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

THE HINDU

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
16 pages • ₹10.00

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

GUARANTEED PRELIMS SELECTION
OR GET 100% FEE BACK
• We guarantee you Min 70 Qs Or 20% more than cut off in GS Prelims 2021 from our 10 RED BOOKS for GS Pre Else your 100% Fee will be back.
• We will upload details of Qs from UPSC GS Pre 2021 that will come from these Red Books along with page nos.
3 out of every 4 Qs IN UPSC QS Pre came from our RED BOOKS Since 2008

10 RED BOOKS COVER
• All Old & New NCERTs and 70+ Major Books Covered.
• 100% Coverage of Current Affairs (Jan 2020-May 2021)
• Covering 14 Sources PIB, The Hindu, HT, Mint, PRS, IE, UNO Sites etc.
• Synopsis of India Year Book & Eco Survey 2021
BOOK 1 - World Geography
BOOK 2 - Indian Economy
BOOK 3 - Indian Polity
BOOK 4 - IR, Science & G.K.
BOOK 5 - Indian Geography and Environment
BOOK 6 - Indian History
BOOK 7, 8 & 9 - Current Affairs
BOOL 10 - Gist of IYB, Survey, and Budget
Note - Current Affairs will be covered till May 2021.
₹10000/-

GS PRELIMS TEST SERIES
• Topicwise Fundamental Tests
• Exclusive Current Affairs Test
• Subject-wise Applied Tests
• Comprehensive Full-Length Advanced Tests.
₹8000/-

2020
WE PROMISED & WE DELIVERED
72 questions came from our PRELIMS 10 RED BOOKS in 2020
See Proof:
www.crackias.com/proof

crack IAS .com
Arrow Education
crackIAS.com
921-7070707
crackiasquery@gmail.com

NEARBY

Supreme Court dismisses Aadhaar review petitions

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court, in a majority view, dismissed a series of petitions seeking a review of its 2018 judgment upholding the Lok Sabha Speaker's certification of Aadhaar law as a Money Bill and its subsequent passage in Parliament.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 9

Haryana govt. mulls reopening classes 6 to 8

GURUGRAM
The Haryana government is considering reopening schools for classes 6 to 8 from February 1 and hold annual exams in April-end. The Haryana Board of School Education exams are generally conducted in early March. Parents will have the choice to not send their children to school.

NORTH & EAST ▸ PAGE 4

Level Up IAS Available Online
Prelims Master Program (PMP) 2021
60 Days Program Covering Prelims Syllabus
Started From 18th Jan, 2021 | Fee ₹10,000/-+GST
www.levelupias.com
8826486658, 8826496658

Biden sworn in, delivers message of unity, hope

Kamala Harris becomes first woman Vice-President of U.S.

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

While the transfer of power was not peaceful in the world's oldest constitutional republic, that transfer did occur on Wednesday on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol, as Joseph R. Biden Jr. was sworn in as the 46th President of the U.S.

Just two weeks earlier, a mob had broken into the Capitol seeking to block the ratification of the election results. Addressing the country for the first time as President, Mr. Biden delivered a message of unity and hope while laying out the enormous challenges faced by the country, from a raging pandemic to deep political divisions and frayed race relations. "This is America's day. This is democracy's day. The day of history and hope," Mr. Biden said in his inaugural address.

"Today, we celebrate the triumph not of a candidate, but of a cause – the cause of democracy. The will of the people has been heard and the will of the people has been heeded," Mr. Biden said, adding that democracy was precious and fragile but that it had prevailed.

We did it: Joe Biden congratulating Kamala Harris after she was sworn in at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday. ▪ AP

He referred to the Capitol violence of January 6, and said attempts to overturn the elections will never be successful.

Mr. Biden was administered the oath by Chief Justice John Roberts shortly before noon. Just prior to that, Kamala Devi Harris, the first woman, African American and Indian American to hold the post, was sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor – the first Latina in the U.S.'s top court.

PM congratulates Biden

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Mr. Biden, and said he was committed to working with him to take ties to greater heights.

Past presidents – Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and their spouses – were also present, as was outgoing Vice-President Mike Pence. Conspicuous by his absence was outgoing President Donald Trump, who had left earlier in the day for his residence and resort at Mar-a-Lago in Florida.

"We'll press forward with speed and urgency for we have much to do in this winter of peril and significant possibilities," Mr. Biden said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8
MORE REPORTS ▸ PAGE 13

In a thaw, Centre offers to put off farm reforms for 18 months

Unions to study proposal, return for talks tomorrow

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

Farm union leaders will consider a proposal from the Union government to suspend the implementation of the three contentious farm reform laws for the next year-and-a-half while a committee is formed to look into their demands. Union leaders said the Centre had also offered to submit an affidavit to the Supreme Court to this effect.

They will discuss the proposal internally and return with their response at the next round of discussions on Friday. The proposal was made during the 10th round of talks on Wednesday, and is the first serious sign of movement in the negotiations since tens of thousands of farmers began their protest on the borders of Delhi almost two months ago. Their major demands have been a repeal of the three laws on agricultural marketing, and a new legal guarantee for minimum support prices.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Joining the parade: Farmers arriving to participate in the protest against the farm laws, on the Delhi-Meerut expressway near the Ghazipur border on Wednesday. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

Let police decide on parade: CJI

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad A. Bobde on Wednesday told the government that it was both "improper and irregular" for the Supreme Court to disallow any rally by farmers on Republic Day.

"It is for the police to decide. We will allow you to withdraw. You are the executive of the country. You decide," CJI Bobde, heading a three-judge Bench, addressed Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta.

The CJI's remarks was in response to a submission by Mr. Mehta to adjourn the hearing on a government plea to bar farmers from holding rallies to "disrupt" the Republic Day celebration. Mr. Mehta submitted, "Consider hearing it on January 25... Let us see how the situation develops".

But the CJI allowed the government to withdraw its plea. "You decide what has to be done," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8
WHY CAST ASPERSIONS? ▸ PAGE 9

Sweets, souvenirs in Thulasendrapuram

Kamala Harris's ancestral village celebrates her inauguration through the day

C. JAISANKAR
TIRUVARUR

As the countdown for the inauguration ceremony began in Washington D.C., celebrations broke out in Thulasendrapuram, the ancestral village of new U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris in Tiruvarur district of Tamil Nadu on Wednesday.

From children to octogenarians, residents descended on the streets, against a backdrop of lush green paddy fields, to celebrate the "momentous" occasion. The villagers said her assumption of office will strengthen the relationship between the two largest democracies.

Thulasendrapuram residents celebrating the 'momentous' occasion. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A festive atmosphere prevailed, and the village was decorated with festoons. Enthusiastic villagers set off firecrackers right from dawn, and children danced to music on the streets. Women drew *rangoli* depicting Ms. Harris in front of their houses. Holding placards with her pictures, some villagers marched on the streets.

Special prayers were held at the Dharma Sastha temple, a "favourite temple of her ancestors", wishing her a successful tenure. Laddus were distributed widely and calendars featuring Joe Biden and Ms. Harris became sought-after souvenirs. "I never dreamt that a person with roots in our village would go on to hold the high office of the Vice-President of the U.S. We are all very excited. It is a proud moment for each and every one of us," said J. Sudhakar, a villager.

Her elevation to the position had made her ancestral village popular even in the United States. "We await her visit to Thulasendrapuram. When she visits India, I hope her itinerary includes our village," Mr. Sudhakar added.

Karnataka tops in innovation, shows index

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Karnataka retained its leadership position in the major States category in the second edition of India Innovation Index released by NITI Aayog on Wednesday.

It was followed by Maharashtra, which moved past Tamil Nadu to occupy the second place.

Other States in the top 10 are Telangana, Kerala, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Barring Maharashtra, all other States in the top five are in the south.

Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Bihar scored the lowest on the index, which put them at the bottom in the "major States" category.

"Karnataka's rank is attributable to its substantive number of venture capital deals, registered Geographical Indications and information and communications technology exports. Its high Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow has also enhanced the innovation capabilities of the State," the government think-tank said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2021
TOTAL 20 TESTS @8000/-
BYJU'S The Learning App
IAS 2021
STARTS JANUARY 24TH 2021

TEST	DATE	SUBJECT	SYLLABUS
Test 1	24th Jan. 2021	Polity CA-May 2020	Introduction to Indian Polity, Evolution of Indian Polity, Salient features of the Constitution, Preamble, Union and its Territory, Citizenship, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties, DPSPs, Emergency Provisions, Centre-State Relations, inter-State Relations, Amendments and Schedules. Current Affairs-May 2020.
Test 2	31st Jan. 2021	Economy CA-June 2020	Introduction to Economy, National Income Accounting, Planning in India, NITI Aayog, Money and Banking, Inflation, Poverty and Unemployment, Inclusive Growth, NCERTs of Economy. Current Affairs-June 2020.
Test 3	7th Feb. 2021	Geography CA-July 2020	Fundamentals of Physical and Human Geography + World Map. Current Affairs-July 2020.
Test 4	14th Feb. 2021	Environment and Ecology CA-August 2020	Ecosystem and Ecology, Biodiversity, Environmental Pollution and conservation, Theoretical aspects of Climate Change Sustainable development, Environment Conferences and Conventions, Environment legislations, Environment Organisations + Important species, Parks, Biosphere Reserves, Indian organisations and Legislations related to Environment and Ecology. Current Affairs-August 2020.
Test 5	21st Feb. 2021	Ancient and Medieval History of India and Art and Culture CA-September 2020	Introduction to Ancient History, Pre Historic cultures in India, Indus Valley Civilization, Vedic Society, Pre Mauryan Period, Mahajanpadas, Mauryan Empire, Jainisim, Buddhism, foreign invaders in ancient times, Post Mauryan Era, Gupta Empire, Harshvardhan, Southern Dyanasties India and Islamic world, Tripartite struggle for North India-Palas, pratiharas and Rashtrakutas, Age of conflicts (1000-1200), Delhi Sultanate-I (1200-1300), Delhi Sultanate-II, Mughal Empire, Marathas, Vijaynagar Empire, Bahmani Kingdom, and other dynasties of South India and the Deccan, Decline of Mughals. Current Affairs-September 2020. Architecture Styles, Literature and Philosophy, Dance, Drama/Theatre, Music, Paintings, Food, Puppetry, Crafts, Fairs and Festivals, socio-cultural movements from ancient, Medieval and Modern India.

* FOR THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE VISIT OUR OFFICE
ALSO AVAILABLE IN HINDI MEDIUM
OFFICE: 1B, Third Floor, Pusa Road, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station Gate #8 New Delhi-110005
Call, SMS or WhatsApp
9873643487

6 IN TOP 10
30 IN TOP 100
Rau's IAS Study Circle
Since 1953
OUR UPSC RESULT 2019
300+ SELECTIONS IN CSE 2019
AIR 1 PRADEEP SINGH
AIR 2 JATIN KISHORE
AIR 3 PRATIBHA VERMA
AIR 4 HIMANSHU JAIN
AIR 6 VISHAKHA YADAV
AIR 10 SANJITA MOHAPATRA
Don't let COVID interrupt your learning. Use this time to advance your IAS prep!
Experience Rau's Classroom Teaching at Your Home
via
Scan here to watch DEMO CLASS
INTERACTIVE - ONLINE CLASSES
ONLINE/HYBRID COURSES
NEW BATCHES STARTING FROM
6 FEB for CSE 2022 GS INTEGRATED 1.5 years WEEKEND Batch DELHI
26 FEB for CSE 2022 GS INTEGRATED 1 year REGULAR Batch DELHI JAIPUR BENGALURU
27 MAR for CSE 2022 GS INTEGRATED 1.5 years WEEKEND Batch BENGALURU
FLEXIBILITY switch from Online to Offline course after lockdown!
ADMISSIONS OPEN | APPLY NOW
NEW DELHI 011-40786050, 23317293, 23318135 / 36, 23738906 / 07 BENGALURU 080-25535536 / 37 / 38 / 39, 9916035536 JAIPUR 0141-4106050 / 57, 2722050
www.rauias.com | 011 - 40786050 | www.elearn.rauias.com

IN BRIEF

Air quality improves, mercury likely to dip

NEW DELHI

The air quality in the Capital improved and settled in the 'poor' category on Wednesday after being in the 'severe' category the previous day due to increased wind speed. The India Meteorological Department said that a fresh western disturbance would also bring very light/light rain/thundershower in Delhi on January 23 and that the minimum temperature is likely to dip further and settle at four degrees Celsius by January 24.

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	283	Gurugram	207
Ghaziabad	336	Faridabad	201
Noida	310	Greater Noida	321

Good 0-50 | Satisfactory 51-100 | Moderate 101-200
Poor 201-300 | Very Poor 301-400 | Severe >400

Air Quality Index at 4 p.m. yesterday (Average of past 24 hours) | Source: CPCB

Farmers-police talks on rally route inconclusive

Protesters reject alternative path

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The meeting between farmers' unions and police on Wednesday remained inconclusive as the protesting farmers refused to accept the alternative route for their proposed January 26 tractor rally on Delhi's busy Outer Ring Road.

Union leaders and officers of the Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana police forces met at Vigyan Bhawan here to discuss the route and arrangements of the proposed rally on Republic Day.

A senior police officer said that the farmer leaders were suggested by the officers to take out their rally on the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway, but they did not agree.

The Outer Ring Road passes through several areas of Delhi such as Vikaspuri, Janakpuri, Uttam Nagar, Burari, Peeragarhi and Pitampura.

There might be another round of talks with the police on Thursday, a farmer leader, who attended the meeting, said.

We discussed several points with police officers on our tractor rally on January 26, a senior farmer leader said. Joint Commissioner of Police, (Northern Range), S.S. Yadav coordinated the meeting from the Delhi police side.

Mass mobilisation in Punjab for Republic Day tractor parade

Bike and tractor rallies are being organised by volunteers in all villages as a trial

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

As the farmers' protest is escalating, Punjab is witnessing mass mobilisation for the Republic Day tractor-trolley parade in Delhi.

"In all villages, bike and tractor rallies are being organised every day by our ground-level volunteers. They are going to every nook and corner to exhort those who are still at home to come out in support of the farmers and reach Delhi on January 26," said Amreek Singh, District Pradhan, Bharat Kisan Union- Jalandhar (Kadian).

Mr. Singh said women in villages are also carrying out *jaago* -- groups knocking on the doors of each house and asking them to participate. He also said that multiple tractors are being loaded on top of trolleys. "Two tractors are loaded on top of a trolley. It serves two purposes - more vehicles being brought in and saving fuel," he said.

A farmer dusting his tractor near Ghazipur. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

Saving money, fuel

Explaining further, Mr. Singh said the fuel cost to travel from Punjab to Delhi is around ₹12,000, and by packing two tractors in a trolley they end up saving nearly ₹25,000. "We've also hired trailer to bring 10 tractors in one go. We give them ₹50,000 and still end up saving ₹70,000," he said.

Santok Singh Sandhu, Kirti Kisan union member, said that 120 tractors filled with labour groups will be coming for Republic Day parade.

From the Singhu border, only tractors will be part of the parade, they said.

Anticipated move

After the talks between government and farmer leaders, protesting farmers said that they had anticipated this move by the government and weren't expecting the deadlock to end. "If the government hasn't nudged till now, what difference would have happened today [Wednesday]? The situation will remain the same and we will not move," said Manpreet Singh from Ludhiana.

Protesting farmer from Haryana dies

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A farmer who allegedly consumed a poisonous substance at the Tikri border died during treatment here on Wednesday, the police said. The deceased was a resident of Haryana.

In a purported note, the farmer wrote: "The government says it is a matter of only 2-3 States, but farmers from all over the country are protesting against the laws. Sadly, it is not a movement now, but a fight of issues... talks with the Central government also remain deadlocked."

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday (10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)

'Intel officials keeping eye on Khalsa Aid'

We don't help based on religion but where help is required: Amarpreet Singh

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Khalsa Aid's director in India Amarpreet Singh, who has been summoned by the National Investigation Agency to appear for questioning, said that he knows that intelligence officials keep a check on them and also speaks to him regularly.

Speaking to *The Hindu* at the Singhu border, he said that whenever Khalsa Aid undertakes projects in different parts of the country and other counties also, people perceive Khalsa in a negative way, especially after 1984 riots. "They associate the term with anti-national activities. It takes us time to convince them that we are not in any way associated with any anti-national organisation. I think the NIA is probably thinking on the same lines," he laughed.

A 'Kisan Mall' at the Singhu border protest site in Delhi. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Mr. Singh said that he knows intelligence officials are always standing around the Khalsa Aid Kisan Mall here. "They talk to me also and if those officers are reporting back to their bosses, then I don't understand why we are being questioned," he wondered.

Talking about the questioning of one of the trustees last week, he said that the NIA focused on Khalsa Aid's funding for farmers' protest.

"They questioned him for seven-eight hours and were fairly polite. They asked him about the funding, how did we buy geysers and massage machines and if we are getting foreign funding," he said, adding that he was scheduled to be questioned on Monday but received a call on Sunday night to reschedule. Mr. Singh's first reaction to NIA notice was "shock- cum-disappointment" and he wondered, "what kind of problems does the government have?"

However, reaction of certain media was expected, he said, because they have purportedly faced this before when they helped the Rohingya Muslims in Bangladesh and provided aid in Syria. "We are questioned as to why are we helping members of another community if we are Sikhs and when we have a problem of poverty in our own country. Also, we were being covered a lot because of the new ideas we were implementing, so the hate campaign was expected. But we keep telling everyone that we don't help based on religion or community but where help is required," he said.

Volunteers' reaction

Talking about volunteers' reaction to the notices, he said they are slightly scared but they tell him to take it easy. "Volunteers are also disappointed because they leave their work to help people here and when they go back to their workplace and are asked questions, it's not the best feeling to feel," he said.

'Ration from anganwadis reached 85% beneficiaries'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A survey conducted by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) on distribution of dry ration from Anganwadis shows that nearly 85% of the beneficiaries have received their nutritional supplements this month. This is an increase from 44% distribution status in May 2020.

The rapid response survey conducted in 12 areas of Delhi involved a random sample of 1,267 beneficiaries that include pregnant women, lactating mothers and children below six years of age.

Beneficiaries receive 260 gm of *bhuna chana* for mother and child, 1,690 gm for mother and 1,300 gm of *dalia* for child, 130 gm of *gudd* for mother and child and 1,300 gms of *kala chana* for mother and child. The survey was conducted between January 4 and January 9 and was conducted to ensure that beneficiaries registered in Anganwadis are receiving the Take Home Ration (THR) and other benefits.

Anurag Kundu, Chairperson of the DCPCR, said that monitoring and tracking are the pillars of ensuring that the beneficiaries of a scheme get equitable access to their entitled aids.

New addition

Rafale fighter jet (left) along with a Jaguar aircraft conduct a fly-past during the Republic Day parade rehearsal at Rajpath in New Delhi on Wednesday. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

Remove all obstacles in way of road redesigning projects, CM tells PWD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday chaired a review meeting with Public Works Department (PWD) officials on the status of the ongoing redesigning and streetscaping of seven road stretches and 540 km of identified roads in the Capital along the lines of European cities.

"The process of designing the roads should be done in a swift manner and the project should be completed within the stipulated deadline. The PWD should ensure the removal of all obstacles, the project needs to be completed in two years. There should be no laxity in the completion," Mr. Kejriwal was quoted.

The Delhi government is working to redesign 100-foot wide roads spread across 540 km in the city. Mr. Kejriwal approved the project in November 2019.

The development of these roads will be on the lines of the Built-Operate-Transfer model and the construction company will take care of the maintenance for 15 years.

The main aim of the project will be removing bottlenecks from roads for a smooth flow of traffic and decongestion, constructing disabled-friendly infrastructure.

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR CELEBRATION OF RAVI DASS JAYANTI

Government of NCT of Delhi is inviting applications for **Ravi Dass Jayanti on 27-02-2021** under **"Scheme for Celebration of Birth/Death Anniversary of Eminent personalities"**

Government of NCT of Delhi will provide assistance through empanelled agencies to the desirous Organizations in the form of arrangement for tentage, sound system, lighting, banners etc.

Eligibility:-

The following are eligible to apply for assistance under the scheme:-

i.) NGOs, registered under Societies Registration Act.
ii.) Only those NGOs which are registered under Society Registration Act and having audited accounts are eligible.

List of the items for providing assistance to the desirous NGOs are as follows:-

a. Tentage.
b. Chairs.
c. Sofa.
d. Tables.
e. Curtains, Mat etc.
f. Sound System.
g. Light System.
h. Banners/Hoardings.

Procedure for applying:

The Organizations interested to apply may submit a detailed proposal, containing:-

i.) Details of such celebrations / activities organized by them in the past.
ii.) The duly filled in applications & recommended by area MLA along with copies of Registration Certificate and audited accounts should be submitted by the registered NGOs/Organization to the Department for the welfare of SC/ST/OBC, GNCT of Delhi, B Block, 2nd floor, Vikas Bhawan, I.P.Estate, New Delhi-02, by 12-02-2021 positively. Applications received thereafter will not be considered.

Selected NGOs have to provide photographs of the event organized by them and abide by stipulations of the department for proper organization of the event. Organizers will also be required to submit a declaration to the effect that Govt. guidelines/SOP applicable for organizing religious/cultural functions will be followed scrupulously to prevent spread of Covid-19.

For full details, please visit Department website:- scstwelfare.delhigovt.nic.in

DIP/SHABDARTH/0565/20-21

We are taking all necessary COVID 19 Precautionary Measures

SWEATER & JACKETS SALE
WINTER OFFER

Hi-Fashion winter Collection 2020
Best Brands Sweaters, Jackets sweat shirts, Lower, Cardigan & winter wears

upto 60% off

By Economy Sales: 9212758425

ARROW Raymond ColorPlus LOUIS PHILIPPE PARK AVENUE

• PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
• 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

Tender Notice No.7 of 2020-21
Government of Gujarat
Narmada Water Resources Water Supply & Kalpasar Department Gandhinagar

In the Name and behalf of Govt. of Gujarat state the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Project Dn. No.2, Sukhi Colony, Alikherava Road, Bodeli-391135 Ta. Bodeli Dist. Chhotauedpur Phone No. 0265-220319 invites online B-2 tenders for the following works from the below registered contractor on N.W.R.W.S. & Kalpasar Dept. and R.B Dept. of Gujarat State.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated tender value Rs.	E.M.D in Rs.	Tender Fee Rs.	Class of Registration
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Improvement renovation and repairs to canal earthwork, lining, C.d.works and service road for Heran Main Canal ch. 0 to 20.391km., Branch Canal No.2 ch.0 to 3.51 km. and Branch Canal No.3 ch. 0 to 5.608 km. of Heran weir irrigation scheme.	14,48,04,374.76	14,48,044.00	18,000.00	'AA' Class
(1)	Downloading of tender	Dt. 30-01-2021 Time : 12:00 hrs.			
(2)	P.Q conference Date & Time	Dt. 06-02-2021 Time : 13:00 hrs. Place : Vadodara irrigation Circle, Vadodara			
(3)	Last Date of online Submission	Dt. 15-02-2021 Time : 18:00 hrs.			
(4)	Submission of EMD tender Fees (By R.P.A.D./Speed post)	Dt. 17-02-2021 To Dt. 24-02-2021 Time : 16:00 hrs. Place : Executive Engineer, Irrigation Project Division No. 2, Bodeli			
(5)	Online opening P.Q Bid	Dt. 18-02-2021 Time : 13:00 hrs. Place : Vadodara irrigation Circle, Vadodara			
(6)	Website	www.nwr.nprocure.com			

(INF-VAD 1148 2020-21)

Plea alleges police land encroachment

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The High Court on Wednesday issued notices to Delhi government's Public Works Department, the police, and the North Delhi Municipal Corporation on a petition alleging encroachment of police colony land in Shalimar Bagh.

Justice Pratibha M. Singh while hearing the petition said, "I actually find it quite amusing that police land has been encroached upon". The HC also issued notice to the people who allegedly have done the encroachment.

'Farm owner held for killing pig thief'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing a person who, along with his accomplice, allegedly came to steal his pigs, the police said. The accused has been identified as Prince alias Aman, a resident of Bhalswa dairy.

Around two months ago, the thieves had assaulted Prince and stolen some of his pigs. When they returned, he shot at them, allegedly killing one.

Timings
DELHI

THURSDAY, JAN. 21		
RISE	07:14	SET 17:52
RISE	12:15	SET 00:34
FRIDAY, JAN. 22		
RISE	07:14	SET 17:53
RISE	12:47	SET 01:27
SATURDAY, JAN. 23		
RISE	07:14	SET 17:54
RISE	13:22	SET 02:20

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	18	08
Safdarjang	18	08
Palam	17	09

Delhi Palam Today
21°C Moderate fog during morning. Cool light to moderate winds likely over the are. A bright sunny day.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
22°C A cold morning with moderate to dense fog. A pleasant day with partly cloudy sky and light winds.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

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

'Concerned about home delivery of ration plan'

Food security forum flags graft scope

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Rozi Roti Adhikhar Abhiyaan (DRRAA) on Wednesday wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal expressing concerns over the proposed policy of home delivery of ration.

The DRRAA said that there was a lack of transparency regarding the policy and an absence of a monitoring mechanism would increase the chances of corruption and extortion.

Stating that the proposal of home delivery of ration was being pushed through without public consultation, the DRRAA, in its letter to the CM, said that people were informed of the proposal through text messages.

The letter also stated that when the DRRAA volunteers approached government officials, they were unable to respond to queries pertaining to the proposal.

"Expecting people to take a decision in such a scenario where no relevant details of the proposed policy are available in the public domain is meaningless. It is pertinent to point out that given the fact that many people, especially those with meagre economic means often do not have a working mobile phone connection... it is likely that many of the nearly 18 lakh households, who have ration cards, may not have even received the SMS intimation," the letter read.

