020-21	1st January, 2021	11th February, 2021	26th

MARKET WATCH

	11-02-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	51,532	-0.43
US Dollar	72.87	-0.04
Gold	47,509	-0.14
Brent oil	61.38	-0.44

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	591.85	-0.43
Asian Paints	2505.50	-5.10
Axist Bank	740.10	5.30
Bajaj Auto	4181.90	30.35
Bajaj Finserv	10216.65	-11.30
Bajaj Finance	5567.05	91.15
Bharti Airtel	598.10	-7.90
BPCL	421.95	6.15
Britannia Ind	3462.75	37.90
Cipla	859.80	-3.60
Coal India	137.15	-1.15
Divis Lab	3753.85	3.50
D Dr Reddy's Lab	4825.05	1.00
Eicher Motors	2818.15	-83.15
GAIL (India)	136.45	2.85
Grasim Ind	1235.45	4.05
HCL Tech.	970.40	10.95
HDFC	2760.60	-6.50
HDFC Bank	1572.35	-9.40
HDFC Life	714.20	-4.85
Hero MotoCorp	3541.50	2.55
Hindalco	295.40	16.00
Hind Unilever	2263.00	27.50
ICICI Bank	630.65	-1.50
IndusInd Bank	1021.90	-0.90
Infosys	129.65	-3.85
Indian Oil Corp	96.50	-0.25
ITC	226.45	-1.10
JSW Steel	408.85	-1.90
Kotak Bank	1961.00	8.95
L&T	1530.50	-22.35
M&M	914.20	0.05
Maruti Suzuki	7667.35	45.65
Nestle India Ltd.	17412.25	234.90
NTPC	97.30	-2.55
ONGC	99.45	-0.55
PowerGrid Corp	213.75	3.30
Reliance Ind	2055.70	81.40
SBI Life	907.35	-4.00
State Bank	390.15	-2.10
Shree Cement	28344.20	50.45
Sun Pharma	642.65	16.55
Tata Motors	325.00	-3.90
Tata Steel	694.70	-4.45
TCS	3206.00	-7.30
Tech Mahindra	985.60	10.70
Titan	1524.70	-38.45
UltraTech Cement	6427.15	35.00
UPL	543.55	9.15
Wipro	437.00	-2.00

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar.....	72.65	72.97
Euro.....	88.09	88.49
British Pound.....	100.45	100.89
Japanese Yen (100).....	69.36	69.67
Chinese Yuan.....	11.25	11.31
Swiss Franc.....	81.59	81.96
Singapore Dollar.....	54.81	55.08
Canadian Dollar.....	57.28	57.56
Malaysian Ringgit.....	17.96	18.06

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



TII to spend ₹200 cr. on electric 3-wheeler foray

CHENNAI Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) has decided to foray into the manufacture and sale of electric three-wheelers. On Thursday, the board approved the company's foray into EVs at an outlay of ₹200 crore while electing non-executive and non-independent director M.A.M. Arunachalam (also known as Arun Murugappan) as its chairman with immediate effect.

Bosch Q3 profit declines 3.15% to ₹184.25 crore

BENGALURU Bosch Limited on Thursday posted a net profit of ₹184.25 crore in the third quarter ended December, a 3.15% decline compared to ₹190.24 crore in the year-earlier period. The company reported sales of ₹3,029.64 crore as against ₹2,536.64 crore, marking a year-on-year growth of 19.44%. Shortage of semiconductors adversely impacted imports, the company said.

RailTel sets IPO price band at ₹93-94

NEW DELHI State-owned RailTel Corporation of India on Thursday fixed a price band of ₹93-94 a share for its initial share sale, which will open for public subscription on February 16. The IPO is entirely an offer-for-sale through which the government will offload 87,153,369 equity shares, amounting to 27.16% stake. The government would raise a little over ₹819 crore.

Karur Vysya Bank Q3 profit jumps to ₹35 crore

CHENNAI Karur Vysya Bank's standalone profit for the quarter ended December more than doubled to ₹35 crore. Net interest margin remained flat at 3.29% and net interest income contracted to ₹197 crore from ₹215 crore, the bank said. Gross NPAs declined to 7.37% from 8.92%, while net NPAs declined to 2.55% from 4.13%. Provision coverage ratio improved to 77.35% from 65.43%.

Amazon moves SC in Future case

E-commerce major seeks ex parte stay on the deal between FRL and Reliance

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

E-commerce major Amazon moved the Supreme Court on Thursday to stay the operation of a Delhi High Court order of February 8, which had revoked an earlier direction to Future Group to maintain status quo on the sale of its retail assets to Reliance Industries.

'Order illegal'

Amazon said the February 8 order was 'ex-facie arbitrary and illegal'. The order was passed by a Division Bench of the High Court on an appeal filed by Future Retail Limited (FRL).

The bench's order had countermanded a detailed order by a Single Judge of the High Court, which had directed FRL to maintain status quo on the deal with Reliance pending a final order.

"It is evident that the Single Judge order to maintain status quo was directed for the limited purpose of protecting the substratum of the dispute till a detailed order was issued... However, the High Court, instead of waiting for a detailed order, has issued the interim order (Fe-



Big concern: Amazon said 'irreparable harm' would be caused if the court did not stay the February 8 order. ■REUTERS

bry 8) staying the operation, implementation and execution of the Single Judge order without giving any reasons," Amazon contended.

Amazon urged the apex court to protect its interests by granting an ex parte stay on the deal between FRL and Reliance. The U.S. firm said the court should inter-

vene to protect its rights as the "balance of convenience" was in its favour.

"Respondents [Future Group] have unequivocally stated that they will continue to take steps to complete the transaction. The greater the progress made towards the completion of the transaction, the harder it will be to unravel it. Over time, the interests of additional third parties may also become entwined and be subsequently compromised," Amazon said in its petition.

It added "irreparable harm" would be caused if the court did not stay the February 8 order.

Amazon argued that an appeal, as preferred by FRL against the Single Judge's order, was barred under Section 17(2) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

PV wholesales rose 11.1% in Jan. amid supply chain issues'

More than 2.76 lakh units dispatched last month: SIAM

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

NEW DELHI

Passenger vehicle wholesales rose 11.14% in the country in January even as supply chain challenges continued to affect the functioning of the industry, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said on Thursday.

Dispatches by manufacturers to dealers stood at more than 2.76 lakh units last month as against about 2.48 lakh units in January 2020, data shared by the industry body showed.

While car sales declined 1.16% to about 1.53 lakh units, sales of utility vehicles increased 37.26% to more than 1.11 lakh units.



Two-wheeler sales rose 6.63% to about 14.30 lakh units, driven by a 9% growth in scooter sales to about 4.54 lakh units and a 5% increase in motorcycle sales to more than 9.16 lakh units.

Sales of electric two-wheelers grew from 27 units in January 2020, to 241 units in January 2021.

SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon noted that the sales of more than 2.76 lakh passenger vehicles in January 2021 was a CAGR growth of just 1.61% over the previous highest sales of 2.64 lakh in January 2018.

Similarly, for two-wheelers, sales of 14.3 lakh units was a contraction of 5.32% from the highest sales of 16.85 lakh in January 2018. "The total sales from April to January period of passenger vehicles were still below 2014-15 levels and for two-wheelers it is below 2013-14 levels," he said, adding that sales of three-wheelers continued to suffer a contraction of 56.76% compared with January 2020.

TVS units file follow-up to MFA at NCLT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Member companies of the TVS Group have filed a composite scheme of amalgamations and arrangements with the Chennai Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) as a follow-up to the December 10 memorandum of family arrangement (MFA) and the subsequent arrangement.

The composite scheme "involving, *inter-alia*, T V Sundram Iyengar & Sons Pvt. Ltd., Sundaram Industries Pvt. Ltd., Southern Roadways Pvt. Ltd. and TVS Sundram Fasteners Pvt. Ltd. has been filed" with the NCLT, Sundram Fasteners Ltd. (SFL) Chairman Suresh Krishna wrote to SFL, as per a filing.

In the most recently ended quarter, revenue from operations rose 20% to ₹4,814 crore. Finance costs almost doubled to about ₹66 crore, according to a stock exchange filing.

"The performance for this quarter, which resulted in a positive Ebida of 5.3%, was made possible owing to the revenue enhancement

'Aim to wind up BPCL stake sale by June'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The government is aiming to conclude the strategic sale of BPCL in the June quarter, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Thursday.

"I think we are targeting the first quarter of FY22. The engagement... is at the due diligence stage. Our process is of value maximisation," he said at an event organised by Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund. The government has received three preliminary bids for the government's 52.98%

stake in India's second-largest fuel retailer Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd. (BPCL), Vedanta being one of them. The other two are said to be global funds.