The DRRAA also stated that an absence of monitoring mechanisms would increase the scope of corruption.

"In the current scenario, where there is poor oversight and monitoring of the existing 2,000 ration shops in Delhi, it is unclear how the administration will carry out oversight of a large number of delivery persons delivering to lakhs of homes... We call upon the Delhi government to immediately put on hold its proposal for home delivery of ration," the DRRAA said in its letter to Mr. Kejriwal.

Fertility clinics see rush with start of COVID-19 vaccination

IVF clinics following strict safety norms, screening donors and recipients for virus

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

A year into the COVID-19 pandemic and with two vaccines now available, fertility clinics in the national capital claim that the rush is back with walk-in patients having more than doubled as compared to December 2019.

Infertility expert and founder of Seeds of Innocence Gauri Agarwal said patients who had been waiting during the lockdown are now coming and looking to start the treatment.

"There is, however, an additional pressure on IVF clinics to ensure screening of donors due to the threat of COVID-19. We are following a strict screening protocol, including RT-PCR test and on-day pick up," said Dr. Gauri.

She added that the priority is thorough screening as it is not only about financial and time implications but also emotional and physical trauma. "We ensure that the donors are safe and are taking all precautions against the virus," she said.

Fertility clinics have refrained from conducting donor egg cycles due to risk of COVID-19 infection. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Doctors said they did not do donor egg cycles for a long time because of the risk of COVID-19 infection due to involvement of a third party, and sperm samples are used after six months of freezing.

Renu Misra, head of department (HOD) at Miracles Fertility and IVF in Gurugram, said: "What we saw was that a lot of people waiting for infertility treatment got pregnant on their own during the pandemic."

"Remote working measures by many firms during the pandemic encouraged couples to start their family. As both partners are at home, they have been getting enough time together to take decisions that took a backseat due to their pre-COVID busy life. As a result, we have witnessed over 10,000 people coming for consultations across our 27 IVF centres in 19 cities during this period. This shows there is definitely an increase in couples planning to start families and coming for treatment," said Aswati Nair, fertility consultant at Nova IVF.

Speaking about the practical issues doctors faced during the pandemic, R.K. Sharma, IVF specialist, said the problem is more with the egg donors.

Practical problems

"Once you stimulate the donor and if she tests positive for COVID, then the cycle has to be cancelled, which has a lot of psychological and financial affect on the recipient and donor, and also becomes difficult for the clinicians to handle. As far as the donor is concerned, the person has to take an RT-PCR test before freezing semen. After one month, the donor has to take an antibody test. Only if the result is negative, then the sample is used. Hence, smart testing and tracing is the need of the hour," he said.

A health worker collecting a sample from a woman in Delhi. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Over 200 new infections, 10 fatalities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The national capital reported 228 new COVID-19 cases, 10 deaths and 405 recoveries in 24 hours, government health bulletin said on Wednesday.

The bulletin stated that 63,161 tests were held with a positivity rate of 0.36%. Of the total tests, 32,957 were RT-PCR and 30,204 were rapid antigen tests.

The total number of active cases in the city currently stands at 2,147. The city now has 2,168 containment zones.

The total number of cases now stands at 6,33,049 and total deaths at 10,774.

₹10,000 COVID relief for 407 workers: govt.

Over 2,000 to get compensation soon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Building and Other Construction workers Welfare Board, under the directions of Deputy Chief Minister and Labour Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, granted COVID relief disbursement of ₹10,000 each to 407 construction workers, the Delhi government said on Wednesday.

After taking charge of the Labour Department in November 2020, the government said, Mr. Sisodia carried out various inspections in labour offices on the basis of which a series of reforms have been carried out. These include the registration of construction workers through doorstep delivery programme, reforming process of claim disbursement and granting of claims to construction workers within 72 hours of application submission.

More than 2,000 construction workers will also receive the relief amount in the coming weeks.

These construction workers belong to poorest of poor section of the society and were one of the worst-hit during COVID-19 pandemic, the government said.

'Biomedical waste sites must get authorisation'

NGT asks CPCB to ensure compliance

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed biomedical waste management facilities in the country to obtain authorisation from State pollution control boards while asking the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to ensure strict compliance of biomedical waste management rules.

A Bench headed by NGT chief, Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, said: "The CPCB needs to review the compliance status from time to time - at least once in every quarter - and issue directions based on the observations from the reports received."

Noting that an environmental compensation of ₹7.17 crore and ₹85 lakh imposed on various healthcare facilities and biomedical waste treatment facilities were recovered, the Bench said, "The CPCB may ensure that for strict compliance of rules, the compensation regime is duly applied against the defaulters, following due process. Standards of handling of BMW need to be duly complied."

"The authorities must ensure that waste is disposed of only through authorised agencies, common facilities are located as per sitting guidelines and there is environmental clearance..." the Bench added.

'Over 1,200 bird deaths in Capital since Jan. 6'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Over 1,200 bird deaths have been reported in Delhi in the last 15 days amid the avian influenza situation here, officials said on Wednesday.

Of the 201 samples collected from various places in the national capital, 24 have tested positive for bird flu so far, the director of the animal husbandry unit of the Delhi government's Development Department, Rakesh Singh, said.

"A total of 1,216 bird deaths have been reported in Delhi since January 6. However, all the deaths cannot be attributed to bird flu. Cold stress is another major reason," he said.

On Tuesday, authorities restricted the entry of public into the Red Fort till Friday after a sample of a dead crow tested positive for bird flu. Around 15 crows were found dead in the premises of the Red Fort on January 10.

"Four cranes were found dead in Delhi zoo a few days ago. Twelve samples were collected and sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for testing," Mr. Singh said.

HIGH FEES NO LONGER AN OBSTACLE IN REALISING YOUR DREAMS!

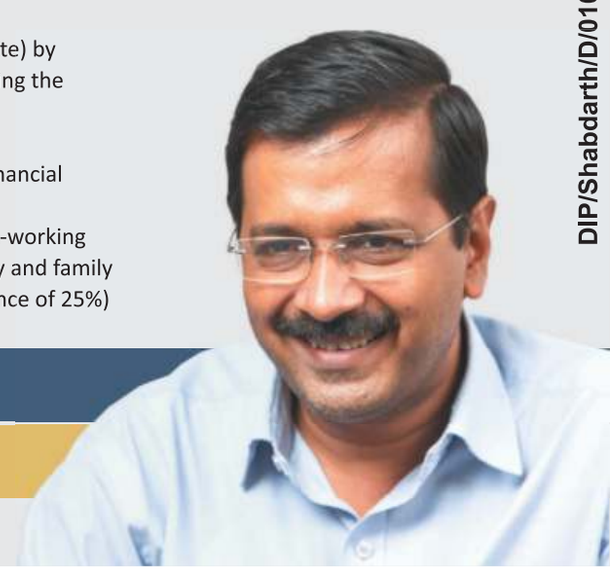
DELHI GOVERNMENT'S 'FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME' FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN UNDERGRADUATE COURSES FROM EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AFFILIATED TO DELHI STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

ELIGIBILITY (Annual Family Income from all sources)	QUALIFYING MARKS (All subjects)	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Category 1 - Ration card holders under National Food Security Scheme	60%	100%
Category 2 - Annual Income Up to Rs 2.5 Lakh	60%	50%
Category 3 - Annual Income Between Rs 2.50 to Rs 6 Llakh	60%	25%

Note: Relaxation of 5% in Qualifying marks for SC/ST Students

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Copy of Marksheet/Certificate of having passed class XII or qualify examination.
- Certificate related to SC/ST Category issued by competent authority.
- Copy of Passbook/E-Statement of the student bank account which should be Aadhaar seeded.
- A declaration, as per Format at Annexure- "A" (available on Directorate of Higher Education website) by the student affirming that no financial support has been availed from any other Scheme for meeting the cost of Education for course/program.
- Copy of Valid Ration Card (for students requesting Financial Assistance of 100%)
- Copy of family Income certificate issued by SDM/competent authority (for students requesting Financial Assistance of 50%)
- Copy of Full Income Tax Return for both parents for the previous Financial Year. In the case of non-working parent, an affidavit affirming non employment certified by the office of SDM/competent authority and family income certificate issued by SDM/competent authority (for students requesting Financial Assistance of 25%)



Apply online before March 15, 2021: https://edistrict.delhigovt.nic.in/

For more details: http://higheredn.delhigovt.nic.in/

दिल्ली सरकार आप की सरकार

Directorate of Higher Education, Government of NCT of Delhi

DIP/Shabdarth/D/0102/20-21

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/2012/49940 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 11 • No. 17

Haryana govt. mulls reopening classes 6 to 8

It won't be binding on parents to send their wards, says State Education Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

The Haryana government is mulling to reopen schools for Class VI-VIII from February 1 and hold annual exams in April-end. However, the parents will have the choice to not send their wards to the schools.

State Education Minister Kanwar Pal on Wednesday said the government was considering to open schools for junior classes since the fear for COVID-19 had begun to dissipate and the overall atmosphere had improved. He said that exams for government schools might be conducted in April-end. The Haryana Board of School Education exams are usually conducted in early March.

"The overall atmosphere has improved and the fear of coronavirus is gradually going. The recovery rate is around 98% and the number of patients has also gone down. The vaccine has also been launched," said Mr. Pal.

Students attending classes, following pandemic protocol, in a Gurugram school in October last year. ▪ FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

He, however, added that the order to reopen schools would not be binding on the parents and they would have the choice to not send their wards to schools.

Regular physical classes are being held for Grade IX-XII for almost a month now. However, the district education officers maintained that the attendance was only around 50 % on an average. Those attending the classes need to furnish a medical certificate confirming that they don't have any COVID-like symptoms and also need a consent from the parents in writing.

Assam Assembly polls before CBSE board exams, says CEC

'Bihu dates will also be taken into cognisance while drawing up the schedule'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora on Wednesday said the Assam Assembly polls will be held keeping in mind the Rongali Bihu festival and the process will be finished before the CBSE Board exams beginning on May four.

The Commission is sensitive towards festivals held in the various States "and we have already taken into consideration this before coming here for the review meetings", the CEC told reporters here.

The political parties during interaction with the full bench of the poll panel had made a plea to keep in view the Bihu festival while deciding the poll schedule to encourage more voter turnout and also to ensure that the monsoon, which usually arrives early in the State, is avoided.

CEC Sunil Arora in Guwahati on Wednesday. ▪ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Rongali Bihu, also known as Bohag Bihu, is celebrated by the people of Assam to mark the Assamese New Year. It is usually observed in the second week of April with the onset of spring.

"The Bihu festival dates will be taken into cognisance and factored in while drawing up the schedule of election dates accordingly", Mr. Arora added.

The commission had meetings with Central Board of Secondary Education officials to decide on the poll schedule framework and "we have decided that the election process will be finished before the Board exams begin on May four", he said.

The term of 126-member Assam house is ending on May 31, 2021.

The political parties had also impressed upon the commission to hold the elections with strict COVID-19 protocols and this will be adhered to strictly with the number of auxilliary polling booths increased in the State, Mr. Arora said.

The maximum number of electors at a polling station has been reduced from 1500 to 1000, he said.

Accordingly for Assam, the number of polling stations would go up by about 5,000 and likely to be more than 33,000 for the forthcoming elections, the CEC added.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES JAMMU
Near MLA Hostel, Indira Chowk Jammu, J&K Pin: 180001
E-mail: dhsjammu@rediffmail.com, dhsjammu@gmail.com
Tel. No. : 0191 - 2546338, 0191-2549632 Fax No. 0191-2549632

Dr. Usha Kiran Raina, Medical Officer
D/o Sh. Sham Lai
W.No.3 Camp Khour The. Khour District, Jammu.

Sub.- Notice.

Whereas, the Chief Medical Officer, Udhampur vide letter No.CMO/U/11142 dated 15.01.2021 has reported that you proceeded on two weeks Medical Leave on 28.09.2020 and did not turn back till date, and;

Whereas, your unauthorised absence has caused a great inconvenience to Public of the area as well as to the Administration; and;

Whereas, under Art. 128 of J&K CSR Vol. 1 absence without leave or after end of leave involves loss of appointment.

Now, therefore, a notice is hereby served upon you to join your duty immediately at your respective place of posting i.e. D.H Udhampur, otherwise disciplinary action will be initiated against you as warranted under rules.

Sd/-
Dy. Director Health Services Jammu

DIP/J-10255/20

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 35 Yrs. (Approx.), **Height:** 158 cms., **Sex:** Male, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Mehroon Colour Coat and Checkdar Lungi, **Place of Recovery:** Found dead on 19.01.2021 at Bavli Gate near Sulabh Sauchalya Basti, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi.

In this regard **FIR/DD No. 26A, Dated 19.01.2021** has been lodged at **Police Station, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi**. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO
P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi
Ph.: 011-24355758

DP/24/SE/2021

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders (Open Tender) 01/2021 (MFC) invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), North Eastern Railway, Lucknow for and on behalf of the president of India for the following works: **Tender Notice No. and Description of works: 01/2021 (MFC)** Commercial Exploitation of available space in the Multi Functional Complex (MFC) Area 1800 Sq. Mtrs (521.34 Sq. Mtr for Commercial Use) at Barhni Station for 05 years, **Approx. value:** 1st Year ₹ 9,83,097/- + GST As Applicable, 2nd Year ₹ 10,51,914/- + GST As Applicable, 3rd Year ₹ 11,25,547/- + GST As Applicable, 4th Year ₹ 12,04,336/- + GST As Applicable, 5th Year ₹ 12,88,640/- + GST As Applicable, Total value for 05 years ₹ 56,53,534/- + GST As Applicable, **EMD Money:** ₹ 1,13,075/-, **Cost of Tender forms:** ₹ 5,000/-, **Security money:** Amount equivalent to 10% (Ten) of 05 years contract value (Accepted rates). **Note:** • Date and Time for Sale of Tender Documents up to **10.00** to **17.00 hrs** from **20.01.2021** to **22.02.2021** (on any working days). • Receipt of tender on **23.02.2021, 10.00** to **14.00 hrs**. • Date and Time of opening **15.00 hrs.** On **23.02.2021** • Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions is available on website **https://www.ner. indianrailways.gov.in** as well as at office of the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), North Eastern Railway, Ashok Marg, Lucknow.

Divl. Railway Manager/(Comm.)
CPRO/C-66 Lucknow

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

BJP starts campaigning for Rajasthan Assembly bypolls

Amid leadership tussle, party seeks to put up a united front

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Facing internal feuds and tussle over the leadership issues, the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party in Rajasthan has kicked off the campaign for the Assembly by-elections in four constituencies, the dates for which are yet to be announced. A series of party workers' meetings have been planned in the run-up to the bypolls.

The State unit has been confronted with factionalism since the formation of an outfit supporting former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje and a section of the party leaders demanding that she be declared the chief ministerial candidate for the 2023 Assembly election. The BJP has officially deprecated the attempts to project any individual as the CM.

While the BJP has given importance to Ms. Raje's detractors for the last several months and even appointed some of them to important organisational posts, the party has sought to put up a united front ahead of the by-elections, expected to be held in March. The first meeting of the workers of the front organisations was held at Sujangarh in Churu district on Tuesday.

'Indomitable force'

State president Satish Poonia, who addressed the meeting after offering prayers at the nearby Salasar Balaji temple, said the party was working hard to finish the trend of Congress and BJP being elected alternately every five years. "We are committed to making the BJP an indomitable force. We will strengthen the ideology of nationalism to ensure our party's victory."

A large number of workers of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) Morcha, Mahila Morcha, Minority Morcha and Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha attended the meeting. The Sujangarh Assembly seat fell vacant after the death of Congress MLA and Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Bhanwarlal Meghwal on November 16, 2020.

The three other constituencies going to the bypolls are Rajsamand, Sahara (Bhilwara) and Vallabhnagar (Udaipur), due to the death of MLAs. While BJP MLA from Rajsamand Kiran Maheshwari died in November 2020, Sahara and Vallabhnagar were represented by Congress MLAs Kailash Trivedi and Gajendra Singh Shaktawat, respectively.

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUNASI DAM DIVISION, PUNASI CAMP DEOGHAR

e-Procurement Very-Short Tender Notice

Tender Reference No. :- WRD/PUNASI DAM DIVISION PUNASI CAMP DEOGHAR /F2-01/2020-21
Dt :20.01.2021

1.	Name of the work	Construction of Watch tower cum Inspection bunglow cum lounge on the hillock between Ch. 70.0 and Dyke-A of Punasi earthen dam.
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs.14417071.83 (Rupees one crore forty four lakh seventeen thousand seventy one and paise eighty three) only
3.	Time of Completion	360 days
4.	Last date & Time for receipt of bids	01.02.2021 Up to 5:00 P.M.
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	22.01.2021 11:00 A.M.
6.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer Punasi Dam Division, Punasi Camp-Deoghar
7.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	08298144129
8.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	06432-232477

Note :- Only E-Tender will be accepted
Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Punasi Dam Division, Punasi Camp – Deoghar

PR239743 (Water Resource)20-21*D

Online Tender
GOVT. OF GUJARAT (R&B) DEPARTMENT
Tender Notice No.09 of 2020-21

In the name and on behalf of Governor of Gujarat State the Executive Engineer, Chhotaudepur (R&B) Division, Chhotaudepur (Phone No: 02669-233862) invites online tender from registered contractors for annual rates for mandap items, 01 (one) work of Bridge and 01 one work of building (Esti. cost of Rs.293.88 Lakh to Rs.1050.00 lakhs) in form B-1

The Bid documents will be available for the above works up to dt. 22/02/2021 up to 1200 Hrs. on Website **https://rnb.nprocure.com.**

Last date of Online Submission of bid are as above up to dt.22/02/2021 up to 18:00 hrs.

For further particulars please visit above website and website of Gujarat Govt. **www.statetenders.com.** or contact this office during office hours. Any Changes/modifications will be seen online.

(INF-VAD-1155- 2020-21)

BJP ignoring interests of farmers, labourers: Haryana Cong. chief

'The two are India's backbone'

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Congress chief Kumari Selja on Wednesday hit out at the BJP, accusing it of ignoring interests of farmers and labourers, who she said were backbone of the country.

"This earth is our mother and forgetting mother is the biggest crime. The BJP is committing the same crime today and the motherland will never forgive this government. Farmers and labourers are the backbone of the country, and if farmers and labourers will suffer, the country cannot progress," she said.

Kumari Selja

Toll plaza protests

Ms. Selja was speaking among the farmers, who had been agitating against Centre's new farm laws at the Badopatti toll plaza in Hisar and Narwana toll plaza in Jind.

"Farmers and labourers are forced to sit on the streets in this bitter cold due to the black farm laws of this government. This is not a political movement as being politicised by the BJP. It is the people's mass movement and being a political party, the Congress is performing its duty and fighting a political battle. Under the leadership of Mr. Rahul Gandhi, the Congress party is continuously fighting against these anti-agriculture black laws," she said.

Ms. Selja said that farmers and labourers are very well aware of their loss and profit.

"Farmers and labourers used to keep their demands during the tenure of Congress government as well, which were listened to and fulfilled. But the BJP government is arrogant. If the farmers and labourers are unhappy, the days of BJP government will be over soon," Ms. Selja said.

Delhi dharna

Two Punjab Cabinet Ministers Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa and Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria joined the *dharna* at Jantar Mantar in Delhi with the Congress MPs of Punjab in support of farmers.

In a joint statement issued here today, both the Punjab Ministers demanded that the Union government should immediately withdraw the three black laws imposed on farmers.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

DOB 16.09.1955
DOD 21.01.2017

Smt. K.A. SHANTHA KUMARI
Director, KBS Manian & Bros Pvt Ltd

Sweet Memories of you keep us going
Even when the pain of losing
you are still so fresh in our heart, We miss you
Family & Staffs

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

DOB 12.09.1954
DOD 21.01.2016

R.SAI SANKAR

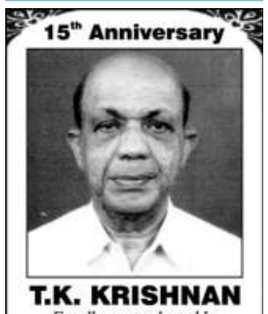
Fondly remembered by Family & staff of Southern Gasket Products, Naveen Gaskets Pvt Ltd. & Sankar Gasket Products.
Estd : 1981, Chennai.
Cell:9884266669 / 9841022628

In memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
011-43579797
from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to
www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

15th Anniversary



T.K. KRISHNAN
Fondly remembered by
Family & Friends
Ph: 044- 4269 0603

In Fond Memory of
Mr. V.S.K. DURAISWAMY NADAR, M.A.,

THIRTY SIXTH ANNIVERSARY
21.01.2021
Ever Loving
D. ANANDA RAJAN
Family Members
D. MANOHARA RAJAN
Family Members
D. GUNASEELA RAJAN
Family Members

For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m.
New Delhi : 011- 43579797
Rate for New Delhi:
(Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines
Extra Line - Rs.160/-)
(B/W Display): Rs.60/Per Sq.cm
(Clr Display) : Rs.70/Per Sq.cm
Log on to
www.thehinduads.com
For Placing Advertisements Online

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

EDUCATIONAL

LAW AMBITION LAW INSTITUTE Since 2001
www.ambitionlawinstitute.com
ONLINE OFFLINE COURSE
Your Key to Success Requires Ambition

"LAW IS NOTHING BUT COMMON SENSE AND LOGIC"
– Alok Kr. Ranjan

Haryana Judiciary Prelims Crash Course — JAN. 28 — 8800660301
JUDICIARY — FOUNDATION : 11 JAN. — 8800660301
CLAT — FOUNDATION : 11 JAN. WEEKEND : 9 JAN. — 8800660380
JUDICIARY — WEEKEND : 11 APRIL. — 8800660301
न्यायिक सेवा — फाउंडेशन : 19 FEB. — 8800662130
IAS (LAW) — FOUNDATION : 27 JAN. 2021 — 8800662140
IAS (LAW MAINS) — TEST SERIES : 7 FEB. — 8800662140
Toll Free : 1800120002001
Watch FREE Lectures on You Tube Channel of Ambition Law Institute

VIJETHA IAS ACADEMY
www.vijethaiasacademy.com
Online/Offline
Targeted Prelims Program 2021 (TPP)
Prelims Test Series
120 Tests
8050 MCQ's / Fee Rs. 3600 + GST
Starts: 7th Feb, 2021
011-42473555
9650852636
New Delhi-60

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASHWANI S/O Ombir Singh R/O Khasra No. 96/2, Gali. No. 12, Near Hanuman Mandir, Wazirabad Village, Burari, Delhi–110084 have changed my name to ASHWANI KUMAR RANA forever vide affidavit 62/2021 dated 19.01.2021 sworn before Notary Sateesh Kumar Tiwari, Delhi.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF CHITS AT VIZIANAGARAM
ACP NO: 188 / 2019
BETWEEN:
M/S Shriram Chits Pvt Ltd, Parvathipuram Branch, Rep by its Divisional Manager. ..... DISPUTANT
VERSUS
SUBSCRIBER
Bishnu Charan Nag & 3 others
GUARANTORs.
OP1) Mr. Bishnu Charan Nag, S/o Sansar Nag, Hindu, aged about 44 years, working as Asst., Professor Motilal Nehru College, New Delhi, resident at Door No: 14-111/9, Ganpati Green Apartment, Kishangorh MCD School,Vasantkuni, South West Dehli State. .. OPPONENTS

NOTICE

పై నెంబరు దావా మీ మంచి దావా సొమ్ము మరియు ఖర్చులు రాబట్టుకోనే నిమిత్తం పై అర్జీదారు వద్ద వారి వాటాలు వేసియున్నారు. సదరు దావాలో మీకు ఎటువంటి అభ్యంతరం ఉన్నచో తే 28-01-2021 న మం గం. 2.30 గంటలకు పై కోర్టులో మీరు స్వయంగా గాని లేదా లాయరు ద్వారా గాని హాజరై మీ వారన వెలియజేసుకోవాలి. లేని యెడల అర్జీదారుడు పైదావా మీ పరోక్షమున తీర్మానించవ మనుచని యుందువలనుగా తెలియజేయడమైనది.

డివిజినల్ మేనేజర్
శ్రీరామ్‌చిట్స్ ప్రైవేట్ లిమిటెడ్, విజయనగరం

EDUCATIONAL

Geography (Optional)
by AJAY RAJ SINGH
Classroom Batch Begins from 23rd Jan.
Time: 10:00 AM
Class Begins From Basics
Admission Open
Geographia IAS Institute
Address - A-1, Dheerpur, Main Bus Stand, Near Nirankari Colony. Ph.: 9958218172.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of our client i.e.; **Axis Bank Ltd,** that **Mrs. Dimpi Batra** who intend to purchase & mortgage the **Plot No. 13,** area measuring 254.16 Sq. Yds., in Block-5, WEA **Karol Bagh, New Delhi** with our client against the financial assistance. Whereas, Mr. Dina Nath was the owner of the said property by way of Conveyance Deed dtd. 30.01.2003 and who died on 20.07.2012, leaving behind following legal heirs i.e.; Mrs. Gargi Gupta **(Daughter)**, Mr. Satish Kumar Khandelwal **(Son)** & Mr. Sudhir Kumar Khandelwal **(Son) as per SMC**. Now, they intend to sell the said property to Mrs. Dimpi Batra.
If any person(s) having objection regarding ownership of above-mentioned claimants or regarding mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 7 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information is received within 7 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. **Axis Bank Ltd.** will proceed with the mortgage process.

DEEPJYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE
A-13, LGF, South Extn-II, New Delhi-49 # 011-26262610, 11, 12

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ravinder Chawla W/o Sh.Amarjeet Singh Chawla Resideent of House No.516 Sector-15 Faridabad , Haryana Owner of Plot No.103Sector-21A, Faridabad . The Original Allotment letter, (2) Re-allotment letter in the name of Sh. Ravinder Nath Malhotra and others (3) Possession Letter, and (4) Occupation Certificate of the said property has been lost / misplaced. An FIR lodged in police station crime branch Delhi wide LRNo.50724/2021 Dated 18/01/2021. If any body finds please return. If anyone is found having illegal possession of this papers will be considered as a punishable offence.

Mrs. Ravinder Chawla

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

Faculty Required
for Agriculture
Optional & GS
Ph.: 9717658872

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Entire Property Bearing No.103 Sector-21A, Faridabad , Haryana

Be it known to all that my client intends to purchase the above captioned property from its owner Smt.Ravinder Chawla W/o Sh.Amarjeet Singh Chawla Resident of 516 Sector 15 Faridabad and the original title papers has misplaced/lost pertaining to the above property detailed, (1) The Original Allotment letter, (2) Re allotment letter in the name of Sh.Ravinder Nath Malhotra and etc. (3) Possession Letter, and (4) Occupation Certificate. In this consent she has already lodged a report in police station crime branch Delhi wide LR No.50724/2021 Dated 18/01/2021 . It is notified that if any Person/Bank/F.I. or Entity either has on claims any rights, title, interest, ownership, possession, lien, encumbrance, mortgage, gift, inheritance, agreement, arrangement understanding , HUF rights, dispute, demand, charge or claim of any nature whatsoever in the above captioned property or in any part thereof or has any sort of dispute/litigation or otherwise has any objection for its sale to my client , then such person/Bank/F.I. or Entity should forth with contact or notify the undersigned in respect of the same along with valid Documentary Proof within a period of 30 days from the date of publication , failing which it shall be presumed that the above captioned property is absolutely free from all sorts o encumbrances, lien, charges or claim of any nature whatsoever and that the above named Owner is having absolutely clean, clear and marketable title to the above captioned property and my client shall proceed further to complete the sale transaction.

Desh Raj Verma, Advocate
Distt & Session Court, Faridabad, HR

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 Thursday: Dense/very dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	22.8	14.1	Kozhikode	–	33.5	24.3
Ahmedabad	–	29.9	13.3	Kurnool	–	33.6	18.7
Aizawl	–	17.0	–	Lucknow	–	22.6	11.9
Allahabad	–	25.0	10.6	Madurai	–	32.8	23.8
Bengaluru	–	29.4	16.1	Mangaluru	–	34.4	21.4
Bhopal	–	25.6	10.9	Mumbai	–	32.6	19.0
Bhubaneswar	–	32.8	18.6	Mysuru	–	32.0	14.4
Chandigarh	–	21.0	11.1	New Delhi	–	18.3	7.8
Chennai	–	29.3	23.6	Patna	–	21.0	10.6
Coimbatore	–	31.7	19.5	Port Blair	–	30.3	25.1
Dehradun	–	20.7	7.3	Puducherry	–	28.6	22.4
Gangtok	2.4	7.3	6.9	Pune	–	32.5	17.4
Goa	–	33.5	22.6	Raipur	–	32.0	17.3
Guwahati	–	22.0	14.5	Ranchi	–	25.8	14.6
Hubballi	–	31.0	18.0	Shillong	–	15.7	5.1
Hyderabad	–	32.2	17.2	Shimla	–	13.1	5.4
Imphal	–	20.7	7.3	Srinagar	–	10.3	-7.1
Jaipur	–	26.5	9.8	Thiruvananthapuram	–	32.1	23.4
Kochi	–	31.4	24.0	Tiruchi	–	31.2	23.3
Kohima	–	16.6	3.8	Vijayawada	–	31.8	19.5
Kolkata	–	28.0	17.9	Visakhapatnam	–	29.0	21.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	16	.69	.65	168	170	
Bengaluru	5	.65	.34	114	104	
Chennai	11	.39	.33	101	103	
Delhi	18	.80	106	334	191	
Hyderabad	5	.42	.23	104	103	
Kolkata	50	.26	.65	324	197	
Lucknow	13	.65	.61	318	317	
Mumbai	9	154	.36	228	235	
Pune	–	.82	.57	153	113	
Visakhapatnam	–	.84	.42	227	193	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 348 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kolar, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 49

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: 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.

NO_2: 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

Need not fear inoculation: Tope

Maharashtra records 4,589 more recoveries, 3,015 fresh cases, 59 deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Wednesday said while the 54% vaccination turnout across Maharashtra on Tuesday was not up to the mark, it was not particularly unsatisfactory. He clarified that there was a technical problem with the Co-WIN app, which was being rectified.

While admitting that a number of beneficiaries were confused about taking the vaccine, Mr. Tope reiterated that the two vaccines – Covishield and Covaxin – were safe and had been approved by the Drug Control Authority, besides being cleared by scientists.

Mr. Tope said, "These two vaccines are completely safe. It is wrong to make assumptions about their adverse effects. No adverse problems have been witnessed so far among beneficiaries who have taken the vaccine. Yet, many beneficiaries are not turning up to receive the vaccine and are instead waiting to see the reaction on others."

The minister said the government would be counselling beneficiaries with proper information to dispel fears about getting inoculated. Mr. Tope said he would be sending video messages about the vaccines to healthcare workers who had registered for the drive.

On the low turnout on Tuesday, Mr. Tope further said, "Don't go by percentages. The vaccination drive will be held four days a week now: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The numbers will gradually rise."

Maharashtra on Wednesday yet again recorded more recoveries than fresh COVID-19 cases, with 4,589 patients being discharged as opposed to 3,015 new cases. Active cases have further declined to 46,769, while the total case tally stands at 19,97,992. With 59 fatalities, the death toll has climbed to 50,582. Cumulative recoveries stand at 18,99,428. The State's recovery rate has touched 95.02%, while the case fatality rate is 2.53%.

Hopeful: Beneficiaries wait to be vaccinated at Rajawadi Municipal Hospital in Mumbai. ▪PTI

> **No adverse problems have been witnessed so far among beneficiaries who have taken the vaccine. Yet, many beneficiaries are not turning up to receive the vaccine**
>
> RAJESH TOPE
> State Health Minister

501 cases in Mumbai

Pune reported nearly 600 new cases to take its total case tally to 3,83,428. Five deaths saw the total death toll rise to 7,878. As per district administration figures, the district's active case tally has now dipped below the 5,000 mark, standing at 4,947. The district's recovery rate is 96.30%. Pune city currently has a little over 2,000 cases. Mumbai reported 501 new cases to take its total case tally to 3,04,126, of which just 6,656 are active. Nine fatalities saw the city's death toll reach 11,268.

Nagpur district in Vidarbha reported nearly 300 new cases, taking the district's total case tally to 1,32,801. of which 4,200 are active. A single death saw the death toll reach 3,313. In western Maharashtra, Satara reported a single death, while 85 fresh cases saw the total case tally rise to 55,756, of which just 755 are active. Its death toll stands at 1797.

Neighbouring Sangli reported just 16 cases and no deaths as well as the district's total cases reached 50,654, of which just 489 are active. Its death toll stands at 1,778. Kolhapur reported 18 cases and no deaths as its total case tally reached 49,007, of which 163 are active. The death toll stands at 1,670.

In north Maharashtra, Nashik district reported 295 cases and a single fatality as its total case tally reached 119,524, of which 1,228 are active. Its death toll stands at 1,970. Jalgaon reported 42 new cases and a single death as its total case tally reached 57,088, of which only 523 are active, while its death toll stands at 1,469.

62,000 samples tested

"Of 1,39,57,469 laboratory samples tested so far, 19,97,992 (with the case positivity rate down to 14.31%) have returned positive. Over 62,000 samples were tested in the last 24 hours," State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said.

A total of 2,18,325 people across the State are in home quarantine and 2,230 are in institutional quarantine.

Varavara Rao's detention cruel, inhuman: Indira Jaising to Bombay HC

'Violation of right to life and dignity'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Varavara Rao

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, arguing for 82-year-old poet Varavara Rao's medical bail, told the Bombay High Court on Wednesday that the activist's detention was cruel and inhuman, and amounted to violation of his right to life and dignity.

Ms. Jaising commenced her submissions before a Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and Manish Pitale after Mr. Rao's counsel, senior advocate Anand Grover, concluded his arguments.

Mr. Grover said Mr. Rao, who is being treated at Nanavati Hospital since November 18, should be discharged and sent home. He said Mr. Rao should not be sent back to Taloja Central Jail as the prison administration is not capable of looking after him with the existing infrastructure.

Mr. Grover said the National Investigation Agency (NIA) took six months to share copies of the evidence with Mr. Rao and there are hundreds of witnesses in the Bhima-Koregaon violence case. "He is already 82 years old, how old will he be when the trial ends?" Mr. Grover asked. He said Mr. Rao can be granted bail for three months and can report to any authority in the meantime.

The Bench asked if there are any judgments in which bail has been granted on medical grounds in cases where the accused has been charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Mr. Grover then read from a judgment of the Guwahati High Court. However, the Bench said that there are two judgments of the Bombay High Court where bail had been rejected.

Mr. Rao was arrested on August 28, 2018, in the case and the NIA's chargesheet stated, "All accused have conspired to further the ideology of terrorist organisation CPI (Maoist) and abetted violence, brought into hatred and incited disaffection towards the government established by law and promoted enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, caste and, community." Ms. Jaising will continue her arguments in the court on Thursday.

Mahatma Gandhi statue at Parliament shifted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The statue of Mahatma Gandhi opposite the main entrance of Parliament House was shifted to a new location opposite the Lok Sabha Speaker's entrance on Tuesday to make way for the construction of the new Parliament building, according to sources aware of the development.

Lok Sabha sources said on Wednesday that the statue was placed in front of the Speaker's entrance, in front of gate number 3, as a mark of respect. The statue would be shifted to a prominent place once the new building came up, the sources said.

According to officials of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Central Public Works Department, the statues at the Parliament complex would be shifted to locations decided by the Speaker.

Delhi HC restrains JNU from initiating recruitment process for vacancies

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has restrained the Jawaharlal Nehru University from initiating any fresh recruitment process for the post of over 200 professors and associate professors until it publishes a newly prepared roster points for the vacancies.

A Bench of Justice Rajiv Sahai Endaw and Justice Sanjeev Narula also ordered JNU to "revisit and reexamine and recast the point-based roster for all posts and in the light of the judgment of the Single Judge [Bench of the High Court] and in accordance with the post-based reservation system".

The court also clarified that the appointments already made will not be adversely affected.

Advertisements quashed

The Single Judge Bench had on November 17 last year quashed JNU's August 2019 advertisements with respect to two posts – associate professor and a professor in the School of Social Sciences and the School of International Studies.

The court had remarked: "The reservation rosters have to be post-based and there cannot be exchange of reservation points or de-reservation. The latter is permissible only in very exceptional cases and that too by following a very rigorous process."

Advocate Maanav Kumar, who represented the petitioners, said though the Single Judge Bench found "illegalities/errors" in the post-based roster followed by JNU in issuing the 2019 recruitment advertisements, the order was restricted with regard to only two posts and not all the 267 posts that were advertised.

NCB arrests Dawood's aide in drugs case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Wednesday arrested gangster Parvez Khan alias Chinku Pathan, a henchman of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, in connection with a drugs case from Navi Mumbai, an official said, adding that drugs were also seized.

Mr. Khan is also a relative of late Karim Lala, a gangster who was active from the 1960's to the early '80s, in Mumbai. A team of NCB sleuths led by Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede picked up Mr. Khan, a notorious drugs supplier, from his hideout.

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

No.: IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-42/11229/2020-21 Date : 20-01-2021

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

KIADB is inviting Item rate Tenders under Two Cover System as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Civil) registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works: **(1). Formation of 18M Wide Asphalt Road, Construction of RCC Drains, Spur Culverts, HDPE Water Supply Pipeline and Valve Chambers at Canara Industrial Area, Phase-I, Bantwala Taluk, Dakshinna Kannada District. (2). Formation of 18M Wide Road (Road No. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8) Including Asphalting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, Chain Link Fencing, RWH, Retaining Wall, GLSR, Storm Water Drain & HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipeline at Kyadiguppa Industrial Area, Kushtagi Taluk, Koppal District. Package-1. (3). Formation of 30M Wide Road (Road No. 2), 24M Wide Road (Road No. 2A) & 18M Wide Road (Road No. 9 & 10) Including Asphalting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, Retaining Wall, Storm Water Drain & HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipeline at Kyadiguppa Industrial Area, Kushtagi Taluk, Koppal District. Package-2.**

The Last date and time of receipt of tender is 12-02-2021 upto 04.00 pm. Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the e-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2

DIPR/DDU/RO No. 2505/4Winds/2020-21

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

READ SPORTSTAR EVERY FORTNIGHT

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
("A State Govt. Undertaking") "Press Tender Notice"
(e-tendering Mode Only)

Online tender (Two Part bid) are invited for the supply of following items, on the prescribed form (Tender Documents). The dates of submission and opening of Techno Commercial Bid of tender is as per detail give below. The Detailed Tender Notice, terms and conditions along with tender documents can be viewed/downloaded from website http://www.hptenders.gov.in

Sr.No.	Tender No.	Description of items	Qty.	Estd. Cost. (In lacs)	Cost of Tender document+GST (Non-refundable) (In Rs.)	Date of online publication	Start date & time of submission of tender	Last date & time of submission of tender	Due date & Time of opening of Techno Comm Bids
1	CE(MM)-15/2020	ISI Marked 3-Phase , 4 wires, DLMS complaint, LT Static Trivector Meters of accuracy class 0.5s of assorted ratings	5822 Nos.	833.00	1250/-+GST	21.01.2021	27.01.2021 (at 11.00 am)	06.02.2021 (upto 11.00 am)	08.02.2021 (at 11.00 am)
2	CE(MM) 16/2020	ISI Marked Swaged steel tubular poles of sizes in 8 Mtr, and 9 Mtr,	10000 Nos.	1023.00	1250/-+GST	21.01.2021	23.01.2021 (at 11.00 am)	29.01.2021 (upto 11.00 am)	30.01.2021 (at 11.00 am)

Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation

(Er.M.K. Upreti)
Chief Engineer (MM)
HPSEB Ltd. Vidyut Bhawan
Shimla - 171004

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR.

Tender Call Notice No.H.O./P&C/EST-E-1074/04/2021(Part)-978 Dated:18/01/2021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the Work : Construction of Approach road with Hume pipe culvert & Box culvert from Baranga Pitapali to Sea Food Park, Deras, Bhubaneswar.
Estimated Cost : Rs.202.71 lakh (apprx.)
Period of Completion : 04 (Four) Calendar months.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Idco Tower, Bhubaneswar.	Bid Id. No. PC-EST-E-65/2020-21	17.00 Hours of 25.01.2021	17.00 Hours of 09.02.2021

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal **www.Tendersorissa.gov.in** and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal **www.tenderorissa.gov.in** and **IDCO Website www.idco.in.**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C),
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-1099 OIPR-14003/11/0111/2021

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग

-:: शुद्धि पत्र ::-

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग अन्तर्गत आमंत्रित निविदा (Gadokhar, Kanchanpur & Adjoining Village Rural Pipe Water Supply Scheme) P.R. No.:- 239681 Drinking Water and Sanitation (20-21)*D को अपरिहार्य कारणवश आंशिक संशोधन किया जाता है–

Sl. No.	Name of Work	After Amendment
2.	Date of Tender uploading in website	Date:- 30.01.2021 up to 02:00 PM
3.	Date of Pre-bid Meeting	Date:- 05.02.2021 at 12:30 PM in the office of Engineer-in- Chief, D. W. & S. Department Jharkhand Ranchi
4.	Last date receipt of Bid	Date:- 17.02.2021 upto 05.00 PM
5.	Last date submission cost of BOQ and EMD (in hard copy)	Date:- 18.02.2021 upto 04.00 PM in the office of the 1. Executive Engineer, D. W. & S. Division, Hazaribag 2. Superintending Engineer, D.W.& S. Circle, Hazaribag 3. Regional Chief Engineer, D.W. & S. Department Ranchi Zone, Ranchi
6.	Date of opening tender	Date:- 19.02.2021 upto 11.00 AM

शेष सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगे।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल
हजारीबाग

PR 239741 Drinking Water and Sanitation (20-21)_D

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
THANJAVUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
THANJAVUR SMART CITY LIMITED
TENDER NOTICE

Bid Notice No.12757/2020/MCE4 Dated.18.01.2021

Sealed Tenders are invited by The Managing Director & Commissioner, Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation from the Registered Contractors E- submission is also permitted, for the following works upto 3.00 PM on 23.02.2021. The Tenders will be opened by the Corporation Commissioner (or) his authorized official in the Corporation Office on the same day at 3.30 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the Tender specified,the Tender will be opened on next working day. The Contractor who wish to participate in the Tender may down load the Tender documents through **https://tntenders.gov.in** by using E.Token / Digital Signature Cards on or before 22.02.2021 up to 3.00 P.M. Any other information's may be obtained from the Corporation Executive Engineer, Thanjavur at the above office during office hours. The Managing Director & Corporation Commissioner has every right to cancel / postpone the Tender in view of Administrative reasons.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Cost (Rs.in Crore)	Earnest Money (Rs.in Lakhs)	Contractor Class
1.	Construction of Additional Infrastructure to the Project of Development of Convention Centre in Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation	13.75	13.75	I Class

Commissioner & Special Officer,
Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation.

DIPR/396/Tender/2021

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
THANJAVUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
THANJAVUR SMART CITY LIMITED
TENDER NOTICE

Bid Notice No.1385/2020/MCE4 Dated.18.01.2021

Sealed Tenders are invited by The Managing Director & Commissioner, Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation from the Registered Contractors E- submission is also permitted, for the following works upto 3.00 PM on 23.02.2021. The Tenders will be opened by the Corporation Commissioner (or) his authorized official in the Corporation Office on the same day at 3.30 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the Tender specified, the Tender will be opened on next working day. The Contractor who wish to participate in the Tender may down load the Tender documents through **https://tntenders.gov.in** by using E.Token / Digital Signature Cards on or before 22.02.2021 up to 3.00 P.M. Any other information's may be obtained from the Corporation Executive Engineer, Thanjavur at the above office during office hours. The Managing Director & Corporation Commissioner has every right to cancel / postpone the Tender in view of Administrative reasons.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Cost (Rs.in Crore)	Earnest Money (Rs.in Lakhs)	Contractor Class
1.	Development of Omni Bus stand in Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation	10.00	10.00	I Class

Commissioner & Special Officer,
Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation.

DIPR/398/Tender/2021

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
THANJAVUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
THANJAVUR SMART CITY LIMITED
TENDER NOTICE

Bid Notice No.12491/2020/MCE4 Dated.18.01.2021

Sealed Tenders are invited by The Managing Director & Commissioner, Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation from the Registered Contractors E- submission is also permitted, for the following works upto 3.00 PM on 24.02.2021. The Tenders will be opened by the Corporation Commissioner (or) his authorized official in the Corporation Office on the same day at 3.30 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the Tender specified, the Tender will be opened on next working day. The Contractor who wish to participate in the Tender may down load the Tender documents through **https://tntenders.gov.in** by using E.Token / Digital Signature Cards on or before 23.02.2021 up to 3.00 P.M. Any other information's may be obtained from the Corporation Executive Engineer, Thanjavur at the above office during office hours. The Managing Director & Corporation Commissioner has every right to cancel / postpone the Tender in view of Administrative reasons.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Cost (Rs.in Crore)	Earnest Money (Rs.in Lakhs)	Contractor Class
1.	Development of Storm Water Drainage at Kallukatti Street in Ward No.06 in Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation	5.50	5.50	I Class

DIPR/400/Tender/2021 Commissioner & Special Officer, Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation.

Managing the rollout

The government must investigate and publicise the reasons for vaccine hesitancy

Nearly a fortnight after it won approval for Covaxin under 'restricted emergency use' conditions, Bharat Biotech has formally informed, via its website, that the vaccine is inadvisable in those with a history of allergies, fever and bleeding disorders. Those on medication or blood thinners and whose immunity has been compromised have also been told not to take the vaccine. This is along with a recommendation that the vaccine is not to be given to the pregnant or the lactating. A similar set of restrictions has been given to prospective recipients of Covishield too, the vaccine now available in greater numbers and developed by the Serum Institute of India. Ordinarily, a fact sheet as well as product insert – a note that accompanies every vial of a vaccine – is a mandatory formality. However, the context in which the two vaccines are being administered in India imbues them with magnified significance. Covaxin has been rolled out with insufficient evidence of its efficacy, or whether it is actually protective. The vaccines have been so far made available to health-care and sanitation workers and other frontline staff, who do not have a choice in the vaccine being administered, but can decide not to be inoculated. Nine States, according to data provided by the Health Ministry, have rates of over 70%, and three States, less than 40%. More than half the States fall somewhere in the middle. While India has given jabs to nearly 786,000 of those eligible, it is far short of the target of 1.4 million.

It is certainly early days, and presumably there will be acceleration in the days ahead. However, the government is yet to explain, based on feedback from the States, why the vaccine – the single most awaited product of 2021 – has not seen more enthusiastic queues. This, in spite of Health Ministry officials underlining that adverse events following vaccination have been negligibly low, accentuating the safety of the product. Hospitals have begun internal campaigns exhorting senior doctors to get a shot to "build confidence" and officials in the highest government offices say that not opting for a vaccine, when one is available, amounts to dereliction "in duty". The adoption trend is unsurprising. The medically literate, as many recipients are, realise the difference between a vaccine being 'safe' and 'efficacious'. Moreover, the declining trend in new cases as well as the knowledge that an array of vaccines will be available in the months ahead further contribute to the temporary 'hesitancy' pervading hospitals now. A way forward for the government to inspire confidence is to monitor, report and be forthright with the challenges it is facing. There should also be greater coordination between the Centre and the States on sharing, investigating and publicising reasons for hesitancy.

Polls apart

Uganda under Museveni needs to reinforce the people's faith in democratic processes

Yoweri Museveni, Uganda's 76-year-old leader who has been in power since 1986, won another five-year term in the January 14 presidential election, but the contested result has pushed the country into its worst political crisis in decades. According to Uganda's Electoral Commission, he won nearly 59% of the vote, while his main rival, Robert Kyagulanyi, a pop musician better known by his stage name Bobi Wine, secured 34%. Mr. Wine has alleged voter fraud, which the government was quick to dismiss, while putting him and several other leaders of his National Unity Platform under house arrest. The government cracking down on the opposition is not new, but this time, there were widespread reports of state repression of Mr. Wine's movement in the run-up to the election. He was detained several times, his rallies broken up by security personnel, and the Internet shut down and social networks blocked before the election. Mr. Museveni's government refused to accredit election monitors from the West, saying the U.S., after its election crisis, did not have the authority to monitor the elections. Observers from Africa have documented irregularities, including illegal opening of ballot boxes and arrests of members of civil society groups observing elections.

According to Ugandan law, Mr. Wine has 15 days to prove election irregularities, which is unlikely to happen as he is under house arrest and party offices have been raided by security personnel. The Internet was restored almost a week after the shutdown, but social media platforms, which his campaign used to connect with the public, are still blocked. It appears that Mr. Museveni, whose National Resistance Movement came to power by waging a guerrilla war in the 1980s, seems determined to prevent Mr. Wine even coming close to power. Uganda has long been torn by coups and violence before Mr. Museveni's rise. Even after Idi Amin, the infamous dictator, was overthrown in 1979, politics remained volatile and violent. Mr. Museveni, when he captured power, promised reforms and stability. Consolidating power rather quickly, he offered a stable government and made Uganda an ally of the West in the fight against radicalism in East Africa. But his grip on power tightened and he forcefully kept the opposition below the radar. In 2005, Mr. Museveni amended the Constitution to remove the presidential term limits and in 2017, signed a law scrapping the age limit of 75 for presidential candidates. He might continue in office, but his greed for power and disregard for a fair electoral process and rights, coupled with economic woes, have already left cracks in his support base. Mr. Wine, in a short span, has emerged as the President's most potent political rival. Mr. Museveni must realise that short-circuiting the democratic process might force Uganda to repeat its history of violent transfer of power.

Removing the creases in housework valuation

The work women perform for the family should be valued equally with men's work during the continuance of marriage

FAIZAN MUSTAFA

"The wife owes service and labor to her husband as much and as absolutely as the slave does to his master. This grates harshly upon the ears of Christendom; but it is made palpably and practically true all through our statute books, despite the poetic fancy which views woman as elevated in the social estate; but a little lower than the angels," said Antoinette Brown Blackwell, the first woman protestant minister of the United States.

We go a step ahead and glorify our women as goddesses but deny them equal rights, and under the latest Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh Ordinances, even the right to choose their spouses. Veteran actor Kamal Haasan and his Makkal Needhi Maiam party who recently promised salaries for housewives as a part of the party's election manifesto, has revived the debate on the recognition of domestic work as work. What is the history of recognition of work by wives as work in the West? What have the legislative initiatives and judicial responses been in this regard?

The burden on women

As in the 2011 Census, while 159.85 million women stated household work as their main occupation, a mere 5.79 men referred to it as their main occupation. Justice N.V. Ramana in his crisp and authoritative concurring judgment of January 5, 2021 in *Kirti and Another v. Oriental Insurance Company* (https://bit.ly/35Yp3fD) has referred to the 'Time Use in India-2019 Report' of the National Statistical Office, Government of India (published in September 2020) which says that on an average, while Indian women spend 299 minutes a day on unpaid domestic services for household members, men spend just 97 minutes. Women also spend 134 minutes in a day on unpaid caregiving services for household members. A French government's Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress in 2009 that studied the situation in Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, France, Finland and the U.S. drew similar conclusions. A report entitled 'Women's Economic Contribution through their Unpaid Work: A Case Study of India' (2009) had estimated the economic value of services by women to be to the tune of a whopping $612.8 billion annually.