Reconsider closure plan, labour union tells GM

Denies it was called for talks by firm

C The claim of GM that there is no demand for the cars produced here is wrong

SANDIP BHEGADE, president, employees union

is wrong. Since they were scheduled to transfer the plant to GWM in mid-December 2020, they did not accept any orders," said Sandip Bhegade, president, General Motors Employees Union, Talegaon.

In an e-mailed response last week, George Svirgos, Director of Communications - International Markets, GM, stated the closure decision was taken because there was no demand in export markets for the vehicles previously produced in Talegaon.

HC dismisses Bharti's plea for stay on ITC

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

A Division Bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court dismissed an application from Bharti Airtel, seeking a stay on the implementation of Sec. 16(2)(C) of the Central GST Act (CGST) Act and APGST Act.

Section. 16(2)(C) provides that input tax credit (ITC) must be allowed to the recipient only when the supplier had discharged the output liability through utilisation of the ITC admissible in respect of the supply or by cash.

Bharti had challenged the validity of the section 16(2)(C) saying it cannot be deprived of ITC for a fault of the suppliers who had not remitted the tax collected.

ALL posts net loss of ₹194 crore on VRS costs

Revenue rises 20% to ₹4,814 crore



and operational efficiency initiatives of the company during challenging times," said Gopal Mahadevan, director and CFO.

"LCV, aftermarket, defence and power solutions businesses have performed well. The focus on resetting the operating cost to revenues and material cost optimisation will continue," he added.

In the most recently ended quarter, revenue from operations rose 20% to ₹4,814 crore. Finance costs almost doubled to about ₹66 crore, according to a stock exchange filing.

"The performance for this quarter, which resulted in a positive Ebida of 5.3%, was made possible owing to the revenue enhancement

APPEAL FOR IDENT

Archer out of second Test

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

England suffered a huge blow on Thursday when pacer Jofra Archer was ruled out of the second Test against India, starting here on Saturday, after having an injection in his right elbow.

"The injection follows discomfort the fast bowler experienced during the 227-run win in the first Test at the same venue. The issue is not related to any previous injury and it is hoped that the treatment will allow the condition to settle down quickly, allowing the player to return to action in time for the third Test in Ahmedabad," according to an ECB statement.

Buttler and Bairstow back for T20Is

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Senior wicketkeeper-batsmen Jos Buttler and Jonny Bairstow were, on Thursday, named in a 16-member England squad for the five T20 International matches against India, scheduled in Ahmedabad between March 12 to 20.

The squad: Eoin Morgan (Capt.), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonathan Bairstow, Sam Billings, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, David Malan, Adil Rashid, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley and Mark Wood.

A breakdown of England's success story

Its teams, over the years, have outperformed more fancied outfits from other nations in India

ENGLAND IN INDIA

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

What makes England such a successful team in the sub-continent?

England has now made a habit of defeating Sri Lanka in Sri Lanka, scored a precious Test series victory in Pakistan 2000-01, and has two Test series wins in India, the 'Final Frontier' for many, in the last 36 years.

Actually, England has outperformed more fancied teams in India. Among the factors for England's successes in India are:

1. Comprehending the art of grinding:

England can bat on and on if bats first. Batting big if it wins the toss is the first strategy. And the batsmen, Joe Root being the prime example, and Alastair Cook, before him, are men who can wear down an attack with concentration, footwork, tactical nous and sheer hunger to stay at the wicket.

Longer the innings, greater the wear and tear on the pitch. Root's double-



One more in the kitty: The latest chapter in England's journey of triumphs in India came in the first Test in Chennai when Joe Root's men won by a whopping margin. ■ SPORTZPICS/BCCI

hundred here is a shining example.

2. The X-factor: England has never been short of men who can change a game's course. Whether it was Kevin Pietersen's iridescent strokeplay on a sharp turner in Mumbai, 2012, or Ben Stokes' bludgeoning innings in the recent Test here, England has had men who can alter the direction of a Test in

a hurry. And few teams employ the sweep and the slog-sweep better than the Englishmen. This stroke can disrupt the length of the spinners. And with the ball, you have Jofra Archer who is an X-factor with his pace, intent and hostility.

3. Pacemen who could adapt:

Both in 2012 and 2021, England had pacemen who could find their length

in these conditions. The Indians had problems with the familiar SG ball, not the Englishmen, brought up on the Duke ball. James Anderson's mastery over reverse-swing in the first Test showed how well he could acclimatise to the dry, abrasive, sub-continental wickets. In 2012 too, Anderson was a force, along with Steve Finn. Going further back, when David Gower's

You want to come in when the team is doing well and carry that momentum. It has been impressive to see how well the guys have played

BEN FOAKES

England shocked India in 1984-85, Neil Foster bent his back to bowl with heart, lift and seam movement at Chepauk. In 1977, John Lever's prodigious left-arm swing did the trick.

4. Spinners are winners:

The English spinners have been winners; whether it was Derek Underwood, so deadly on wet wickets, in 1971, Phil Edmonds and Pat Pocock who ambushed an overconfident India in 1984-85 and the potent duo of Greame Swann and Monty Panesar in 2012. Swann got his deliveries to dip and drift from the off-stump, Panesar bowled quicker through the air and spun the ball just enough to find the edges. Now, in Jack Leach and Dom Bess, England has a spin duo that can hurt the host.

Axar Patel cleared to play



Good augury: Axar Patel, right, batted and bowled without any discomfort in the nets. ■ SPORTZPICS FOR BCCI

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

concerns that kept him out of the first Test.

He is expected to come in for Shabaz Nadeem in the eleven for the second Test. India, 1-0 down in the series, will have to do all the running.

Such a pitch, India believes, would not put too much emphasis on toss. The track is bound better and the chances are it would not break up as the game progresses.

There was some good news for India on the injury front. Left-arm spinner Axar Patel batted and bowled without any discomfort, making light of the fitness

Pakistan edges SA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LAHORE

Pakistan beat South Africa by three runs in the first T20I on Thursday. Mohammad Rizwan's unbeaten 104 was the highlight of the win.

The scores: Pakistan 169/6 in 20 overs (Mohd. Rizwan 104 n.o.) bt South Africa 166/6 in 20 overs (Reza Hendricks 54, Janneman Malan 44).

Malan, Smith and Shakib headline auction pool

IPL announces shortlist of 292 players; franchises looking to fill maximum of 61 slots

IPL 2021

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

Malan. ■ FILE PHOTO

to strengthen their teams on February 18.

The IPL management on Thursday night announced the list of 292 players who will hope to attract bids.

A maximum of 61 slots are available during the auction, which will start at 3 p.m. in Chennai.

The list includes 164 Indian cricketers and 128 over-

seas players, including three from associate members of the International Cricket Council.

Malan, with a base price of ₹1.5 crore, has been drawn in the second set of players to be auctioned.

While Malan is expected to be a hot pick this year, it will be interesting to see whether Smith (₹2 crore)

and Shakib (₹2 crore) draw interest from the eight franchises.

While Smith has been released by Rajasthan Royals, all-rounder Shakib has returned to competitive cricket after serving a suspension for breaching the anti-corruption code.

Among the Indian players, Hanuma Vihari (₹1

Kanepi dethrones Kenin; Barty, Tsitsipas and Fognini hang on; Nadal in cruise mode

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MELBOURNE

Defending champion Sofia Kenin exited the Australian Open in tears on Thursday even as World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty negotiated a sticky moment to reach the third round.

World No. 2 Rafael Nadal shrugged off any lingering back soreness to storm past qualifier Michael Mmoh for the loss of just seven games, brushing off a bizarre incident that saw a fan thrown out.

Svitolina beats Gauff
Teenage sensation Coco Gauff lost to Elina Svitolina, Stefanos Tsitsipas went the distance with Thanasi Kokkinakis and Fabio Fognini also needed five sets against fellow Italian Salvatore Caruso – a match that ended in a furious row.

The Ukrainian World No. 5 lifted her game in the pivotal moments to win 6-4, 6-3 as she eyes a maiden Grand Slam title.

Nadal has been struggling with tightness in his lower back since arriving in Australia, but showed few signs of it on Thursday. He crushed Mmoh 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in a match interrupted in the second set when a woman was ejected for heckling and directing rude gestures at him.

Nadal took it in his stride, grinning and playing football with the ball while he waited. Asked afterwards whether he knew her, he replied: "No, and honestly I don't want to."