Justice Ramana not only listed the various activities women undertake but also referred to British economist Arthur Cecil Pigou who had lamented that the household work by wives is not taken into consideration in calculating national income.

Other judicial observations

In *Arun Kumar Agrawal v. National Insurance Company* (2010), the Supreme Court not only acknowledged the contribution of the housewives as invaluable but also observed that it cannot be computed in terms of money. Her gratuitous services rendered with true love and affection cannot be equated with services rendered by others. Similar observations were recently made in *Rajendra Singh* (2020). But then these cases dealt with a limited question of compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act to calculate the compensation for the death of homemakers, and not the recognition of a wife's right in her husband's income during the subsistence of marriage. Justice A.K. Ganguly in *Arun Kumar Agrawal* (2010) referred to Census 2001 that is carried out under an Act of Parliament and had categorised those who perform household duties – i.e. about 36 crore women in India – as non-workers

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

and clubbed them together with beggars, prostitutes and prisoners (who are not engaged in economically unproductive work).

A hierarchical structure

For centuries, the English common law of marital status was starkly hierarchical. Forget the recognition of a homemaker's work as work; she had no right even in respect of her work outside home. In fact till 1851, no country had recognised a wife's right in earnings of any sort. If a housewife worked for pay in or out of the home, it was her husband's prerogative to collect her wages. Strangely, seventh century Islamic law clearly mandates husbands to pay wives if they decide to suckle their children and entitle them to spend certain portions of husband's money without his consent.

By the middle of the 19th century, some American States started reforming the common law of marital status by enacting the "Married Women's Property Acts". Some of these statutes exempted the wives' real property from their husband's debts. By 1850, the era of "earning statutes" started which granted wives property rights in earnings from their "separate" or "personal" labour. But the Census measures of the economy that appeared in the aftermath of the American Civil War characterised household work as "unproductive", and, consistent with this gendered valuation of family labour, excluded women engaged in income-producing work in the household from the count of those "gainfully employed". It seems that the Indian Census referred above followed this regressive precedent.

Separate spheres

Home and market for centuries were considered as two distinct spheres. The market was a male sphere of selfish competitiveness, but the home was celebrated as a female sphere, a site of spiritual uplift that offered relief from the vicissitudes of market struggle. American feminist economist Nancy Folbre rightly remarked, "the moral elevation of the home was accompanied by the economic devaluation of the work performed there". The tendency of a "separate spheres" reasoning was thus to reinforce the legal ordering of family life and justify a husband's control of family assets.

Subsequently, women demanded a right to own themselves, their earnings, their genius. Accordingly, in 1851, at the Worcester Convention, it was resolved: "that since the economy of the household is generally as much the source of family wealth as the labor and enterprise of man, therefore the wife should, during life, have the same control over the joint earnings as per husband, and the right to dispose at her death of the same proportion of it as he". They finally achieved success when the equal rights of wives in the matrimonial property were recognised. The Third National Women's Liberation conference, in England in 1972, for the first time, explicitly demanded payment of wages for the household work.

In India, the debate on joint property rights of married women is not new though we still do not have joint matrimonial property law. Veena Verma did introduce a private member Bill in 1994 entitled The Married Women (Protection of Rights) Bill, 1994. Her Bill provided that a married woman shall be entitled to have an equal share in the property of her husband from the date of her marriage and shall also be entitled to dispose of her share in the property by way of sale, gift, mortgage, will or in any other manner whatsoever. But in 2010, even registration of the National Housewives Association as a trade union was denied as domestic work was treated as neither trade nor industry.

A step and suggestion

The United Progressive Alliance government, in 2012, had proposed to make it mandatory for husbands to pay a monthly 'salary' to their wives. One cartoon had depicted a husband saying to his wife, "here is your salary for the month. However, ₹3355 has been deducted as you were at your parent's home for a week." Mr. Haasan should understand that the term 'salary' as monthly payment is indeed problematic as it indicates an employer-employee relationship, i.e., a relationship of subordination with the employer having disciplinary control over the employee. Wives do not deserve a master-servant relationship.

The United Nations' Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, in 1991, had recommended measurement and quantification of unremunerated domestic activities of women and their recognition in GDP so that the de facto economic contribution of women is highlighted. Matrimonial property laws do give women their share but only when the marital tie comes to an end. The time has come to insist that the work women perform for the family should be valued equally with men's work during the continuance of marriage. If women become a little assertive, prenuptial marriage agreements can easily solve this problem with the insertion of the clause on wives' right in husband's earnings and properties being included in such agreements.

Faizan Mustafa is the Vice-Chancellor of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. The views expressed are personal

True empowerment of the electricity consumer

Without strong accountability provisions, the consumer protection rules will not guarantee better power supply quality

MANABIKA MANDAL & SREEKUMAR NHALUR

Did electricity consumers truly get "empowered" this December? This was the claim of the Union Power Ministry as the "Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 was promulgated in December, almost two years since the declaration of universal electrification.

Issue of supply quality

Many States have not been able to provide quality supply, especially to rural and small electricity consumers. The enactment of consumer-centric rules does spark public debate that brings the rights of consumers to the fore. In this vein, the Rules lay an emphasis on national minimum standards for the performance parameters of electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs), without urban-rural distinction, especially for new connections, metering and billing. They also reiterate the need for automatically compensating consumers. But will these rules really lead to better supply quality?

What are the limitations of the Rules? It needs to be recognised that providing quality supply is primarily the responsibility of States and DISCOMs. Similar (or better) provisions by various State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) already exist in the Standards of Performance (SoP) regulations. Such regulations have been in place for two decades in most States.

Lack of accountability

It is not because of a lack of rules or regulations that quality supply is not provided; rather, it is on account of a lack of accountability systems to enforce them. Unfortunately, neither these rules nor past efforts, be it through the draft National Tariff Policy, the proposed Electricity Act amendments, or various committee processes, address these accountability concerns.

Guarantee of round the clock supply is a provision that the Rules emphasise, which might be missing in State regulations. But there are doubts on the efficacy of automatic compensation payments towards such a guarantee. This is because the availability of power supply is inadequately monitored, even at 11 kV feeders, let alone at the consumer location. Hence, it is not clear how the failure of power supply is going to be recorded.

Moreover, such compensation will require serious commitment. For example, according to government reports, rural areas received about 20 hours of supply, in August 2020. Following existing regulations, this would entail compensation of hundreds of crores, but the actual amount paid adds up to just a few lakhs in each State for the entire year; even here it involves the resourceful few who could escalate their complaints to higher levels. This highlights not only the need for implementation of existing provisions in letter and

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

spirit but also amending them with strong accountability provisions.

Weakening provisions

Further, the Rules, in few cases, dilute progressive mechanisms that exist in State regulations. Consider the case of electricity meter-related complaints. The Rules say that faulty meters should be tested within 30 days of receipt of a complaint. Compared to this, regulations that were published as early as 2004, 2007 and 2012 in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh, respectively, say that such testing needs to be conducted within seven days.

A similar observation can be drawn from the suggested composition of the Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum. The Rules say that the forum – constituted to remedy complaints against DISCOMs as per existing laws and regulations – should be headed by a senior officer of the company. This is a regressive provision that would reduce the number of cases that are decided in favour of consumers, thereby eroding its credibility. State regulations in Delhi have different eligibility criteria, strictly mentioning that a DISCOM employee, who was in service in the last two years, cannot be appointed as a forum member. Maharashtra, Telangana and Bihar, among others, have the option of appointing a retired senior judicial officer or other independent members as the chairperson. It would be unfortunate if States now started amending their regulations to be in line with the Rules.

The Rules are not forward looking either, given the government's intent to promote rooftop solar systems. They guarantee net metering for a solar rooftop unit less than 10 kW, but there is no clarity if those above 10 kW can also avail net metering. This could lead to a change in regulations in many States based on their own interpretations. Instead of providing clarity, it is likely that this provision will lead to more confusion. The possible litigation that follows would be detrimental to investments in rooftop solar units, and would discourage medium and large consumers to opt for an environment-friendly, cost-effective option.

Need for commitment

What can the central government do to ensure accountability? A useful way to protect consumers would be to nudge SERCs to assess the SoP reports of DISCOMs and revise their regulations more frequently. Also, SERCs should organise public processes to help consumers raise their concerns. DISCOMs could be directed to ensure automatic metering at least at the 11 kV feeder level, making this data available online.

The Forum of Regulators – a central collective of SERCs – could come up with updated model SoP regulations. The Central Electricity Authority of India could be directed to collect supply quality data from DISCOMs, publicly host them on online portals and prepare analysis reports. Such efforts need to go beyond the quality of information that is currently hosted on portals such as the National Power Portal. Central agencies have taken proactive efforts to ensure regular tariff revision. They could also support independent surveys and nudge State agencies to enforce existing SoP regulations. The central government could disburse funds for financial assistance programmes based on audited SoP reports.

With a focused one-time effort, electrification drives could provide connections across the country. But ensuring round the clock supply will require continuous efforts. We noted that without accountability, consumer compensation is meagre. The official response to this is the many 'ifs and buts' in the implementation of regulations. The enactment of the new Rules will not change this *status quo*. Reducing the 'ifs and buts' that delay or deny justice is what governments, DISCOMs and regulators need to jointly work on. They should demonstrate the commitment and the will power to implement existing regulations. It is not yet late to recognise this and initiate concerted efforts to truly empower consumers.

Manabika Mandal and Sreekumar Nhalur are from Prayas (Energy Group). They acknowledge the inputs of group members, especially from Ann Josey

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Thunder, Down Under

It is often said cricket is a game of glorious uncertainties – very much true if one is to look at Team India's stunning win at Brisbane's Gabba. After getting all out for 36 to lose a Test, to finally bouncing back after chasing 300-plus runs to script a golden victory in the final Test – and clinch the series against the most formidable opposition – is an outstanding performance. Indeed, the young brigade in Team India, without the veterans, has proved beyond any stretch of the imagination that Indians can rise to the occasion.

S. SESHADRI,
Chennai

■ While we float in vicarious ecstasy, we ought to ponder too. As opposed to the administration of sports through bureaucratic set-ups such as the district, regional and national bodies, where influence-peddling seeps in, the IPL has emerged as the fountainhead that scouts talent and assigns a market value to each. These boys then strive with their inner mettle to seek higher podiums. Thus do we get to see spectacles as at the Gabba the other day. That said, the dated ethos in our ponderous sports associations is not going to change in a hurry.

R. NARAYANAN,
Navi Mumbai

■ I believe that every Indian cricket fan has been left elated after witnessing this victory. This series became the stage for several reliable young players. The scintillating performances of Mohammed Siraj, T. Natarajan, Shubman Gill, Hanuma Vihari and Washington Sundar indicate that they are going to be the players with promise. One cannot forget the exceptional performance of Rishabh Pant and Cheteshwar Pujara. The way the team fought back from the second match has been phenomenal.

MEJARI MALLIKARJUNA,
Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh

■ The victory was achieved in the most astonishing manner, battling against all odds – COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, injuries and the unavailability of the top players. It was 100% team effort. The calm and dignified role Ajinkya Rahane played as the captain is commendable.

VARANASI GOPALAKRISHNAN,
Chennai

Dr. V. Shanta

There was a time in the 1970s, the 1980s and even the early 1990s when many Indian films were wrongly portraying cancer as a killer disease – *Andhar Bahar* in Hindi and *Vazhvey Maayam, Nenjil Or Aalayam* in Tamil for instance. There were many more 'cancer-plot' movies. Dr. V. Shanta was instrumental in correcting this stigma in Indian films through her interviews on television and the vernacular press. If at all any Indian film now conveys the message that cancer is curable if diagnosed in the early stages, it is due to her persistent efforts. I would like to recall the refrain in her many interviews – 'cancer is curable.'

A.V. NARAYANAN,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Mobilisation and composite culture

The anti-CAA stir of 2020 needed the universality that today's farm protests have

AJAY GUDAVARTHY

After the long silence since 2014, India is now erupting with various collective mobilisations. Last winter, we saw a major movement against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in Shaheen Bagh, and this winter, we witnessed a mobilisation at Delhi's borders. But though both are against unjust legislation, they have been received differently. What can this difference tell us about political mobilisation and the place of ethics and public morality in collective mobilisations?

Anti-CAA protests had begun over the question of citizenship for the dispossessed, but they got reduced to an issue of citizenship of Muslims. For the first time, we saw the movement being led and represented by Muslim women. They, too, suffered harsh winter nights in the open, just like the women and the elderly from Punjab and many other States during the ongoing farmer's movement. While Yogi Adityanath took a jibe at Muslim men sitting at home while their women took to the streets, a judge this time offered unsolicited advice of taking women and elderly back to their homes. Muslim women as anti-CAA activists also raised a more universal concern that the protests were not just about citizenship for Muslims, but about saving democracy and the Constitution. Similarly, the farmers argue that their agitation is not just about Punjab or farmers, but also about food security and against the model of development and corporatisation of agriculture across India. Left-liberals and students had joined the anti-CAA protests to express solidarity with Shaheen Bagh agitators, and similarly, Left-affiliated farmer's organisations, Khaps, women and farmers cutting across region and religion have joined the protests at Delhi's borders this time.

On the part of the government, too, both the movements were treated with similar disdain initially. An entire election was fought on Shaheen Bagh with no success for the BJP; the agitation was stereotyped as 'anti-national', portrayed as an obstacle for daily commuters, and ended with riots and violence. For the farmers' stir, the government

SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

resorted to similar dirty tricks – it called the farmers 'Khalistanis' and the movement as one being led by rich farmers, and finally, it peddled the idea that the contentious laws were being resisted only in Punjab and Haryana. However, the government of the day has been more cautious in dealing with the agitating farmers and has at least produced the optics of being willing to hold a dialogue.

Popular imagination

The differential treatment of the two movements should account for how popular consciousness and imagination work. In the farmers' movement, the agitators remained steadfast in their 'universal' approach right from the beginning. Though the movement was spearheaded by the Sikh community, a religious minority, it was about being a farmer, not a Sikh or a Jat. The ethical advantage of the 'social' identity of a farmer over ethnic or religious identities of being a Jat or a Sikh produces a more universal appeal. This is an advantage that was denied to the anti-CAA protests. It becomes easier for the government to stoke prejudices against the anti-CAA protests as long as they remain, even if just symbolically, an agitation by a religious community.

One could ask how else should the Muslim community respond to a law that singles them out. Protests by Muslim women, and more importantly elderly women, made a perceptible difference in the way the movement was received. It carried a different moral weight. Acceptability and empathy are linked to the vulnerability of the minority and the anxiety of the majority. Absence of social conditions for 'creating' anxiety among dominant social groups makes it that much more difficult to create false narratives. The anti-CAA protests were limited by their religious stamp and enabled by the unfair vulnerability of elderly women and children. Something similar happened with the violence against students in Jamia Millia Islamia – they were students first and Muslims later.

Singular identity

It also vindicates what Amartya Sen argues in his book, *The Idea of Justice*, that any identity that is imagined in the singular will remain a source of violence. It is in multiplicity that dialogic conditions are created. The clear advantage that the farmers' movement has is its multiplicity. It belongs to various regions, even if it is being spearheaded by the Jats or Sikhs of Punjab; it has women, Left-affiliated unions and even wage-workers and Dalits working for the rich peasantry extending their support. The future of the anti-CAA mobilisation will depend on what kind of multiplicity it can manage to find to counter the singularity imposed by the majoritarian imagination.

The question of belonging and trust also emerges. The popular image of Muslims as a community of rulers continues to be derived from the past, against the present reality of a group afflicted with great social disadvantage. And hence, empathy and compassion become difficult to achieve, because this translates into blatant prejudice and a source of anxiety. In addition, Muslims are also seen as a global community rather than a national one. With more than 40 Muslim nations across the globe and Islam being tipped as the fastest-growing religion, counter-mobilisations of the anti-CAA kind will have to find ways to penetrate the popular consciousness, stitch these disparate factors, and forge a more amicable imagination.

The growing indifference towards violence against Muslims can only be countered through a renewed sense of belonging. Islam, as a religion that has originated 'outside', will have to contend with religions such as Sikhism that have their roots here, and those without a demand for separate nations. Sikhs as Khalistanis can be put down with force, but not Sikhs as farmers. Could a debate on an Indic-Islam version create this sense of belonging? Sufism and the culture of *Dargahs* (mosques) as common places of worship could offer us clues about what this composite culture might look like. The challenge of building counter-mobilisations for self-representation ought not to be shaped by the majoritarian gaze.

Ajay Gudavarthy is Associate Professor, Centre for Political Studies, JNU

The long shadow of Trumpism

Biden faces an uphill task in manoeuvring through the legacy of Trump

HARSH V. PANT

As America prepares for the transition from the tumultuous era of Donald Trump to what many hope would be a more sedate and serious Presidency of Joe Biden, there is as much nervousness about the challenges in future as there is a sense of anticipation about impending changes. But while politicians often have the luxury of campaigning in poetry, they have to govern in prose and respond to policy issues of the day in real time.

Mr. Biden, as much as he would have liked, will neither have complete autonomy from his predecessor nor a clean slate from which his policy options might emerge. He will have to respond to an America which Donald Trump has transformed, for better or for worse, and he will have an international environment, which, too, has been changed in the last few years, partly by Mr. Trump's policy choices and partly by the strategic realities evolving at an unprecedented speed.

Domestically, Mr. Biden has his task cut out to reach out to Mr. Trump's supporters, a majority of whom still believe that the new President has not been elected by fair means. Such a continuing support base for Mr. Trump will constrain the ability to usher in the transformational agenda that Mr. Biden may like to effectuate in his initial days. And politically, this would make it all the more difficult to govern from the middle ground of American politics.

A different world

This will have grave implications for Mr. Biden's foreign policy approach as well. In a number of his foreign policy statements, Mr. Biden has, not surprisingly, harked back to Obama-era policies. But the world has moved on and it is not readily evident if the Obama-era template can actually work in a world fundamentally disrupted by forces that post-dated Mr. Obama – Mr. Trump is only one of them.

Mr. Biden has an ambitious restorationist agenda wherein he wants the U.S. to rejoin multilateral institutions, work closely with allies and partners, as well as build America's domestic capac-

AFP

ities. Whether he will have enough space to manage this remains to be seen.

In an interesting intervention recently, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger warned that the Biden administration should not return to the old Iranian nuclear deal of 2015 as it can spark an arms race in West Asia. His argument is simple: with Iran's nuclear capabilities grown and a new window of opportunity with the Abraham Accords, today's West Asia is not what it was in 2015. The convergence between Israel and Sunni Arab states against the perceived Iranian threat has led to the creation of a new axis with far-reaching implications for the region's future. So, while Mr. Biden may like to revive the old Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), other stakeholders are signalling that they are not interested. Also warning against the revival of the JCPOA, the UAE's ambassador in Washington has argued that the U.S. ignored the concerns of its West Asian partners in the 2015 pact.

A big votary of the Paris climate accord, one of the first priorities for Mr. Biden would be to bring the U.S. back to the agreement. But beyond that, his ability to bring about a significant shift in America's environment policies will be restricted by the lack of a considerable majority in the U.S. Senate; there may also be a serious divide between progressive and moderate Democrats within his own party.

Mr. Biden has also expressed his desire to reform the World Trade Organization and appoint members to its Appellate Body, but that would be difficult to accomplish given the new power equations and the growing clout of non-western states. Greater multilateralism, however attractive, will not be easy to achieve in the new political environs of the U.S. and the world.

While there will be a lot of talk for a greater transatlantic partnership, to what extent the countries will be able to coordinate their actions on trade and technology vis-à-vis China remains an open question. Even as Mr. Biden's team expressed its reservations about the EU's investment pact with China, and his National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan called for "early consultations with our European partners on our common concerns about China's economic practices", the EU, in a seeming hurry, went ahead and concluded the agreement with China.

Mr. Trump's tariff war against China would also be difficult to scale back, especially as China has made it clear that it is in no mood to initiate structural reforms demanded by Washington. Phase one of Mr. Trump's trade deal with China has not really gotten off the ground, and the country's lack of compliance with key aspects of the deal will confine the Biden administration to an arrangement where he may have to continue with most of the tariffs put in place by Mr. Trump. Recognising this challenge, Mr. Biden has already indicated that he does not intend to make any "immediate moves" regarding the Trump-era tariff structure.

Even in his last few days, Mr. Trump did not shy away from ratcheting up the pressure on China by continuing to blacklist Chinese companies from U.S. markets and by new policy moves on key issues such as Tibet and Taiwan. He passed the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020, which calls for establishing a U.S. consulate in Tibet and building an international coalition to ensure that the next Dalai Lama is appointed by the Tibetan Buddhist community without China's interference. Days before departing, Mr. Trump also managed to challenge the decades-old U.S. policy on Taiwan, when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared that while U.S. relations with Taiwan would remain unofficial, they would no longer be shackled by "self-imposed restrictions".

With his moves, Mr. Trump has severely restricted Mr. Biden's space for manoeuvre – he can either continue with Trump-era policies or face political backlash for being soft on China. The Trump legacy will continue to haunt Mr. Biden long after his predecessor has left the White House. It is possible that for all of Mr. Biden's rhetoric, his next four years would be spent trying to get out of Mr. Trump's shadow, both at home and abroad.

The writer is director, Studies at the Observer Research Foundation, and Professor of International Relations at King's College London

The many infirmities of China's Western Theatre Command

Xi's renewed aggression points to underlying issues

YOGESH GUPTA

In the first week of the new year, Chinese President Xi Jinping instructed his armed forces to be "combat-ready to act at any second" as they began their new training exercises. Mr. Xi also issued new rules for the selection, training and promotion of military personnel. There were several reasons for this aggressive rhetoric.

Firstly, with Joe Biden assuming the U.S. Presidency on January 20, Mr. Xi wants to signal confidence and military preparedness in responding to new U.S. policies on the freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea and Taiwan straits. Secondly, Mr. Xi's aggressive pursuit of disputed territories in the South China Sea, Taiwan and across borders with India has increased the chances of military conflicts. Thirdly, the performance of China's Western Theatre Command (WTC) in Ladakh last year was below par. It suffered a high number of casualties in the June 15 Galwan valley clash. The Indian Army also captured the strategic mountainous heights at Rezang La and other passes.

The performance of the WTC in Ladakh last year was poor for a number of reasons. Chinese troops had seen combat after 41 years and were hence not prepared. They have also been suffering from low morale as the force's senior officers have not got promotions in time due to doubts about their loyalty to Mr. Xi. Many of them were close to Guo Boxiong and Xu Caihou, both Vice-Chairmen of the Central Military Commission, who were ousted by Mr. Xi in his anti-corruption campaign, according to reports in the Chinese media. While Xu died in custody under investigation in 2015, Guo got a life sentence in 2016.

The WTC has been facing problems in acclimatisation of its soldiers. Recently, 10,000 troops from the WTC were moved to lower locations for recuperation. The force has been struggling with managing the joint training of its army, strategic support and air force units, with the arrival of new fighter and stealth aircraft, rockets, artificial intelligence-based drones and other equipment.

Recently, Mr. Xi replaced Gen. Zhao Zongqi, the retiring commander of the WTC, with Gen. Zhao Xidong, who had served at Doklam in 2017 and is close to him. Mr. Xi reportedly assured the new commander that his men would be given the same promotions and benefits as those in the other theatres, with special perks for combat troops stationed in "tough and remote bordering locations".

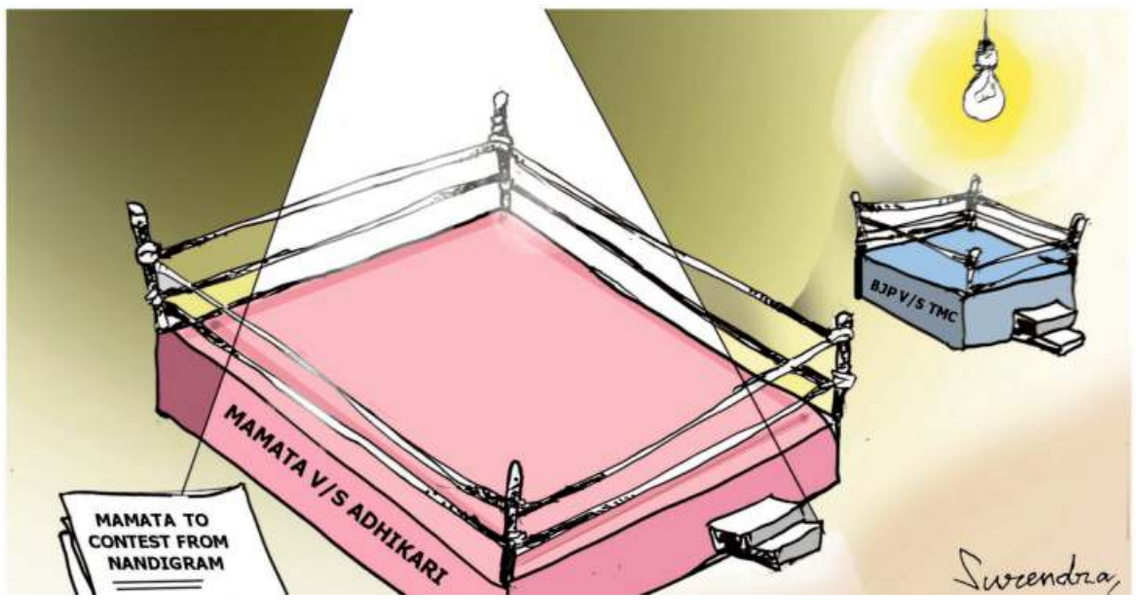
Ambitious vision

In the past, promotions in the Chinese armed forces were based on the political loyalty of officers, their connections with the Chinese Communist Party leadership and personal background, with merit bagging low priority. Now, the forces are required to display their loyalty to Mr. Xi. The President has also changed the posture of the Chinese armed forces from defensive to offensive.