Tsitsipas was not expected to be troubled by 267th-ranked Kokkinakis but the Aussie, roared on by his close friend Nick Kyrgios, saved a fourth-set match-point before going down to the Greek 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-4.

Spain's Feliciano Lopez, 39, was also taken five sets in his record-extending 75th consecutive Grand Slam before beating Italy's Lorenzo Sonego 5-7, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

Divij Sharan and Slovakian partner Igor Zelenay lost 1-6,

4-6 to the German pair of Yannick Hanfmann and Kevin Krawietz.

The Ukrainian World No. 5 lifted her game in the pivotal moments to win 6-4, 6-3 as

she eyes a maiden Grand Slam title.

And after an emotional first-up win over wild-card Maddison Inglis, Kenin met her match in the in-form Estonian Kaia Kanepi, who won 6-3, 6-2.

While the American became just the third defending champion since 1970 to fail to reach the third round, Barty lifted hopes of a first Australian winner since 1978.

Playing with her left thigh heavily strapped, the top-seeded Barty twice failed to serve out the win before ousting her 387th-ranked compatriot Daria Gavrilova 6-1, 7-6(7).

Gauff beat Venus Williams and the then-champion Naomi Osaka en route to the round of 16 last year, when she was just 15, but Svitolina had other ideas this time around.

The Ukrainian World No. 5 lifted her game in the pivotal moments to win 6-4, 6-3 as

she eyes a maiden Grand

Slam title.

Nadal has been struggling with tightness in his lower back since arriving in Australia, but showed few signs of it on Thursday. He crushed Mmoh 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in a match interrupted in the second set when a woman was ejected for heckling and directing rude gestures at him.

Nadal took it in his stride, grinning and playing football with the ball while he waited. Asked afterwards whether he knew her, he replied: "No, and honestly I don't want to."

Tsitsipas was not expected to be troubled by 267th-ranked Kokkinakis but the Aussie, roared on by his close friend Nick Kyrgios, saved a fourth-set match-point before going down to the Greek 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-4.

Spain's Feliciano Lopez, 39, was also taken five sets in his record-extending 75th consecutive Grand Slam before beating Italy's Lorenzo Sonego 5-7, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

Divij Sharan and Slovakian partner Igor Zelenay lost 1-6,

4-6 to the German pair of Yannick Hanfmann and Kevin Krawietz.

The Ukrainian World No. 5 lifted her game in the pivotal moments to win 6-4, 6-3 as

she eyes a maiden Grand

Slam title.

Nadal has been struggling with tightness in his lower back since arriving in Australia, but showed few signs of it on Thursday. He crushed Mmoh 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in a match interrupted in the second set when a woman was ejected for heckling and directing rude gestures at him.

Nadal took it in his stride, grinning and playing football with the ball while he waited. Asked afterwards whether he knew her, he replied: "No, and honestly I don't want to."

Tsitsipas was not expected to be troubled by 267th-ranked Kokkinakis but the Aussie, roared on by his close friend Nick Kyrgios, saved a fourth-set match-point before going down to the Greek 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-4.

Spain's Feliciano Lopez, 39, was also taken five sets in his record-extending 75th consecutive Grand Slam before beating Italy's Lorenzo Sonego 5-7, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

Divij Sharan and Slovakian partner Igor Zelenay lost 1-6,

4-6 to the German pair of Yannick Hanfmann and Kevin Krawietz.

The Ukrainian World No. 5 lifted her game in the pivotal moments to win 6-4, 6-3 as

she eyes a maiden Grand

Slam title.

Nadal has been struggling with tightness in his lower back since arriving in Australia, but showed few signs of it on Thursday. He crushed Mmoh 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in a match interrupted in the second set when a woman was ejected for heckling and directing rude gestures at him.

Nadal took it in his stride, grinning and playing football with the ball while he waited. Asked afterwards whether he knew her, he replied: "No, and honestly I don't want to."

Tsitsipas was not expected to be troubled by 267th-ranked Kokkinakis but the Aussie, roared on by his close friend Nick Kyrgios, saved a fourth-set match-point before going down to the Greek 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-4.

Spain's Feliciano Lopez, 39, was also taken five sets in his record-extending 75th consecutive Grand Slam before beating Italy's Lorenzo Sonego 5-7, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

Divij Sharan and Slovakian partner Igor Zelenay lost 1-6,

4-6 to the German pair of Yannick Hanfmann and Kevin Krawietz.