Borrowing from American military doctrines, Mr. Xi has unveiled an ambitious vision for the restructuring of the Chinese armed forces, by introducing the Joint Theatre Command concept to align with various regional threats. The armed forces are also being infused with new technologies like artificial intelligence and new concepts of "intelligentised" warfare. However, the training of the Chinese armed forces to adapt to these American concepts would not be easy given the lack of cross-fertilisation with other forces, which have successfully incorporated these doctrines.

The country's armed forces also suffer from a number of other structural issues: they are a political and not a professional force, and the personnel are mostly conscripts with low levels of education and low motivation (mostly from one-child families). They lack a tough mindset and battlefield experience, and face a serious problem of 'brain drain'. These limitations will certainly affect the performance of the Chinese armed forces in a war with any professional army, as was seen in Ladakh.

Yogesh Gupta is a former Ambassador

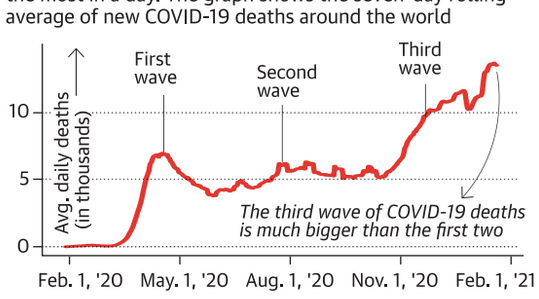


DATA POINT

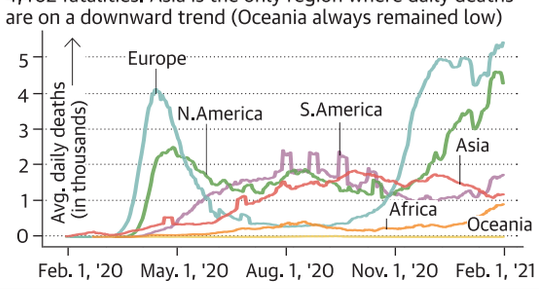
A year on, COVID-19 fatalities peak

On January 11, 2020, China reported the world's first known COVID-19-related death — a 61-year-old person who was a regular at the Wuhan market. Precisely a year later, on January 12, 2021, the highest number of single-day deaths were recorded worldwide. The U.S. crossed the grim milestone of 4 lakh cumulative deaths on Tuesday and continued to be at the top in terms of daily deaths. However, among regions, Europe topped the charts in daily deaths. Asia, and in particular India, are currently bucking the trend, with the number of deaths falling. By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Naresh Singaravelu**

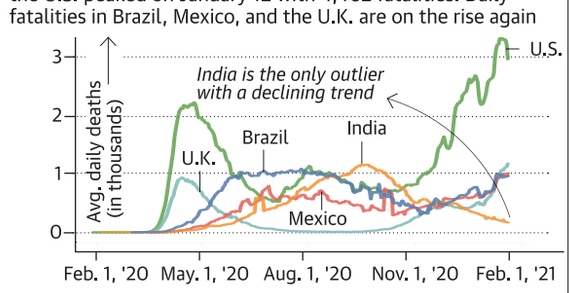
1. DEATHS PEAK | On Tuesday, 17,066 COVID-19 patients died worldwide — the second such day when daily fatalities crossed the 17,000-mark since the pandemic started. Just a week back, on January 12, 17,330 patients died — the most in a day. The graph shows the seven-day rolling average of new COVID-19 deaths around the world



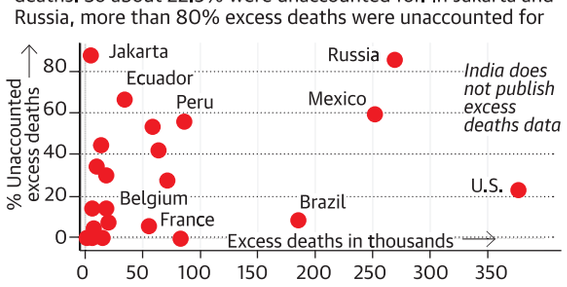
2. ASIA, AN OUTLIER | The graph shows the seven-day average of daily COVID-19 deaths across continents. With 5,430 fatalities, daily deaths in Europe peaked on Tuesday. On January 12, daily deaths in North America peaked with 4,462 fatalities. Asia is the only region where daily deaths are on a downward trend (Oceania always remained low)



3. INDIA, AN OUTLIER | The graph shows the seven-day average of daily COVID-19 deaths across the top five countries with the most cumulative deaths. Daily deaths in the U.S. peaked on January 12 with 4,462 fatalities. Daily fatalities in Brazil, Mexico, and the U.K. are on the rise again



4. UNACCOUNTED DEATHS | The graph plots excess deaths (deviation in mortality from the expected level) from March to December 2020 against the % of such deaths not caused by COVID-19. About 3.75 lakh excess deaths occurred in the U.S. in the period. Only 77.5% of them were COVID-19 deaths. So about 22.5% were unaccounted for. In Jakarta and Russia, more than 80% excess deaths were unaccounted for



The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 21, 1971

"Newspapers would be crushed"

The Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (R) President, Mr. R. V. Swaminathan, warned that the newspapers "blacking out" the Prime Minister's speeches would be "crushed" *(norukkuvom)* after the elections. Speaking at Tuesday's [January 19] public meeting (a report of which was published in THE HINDU yesterday [January 20] addressed by the Prime Minister here [MADRAS], the TNCC (R) President said "capitalist newspapers" in Tamil Nadu had "blacked out" Mrs. Gandhi's speeches at Madurai and Coimbatore on Monday [January 18]. He named the newspapers as THE HINDU, the Indian Express and the Dinamani. He said THE HINDU which supported the freedom struggle undaunted by the threats from the then British Government, was now shutting out the Prime Minister's speeches. He said the Indian Express and Dinamani were started by Mr. Sadanand, a great patriot, to help the Indian National Congress in its fight for freedom. These papers were also blacking out the Prime Minister's speeches, defeating the very purpose for which they were started, he said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 21, 1921

Camouflaged Reaction

(From an editorial)

The leopard never changes his spots: when circumstances are too strong for him he sometimes makes a feeble attempt to render them less obtrusive. Those fond optimists who prate so glibly of cooperation all round will do well to take to heart the lesson of the latest annual report of the European Association. The Reforms such as they are, having become an accomplished fact the reactionaries, like Othello, found their occupation gone. They had done their best to prevent their fructuating but their crudities of argument and political perspective revolted moderate-minded Englishmen and Mr. Montagu came out an easy victor. In fact, they formed a useful weapon which that supple politician employed to frighten Indian politicians with. The Reforms were in danger from the reactionaries cried Mr. Montagu, and the Moderates promptly shifted from their latest irreducible minimum into its successor and succeeded in creating a split in the ranks of Indian politicians. The greatest service therefore that the European Association rendered to the cause of reaction in its fight against the Reforms was that it afforded a *raison d'etre* for the Moderate party.

FROM PAGE ONE

Centre offers to put off reforms for 18 months

The government was keen on reaching a final decision at the meeting on Gurpurab.

The Centre thus said it was ready to keep the three farm laws suspended for one to one-and-a-half years, during which a solution can be reached through mutual dialogue, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar told journalists after the meeting. "If the agitation is ended, and the farmers can go home, then that will be a victory for Indian democracy, not for any individual," he added.

"In order to increase the farmer unions' belief and trust in the fact that they are very serious and sincere about the suspension idea, the government said it is willing to do this through an undertaking in the Supreme Court," said Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch leader Kavitha Kuruganti, who was one of the farmers' delegation members.

"We wanted a repeal of the three laws. The unions will discuss this new proposal at a joint meeting of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha tomorrow [Thursday] afternoon and then take a decision," said Krantikari Kisan Union leader Darshan Pal. The Punjab unions will hold their own meeting to decide their stance on Thursday morning before the SKM meeting.

When the negotiations began on Wednesday, the unions raised the issue of National Intelligence Agency issuing notices to supporters of the agitation, as well as FIRs filed against protesting farmers in Haryana. "On the one hand, the government is talking about finding solutions, but on the other hand, the NIA and State police are harassing and pressuring the protesters and those providing moral support," said Rakesh Tikait, who heads one faction of the Bharatiya Kisan Union. Mr. Tomar promised to take up the issue with the Home Ministry, added Mr. Tikait.

Before the talks began, the unions welcomed the Supreme Court's refusal to stop the proposed tractor parade on Republic Day, leaving it to the Delhi police to decide on whether to grant permission.

Let police decide on parade, says CJI

The court said farmers should ensure that the citizens of Delhi were assured of "complete peace" on January 26.

The CJI called upon advocate Prashant Bhushan to advise his clients, several farmers' unions who have resolved not to come before the expert committee, to embrace peace. "We want a resolution of the dispute," he told Mr. Bhushan.

Mr. Bhushan responded, "Everybody wants it. But they are convinced that these laws need to be repealed. The laws were passed without prior notice or consultation. They were not placed for consideration before any parliamentary committees. There was even no voting in the Rajya Sabha on them".

Chief Justice Bobde told Mr. Bhushan, "In a democracy, other than repeal, a way of striking down a law is through the court. The court is now seized of the issue".

Mr. Bhushan replied, "Protest is a way of putting pressure on government. If it stops, pressure wanes... Suppose My Lords come to a conclusion the laws are constitutional..."

There had been a call for peace among the protesting farmers' unions on Republic Day, he said.

Biden sworn in, delivers message of unity, hope

He referred to the devastation caused by the coronavirus pandemic (more than 400,000 Americans have died), job losses, racial justice, the climate crisis, white supremacy and domestic terrorism. In his speech, Mr. Biden called for unity. "My whole soul is in this... bringing America together, uniting our people, uniting our nation," he said, asking every American to join him in the cause.

Racism, nativism, fear and demonisation have torn America apart, he said. "We can join forces, stop the shouting and lower the temperature... Politics doesn't have to be a raging fire, destroying everything in its path," Mr. Biden said.

"We must reject the culture in which facts themselves are manipulated and even manufactured," Mr. Biden said about the rise in the level of misinformation during the Trump presidency, including from the former President himself.

"It did not happen. It will never happen. Not today, not tomorrow, not ever, not ever," he said about the Capitol violence trying to overturn the election results.

He said he would be a President for all Americans – those who voted for him and those who did not. "We must end this uncivil war, that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative against liberal."

Lady Gaga sang the national anthem and Jennifer Lopez sang a patriotic song.

Mr. Trump, who had contested the election results and addressed the mob minutes before they attacked the Capitol weeks ago, refused to meet Mr. Biden at the White House and travel with him to the inauguration in accordance with tradition. However, he had, as per reports, left a personal note in the Oval Office for his successor, as is the custom. While he wished the next administration "great luck and great success" at the Joint Base Andrews prior to departing for Florida, Mr. Trump did not mention Mr. Biden by name. The former President, who has hinted that he may run again in 2024, said: "We will be back in some form." The Pences were seen off to their limousine by Ms. Harris and her husband, Doug Emhoff, and the two couples shared a laugh – a particularly significant moment, given the tumultuous few weeks in the run up to Wednesday and Mr. Trump's absence.

Karnataka tops NITI Aayog's Innovation Index

Delhi topped among Union Territories, and Himachal Pradesh among North-Eastern and Hill States.

The India Innovation Index, Niti Aayog said, aims to create an extensive framework for a continual evaluation of India's innovation environment. The index aims to rank States and UTs based on their scores, recognise opportunities and challenges, and assist in tailoring government policies to foster innovation.

"The India Innovation Index will create synergies between different stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem, thus enabling India to shift to competitive good governance," Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar said.

Sasikala hospitalised week before release from prison

Former AIADMK leader had complained of fever, breathlessness and cough

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa's aide V.K. Sasikala, who is due to be released from the Parappana Agrahara jail on January 27, was hospitalised on Wednesday with complaints of fever, breathlessness and cough.

According to prison officials, she complained of uneasiness and was shifted to the prison hospital when the symptoms did not subside.

After keeping her under observation, doctors at the prison hospital decided to seek a second opinion on the possibility of a COVID-19 infection and shifted her to the Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute later in the day.

Health concerns: The police escorting V.K. Sasikala at a hospital in Bengaluru on Wednesday. ▪ MURALI KUMAR K.

Doctors at Bowring Hospital told *The Hindu* that she had fever two days ago, but when she was brought in, she had breathlessness but no fever.

"She has tested negative in the rapid antigen test and the test report of RT-PCR is awaited," said Manoj Kumar H.V., dean and director and Medical Superintendent at Bowring Hospital. Her oxygen saturation had dropped to 79%. Later in the evening, after she was administered six litres of oxygen, it came up to 96%, said doctors.

"Ms. Sasikala was admitted with co-morbidities of hypertension, diabetes and hypothyroidism. She is stable with supportive measures, antibiotics and oxygen. She will be further evaluated and monitored. Investigation reports are awaited," said the hospital in a statement.

Under observation

The former AIADMK leader's advocate Raja Senthoor Pandian, when contacted, said, "We are getting updates from prison authorities. She is under observation and tests are done. Results are awaited. No one is allowed to meet her."

Security personnel have been deployed at the ward where she has been admitted. Ms. Sasikala, close confidante of Jayalalithaa, was convicted in a disproportionate assets case and is set to complete her four-year prison term on January 27.

Undiagnosed illness cases in A.P. rise to 29

No reason to panic, say officials

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS
PULLA (WEST GODAVARI)

The number of patients suffering from an undiagnosed illness at Pulla village of Bhimadole mandal in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh increased to 29 on Wednesday.

"The patients are showing symptoms of epilepsy, and suffering from giddiness, fever, vomiting and convulsions," according to doctors treating them at the local PHC. "The condition of the patients is stable and there is no need to panic. Medical camps have been set up and ambulances are kept ready at Pulla and the neighbouring habitations," officials said.

Health Minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas visited the village, along with District Collector R. Mutyala Raju, Joint Collector Himanshu Shukla and a team of doctors. Mr. Srinivas also visited the colonies and inspected the sanitation, drinking water supply, sewage system and clearing of garbage in the village. He also interacted with the family members of the patients.

"We have shifted a few patients to the district headquarters hospital and their condition is stable. Instructions have been given to inquire into the reasons for the outbreak," the Minister said.

Mr. Himanshu Shukla, who was monitoring the situation at Pulla, said about 30 ASHA workers and 10 ANMs were conducting a door-to-door survey to monitor the situation. "In all, 20 doctors, who include three physicians, and five medical teams have camped in the village. The disease is confined only to Pulla," Mr. Shukla told *The Hindu*.

Cong., farmers take out rally against farm laws

They also protested against the steep hike in fuel prices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Thousands of farmers from across the State, led by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, on Wednesday took out a protest march, Raj Bhavan Chalo, in Bengaluru, demanding the revoking of the three farm laws enacted by the Central government.

Farmers holding placards and Congress flags took out the march from Sangolli Rayanna statue at Ananda Rao Circle to Freedom Park in the city.

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and his counterpart in the Council S.R. Patil, senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, K.H. Muniyappa, H.K. Patil and B.L. Shankar were among those who participated in the rally. They said an "arrogant Central government" had remained insensible to the pains and sufferings of 63 crore farmers.

In solidarity: KPCC chief D.K Shivakumar, former CM Siddaramaiah and others in Bengaluru. ▪ MURALI KUMAR K.

The rally caused a traffic blockade in the city for three to four hours. Motorists were diverted to adjacent roads after traffic came to a near standstill on Sheshadri Road, Nrupatunga Road, and Race Course Road.

The protesters also opposed the steep hikes in fuel prices. The Congress leaders said the Central government increased excise duty on petrol by 258% and on diesel by 820% since 2014.

In a memorandum submitted to President Ram Nath Kovind, through Governor Vajubhai R. Vala, the leaders demanded calling a Parliament session to discuss the three farm laws.

Cattle transport: govt. gives undertaking to HC

Says no action will be taken now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Wednesday gave an undertaking to the High Court that no coercive action will be initiated for transporting cattle in breach of Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Ordinance, 2020 till the relevant rules are brought into force based on the draft rules notified recently.

Advocate-General Prabhuling K. Navadgi made submissions in this regard before a Division bench, comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum, during the hearing of PIL petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Ordinance promulgated recently.

Objections, suggestions

Also, the A-G assured the Bench that the government would inform the court before enforcing the rules after it were finalised considering the objections and suggestions being received for the draft rules, which were notified on January 18.

The government gave the assurance after the Bench during earlier hearing asked to clear apprehension about likely prosecution of farmers for transporting cattle within the State even for the exemption granted for bonafide agriculture and animal husbandry purpose as the government is yet to frame rules prescribing manner of such transportation.

Following these assurance, the Bench said that there was no need to pass any interim order at this stage while adjourning hearing till February 26.

The Bench also said that it may have examine a few provisions of the Ordinance.

IN BRIEF

Fresh bout of bird flu detected in Kerala

ALAPPUZHA

A fresh bout of avian influenza flu (H5N8) has been detected at Kuttanad in Alappuzha, Kerala. According to officials, around 500 birds, mostly chicken, died at Kainakary recently. Samples of the dead birds sent to the National Institute of High-Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal, for analysis were found to have been infected with the H5N8 subtype of the Influenza A virus.

Kerala CM flays Centre's decision on airport

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Centre's decision to transfer the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport to Adani Airports Ltd. drew sharp criticism from Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday. He said the petition filed by the State was pending before the Supreme Court. However, the Centre had opted to ignore it.

Set up a vaccine testing lab in Hyderabad: KTR

HYDERABAD

Telangana Industries and IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao has highlighted the need to set up a vaccine testing and certification laboratory in Hyderabad on the lines of the Central Drug Laboratory (CDL) in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh.

Actor Unnikrishnan Namboothiri dead

KANNUR

Noted film actor Unnikrishnan Namboothiri died on Wednesday, sources from his family said. Namboothiri was 98. The actor had survived COVID-19 and was discharged from a hospital on Tuesday. A family friend of the actor said Namboothiri felt some uneasiness and was admitted to a private hospital on Wednesday, but he passed away in the evening.

Glitches in Co-WIN slow down vaccination efforts

App slows down drive in Karnataka

TANU KULKARNI
BENGALURU

The COVID-19 vaccination drive was either halted or slowed down in several hospitals across Bengaluru, Karnataka on Wednesday as glitches in the Co-WIN app persisted.

Krishnaiah, medical superintendent, Jayanagar General Hospital in Bengaluru, said vaccination against COVID-19 for health workers could not take place on Tuesday and Wednesday. "The portal was not allowing us to enter the names of the healthcare workers who could get vaccinated," he said.

Manoj Kumar H.V., dean and director and Medical Superintendent of the Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute, said the drive did not take place at their hospital as they did not get the list of health workers that were to be vaccinated from the State war room.

An official of the Department of Health and Family Welfare said there was a heavy load on the servers as all the hospitals were trying to enter the data at the same time.

However, Karnataka continued to have the highest number of health workers vaccinated in the country. Of the 1.12 lakh healthworkers vaccinated in total, 36,211 were from the State.

'Neglected' elderly man dies

Couple allegedly denied food, water for days at son's house

STAFF REPORTER
KOTTAYAM

An 80-year-old man died after allegedly being neglected by his son at Asambani near Mundakayam in Kerala. The deceased was identified as Podiyan.

Podiyan and his wife Ammini were found by ASHA workers and palliative care team members on Tuesday in a poor condition, without food, water and medicine for days, at the house of his younger son.

Although the couple was shifted to the General Hospital, Kanjirapally, with the help of the police and people's representatives, Podiyan died later in the day. Ammini, who is showing signs of mental health issues, was admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital, Kottayam.

Neglected state: Podiyan and Ammini before being shifted to a hospital on Tuesday. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Mundakayam police said the couple was living with their younger son Reji and his wife. "We have registered a case of unnatural death," said a police official.

Sources said the couple's son used to lock them in a room and no one was allowed to enter the house.

"After being informed by the neighbours, ASHA and palliative care members visited the house. Although the couple's son and his wife lived in the same house, they never took care of them. Both Podiyan and Ammini were living there in an abandoned state," said an official.

Fake online varsities back in business of granting 'D. Litt'

The latest victim is a prominent actor from Kerala

A.S. JAYANTH
KOZHIKODE

Fake online universities granting honorary doctorates (Doctor of Letters or D. Litt) seem to be back in the limelight in Kerala. The latest victim is a prominent actor, who held a press meet a couple of days ago to announce that he had been chosen for the "honour".

Ajmal Mueen, Assistant Professor, Department of History, M.A.M.O. College, Mukkom, Kozhikode, who is part of a group of academics tracking the activities of these universities, said on Wednesday that the actor had claimed to have received a D. Litt from the 'Royal American University'.

According to its website the university is located in Delaware State of the United States. Inquiries with the State Library authorities there, however, revealed that accredited universities and colleges in the U.S. have a web address with ".edu" at the end. For example, the web address of the University of Delaware is https://www.udel.edu/.

"... So this appears to be a fabricated university to our knowledge. In addition, there is not a college of this name physically located in Delaware that we are aware of. After searching extensively, I am not finding any mention of Royal American University listed in any compilation of accredited online degree programmes," the authorities replied to a message sent by Mr. Mueen. The location given on the website was that of a car repair unit.

The actor had said the D. Litt would be awarded at an event in India "because of COVID-19 restrictions".

Ethics panel gives clean chit to Isaac

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Privileges and Ethics Committee of the Assembly, headed by A. Pradeep Kumar, has give a clean chit to Kerala Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac in connection with the breach of privilege notice moved by Congress legislator V.D. Satheesan.

Mr. Satheesan had said Dr. Isaac had infringed on the rights of the House by disclosing the contents of the Comptroller and Auditor General's State Finance Audit Report for the year ending March 2019 at a press meet before it was tabled in the Assembly.

'CAG's remarks aimed at tarnishing govt. image'

Report not binding to govt., says Isaac

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac has said the adverse comments made by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on the State Finance Audit Report was aimed at tarnishing the image of State government and to scuttle development initiatives.

"The CAG had said that all loans sourced by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board [KIIFB] were unconstitutional. The Opposition said they shared the same views. The Left Democratic Front [LDF] will make it a poll plank in the elections," Dr. Isaac said in his reply to the adjournment motion moved by Congress member V.D. Satheesan in the Assembly on Wednesday.

Dr. Isaac said the Opposition was supporting the move by vested interests to tarnish the government and stall development. The CAG report was not binding to the State government as the Assembly could drop any paragraph after examination.

"The CAG report is a challenge and a disrespect to the Assembly as three pages were inserted in the final report," he said.

Building an app for India means building one for the world: Signal's Brian Acton

Co-founder of Signal Foundation says its non-profit status protects it from 'outside interests demanding rapid returns' and it's ramping up infrastructure

SOWMYA RAMASUBRAMANIAN
JOHN XAVIER
CHENNAI

Facebook-owned WhatsApp recently updated its privacy policy, triggering a mass digital migration of users from the messaging platform to those of its rivals. The switch gained momentum after the world's richest man Elon Musk urged his followers on Twitter to install the Signal app.

Since then, millions of users have downloaded Signal to connect with their friends and family. The exodus initially strained telecom service providers' infrastructure, causing delays in the user sign-up process.

The unforeseen user traffic did not deter Signal's effort to ramp up infrastructure and build capabilities to handle sustained growth in user traffic to its platform.

Signal's unprecedented growth helped it top charts on Apple's App Store in over 70 countries and in Google's Play Store in more than 50 countries, Signal Foundation's co-founder Brian Acton said in an email interview to *The Hindu*.

The Signal app was launched by Moxie Marlinspike in 2013. Mr. Marlinspike and Mr. Acton co-founded the Signal Foundation five years later in response to the continued global need for data protection and privacy, setting out to pioneer a new model of a technology non-profit, focused on privacy and data protection for its users.

The foundation is an independent non-profit body, and is not tied to any major technology firm. Product development on the platform is supported by grants and donations, akin to the way Wikipedia is run.

"Our non-profit status protects Signal from outside interests demanding rapid returns," Mr. Acton said.

He is also the co-founder of WhatsApp but he left the platform after it was sold to Facebook in 2014.

A week after WhatsApp's policy update, on January 13, the Signal app was downloaded by 17.8 million users over the week, a 62-fold rise from the week prior, Reuters reported. About 810,000 users globally installed the app in a single day on January 10. While Signal installs surged, WhatsApp's daily downloads number slowed significantly.

Brian Acton

Signal is scaling up its infrastructure to handle user traffic and to ensure it has enough capacity online. "We are burning the midnight oil," Mr. Acton said.

Signal app users experienced several outages last week after it faced technical difficulties as it dealt with the flood of new users. Services were restored on Saturday.

"There are still going to be some challenging moments when you grow so suddenly like we did, but we are moving as fast as possible through it all," Mr. Acton added.

While Signal witnessed an exponential growth in usage and adoption in 2019 – much of it fuelled by increased reliance on digital communication – it is different this time.

"All that pales in comparison to what is happening right now though, this movement for privacy is larger than anything I've seen, even during my time at WhatsApp," Mr. Acton noted.

The foundation aims to be "financially self-sustaining" and act in public interest, and make a "meaningful contribution to society by building sustainable technology that respects people and does not rely on the commoditisation of personal data", he added.

India continues to dominate Signal's growth numbers, helping it sustain its top position in the free apps category in Apple's App Store. It is also the most popular app in India currently. "We believe that building our app for a country as diverse as India will have automatically built it for the world," Mr. Acton said.

He also pointed out that Signal app installs in India started even before the WhatsApp update.

"To be honest, we always knew that India was going to be a very big place for Signal as we had seen massive adoption over the summer," he said. Prominent personalities in India, including Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra, supported the app via Twitter.

Mr. Acton said Indian users can expect several features soon, including wallpapers, and animated stickers, the most requested feature in the country, Mr. Acton said.

Signal will also support other uncommon features like disappearing messages, a "note to self" feature, and emoji reactions to messages. The app will also support more regional languages, including Gujarati, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Punjabi.

(For full interview, visit: http://bit.ly/3qEku28)

Supreme Court dismisses Aadhaar review petitions

However, Justice Chandrachud dissents with majority

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in a majority view, dismissed a series of petitions seeking a review of its 2018 judgment upholding the Lok Sabha Speaker's certification of Aadhaar law as a Money Bill and its subsequent passage in Parliament. However, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud dissented with the majority, saying the Aadhaar review petitions should be kept pending.

The Bench sat in review on January 11 in their chambers. The decision, however, was published on Wednesday.

Two questions had come up for review regarding the five-judge Aadhaar Bench's judgment in 2018. One, whether the Speaker's decision to declare a proposed law as Money Bill was "final" and cannot be challenged in court. The second, whether the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 was correctly certified as a 'Money Bill' under Article 110 (1) of the Constitution.

On the first question, the majority judgment in 2018 said the Speaker's decision could be challenged in court only under "certain circumstances". On the second, it concluded that the Aadhaar Act was rightly called a Money Bill. Justice Chandrachud, who was on the Bench, had dissented on the second conclusion in 2018.

Two years later, marking his dissent again, Justice Chandrachud differed with the four other judges on the Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar. This time, he said that another five-judge Bench in a separate case in November 2019 had questioned the conclusions arrived at by the Aadhaar Bench and referred the issues to a seven-judge Bench for an authoritative take.

Why cast aspersions on court, asks CJI Bobde

'It has become almost a cultural thing to brand people and malign their reputation'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad A. Bobde on Wednesday said it had become "almost a cultural thing" to brand people while lashing out at articles hinting the possibility of "bias" on the part of members of an expert committee constituted by the Supreme Court to intercede between the protesting farmers and the government.

"They [committee members] are brilliant minds in the field of agriculture... Branding of people whom you do not want, this has become almost like a cultural thing. You malign people's reputation and then you say the court is interested in these people... I am sorry that this kind of opinions are appearing in the Press," he said. There was criticism in social media and articles in newspapers over the court's choice of members of the committee constituted on January 12.

> We formed the committee only to hear the farmers' grievances and submit a report to the court. They were given no adjudicatory powers. So, where is the question of bias here? If you don't want to appear before the committee, don't
>
> SHARAD A. BOBDE
> Chief Justice of India

The opinions published said the members had previously written in favour of the farm laws. Write-ups indicated that the members may not be empathetic to the cause of the farmers, who have been protesting at the Delhi borders for nearly 50 days, for repeal of the laws. Amid this, one of the committee members, Bhupinder Singh Mann, recused himself from the committee.

"You unthinkingly cast aspersions on people. Bhupinder Singh Mann had even asked for modifications of the laws, can you say he is in favour of the laws... Or is it that you do not want people to have opinions? Even the best judges have opinions, though he can give a judgment against his own personal opinions... Have you not found in the body-politic people expressing an opinion and changing them once informed?" Chief Justice Bobde addressed some lawyers appearing for farmers.

'Bid to hear out farmers'

The court said the reputation of the members have been torn to shreds. The committee had been given no power to decide on the farm laws. They have been constituted only to hear out the farmers.

"We formed the committee only to hear the farmers' grievances and submit a report to the court. They were given no adjudicatory powers. So, where is the question of bias here? If you don't want to appear before the committee, don't. But why cast aspersions on the court and brand people. We did not want to intervene, but we did only for the sake of the common people and the farmers," Chief Justice Bobde said. Newspaper reports do not decide disputes in court, he stated. "We are adjudicating the dispute. Are we going to read newspapers and decide disputes? Public opinions cannot be used to determine court proceedings," he observed.

Nadda to kick off rath yatras in West Bengal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP president J.P. Nadda will kick off a series of rath yatras in each of West Bengal's 294 Assembly constituencies on February 5 in the run-up to State polls later in the year.

The party decided this in a series of meetings on keeping up its campaign pitch for the polls. In the same series, Trinamool Congress MLA from Shantipur Arindam Bhattacharya joined the BJP at the party's national headquarters in the presence of BJP general secretaries Kailash Vijaywargiya, Bhupendra Yadav and Arun Singh.

According to sources, some major joinings, including that of State Forest Minister Rajib Banerjee, are expected during Home Minister Amit Shah's visit on January 29-30.

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No.417, Pantheon Road, Chennai-600 008. Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259 / Mobile: 09940188236, Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in , E-Mail: mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Sealed Tenders are invited for the supply of **Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (Quadrivalent)** by TNMSC Ltd., Chennai - 600 008, from the Manufacturers or direct importer or Loan Licensees having Valid Loan License having one year Market Standing.

Tender Reference No.	011/M(P)/AH1N1/TNMSC/2020, Dated. 22.01.2021
Tender Document Sale Period	22.01.2021 to 04.02.2021
Last Date and Time for receipt of tender	05.02.2021 upto 10.30 A.M.
Date and Time of opening	05.02.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

The tender document can be downloaded from the websites of www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in and www.tenders.tn.gov.in on free of cost.

DIPR/410/Tender/2021 — Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
SAMAGRA SHIKSHA
STATE PROJECT OFFICE,
KBC BOYS HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS, OPP.RAITHU BAZAR, PATAMATA, VIJAYAWADA, ANDHRA PRADESH

Request for Proposal

e-procurement notice No. SS-16/1/2020-CMO SEC-SSA, dt.21-1-2021

Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh is inviting Request For Proposal for procurement and supply of **School bags, Belts, a pair of shoes and two pairs of socks and Note Books** under the scheme of **"Jagananna Vidya Kanuka"** to all the students (approximately **43.88 lakhs** in number) studying classes I to X in Government Management Schools in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2021-22. For details please visit **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** from **22-1-2021**. Tender/ RFP form can be downloaded from website. Eligible firms shall upload the prescribed format as per the schedules given in the above said site. Contact No. 0866-2428599.

Sd/- State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh.
DIPR 560PP/CL, Dt.20-01-2021

Andhra Pradesh State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd.,
D.No. 56-2-11, 3rd Phase, Markfed Lay at No.49/84, APIIC Colony Road, Javahar Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (Urban) - AP-520007.
E. mail: fertilisers.apmarkfed@gmail.com Webpage: www.apmarkfed.in

Ref: AP Markfed/Micro/2020-21/21 Date: 18-01-2021

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

AP Markfed invites sealed Tenders from reputed Manufactures and Transporters (Gypsum transportation) for supply/transportation of following products for the year 2020-21.
(A) (I) ZINC SULPHATE 21% (II) ZINC SULPHATE 33% MONO HYDRATE (FOLIAR SPRAY). (III) CHELATED ZINC 12% as Zn EDTA (FOLIAR SPRAY) - Sealed Tenders will be received up to 11:00 AM at the above office on **29-01-2021** and will be opened at **11:15 AM** on the same day. **(B) (I) BORON 10.5% (II) BORON 20% (FOLIAR SPRAY)-** Sealed Tenders will be received up to 11:00 AM at the above office on **29-01-2021** and will be opened at **12:15 PM** on the same day. **(C) GYPSUM** Agril. Grade (both Bulk & Bagged) for supply & transportation - Sealed Tenders will be received up to 11:00 AM at the above office on **29-01-2021** and will be opened at **12:45 PM** on the same day.
The tender schedules containing terms & conditions of supply/transportation of above products can be down loaded from A.P. Markfed's web site **www.apmarkfed.in.**

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
No.AD/OE/GL-07/13(Vol.V)/139 Dtd.18.01.2021
Name of the Work : **"Providing Secretarial and other assistance for official works of Administrative Department".** Estimated cost put to tender ₹ 2,24,85,418/-(Excluding GST@18% & Contractor's Commission). The last date & time of submission of bid is 01.02.2021 upto 1700 Hrs. For details please refer our website : **www.paradipport.gov.in/ https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**
Asst. Secretary(Admn.)
PPT/PR/373/20-21 Dt.20.01.2021

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
ADDENDUM TO AUCTION NOTICE NO.07/2020
Special E-auction will be conducted at GSD/PER on 29.01.2021 for disposal of ferrous scrap, Non-ferrous scrap, rolling stock and other miscellaneous scrap.
Special E-auction conducted by : CMM/GSD/PER **Date of auction for the Month of January – 21**: 29.01.2021 **Materials for auction :** Details of item to be sold in E-auction will be available in catalogue **www.ireps.gov.in website**
All other E-auction schedule for January – 21 remains un altered. For detailed terms and condition and downloading of catalogue please visit our website **www.ireps.gov.in-> E-auction -> Sale -> Live auctions.**
Principle Chief Materials Manager, Southern Railway
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)
Address: Block No. 16,4th Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Sector-11, Gandhinagar - 382 011
Phone: +91-79-23222523 / 23222645 / 23220002
Fax: 91-79-23238908

TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited from reputed and experienced Agencies for undertaking **Public Relations & Media activities for Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited.** The project scope, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents published on the websites: **https://www.nprocure.com/** and **http://www.gujarattourism.com.** The last date for submission of the **Financial Bid is 08/03/2021 up to 3:00 pm. and Technical Bid is 10/03/2021 up to 3:00 pm.** The Financial Bid shall be uploaded in n-procure website only.
Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
TRICHY (H) NABARD AND RURAL ROADS, CIRCLE
TENDER NOTICE (Online only)
Tender Notice No.33/2020-21/ SDO /Dated:20.01.2021
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu Percentage Tender (Two Cover System) will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle, Trichy **for Five Bridge works under NABARD RIDF - XXVI/2020-21 (50 BRIDGE WORKS) & NABARD RIDF - XXVI/ 2020-21 (26 BRIDGE WORKS)** loan Assistance scheme in respect of **Trichy, Nagapattinam & Madurai (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Divisions** upto **14.00 hours on 22.02.2021** through online only.
Details of works, approximate value of work, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available **from 28.01.2021 onwards** in the Government website **http://tntenders.gov.in** If any Changes / Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website only.
DIPR/382/TENDER/2021 — SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H), NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, TRICHY

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
PENNAIYAR BASIN CIRCLE, TIRUVANNAMALAI - 606 603.
FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMPSUM - ITEM RATE CONTRACT
TENDER NOTICE (Two cover System)
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE NO.: 15/ PBC / T.V.Malai / 2020-2021 / F. 334/ JDO.1 DATED:19.01.2021.
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu, the Superintending Engineer, WRD., Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 606603, invites tender in Two cover system from eligible tenderers for the work of **1) "Improvements to the Nandhan Channel from L.S. 12.400 Km to L.S.37.880 Km in Gingee, Vikkaravandi and Villupuram Taluks of Villupuram District." (Value of work: Rs.2,530.00 Lakh including GST)" 2) Design, Drawing, Fabrication supply and Erection of Embedded parts, Gate, Hoist Bridge and Electrification Hoisting Arrangements in Kazhuveli Tank. (Value of work: Rs.1,300.00 Lakh including GST)** at his office **upto 03.00 p.m. on 09.02.2021** in sealed cover. The tender will be opened **at 03.30 p.m.** at his chamber on the same day.
Other information as details of Work, Value, EMD, Cost of Tender schedule, Qualification details etc., will be available in the Government website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** Any Corrections or Modifications will be published on web site only.
DIPR/386/TENDER/2021 — SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, WRD., PENNAIYAR BASIN CIRCLE, TIRUVANNAMALAI-606603.

ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ರಾಜ್ಯ ವಿಮಾ ನಿಗಮ / कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION
Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India
REGIONAL OFFICE, KARNATAKA
No.10, BINNY FIELDS, TANK BUND ROAD, (NEAR BINNY MILLS, NEXT TO ETA MALL), BINNYPET, BENGALURU – 560 023
Ph: 080-26742485 Fax: 080-26741307 E-mail: rd-karnataka@esic.nic.in

E-Tender Notice
Notice Inviting e-tender (Expression of Interest) from **Central/ State PWDs/ PSUs under Two Bid Systems** for supervision/ execution of **Annual Maintenance works (Civil, Electromechanical and other) and Special Repair works (Civil and Electrical)** for the existing infrastructure of ESIC properties comprising of buildings, Medical college, Hospitals, Dispensaries, staff quarter, DG sets, chiller plants, Lifts, STPs, RO Plant and Laundry, Roads and other services etc., at various locations in Karnataka state for the period of one year.
1. **Date of availability to download the tender : 21/01/2021 at 10:00**
2. **Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : 28/01/2021 at 15:00**
3. **Last date to submission of Bids : 11/02/2021 at 15:00**
4. **Date of Opening of Technical Bids : 12/02/2021 at 15:00**

Interested tenderers may submit online tender at **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.** Tender document can also be viewed at **www.esic.nic.in** and **www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**
Dated: 20.01.2021 — Sd/- Regional Director

MISSING
The person named Libin Thankappan, age 25 yrs, S/O Thankappan, Edakkattu House, Makkapathal Bhagam, Mattuthavalam P.O, Upputhara Village, whose photograph is affixed above has found missing from his house on 05.08.2020 at 02.00 hrs and hasn't returned until now. If any information gets regarding the missing person, please ccontact to the Phone numbers given below or e-mail to siuptridk.pol@kerala.gov.in

BRIEF DETAILS : Height: 5 Feet, Dark complexion, lean and has a black long mole on his forehead.
WEARING APPARELS AT THE TIME OF MISSING: Red coloured shirt with a black coloured overcoat on it and has a black lungi
CONTACT DETAILS: Inspector of Police, Upputhara 9497947174, 04869 244315, Sub Inspector of Police, Upputhara 9497980386, e-mail ID siuptridk.pol@kerala.gov.in
141/F2/2021/I&PRD

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
TIRUVANNAMALAI MUNICIPALITY
Tender Notice No.: 179/2014/E1 Dated: 19.01.2021
NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ) for Construction of New Bus Stand in Tiruvannamalai Municipality on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ) – TENDER DATE upto 25.02.2021 (Vth Call)
Tiruvannamalai is a Temple and also known for its trading activities. The existing Bus stand of the Tiruvannamalai Municipality was constructed around 20 years back with 50 bus bays as "A" class bus stand being operated at present to connect surrounding villages and towns. Considering the future growth of the town, Tiruvannamalai Municipal Council approved the proposal to construct a new bus stand with all required amenities in Municipality land situated at New Survey 26/1, 26/2, 27, 28, 29/1, 29/3, 29/5... Esaniyam in Tiruvannamalai.
"Request for Qualification (RFQ)" is invited from Developers for construction of Bus Stand on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis for a period of 22 years. Interested Developers may apply for the project based on their eligibility as per eligibility criteria mentioned in the RFQ document **(para 34 to 38)**.The bidders should be single Business Entity incorporated as a Public / Private Limited Company, incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 / 2013. More details are provided in the RFQ document.
The eligible bidders shall be evaluated as per the qualifying criteria and become eligible to participate in the Request for Proposal (RFP).
The RFQ document can be obtained on payment of **Rs.10,000/-** (Non refundable) from the Tiruvannamalai Municipality office from **25.01.2021 to 24.02.2021** up to **3.00 p.m.** RFQ document can also be downloaded from the following websites: **https://tntenders.gov.in** and Tiruvannamalai municipal website: **https://www.tnurbantree.tn.gov.in/tiruvannamalai/** between **25.01.2021 to 24.02.2021 up to 3.00 pm.**
The pre-proposal meeting shall be conducted on **08.02.2021 at 11.00 hrs.** at the address noted below to clarify the queries that may be raised by the bidders.
The duly filled-in and wax sealed tender documents shall be submitted online or offline method on or before **24.02.2021 up to 15.00 Hrs.**
Proposals will be opened on **25.02.2021 at 15.30 Hrs.** at the address indicated below.
DIPR/335/Tender/2021 — **Commissioner, Tiruvannamalai Municipality, Tiruvannamalai - 606 601. Tamilnadu**

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited
(A Government Company)
Regd. Office: KOTHAGUDEM– 507101, Telangana.
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION No. 01/2021
SCCL is looking for Suitable candidates for the following Posts

S. No.	Name of the Post	Total vacancies including carry forward vacancies (CF)
1	FITTER TRAINEE (MEN ONLY) -CAT-I	128 Vacancies (Local -105, Unreserved - 23)
2	ELECTRICIAN TRAINEE (MEN ONLY) - CAT-I	51 Vacancies (Local - 43, Unreserved - 08)
3	WELDER TRAINEE (MEN ONLY) -CAT-I	54 Vacancies (Local - 44, Unreserved - 10)
4	TURNER/MACHINIST TRAINEE (MEN ONLY) - CAT-I	22 Vacancies (Local - 18, Unreserved- 04)
5	MOTOR MECHANIC TRAINEE (MEN ONLY) - CAT-I	14 Vacancies (Local - 12, Unreserved - 02)
6	FOUNDRY MAN/MOULDER TRAINEE (MEN ONLY) - CAT-I	19 Vacancies (Local - 16, Unreserved - 03)
7	JUNIOR STAFF NURSES (FEMALE ONLY) – T&S GRADE - D	84 Vacancies (Local - 67, Unreserved - 17)

Unreserved Means : Open to all i.e., Local & Non-Local
Local Means : The erstwhile 4 Districts i.e., Khammam, Adilabad, Karimnagar & warangal. (Present 16 Districts of Telangana.)
Non Local Means : Belongs to all other districts of Telangana.
For details i.e, Age, Qualification, Reservation, Grade, Scale of Pay, Fee details etc. please visit our SCCL website https://www.scclmines.com " Careers" Link available on Home page. Please apply ONLINE w.e.f. 22.01.2021. at 03:00 PM-up to 5:00 PM on 04.02.2021. Candidates have to apply Online only and no other mode of application will be accepted. Hence, candidates have to ensure their eligibility for the post before making online application by visiting SCCL website invariably. Candidates need not send print application. Certificates (Soft copies) of desired qualifications to be uploaded mandatorily.
PR/2020-21/PER (CRP)/79
DIPR RO No.1380-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 — Chairman & Managing Director

1.1 lakh vaccinations, 82 adverse events on Day 5

14,119 sessions held across the country since January 16

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On Wednesday, 1,12,007 people were inoculated against COVID-19, taking the count of beneficiaries to 7,86,000. There have been four deaths among those vaccinated – three due to cardiac arrest and not linked to the vaccination and one was still being analysed, a Health Ministry official said.

All in all, the States have reported 82 adverse events following immunisation. While 10 of them have merited hospitalisation, seven have been discharged and none grave enough to be recorded as a "serious/severe AEFI". The deaths were reported from Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, Bellary and Shivamogga in Karnataka and Nirmal in Telangana.

On the fifth day since the vaccination has begun, 20 States organised sessions. Andhra Pradesh recorded the highest number at 22,548 whereas Himachal Pradesh pooled only 45. Kerala that has recorded some of the highest infections in the country recorded only 262.

The way forward: A health worker administering the vaccine at a hospital in Mumbai. ▪ EMMANUAL YOGINI

So far there have been 14,119 sessions held nationally since January 16 and by the Health Ministry's original estimate of 100 inoculations per session, there ought to have been 1.4 million inoculations so far but the actual number as of today is around half that.

The Centre has said it has now provided for States, which must record vaccinations, using the Co-WIN software to add beneficiaries to a session in case those who were supposed to receive their shots on a particular day don't turn up. However, only those who were pre-registered could avail themselves of such a facility. Those who were inoculated would get a "provisional certificate" after the first dose and a final certificate after the final dose 14 days later.

India sends vaccines to 2 countries

A consignment of 1,50,000 doses arrives in Bhutan, 1,00,000 doses reach Male

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday began the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to six "neighbouring and key partner countries". The delivery began with two special flights carrying the first consignments of Covishield to the Maldives and Bhutan. Sources said Bangladesh and Nepal will receive two large consignments of the same vaccine on Thursday followed by supplies to Myanmar and the Seychelles.

As part of the vaccine diplomacy, a consignment of 1,50,000 doses reached Thimphu on Wednesday. Bhutan is the first country to receive the vaccine manufactured by the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII). The vaccine is part of an overall programme to build Bhutanese capacity to fight the pandemic. On the request of Bhutan, India has also fast tracked the release of ₹501 crore for Thimphu's "reprioritised projects" to meet the emerging challenges caused by the pandemic.

Later on Wednesday, a consignment of 1,00,000 doses was received at the Male airport by Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid and Health Minister Ahmed Naseem.

First batch: An Air India flight carrying doses of the Covishield vaccine at the Velana International Airport in Male. ▪ AFP

"Maldives is [among] the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. It's a gift from India. India has proved to be a solid friend of the Maldives. India gave us support when our students had to be evacuated from Wuhan in China. In these difficult circumstances, India is the first country. We thank India for supporting us always in our challenging moments," Mr. Shahid said.

In a press statement, the High Commission of India in Male said, "India gifted 1,00,000 doses of the India-manufactured COVID-19 vaccine to the Maldives today to meet the immediate requirements of vaccinating healthcare workers, frontline workers and those with co-morbidities."

India will 'gift' one million doses of Covishield to Nepal and two million doses to Dhaka on Thursday.

The Health Department of Bangladesh had earlier announced that it was expecting the vaccine on Wednesday but the delivery was finally slotted for Thursday. At a joint press conference with Ambassador to Kathmandu Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Health and Public Health Minister of Nepal Hridayesh Tripathi said the announcement of the 'gift' of the vaccine from India is a 'wonder'.

The announcement came days after Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali placed requirement of the India-manufactured vaccine to fight the pandemic in the Himalayan country.

The Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday declared that India will continue to supply vaccine to "neighbouring and key partner countries", "keeping in view the domestic requirements of the phased roll-out".

"It will be ensured that domestic manufacturers will have adequate stocks to meet domestic requirements while supplying abroad," said the Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday informing that India has also carried out capacity building and training workshops for neighbouring countries.

14 killed in road accident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Fourteen persons, six of them of a family, lost their lives in a road accident at Dhupguri in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal late on Tuesday.

The accident occurred when the visibility was low due to fog. People travelling in several vehicles were caught in the accident when a truck coming in the opposite direction collided head-on with a multipurpose vehicle. The deceased included four children and six women.

Trade unions to write to ILO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A joint platform of 10 central trade unions on Wednesday said that it would write to the International Labour Organisation on the four labour codes passed by the Centre. The unions said that the Centre did not hold tripartite consultations.

IN BRIEF

Sonia lauds cricket team for exemplary spirit

NEW DELHI

A day after India's historic Test win at the Gabba (Brisbane Cricket Ground), Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday congratulated the team. In a letter to Team India, Ms. Gandhi lauded the team for its exemplary team spirit, discipline and mental toughness to fight difficult conditions such as racial abuse and quarantine.

CBI DSP, lawyer arrested on graft charge

NEW DELHI

A CBI Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) R.K. Rishi, Inspector Kapil Dhankad and an advocate have been arrested by the agency on graft charge. The arrested lawyer has been identified as Manohar Malik. "Searches have also been conducted in two premises of the accused DSP in UP's Deoband and Roorkee in Uttarakhand," said an official.

MLA Gajendra Singh Shaktawat passes away

JAIPUR

Gajendra Singh Shaktawat, a Congress MLA from Vallabhnagar in Rajasthan's Udaipur district, died at a hospital in New Delhi on Wednesday after a prolonged illness. Mr. Shaktawat, 48, was being treated for a liver-related ailment. He had earlier served as State Parliamentary Secretary.

Wear uniforms, medals as per rules: Army

NEW DELHI

The Army has issued an advisory to all veterans, reminding them of the guidelines on the use of uniform and medals. The advisory comes in the backdrop of instances reported at the ongoing farmers' protest where veterans were seen in uniform.

India is a bipartisan success story: Blinken

U.S. Secretary of State-designate signals continuation of ties between the two countries

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India is a "bipartisan success story", Antony Blinken, Secretary of State-nominee of U.S. President Joseph Biden, said at his confirmation hearing at the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, making it clear that strategic ties with India will remain strong, especially on the Indo-Pacific, with continuity in dealing with China's aggressive actions from the Trump administration.

"During the Obama administration, we deepened cooperation with India, particularly in the defence procurement area and also on information sharing, and I think the Trump administration carried that forward including with this concept of an Indo-Pacific and to make sure that we were working with India so that no country in the region, including China, could challenge its sovereignty, and also working with it on concerns that we share about terrorism," Mr. Blinken replied to a specific question on whether the defence ties would be closer due to China's actions at the LAC, and killing of Indian soldiers in Galwan.

Strategic partners: Antony Blinken, U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for Secretary of State. ▪ REUTERS

However, remarks he made about Russia and Turkey's purchase of the S-400 missile system, which India hopes to receive later this year, indicate that might become an area for confrontation between New Delhi and Washington.

"That one of our strategic partners should be in line with one of our biggest competitors, Russia, is just not acceptable," said Mr. Blinken adding that he would study whether more sanctions under the CAATSA law would apply to Turkey for the deal. India is sending a military team to Moscow shortly for training on the S-400, making it clear that it is going ahead with the purchase, despite the possibility of U.S. sanctions over it.

Mr. Biden's choice for Defense Secretary General Lloyd Austin and his nominee for Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines also began their confirmation process, giving key insights into future policy on security and foreign affairs.