The Ukrainian World No. 5 lifted her game in the pivotal moments to win 6-4, 6-3 as

she eyes a maiden Grand

Slam title.

Nadal has been struggling with tightness in his lower back since arriving in Australia, but showed few signs of it on Thursday. He crushed Mmoh 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in a match interrupted in the second set when a woman was ejected for heckling and directing rude gestures at him.

Nadal took it in his stride, grinning and playing football with the ball while he waited. Asked afterwards whether he knew her, he replied: "No, and honestly I don't want to."

Tsitsipas was not expected to be troubled by 267th-ranked Kokkinakis but the Aussie, roared on by his close friend Nick Kyrgios, saved a fourth-set match-point before going down to the Greek 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-4.

Spain's Feliciano Lopez, 39, was also taken five sets in his record-extending 75th consecutive Grand Slam before beating Italy's Lorenzo Sonego 5-7, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

Divij Sharan and Slovakian partner Igor Zelenay lost 1-6,

4-6 to the German pair of Yannick Hanfmann and Kevin Krawietz.

The Ukrainian World No. 5 lifted her game in the pivotal moments to win 6-4, 6-3 as

she eyes a maiden Grand

Slam title.

Nadal has been struggling with tightness in his lower back since arriving in Australia, but showed few signs of it on Thursday. He crushed Mmoh 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in a match interrupted in the second set when a woman was ejected for heckling and directing rude gestures at him.

Nadal took it in his stride, grinning and playing football with the ball while he waited. Asked afterwards whether he knew her, he replied: "No, and honestly I don't want to."

TV PICKS

Australian Open: Sony Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m.; Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.

Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)

PGA Tour: Eurosport (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

ISL: Star Sports 2 & 3 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Neymar to miss Barca tie with groin injury

PARIS
Paris St. Germain forward Neymar will be sidelined for four weeks due to a groin injury, the French club said on Thursday, ruling him out of next week's Champions League trip for its last-16, first leg against his former club Barcelona. The 29-year-old Brazilian's availability for the return leg in Paris is also in doubt with the match scheduled for March 10. REUTERS



Lakers eke out another OT win

LOS ANGELES
LeBron James forced the extra session with a three-pointer and scored 25 points as Los Angeles Lakers won its third consecutive overtime game by outlasting the slumping Oklahoma City Thunder 114-113 on Wednesday.
The results: Suns 125 bt Bucks 124; Bulls 129 bt Pelicans 116; Nets 104 bt Pacers 94; Lakers 114 bt Thunder 113 (OT); Nuggets 133 bt Cavaliers 95; Grizzlies 130 bt Hornets 114; Timberwolves 112 lost to Clippers 119; Wizards 115 lost to Raptors 137; Mavericks 118 bt Hawks 117.

Devender, Nimisha win gold

Pardeep and Pranav bag silver medals

PARA ATHLETICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Promising para-athletes Devender Kumar and Nimisha Suresh Chakkungalparambil won a gold medal each as India started its campaign at the 12th Fazza International World Para Athletics Grand Prix event by winning six medals here on Thursday.

Devender cleared a distance of 50.61m in his second attempt to take the gold in men's discus throw F-44 event, while Nimisha

won in the women's long jump F46/47 event with an effort of 5.25m.

India took the one-two position in men's discus throw F-44, with Pardeep winning the silver with a throw of 41.77m.

Pranav Desai ran 11.76 seconds to claim the silver medal in men's 100m T-64 event, while Vinod Kumar took the bronze in men's discus throw F-52 with a throw of 18.52 metres.

Rakshita Raju (5:22.15min) also clinched a bronze medal in the women's 1500m T-11 event.



Top honours: Devender cleared a distance of 50.61m to take the gold in men's discus throw F-44 event. ■ FAZZA LOC MEDIA

Elavenil rewrites Apurvi's world mark

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Elavenil. ■ FILE PHOTO

World No. 1 Elavenil Valarivan was close to her best as she shot 253.0 in the final to top women's air rifle in the National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Thursday.

The 22-year-old Elavenil's final score was better than the world record of 252.9 held by Apurvi Chandela, who was below par and failed to make the final. Elavenil had earlier topped qualification with 631.6. She was 0.3 point ahead of Olympian Ayonika Paul who eventually placed seventh.

In women's air pistol, Manu Bhaker was too strong for the field, as she won with a total of 243.7 after having topped qualification with 584.