Other important appointments such as National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Kurt Campbell as "Indo-Pacific Coordinator" will not need confirmation, but all have indicated that a tough policy on China, renewed tensions with Russia, prioritising relations with the U.S.'s traditional alliance partners in Europe and East Asia and strengthening ties with India will form that policy.

"I would further operationalise India's 'Major Defense Partner' status and continue to build upon existing strong defence cooperation to ensure the U.S. and Indian militaries can collaborate to address shared interests. I would also seek to deepen and broaden our defence cooperation through the Quad security dialogue and other regional multilateral engagements," said Gen. Austin, to a question during his testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Ms. Haines made it clear that she supports an "aggressive stance" on China adding that as DNI she would "provide the necessary intelligence to support long-term bipartisan efforts to out-compete China".

Tandav team granted transit anticipatory bail

Bombay HC provides three-week relief

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday granted transit anticipatory bail for three weeks to the writer, the director and the producer of web series *Tandav* and the content head of Amazon after a criminal case was registered against them in Uttar Pradesh.

A single Bench of Justice P.D. Naik was hearing a plea filed by director Ali Abbas Zafar, producer Himanshu Mehra, writer Gaurav Solanki and content head Aparna Purohit seeking transit anticipatory bail for eight weeks through advocate Aniket Nikam.

Mr. Nikam argued that the atmosphere in Lucknow was tense and that arrangements needed to be made for their protection and therefore temporary relief must be granted. However, Additional Public Prosecutor Yogesh Nakhwa opposed the plea, saying all the accused should appear before the police station in Lucknow and seek a similar relief in court there.

Mr Nikam told *The Hindu*, "We will soon file a petition for quashing the FIR before the Allahabad High Court."

FIR filed

On January 17, an FIR was registered against all the four at the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow on charges of promoting communal enmity.

Tandav is a series on politics in India and was released on January 15 on Amazon Prime TV and stars Saif Ali Khan, Dimple Kapadia, Mohammed Zeeshan Ayub and others.

Cong. steps up attack on Arnab

Party says the leaked WhatsApp chats amount to treason

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday stepped up its attack on Republic TV promoter and anchor Arnab Goswami. It said the contents of the leaked WhatsApp chats amounted to 'treason' and those responsible for the leak of 'sensitive military operations' should be punished.

Referring to an alleged conversation about influencing judicial decisions, the party asked whether "the judiciary will turn a blind eye or set example" to restore the faith of people in the judicial system.

The party fielded former Defence Minister A.K. Antony, former Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde, former Law Miniser Salman Khurshid and Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad at a joint press conference in which they asked "Prime Minister Narendra Modi to come clean on the accusations to restore the credibility of the highest office".

Arnab Goswami

"Leaking official secret about military operation, national security matters, sensitive military operations especially military strike is treason, anti-national," Mr. Antony said, referring to the chat between Mr. Goswami and ex-BARC CEO Partho Dasgupta.

Referring to Mr. Goswami's alleged WhatsApp conversation in which the issue of 'buying' a judge came up, Mr. Khurshid said, "I have no qualms in saying that as the BJP lets loose people to influence judges, unconstitutionally and illegally, what would the judges do? Where it reacts, rightly so, to irresponsible reportage, it reacts with processes of contempt. Will the judiciary turn a blind eye or, to restore the faith and confidence of the people, will the judiciary set an example?"

The former Law Minister, however, stressed that the party "fully backs the judiciary and stands with them".

Mumbai court rejects bail petition of Barc ex-CEO

Case relates to Television Rating Point manipulation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The City Civil and Sessions Court in Mumbai on Wednesday rejected a bail plea of Partho Dasgupta, former chief executive officer and managing director of Broadcast Audience Research Council (Barc), in the Television Rating Point (TRP) manipulation case.

He was arrested from Pune on December 24 and is currently lodged in the Central Jail at Taloja.

Special Public Prosecutor Shishir Hiray opposed his bail on the grounds that leaked WhatsApp chats allegedly between him and the Prime Minister's Office showed that he was an influential person and could tamper with evidence and sway witnesses who were either former or current Barc employees.

Partho Dasgupta

Mr. Hiray said the investigation was on and the police were in the process of filing an additional supplementary chargesheet. The first had highlighted his *prima facie* involvement.

Judge Milind Bhosale took into consideration the gravity of the offence and rejected his bail. T

he supplementary chargesheet filed on January 11 mentioned that Mr. Dasgupta, along with chief operating officer of Barc Romil Ramgarhia, conspired to rig the data of random sampling of 40 weeks and misused their position. On January 4, the additional chief metropolitan magistrate rejected his bail.

Call to remove Savarkar's portrait in U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

A Congress MLC in Uttar Pradesh has demanded that the portrait of Hindu Mahasabha leader Vinayak Damodar Savarkar be removed from the picture gallery of the State Legislative Council saying that the installation of his frame next to those of freedom fighters amounted to an "insult" to them.

Savarkar, within months of being jailed, had written a letter of apology to the British and offered to express loyalty towards them in exchange for his release, Mr. Singh, leader of the Congress in the council, said in a letter to the chairperson of the council.

Trinamool, BJP spar at MPs' panel meeting

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs saw the Trinamool Congress and the BJP blaming each other for the political violence in West Bengal.

The committee headed by senior Congress leader Anand Sharma was deliberating on the subject of "atrocities and crimes against women and children". Haryana and West Bengal officials made a presentation on the subject.

According to sources, Trinamool MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar started the argument.

"Without naming the BJP, she said that the youth wing of a certain party in West Bengal has been targeting women in the State, especially the TMC workers. They threaten the women workers with rape," a member said.

At this, the BJP members claimed that many of their party workers had been killed in the State.

The Left parties too had made a similar charge against the Trinamool.

Another Trinamool MLA joins BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

In yet another defection, Arindam Bhattacharya, Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA from Santipur in West Bengal's Nadia district, on Wednesday joined the BJP in its headquarters in New Delhi in the presence of national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and other leaders. The MLA said he was not allowed to work freely and the Trinamool Congress government had failed to bring in any industrialisation.

CWC to meet tomorrow, may discuss internal poll

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee will meet on Friday to firm up the dates of the organisational elections, discuss the farmers' agitation and the strategy for the Parliament session that gets under way on January 29.

The party's highest decision-making body is likely to meet virtually, said a source on Wednesday.

Fixing the schedule for the internal polls including the president's post and the CWC is likely to top the agenda as organisational revamp has been a key demand of the group of 23 dissenters.

In September, Ms. Gandhi constituted a five-member central election authority (CEA) to conduct the internal polls.

The CWC will also discuss the course of action on the farmers' agitation and strategy for the Budget session.

The Congress has demanded the repeal of all the three farm laws and has extended full support to the farmers.

In Gujarat, lotus eaters munch on just dragon fruit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government has decided to rename the dragon fruit as 'kamalam', and comments have flooded the Internet and social media platforms. According to Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, the fruit's outer shape resembles a lotus, which is also the election symbol of the BJP.

"We have applied for a patent of the dragon fruit to be called 'kamalam', Mr. Rupani said at the launch of the Chief Minister Horticulture Development Mission, a scheme to promote horticulture in unproductive land parcels.

A dragon fruit plant.

Farmers in Kutch, Navsari and other parts were growing the fruit and it should, therefore, have a local name too. "Though it is known as dragon fruit, it does not sound appropriate. The word 'kamalam' is a Sanskrit word and the shape of the fruit does resemble the lotus flower," he said, adding that the renaming had nothing political about it.

Another reason Mr. Rupani cited for renaming the fruit was that the word dragon reminded one of China.

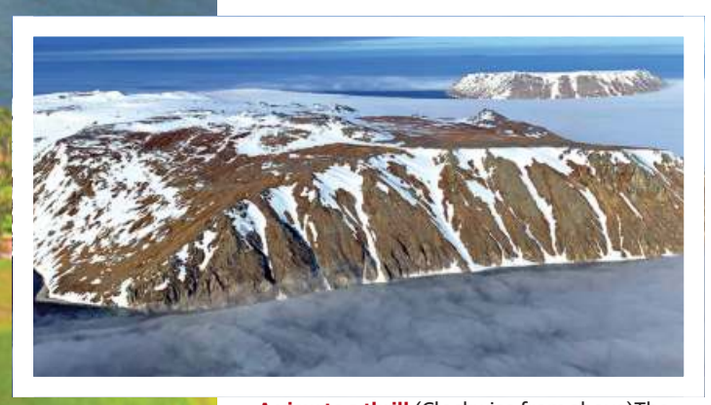
The move evoked sharp comments on social media.

The dragon has been slain, Congress MP Karti Chidambaram said.

Captain Ketch goes around the WORLD

British adventurer James Ketchell flew into the Guinness World Records when he became the first to officially circumnavigate the globe in a gyrocopter in 2019. He will next sail the world with young ex-offenders in a bid to give them a second chance

> The accident was the best thing that happened to me as it made me try harder and pursue dreams that I'm not sure I would have otherwise embarked on
>
> JAMES KETCHELL



A view to a thrill (Clockwise from above)The Diomede Islands in the Bering Straits separated by the International Date Line shot from Russia; James Ketchell rows solo across the Atlantic; and flies across the Statue of Liberty in a gyrocopter ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

DEEPA ALEXANDER

James Ketchell has been mistaken for James Bond. Just like the famous spy, Ketchell's tagline is 'never say never'.

Caught in the midst of a thunderstorm over Canada in the course of circumnavigating the globe in a machine similar to Little Nellie from *You Only Live Twice*, he landed on a roadstrip and swung the gyrocopter into a truck bay. "The burly truckers, usually impassive, were taken aback," says Ketchell, his voice ringing with laughter over the phone from Basingstoke, Hampshire, UK, where he was raised.

Ketchell is the country's Scouting ambassador and flew the Magni M16C gyrocopter – which resembles a motorbike in the sky with the cockpit exposed to the weather – over 24,000 nautical miles.

The 39-year-old set off from Popham air field, UK, in March 2019 to fly over ice caps, through blinding rain, past world monuments and forgotten outposts of empires, with the wind thrumming through the rotors like a Gregorian chant. Six months later, he returned to base, achieving a feat that was probably the last great aviation record.

Between working on his second book *It's All Mental* and trying to keep the spirit of discovery alive in a pandemic world, Ketchell has his sights set on 2023 when he plans to take a group of young ex-offenders (18-20-year-olds convicted or cautioned for a criminal offence) on a sailing expedition around the world.

"The goal is to give them a second chance in life," says Ketchell. "I was lucky to have good people around me; I want to encourage the use of mentors in one's life. You are who you spend your time with and some people's circumstances are harder than others, so I want to give the opportunity to people who are not hardened criminals and put them on the right course."

Ketchell's life has been one of second chances – he admits that he was always fit but lacked confidence and determination. "I have always liked travelling – the adventures of Tintin were a favourite – and that passion grew as I got older. I would often build camps in the woods and joined the Scouts which helped bring out my passion for the outdoors. My parents were very supportive which I will always be grateful for. In my late teens I discovered the gym. This helped me overcome confidence issues."

New worlds to conquer

The turning point came when Ketchell shattered his ankle in a bike accident in 2007. Doctors said he may never walk properly again but over the next few years, Ketchell surprised them and the world by being the only person on the planet to row, climb and cycle to complete the 'ultimate marathon'. "It was a wake-up call. The accident was the best thing that happened to me as it made me try harder and pursue dreams that I'm not sure I would have otherwise embarked on."

In 2010, Ketchell became part of a remarkable canon of stories of heroism at sea when he rowed solo across the Atlantic from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua in the Caribbean.

Every day he would sign off his blog as Capt Ketch, which is how the name stuck. "I had a radar alarm system on the boat that would notify me when anything got close. The challenges I faced were mental, I had to keep reminding myself that it was my dream to be doing this. I would often get blown backwards a lot; it taught me patience and, most importantly, discipline of keeping to my daily schedule. This is the case with most things, they are never as hard or as bad as you think they are going to be," says Ketchell, who, drifting under the stars, felt he was guided by the spirit of his grandfathers.

The next year, he summitted Mount Everest and in 2013, cycled eastwards for six months across Europe to Turkey, flew to India and visited many cities speaking in schools to inspire youth, journeyed on to Sri Lanka, Thailand, Singapore, Australia, America and back to the UK where he completed his 18,000 miles on the saddle.

Packing his bags again

Ketchell was still looking for new worlds to conquer and had his gyroplane built by Magni Gyro in Milan, Italy. Once more he packed his bags with the five essentials he carries: wet wipes; a clean shirt to wear – "you never know who you might meet" – a phone that allows for connectivity, social media updates and audio books; a satellite phone for safety; and a medallion of Saint Christopher (the Christian patron saint of travellers) that has been with him since he crossed the Atlantic.

Everywhere he saw incredible sights as he travelled across the northern hemisphere almost hugging the temperate zone. "The average height was usually only a thousand feet above the ground, the highest I flew was 12,000 feet in Utah, US, over mountains. Flying lower is a lot more interesting as you can see things in more detail, if I was flying at 10,000 feet above the ground it's not much different than looking at Google Earth," says Ketchell.

He stopped for refuelling every day, and always had a destination each day. "I had a fantastic support team back in the UK but had to often take pictures using a selfie stick, carefully holding it," says Ketchell. The picture of him flying by the Statue of Liberty was taken by a pilot also flying across Ellis Island.

It is not as if Ketchell has conquered every mountain he set out to climb. He has been rescued from the Indian Ocean and failed to complete his solo rowing expedition around Britain. But he believes that "we can achieve much more than we think". The man who has weathered avalanches, sunburn, storms and illnesses says, "Despite COVID, adventure travel will come back bigger; there will always be an appetite for adventure no matter what is going on in the world."

Coimbatore based Odiyen Lakshmanan has collected more than 100 tribal stories as a part of his mission to revive native languages

Staying alive Odiyen Lakshmanan with kids ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Inheritance of words

SUSAN JOE PHILIP

Since last year, Odiyen Lakshmanan has visited 14 tribal settlements across Coimbatore, collecting and documenting stories of the community. "I have been working for tribal rights for the past 15 years. The kids from these villages go to Tamil medium schools and now speak a mix of Tamil and their native language. When I visited Rayaroothupathi village early in 2020 to distribute storybooks, I asked them to narrate a story in their mother tongue to me. I was shocked at the amount of Tamil influence in their language." says Lakshmanan.

The incident motivated him to start project Noolal Ezhuvom, to revive tribal languages. Lakshmanan now works with 150 children in 15 villages around Coimbatore, Erode and Salem. "These stories are also now broadcast in the US through the American Tamil Radio channel," he says.

So far, the team has collected around 100 stories across the Kurumba, Irula, Kota, Urali, Toda, Paniyar, Malayali and Kattunayakan tribes. The stories are about tribal beliefs, history and tradition.

Eight volunteers from the community help him in the process. "They are parents or youngsters from the locality. We encourage kids to find stories from their elders and to write them down. Since none of these languages has scripts, they record it using Tamil alphabets."

Once the stories are written down, the team records the children narrating it, for the radio."Though the story is in the tribal language, it has similarities to Tamil. So it not difficult for the audience to understand. In addition to this, a brief of the story and the community is also given, during the telecast," he says. The volunteers make arrangements for the children to listen to their stories broadcast on the radio. "They come together every week for this. It boosts them to find more stories," he explains.

One of the parents, N Valli from the Irular tribe of Anaikatti says, "We don't even have a name for our language. With each generation, its usage is coming down. It can even be forgotten in the coming years if not preserved," she says. B Meghla, a student who has collected two stories says, "The last story I heard was about the friendship between ducks that lived in a pond in the forest. It is exciting as I get to learn new words in my language. I can't wait to listen to my story on the radio," she says.

Lakshmanan now plans to bring out a book. "Each story will contain brief information of the respective tribe and of the child who collected it. I hope to launch it soon."

All set (From left) Subedar Sanjay Kumar, Colonel Vembu Shankar (retired), and Subedar Major Yogendra Singh Yadav with KBC host Amitabh Bachchan ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bravehearts in the hot seat

The finale of *Kaun Banega Crorepati 12* will honour Kargil War heroes, in the run-up to Republic Day. We speak to the gameshow's 'lifeline' expert for the day, Colonel Vembu Shankar

HARIKUMAR JS

Colonel Vembu Shankar (retired) brims with pride as he reminisces his days in the Armed Forces. A Shaurya Chakra awardee and an avid quizzer, Shankar is delighted to have been able to combine his service and his passion for knowledge to play a role in the finale of the 12th season of the television game show *Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC)* that airs this Friday. In the run-up to Republic Day, the finale honours Kargil War heroes as two Param Vir Chakra (India's highest military decoration for valour in war) awardees – Subedar Major Yogendra Singh Yadav and Subedar Sanjay Kumar – take the hot seat.

"There is a lack of awareness about the armed forces and the gallant acts of Param Vir Chakra recipients, especially among the younger generation, as Operation Vijay Kargil happened two decades ago," says Shankar. KBC has made Shankar the go-to person for the 'Ask the Expert' lifeline available to the two joint contestants as part of the special episode.

The complete picture

"The finale aims to highlight not only the valorous acts of medal winners over the years but also explore their human side: the harsh realities they face, the sacrifices they make, and how their families cope with their absence when they are away in the line of duty," says the Army veteran.

The episode incorporates real-life footages. Shankar says the role of an 'expert' in the show was tailor-made for him considering his twin experiences of warcraft and quizzing. Having been awarded the Shaurya Chakra for his role in a military operation in Kupwara district, Jammu and Kashmir, in 1998, he was also a part of Operation Vijay (Kargil War) the following year. At the same time, he is a quizmaster who often conducts competitions in Army schools and bases; in 2002, he reached the semi-finals of the BBC Mastermind India.

The two contestants will be donating the winning prize money to the Army Battle Casualties Welfare Fund (ABCWF) that extends monetary assistance to the next of kin of battle casualties. Yogendra Singh Yadav was decorated in 1999 for his dauntless courage in capturing Tiger Hill in Kargil, while Sanjay Kumar was awarded PVC for his gallant exploits in Mushkoh Valley in Ladakh.

Presently, Yogendra Singh Yadav is with the Junior Leaders Academy, Bareilly, while Sanjay Kumar serves as weapons instructor with the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. Another PVC awardee, Honorary Captain Bana Singh who helped India win the Siachen standoff in 1987, makes an appearance as a special guest in the episode.

Shankar says connecting with the PVC awardees has been an "eye-opener" for him. "Incidentally, I found that Sanjay Kumar fought the war with some officers I had trained with. So I got to know about the leadership qualities of my own batch mates through him. It was a blast from the past," he explains.

Chennai-based Shankar, who retired from the armed forces in 2017, says the finale steers clear of military jargon to help the television audience better understand the nitty-gritty of war operations. He adds, "Another highlight is a performance by an Army band of the elite 15th Punjab Regiment on the floor in military regalia."

The finale of KBC 12 will be telecast on January 22 at 9 pm on Sony TV.

SPECIAL GREETINGS

Several army units have their own forms of regimental salutation. For instance, soldiers from the Assam Regiment utter 'Tagro raho' (stay strong) as a mark of greeting, while in the Bihar regiment, it is 'Hamesha jeetenge' (we will always win).

THIS WEEK IN INDIE

Experimental rap, an intriguing sub-genre of folk and some earnest attempts at comedy make up this week's roundup of live shows

MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

Fakeer And The Arc

This Bengaluru-based act, which has its roots in Chennai's Swarnabhoomi Academy of Music is one for the playlists. The band of four just came out with its first EP last year, with three rap numbers that are completely different in pace and vibe – from explicit and raw to build-ups on jazz standards – but all intriguing and experimental to say the least. Keep an ear out for 'Sandman' (the photo is a screen grab of the trippy animation video by Chetan Toliya and Yathi Kiran) when the band goes live on January 23 at 9 pm on skillboxes.com. Tickets are available on the same site.

Whale In The Pond

The Kolkata-based dream folk band has numbers that can take you on a journey even when you don't understand the lyrics – though the lyrics are a definite plus, simple, heartfelt, heartbreaking as they are. Life, death, human emotions and human existence explored in their numbers through enthralling instrumentals that never lose their calm. The band will be playing numbers from their 2020 album *Dofon* (meaning burial) and 2021 EP *Dui* (meaning two) this evening at The Scene, a server hosted on Discord by A Humming Heart. Send a message to @ahummingheart on Instagram for the invite link.

Comedy Buffet 2.5

Standup comedian Garv Malik has taken it upon himself to look for under-appreciated comic talent who deserve more time in the spotlight, and put them in touch with online audiences raring for a laugh. He intends to do so two nights a month, with a new lineup of five comedians on each night. The lineup for his show on January 23 has not been revealed, but if you have an hour and ₹99 to spare at 11 pm on a Saturday night, why not give some budding talent a chance? You might just get some laughs out of it. The show is a closed one on Zoom, and passes are on insider.in

Circle of history (Clockwise from below) The Divine Fauna series; a manifestation of Shukran in the mandala style; Matthew ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Motifs of fauna inspired by temple architecture make an appearance in this series of pen sketches

Where the mythical takes flight

GOWRI S

Gandaberunda, the mythical two-headed bird, often seen as one of Lord Vishnu's many incarnations in Hindu mythology, lies on a circular board of thick brown paper intricately etched out using a black pen.

At first glance, a satisfying network of patterns is all one sees. But the motif also opens doors to history; especially that of the temple structures seen in Tamil Nadu. The *gandaberunda* is one of the many creatures that feature in artist and architect Matthew Samuel's Divine Fauna, a 12-part series of sketches inspired from temple relief, manifested as motifs on circular boards.

Hailing from Coimbatore and based out of Chennai, Matthew's interest in temple architecture is the starting point of this personal project that came to fruition during the pandemic-led lockdowns.

After completing his Civil Engineering diploma, Matthew moved on to work as an architect with Chennai-based heritage conservation firm, Conservation Mainstream for a year. "We happened to take up temple projects that lie close to the Cauvery flood planes. Since we were accompanied by historians and people who read structures to bring out layers of history, I got to know more about them," says Matthew.

A lot of observation and consequent research went into this project, adds Matthew. "The entire architectural element of a temple became a large book for me to study," he says. His first heritage conservation project was of a temple in Udayarpalayam, a small village in Jayankondam taluk, near Gangaikondacholapuram. "It dates back to the Cholas but a lot of the following dynasties did their additions to it. This is where it all started."

Another structure that inspired him lies in Mamallapuram. "We know there are a lot of caves in Mahabalipuram, but there is this one particular cave called Mahishasura Mardini cave. The representations inside this one are out of the world," says Matthew.

"The first work was on a bird that is not visually represented much anywhere – *andril paravai*. It has been mentioned in a lot of Tamil literature; in fact even contemporary Tamil movie songs mention the bird. *Andril paravai* is spotted in pairs, and if one dies, the other dies too," explains Matthew. These birds appear, albeit subtly, in many temple structures.

"There are very few temple paintings, especially in the pre-Pallava era, that show the *andril paravai*. In the caves of Chittinavasal, in Pudukkottai, the motif can be seen on ceilings. In a few temples, it can be seen as an ornamentation around the deity or a sculptural element." Matthew wanted to give this motif a form.

After *andril paravai*, he moved on to parrots, peacocks and animals like the lion. Then, he started getting suggestions from others of mythical creatures that he did not know of, like the *gandaberunda*.

"*Gandaberunda* is actually the royal insignia of the Mysore royal family. After some research, I found out that the Maratha kings of Tanjore have represented *gandaberunda* in a different format. In Mysore royalty, it is more of a symmetrical one and in the Tanjore way of doing it, the form is not so much," says Matthew, who is currently pursuing Heritage Management at Ahmedabad University. This facet of history, which offers multiple narratives (spanning time periods), of the same idea is what feeds Matthew's interest. "Ultimately, I owe it all to the temples," he concludes.

To see his work visit Matthew's Instagram page: @itsallaboutcoffeeshops

Tough terrain Rana Daggubati ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On a mission

How actor Rana Daggubati got down and dirty while being part of documentary *Mission Frontline*

SANGEETHA DEVI DUNDOO

After months of being away from film sets during lockdown, actor Rana Daggubati found himself in the thick of gruelling real-time action when he spent a day with the Border Security Force (BSF) at Murar post in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

The actor attempted the many demanding tasks they do in a day for the documentary *Mission Frontline*, which will premiere on Discovery+ today.

Recalling the experience, Rana says, "We are brought up with the thought that family comes first. A jawan from Pulivendula (in Andhra Pradesh) told me that he has a small family in his hometown and a larger family at the border that he is happy returning to. This deeply ingrained thought of putting the nation first was my biggest takeaway from the *Mission Frontline* experience."

He adds that he liked the idea of a civilian getting an opportunity to live like a jawan for a day and agreed to be part of the show. *Mission Frontline* was not going to be a typical celebrity show where a star meets and regales the jawans; the documentary required him to get down and dirty just like they do.

Simulated mission

Detailing some of the drills, the actor says, "I did a 3.5-kilometre track race, eight-feet jump carrying weapons, the fireman drill while lifting a jawan on my shoulders, patrolling on camelback and a lot more in a simulated mission. I witnessed the shifting dunes; the post and fence don't look the same as the day progresses. The vast expanse of the desert was so beautiful and we got stunning visuals, on the lines of *Lawrence of Arabia*!"

There were no retakes in the live action documentary. Rana was not new to filming in a tough terrain but there was no comfort of the vanity van to retire. "We learn about our soldiers when there is an incident at the border. But getting a taste of a day in their life made me realise it is so much more demanding than what we imagine."

The Discovery+ team reveals that the soldiers were impressed with Rana's ability to handle the intense drills. The actor laughs it off saying, "You will see me get tired, falling... On a film set, I am usually the fittest guy around. Here I came last while running."