What was commendable was the manner in which the 47-year-old Padma Devaram of the Railways rose to the second spot ahead of a bunch of talented young

girls including the Olympic quota winner Yashaswini Deswal.

The results: Men 25m rapid fire pistol: 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 35 (586); 2. Bhavesh Shekharat 29 (581); 3. Adarsh Singh 24 (581). **50m rifle 3-position:**

1. Sanjeev Rajput 462.2 (1176); 2. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar 458.1 (1172); 3. Chain Singh 445.3 (1161).

Women: 10m air rifle: 1. Elavenil Valarivan 253.0 (631.6); 2. Vanishta Rathore 250.5 (625.7); 3. Meghana Sajjanar 229.0 (630.0).

10m air pistol: 1. Manu Bhaker 243.7 (584); 2. Padma Devaram 240.2 (577); 3. Rhythm Sangwan 220.2 (573).

Carlsen survives scare

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Magnus Carlsen survived back-to-back defeats at the hands of the fearless Russian Daniil Dubov in the rapid games before winning the decider Armageddon game to enter the semifinals of the \$100,000 Opera Euro Rapid online chess on Wednesday.

Carlsen will face Maxime Vachier Lagrave.

Wesley So blanked Jan Krzysztof Duda 2-0 to emerge as the most impressive winner of the day. He takes on Teimour Radjabov who won the blitz tie-breaker against Anish Giri.

The results (quarterfinals, set two rapid games): Daniil Dubov (Rus) bt Magnus Carlsen (Nor) 2.5-0.5; (tie-breaker blitz): Carlsen drew with Dubov 1-1.

Armadegon Game: Carlsen wins; Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) drew with Levon Aronian (Arm) 2-2, Vacher qualifies.

Wesley So (USA) bt Jan Krzysztof Duda (Pol) 2-0; Anish Giri (Ned) drew with Teimour Radjabov (Aze) 2-2 (tie-breaker: Radjabov wins 1.5-0.5).

Over-35 (final): Pradeep Pant bt Mohit Phogat 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles (final): Avinash Kunwar & Pradeep Pant bt Aditya Periwal & Harinder Sharma 6-0, 6-2.

Over-45 (semifinals): Gopal Soni bt Yogesh Kohli 5-7, 6-4,

6-3; Gagandeep Wasu bt Vijay Kumar 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Maurico saves the day for Odisha

PUTS A DENT ON BLASTERS' SLIM HOPES OF MAKING THE PLAYOFFS

ISL 2020-21

SPORTS BUREAU

It was a game it desperately wanted to win to keep alive its slim hopes of making the playoffs, but Kerala Blasters had to settle for a 2-2 draw with Odisha FC at the Fatorda Stadium, Margao, on Thursday night.

It was the twin strike from

Diego Mauricio that saved the day for Odisha, while Jordan Murray and Gary Hooper scored for Blasters in a battle between the basement dwellers of the ISL.

Kibu Vicuna's boys made their intention clear right from the beginning, as they pressed forward and Odisha was forced to defend hard.

Murray, Hooper, Sahal Abdul Samad and K.P. Rahul

were a constant threat but failed to put Blasters ahead.

Both teams toiled for a winner, which never came, thanks in no small measure to some fine work by both the goalkeepers.

The result: Odisha FC 2 (Diego Mauricio 45 & 74) drew with Kerala Blasters 2 (Jordan Murray 52, Gary Hooper 68).

Friday's match: SC East Bengal vs Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

Manish will play Rushil Khosla, who had won the last tournament at the same venue, for the honours.

The girls' final will be between top seed Hannah Nagpal and second seed Samiksha Dabas, both of whom had to fight hard in their semifinals.

The results (semifinals): Boys: Manish Yadav bt Daksh Prasad 4-6, 6-4, 6-0; Rushil Khosla bt Aryan Arora 6-1, 6-4.

Girls: Hannah Nagpal bt Ikaraju Kanumuri 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; Samiksha Dabas bt Aditi Tyagi 4-6, 6-0, 6-1.

Bonner props up Windies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Nkrumah Bonner scored an unbeaten half-century as West Indies and Bangladesh shared the honours on the opening day of the second and final Test here on Thursday.

Bonner hit 74, guiding the West Indies to 223 for five at stumps after skipper Kraigg Brathwaite elected to bat, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

The scores: West Indies 223/5 in 90 overs (Kraigg Brathwaite 47, Nkrumah Bonner 74 batting) v Bangladesh.

Toss: West Indies.

Anirudh & Mchugh out

SPORTS BUREAU
SHARM EL SHEIKH

Anirudh Chandrasekar and Aidan Mchugh of Britain lost 0-6, 6-2, [10-8] to Piotr Matuszewski of Poland and David Poliak of the Czech Republic in the doubles quarterfinals of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament here.

Unbelievable Offers. Unforgettable Drive. | Now Buy Your Favourite MARUTI SUZUKI CAR WITH AMAZING OFFERS.

SWIFT SAVE UP TO ₹30 000*
DZIRE SAVE UP TO ₹28 000*

VITARA BREZZA SAVE UP TO ₹30 000*

**Special LTC Bonanza Offer
up to ₹4 000^a for Government Employees.
Encash LTC benefits as per Central
Government announcement**.**

**ALSO AVAILABLE
VIA SUBSCRIPTION.
SCAN TO KNOW MORE.
www.marutisuzuki.com/subscribe**

SWIFT VITARA BREZZA DZIRE

E-book today at www.marutisuzuki.com or visit your nearest Maruti Suzuki dealership | For bulk orders, mail at: anindya.sarkar@maruti.co.in (NCR); abhinav.verma2@maruti.co.in (Delhi)

Fairdeal (Budh Vihar) 844829614	Saya (Azadpur) 47088888	DD Motors (Narela) 999903888	T.R. Sawhney (Saraswati Vihar) 9982263509	D.D. Motors (Peeragarhi) 999903888	T.R. Sawhney (Badli) 971507777	Rana Motors (Prashant Vihar) 999903888	D.D. Motors (Wazirpur) 9999159577	Krish (GT Karnal Road) 9873477733	Rana Motors (GT Karnal Road) 9999149577	Krish (Lajpat Nagar) 9582797810	Competent (Malviya Nagar) 9971500011	AAA Vehicledeas (Mahipalpur) 874587458	Prem Motors (Okhla Ph-1) 9999003888	D.D. Motors (Kotla) 8826892666	Rohan (Safdarjung) (Mathura Road) 9560036262	T.R. Sawhney (Neheru Place) 9999563333	Competent (C.P.) 9582797749	T.R. Sawhney (Daryaganj) 9999399157	Magic Auto (Karol Bagh) 8929268145
D.D. Motors (Sec-20, Dwarka) 999903888	Magic Auto (Mayapur) 8929268146	Prem Motors (Rohani) 973781333	T.R. Sawhney (Rajouri Garden) 9911804494	Competent (Najafgarh) 89268144	Magic Auto (Dwarka Sec-13) 89268144	AAA Vehicledeas (Gundarpur) 9650445555	Competent (Dwarka) 9582797879	Magic Auto (Palam Dabri Road) 8929400501	Competent (Naraina) 9999137164	Fairdeal (Gokulpuri) 9582797748	Rohan (Palwal) 011-4791111	Magic Auto (Bhajanpur) 9999399151	Fair Deal Cars (Shahdara) 8448296114	Competent (Gazipur) 8377007977	Rohan (Ballabgarh) 9818193370	Vipul (Sec-18) 880091555	Vipul (Sec-10) 0120-4824000	Fairdeal Cars (Patali Bagh) 9999700944	
Greater Noida (Udyog Vihar) 981800980	Gurgaon (32nd Milestone) 8750487504	Prem Motors (Naraul) 4845400	Rohan (Sec-54) 8750987509	Prem Motors (JMD Sikandarpur) 4395700	Prem Motors (Udyog Vihar) 4012000	Pasco (Subhash Chowk) 7835003300	Pasco (Sec-18) 9582797739	Pasco (Silverton Sec-29) 4260000	Pasco (Sec-12) 9835003300	Pasco (Tulsi Chowk) 9582797711	Rohan (Palwal) 01275-304100	Rohan (Piyali Chowk) 9999994707	TCS Autoworld (Mathura Road) 8098959602	Bagga Link (Neelam Chowk) 0129-4252525	Rohan (Ballabgarh) 981323824	Vipul (Sec-63) 880091555	Vipul (Sec-10) 0120-4824000	Platinum Motocorp (Mahindergarh) 905308402	
Greater Noida (Farrukhnagar)																			