Bio bubble

The filming happened when restrictions were beginning to be eased after lockdown. Rana shares that the jawans were in a 'bio bubble' and he and the small crew got themselves tested to prevent carrying COVID-19 to the borders. The soldiers were informed about Rana's arrival and were eager to get a glimpse of *Baahubali's* Bhallaladeva: "Once they saw me and realised I am not that bulky as I was back then, I guess they felt I am a normal guy," says Rana, who loved the *dal* served at the BSF post.

The actor says it was a humbling experience. "Two weeks later, I returned to the sets of *Virata Parvam* (his new Telugu film) to film an action sequence and I still was the fittest guy around, but the BSF experience was a different one altogether. I met jawans who had come from different states, and it reinforced the cultural context of what India is. Theirs is a mission of duty unto death; the words mean everything for them and define who they are."

Mission Frontline *streams on Discovery+ app on January 21*

Leather pouches and wallets made from the spiny plants lend a luxurious feel and help cut plastic pollution

Wearing a cactus

PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

A cactus can do a lot more than prick; it can also be your handbag. Worried about the plastic pollution crisis, Mexico-based Adrián López Velarde and Marte Cázarez put on their thinking sombreros and created the first ever cactus-based leather, under their brand Desserto, in 2019.

Closer home, Shivani Patel, founder of accessory brand Arture, is giving shape to this novel form of vegan leather for her new collection that comprises utility pouches, money clip wallets and women's wallets. After working with cork, this is the first time Arture is experimenting with a different vegan fabric.

"Cactus leather is more luxurious to touch. It has a leather-like hand feel and it is slimmer compared to cork," she explains.

This material is a fairly new development, says Shivani whose interest piqued after family and friends sent her a few WhatsApp forwards about this ingenious vegan leather.

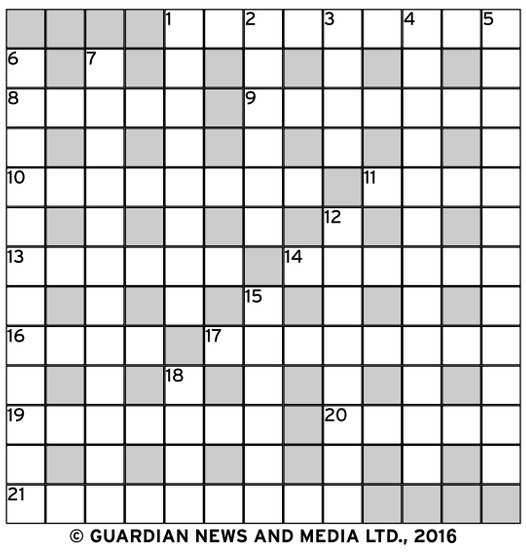
She started reading about it, and in March 2020 ordered a few samples from Mexico. The samples arrived by July, swatches in black, berry red and forest green, colours that are part of the final collection.

"We were impressed with it. The green and red has a bit more shine to it; more gloss and sheen while the black has a grainy texture," she says.

Overall, compared to cork, cactus leather is more flexible and lends well to drapey silhouettes. As a result Shivani is now working on a range of belts. "This material has a huge connect with us as a brand. Just like you don't cut down a tree for cork, it is the same with cactus where a portion of the plant is cut off, but it regenerates." she adds.

Price range starts at ₹2,000. For details, visit myarture.com

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13396



© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, The Hindu Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

Across

1 (In biology) series of changes in form that an organism undergoes (4,5)
8 Indian or Arctic? (5)
9 Admit (7)
10 Traitorous collaborator (8)
11 Partially carbonised vegetable matter saturated with water (4)
13 Second book of the Old Testament (6)
14 Pope's ambassador (6)
16 Grisly (4)
17 Paint with slight sheen (8)
19 Persuaded to join (5,2)
20 Spy (5)
21 Harvard, Yale and six other private universities (3,6)

Down

1 A floor covering (8)
2 Fertile (6)
3 Pious platitudes – jargon (4)
4 Trying too obviously to seem intelligent (6-6)
5 Coat thinly with a metal – let percolate (anag) (12)
6 Herbs in a small bag used in cooking (7,5)
7 Dictionary compilation (12)
12 Parasol (8)
15 Christmas drink (6)
18 Fringe (4)

The solution will appear on January 28, 2020

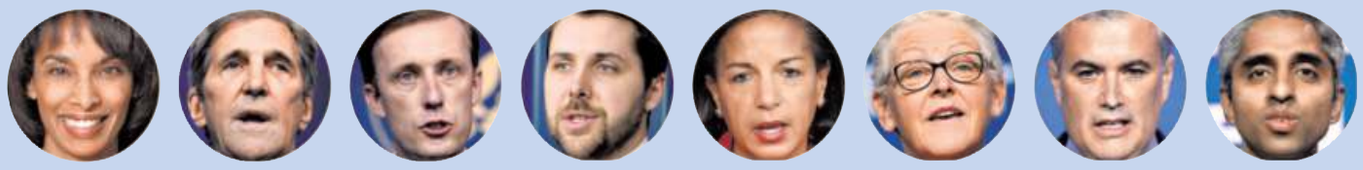
Solution No. 13395

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

Team Biden

Kamala Harris Vice-President · **Antony Blinken** Secretary of State · **Janet Yellen** Secretary of the Treasury · **Gen. Lloyd Austin** Defence · **Merrick Garland** Attorney-General · **Deb Haaland** Interior · **Tom Vilsack** Agriculture · **Gina Raimondo** Commerce · **Marty Walsh** Labour · **Pete Buttigieg** Transportation · **Jennifer Granholm,** Energy · **Xavier Becerra** Health and Human Services

Marcia Fudge Housing and Urban Development · **Miguel Cardona** Education · **Dennis McDonough** Veteran Affairs · **Alejandro Mayorkas** Homeland Security · **Ron Klain** Chief of Staff · **William Burns** CIA Director · **Katherine Tai,** Trade Representative · **Avril Haines** Director of National Intelligence · **Michael Regan** EPA Administrator · **Isabel Guzman** Small Business Administrator · **Neera Tanden** Office of Management and Budget · **Linda Thomas-Greenfield** Ambassador to UN



Cecilia Rouse Chair of Council of Economic Advisers · **John Kerry,** Special Presidential Envoy for Climate · **Jake Sullivan** National Security Adviser · **Brian Deese** National Economic Council Director · **Susan Rice** Domestic Policy Council Director · **Gina McCarthy** Domestic Climate Policy Coordinator · **Jeff Zients** Coronavirus Coordinator · **Vivek Murthy** Surgeon-General

CABINET POSTS · **CABINET-LEVEL POSITIONS**

1 Biden is expected to sign a raft of 15 executive actions on his first day in office on issues ranging from the pandemic to the economy to climate change

2 The orders will include mandating masks on federal property, rejoining the Paris Climate Accord and ending Trump's travel ban on some Muslim-majority countries

3 Trump left Washington ahead of Biden's inauguration, and said, 'We will be back in some form'.

SOURCE: GRAPHIC NEWS

Biden to reverse Trump policies on Day 1

President will sign 17 orders, setting new paths on immigration, environment and fighting COVID-19

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden plans to kick off his new administration on Wednesday with orders to restore the U.S. to the Paris climate accord and the World Health Organization, aides said.

Mr. Biden will sign 15 orders and actions just hours after being sworn in as the U.S. leader to break from the policies of departing President Donald Trump and set new paths on immigration, the environment, fighting COVID-19 and the economy, they said.

In first-day moves, he will end Mr. Trump's much-assailed ban on visitors from several Muslim-majority countries and halt construction of the wall that Mr. Trump ordered on the U.S.-Mexico border to stem illegal immigration, the aides said.

He will also set a mask mandate on federal properties to stem the spread of COVID-19; restore protections of valuable nature reserves removed by Mr. Trump; and seek freezes on evictions and protection for millions behind on their mortgages due to the pandemic.

Taking charge: President Joe Biden signing documents, including the Inauguration declaration, on Wednesday. ▪ REUTERS

He also plans to send a Bill to Congress to revamp immigration policies and give millions of undocumented migrants living inside the country a path to citizenship that the Trump administration denied.

Mr. Biden's staff said he wanted to hit the ground running given the deep health and economic challenges facing the country.

Mr. Biden "will take action – not just to reverse the gravest damages of the Trump administration – but also to start moving our country forward," the aides said in a statement. "These actions are bold, begin the work of following through on President-elect Biden's promises to the American people, and, importantly, fall within the constitutional role for the President."

New approach

Many of the actions will take government policies back to where they were on January 19, 2017 – the final day of the Barack Obama-Joe Biden administration, before Mr. Trump entered office and took a wrecking ball to many of their initiatives.

Jeff Zients, the new President's point-man for fighting the pandemic, said Mr. Biden would start by establishing an office of COVID-19 response inside the White House.

A 100-day "masking challenge" will be led with a presidential order for wearing masks in all federal properties and activities, setting the standard for private companies, individual states and communities to follow suit, Mr. Zients said.

Wednesday "starts a new day, a new, different approach to managing the country's response to COVID-19 crisis", he said.

That includes reversing Mr. Trump's decision to leave the World Health Organization.

To underscore Mr. Biden's decision, Mr. Zients said, leading U.S. coronavirus expert Anthony Fauci will lead a delegation to take part in the WHO Executive Board meeting on Thursday. "America's withdrawal from the international arena has impeded progress on the global response and left us more vulnerable to future pandemics," he said.

Gina McCarthy, the new administration's chief climate adviser, said returning to the 2016 Paris accord was essential to making fighting climate change a central tenet of Biden administration policy. Mr. Biden will reverse Trump decisions to ease emissions and efficiency standards, and rescind the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline, a large project that would bring relatively high-polluting Canadian oil into the U.S.

"The day-one climate executive orders will begin to put the U.S. back on the right footing, a footing we need to restore American leadership, helping to position our nation to be the global leader in clean energy and jobs," said Mr. McCarthy.

Other actions by the new president will require a government-wide, proactive equality effort for minority groups, in hiring, contracting, and service. "The President has promised to root out systemic racism from our institutions," said Susan Rice, his Domestic Policy Council director.

Trump pardons former aide Bannon, 72 others

On last day in office, he also commutes sentences of 70 people

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday pardoned 73 people, including his former aide Steve Bannon and rapper Lil Wayne, just hours before he was due to leave office.

The list of those pardoned – as well as 70 people whose sentences were commuted – was likely to draw allegations of cronyism, at the end of a term during which the President promised to "drain the swamp" of Washington politics. However, neither Mr. Trump nor his relatives were listed, amid speculation he could use the legally dubious tactic of a preemptive pardon to fend off future charges.

Mr. Bannon – who was Mr. Trump's campaign manager during the 2016 election, before becoming a senior adviser to the President – left the White House acrimoniously in 2017, Mr. Trump later giving him the moniker "Sloppy Steve".

Last year he was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, over funds raised to build the Mexico border wall, a flagship Trump policy.

'Important leader'

But Wednesday's statement, announcing his pardon, read: "Mr. Bannon has been an important leader in the conservative movement and is known for his political acumen." The U.S. media earlier reported that the President made his last-minute decision after speaking to Mr. Bannon by phone.

Former Trump fundraiser Elliott Broidy was similarly pardoned, after pleading guilty last year to conspiring to violate foreign lobbying laws. Rapper Lil Wayne, who faced 10 years in jail after pleading guilty to possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon last month, also made the list.

Another rapper, Kodak Black, was granted clemency after being jailed for making a false statement on a federal document, while disgraced Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick – sentenced in 2013 to 28 years in a federal prison on corruption and extortion charges – was also pardoned.

Rough end: President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania before boarding Air Force One on Wednesday. ▪ AP

Trump says he 'will be back in some form'

'It's been an incredible four years'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JOINT BASE ANDREWS

U.S. President Donald Trump left Washington on Wednesday just three hours ahead of the inauguration of his successor Joe Biden, saying it had been an "incredible four years" and promising to be "back in some form".

"I just want to say goodbye but hopefully it's not a long-term goodbye," Mr. Trump said in remarks to reporters at the White House before he and First Lady Melania Trump walked a short red carpet and boarded Marine One for the helicopter ride to Joint Base Andrews.

Speaking to a small crowd of supporters, staff and family members at Andrews after a 21-gun salute and a serenade of *Hail to the Chief*, Mr. Trump said "this has been an incredible four years".

"We've accomplished so much together," he said. "I will always fight for you. It is my greatest honour and privilege to have been your President," he said. "We will be back in some form."

Mr. Trump boarded Air Force One after his remarks and the presidential jet took off for the two-hour flight to Florida as Frank Sinatra's *My Way* played on loudspeakers on the tarmac. He will be at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida during Mr. Biden's inauguration. Mr. Trump did not address Mr. Biden by name in his remarks but said he wishes the new administration "great luck and great success".

A White House spokesman said Mr. Trump, in keeping with tradition, had left a letter for Mr.Biden in the Oval Office.

U.S. to review Houthi terrorist label, says Blinken

Biden's top diplomat vows to end support to the Saudi offensive in Yemen, cites humanitarian crisis

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration will quickly revisit the designation of Yemen's Houthi rebels as terrorists and end support to the devastating Saudi offensive on the country, his pick for Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, said on Tuesday.

At his confirmation hearing, Mr. Blinken said he would "immediately" review the outgoing Trump administration's labelling of the Iran-linked insurgents, fearing the move was worsening a humanitarian crisis.

"At least on its surface, (the designation) seems to achieve nothing particularly practical in advancing the efforts against the Houthis and to bring them back to the negotiating table while making it even more difficult than it already is to provide humanitarian assistance to people who desperately need it," Mr. Blinken told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

President Donald Trump's administration announced the move on January 11.

Mr. Trump has been a staunch ally of Saudi Arabia, offering U.S. logistical help and military sales for its six-year campaign to dislodge the rebels who have taken over much of the neighbouring country.

Mr. Blinken said that the Saudis have "contributed to what is by most accounts the worst humanitarian situation anywhere in the world".

"The Houthis bear significant responsibility for what's happened in Yemen, but the way the campaign has been conducted has also contributed significantly to that situation. And so our support should end," Mr. Blinken said.

The United Nations and aid groups have warned the terrorist designation risks worsening the plight of a country where millions depend on aid to survive. The designation took effect on Tuesday, with the Houthis warning that they would respond to any action against them.

"We are ready to take all necessary measures against any hostile act," they said in a statement. On Wednesday, hundreds of supporters of the Houthi rebels took to the streets of the capital Sanaa to protest against the terror designation.

"We've come out to say the United States is the mother of terrorism and doesn't have the right to classify anyone as terrorist," a demonstrator said.

Hizam al-Assad, a member of the Houthis' political office, condemned "the continued aggression against the Yemeni people by U.S. administrations".

ELSEWHERE

Beijing imposes curbs to stop U.K. virus variant

BEIJING

Beijing on Wednesday banned its 1.6 million residents from leaving the city as two COVID-19 cases linked to a new U.K. virus variant were found in the Chinese capital. AFP

Pakistan test-fires nuclear-capable missile

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Wednesday said it has successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile which can strike targets up to 2,750 km. The launch of Shaheen-III missile was "aimed at revalidating various design and technical parameters of weapon system", said a statement issued by the media wing of the Pakistani Army. PTI

China sanctions 28 Trump administration officials

Beijing says Pompeo, others interfered in China's internal affairs and undermined its interests

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China on Wednesday announced sanctions on 28 officials connected to the outgoing Donald Trump administration, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, just as the new United States President, Joe Biden, was taking his oath of office.

The Foreign Ministry in Beijing said in a statement it had "decided to sanction 28 persons who have seriously violated China's sovereignty and who have been mainly responsible for such U.S. moves on China-related issues".

The list includes Mr. Trump's trade adviser Peter K. Navarro, who was a key figure behind many of the China-related trade moves; outgoing National Security Adviser Robert C. O'Brien; Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs David Stilwell, who is the top diplomat for the region; and the recently resigned Deputy National Security Adviser Matthew Pottinger, another key figure in Mr. Trump's China policy. Also on the list are former NSA John R. Bolton and former White House chief strategist Stephen K. Bannon, who both fell out with Mr. Trump while he was in office.

The Ministry said "these individuals and their immediate family members are prohibited from entering the mainland, Hong Kong and Macao of China" and "they and the companies and institutions associated with them are also restricted from doing business with China".

It described them as "anti-China politicians in the United States" who "out of their selfish political interests and prejudice and hatred against China and showing no regard for the interests of the Chinese and American people, have planned, promoted and executed a series of crazy moves which have gravely interfered in China's internal affairs, undermined China's interests, offended the Chinese people, and seriously disrupted China-U.S. relations".

Mike Pompeo

The announcement came as China and the U.S. clashed over the Trump administration, on its last day, accusing China of committing "genocide" and "crimes against humanity" against its minority Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang. This followed a number of recent measures that have brought relations with China to a low, with both sides clashing over Taiwan, Hong Kong as well as sanctions on Chinese firms.

Mr. Biden, during the election campaign, had also described what China was doing in Xinjiang, where around a million people have been forced to "re-education" centres, as "genocide". The declaration by the U.S. will likely mean a continuation of sanctions, including a ban on imports of cotton and tomatoes from Xinjiang as well as designations of Chinese officials seen to be involved in the Xinjiang policy.

"After careful examination of the available facts," Mr. Pompeo said in a statement, "I have determined that since at least March 2017, the People's Republic of China, under the direction and control of the Chinese Communist Party, has committed crimes against humanity", including "severe deprivation of physical liberty of more than one million civilians, forced sterilization, torture of a large number of those arbitrarily detained, forced labor, and the imposition of draconian restrictions on freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, and freedom of movement".

He added that China had "committed genocide against the predominantly Muslim Uighurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang" and "this genocide is ongoing, and that we are witnessing the systematic attempt to destroy Uighurs by the Chinese party-state".

Israel rights group breaks taboo with 'apartheid' tag

It slams treatment of Palestinians

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JERUSALEM

An Israeli non-governmental organisation has accused the Jewish state of "apartheid" in its treatment of Palestinians – a taboo-breaking move that has seen its representatives banned from speaking in schools.

B'Tselem said it carefully weighed its decision to use the hugely emotive phrase but concluded that it was an accurate description of Israel's attitude both to residents of the occupied Palestinian territories and to its own Arab citizens. "We cannot avoid the conclusion that it is a regime that is working to advance and cement the supremacy of one group of people – Jews – over Palestinians," B'Tselem chief Hagai el-Ad said.

"That is the textbook definition of an apartheid regime," he added. "I agree that it is a strong word but we are not using it lightly."

Israel occupied the West Bank, including Arab east Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip in the Six-Day War of 1967. Today it is home to at least five million Palestinians defined by the United Nations as living under Israeli occupation.

Arab Israelis – Palestinians who stayed on their land following the Jewish state's creation in 1948 and their descendants – make up about 20% of Israel's roughly nine million people. By law they have rights equal to those of Jewish citizens, but they say that in practice they suffer discrimination in employment, housing, policing and other essentials.

MARKET WATCH

	20-01-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	49,792	0.80
US Dollar	73.05	0.16
Gold	48,758	0.57
Brent oil	56.36	5.00

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	558.60	25.80
Asian Paints	2697.25	52.20
Axis Bank	675.75	7.00
Bajaj Auto	3643.95	2.95
Bajaj Finserv	8938.25	14.10
Bajaj Finance	4981.95	22.80
Bharti Airtel	596.15	3.85
BPCL	413.85	0.40
Britannia Ind	3592.30	-8.95
Cipla	832.80	10.35
Coal India	141.50	1.40
Divis Lab	3605.70	6.25
Dr Reddys Lab	5080.65	-8.25
Eicher Motors	2881.55	-1.95
GAIL (India)	138.00	-1.65
Grasim Ind	1034.70	2.80
HCL Tech	999.25	15.40
HDFC	2688.15	31.20
HDFC Bank	1492.00	-11.85
HDFC Life	702.95	4.40
Hero MotoCorp	3275.60	42.70
Hindalco	252.10	0.55
Hind Unilever	2355.95	-7.20
ICICI Bank	551.00	4.55
IndusInd Bank	947.70	7.80
Infosys	1339.45	22.80
Indian OilCorp	98.30	-0.25
ITC	217.65	-1.20
JSW Steel	400.90	5.50
Kotak Bank	1883.60	-3.40
L&T	1382.65	12.80
M&M	824.50	16.45
Maruti Suzuki	8144.95	222.35
Nestle India Ltd.	17681.30	-73.40
NTPC	98.30	-1.35
ONGC	98.85	0.75
PowerGrid Corp	196.15	-3.50
Reliance Ind	2054.70	38.30
SBI Life	896.75	-7.65
State Bank	302.55	3.95
Shree Cement	23979.95	-394.55
Sun Pharma	594.70	-1.85
Tata Motors	274.90	16.25
Tata Steel	690.15	9.05
TCS	3308.80	48.10
Tech Mahindra	1019.45	26.95
Titan	1531.30	11.40
UltraTech Cement	5547.10	57.00
UPL	576.35	12.35
Wipro	444.95	14.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 20

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	72.82	73.14
Euro	88.26	88.65
British Pound	99.79	100.23
Japanese Yen (100)	70.15	70.46
Chinese Yuan	11.26	11.31
Swiss Franc	81.90	82.26
Singapore Dollar	54.92	55.18
Canadian Dollar	57.37	57.62
Malaysian Ringitt	17.99	18.09

Source:Indian Bank

'Weak reform push, financial sector woes may damp growth'

Effective implementation key to realising India's medium-term potential: Fitch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings on Wednesday said India's medium-term growth potential is at about 6.5% but weak implementation of reforms, combined with continued financial sector problems, could lower its potential.

It said the revival of the reform agenda is among the Indian government's policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic shock.

Yen for reform: Fitch said it expected the Centre to remain reform-minded over the next few years. ▪ NAGARA GOPAL

'Partially offset'

"If implemented effectively, we believe these reforms may help to support India's medium-term growth and partially offset downside pressures to investment from renewed asset-quality challenges in the financial sector and damaged corporate balance sheets," the ratings agency said.

"We expect India's central government to remain generally reform-minded over the next few years, and potential areas for further reform seem plentiful, in our view. However, the process of reform in India remains complex, and implementation at times has proven difficult," Fitch said.

"Our projected annual medium-term GDP growth is relatively high, nevertheless, at around 6.5% reflecting above-trend growth rates needed to close the output gap." Fitch estimates medium-term growth potential to be some 1.7 percentage point lower than otherwise as a result of the scarring effects of the health crisis and financial sector weaknesses.

The ratings agency last week said India's gross domestic product (GDP) would expand by 11% in the financial year 2021-22, after witnessing a 9.4% contraction in the current fiscal period ending in March 2021.

EPFO net new enrolments dip in Nov.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Net new enrolments with retirement fund body EPFO slipped to 10.11 lakh in November from 10.56 lakh in October, according to its latest payroll data, providing a perspective on formal sector employment amid the pandemic.

Provisional payroll data released by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) last month had shown net new enrolments at 11.54 lakh in October.

"The provisional payroll of EPFO reveals it has added around 10.11 lakh net subscribers in November. Despite COVID-19, EPFO has added around 45.29 lakh net subscribers base in the current financial year (April to November)," the Labour Ministry said.

Sundaram Finance names Lochan as MD

Srinivasaraghavan retires on March 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Sundaram Finance Ltd. has named Rajiv Lochan as its next Managing Director, after the current incumbent T. T. Srinivasaraghavan retires on March 31. Mr. Lochan, who is director-strategy, will assume office on April 1.

The firm's board, which met on Wednesday, named deputy MD Harsha Viji as executive vice-chairman.

Mr. Viji will oversee overall strategy and direction including at other group companies in financial services.

Mr. Srinivasaraghavan, who will retire after 38 years, the last 18 as MD, will remain on the board and provide mentorship, the NBFC said in a statement.

During his tenure, the NBFC's balance sheet surpassed ₹30,000 crore, from less than ₹800 crore earlier.

T. T. Srinivasaraghavan

"Under his leadership the company has demonstrated its traditional focus on asset quality, and most importantly, adherence to 'Sundaram values' of prudence and customer focus," said Chairman S. Viji.

The board also declared an interim dividend of ₹12.

States' FY21 fiscal deficit to hit peak of ₹8.7 lakh crore: Crisil

Revenue deficit contribution higher than last 5 years' average

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The States are headed for a fourfold expansion in their revenue deficit this fiscal over the last year due to far lesser tax collections, Crisil Ratings said in a report.

Collections had been impacted on account of the lockdowns and the consequent slump in economic activity, it added.

"This will not only expand States' aggregate gross fiscal deficit (GFD) to an all-time high of ₹8.7 lakh crore, or 4.7% of GSDP, but also skew its composition towards revenue deficit which is relatively less value-accretive towards future tax potential," it said.

Collections may improve

Tax collections may slowly recover with improving economic outlook. However, higher interest burden because of high debt funding of this year's GFD, coupled with sticky revenue expenditures, may keep revenue deficits high for States and GFD composition skewed over the next 2-3 years, it added.

This will, in turn, increase the credit risk for States, the agency said. Manish Gupta, senior director, added, "Composition of GFD, apart from its level, is one of the critical indicators of credit quality of States. Higher contribution of capital expenditure in a State's GFD composition is viewed positively as it supports capital formation, which improves the State's tax potential."

"In this fiscal, revenue deficit of States would contribute 70% of GFD, sharply higher than the average 15% seen over the past five fiscals," he said.

That is because of the 15% on-year decline in revenue this fiscal, the ratings agency added.

SBI does deals using SOFR as benchmark

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) has executed two interbank short term money market deals with pricing linked to SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate).

SOFR is a replacement for USD LIBOR that may be phased out end-2021.

This follows the U.K.'s Financial Conduct Authority deciding not to compel banks on LIBOR calculation after December. "The transaction shows SBI's progress in aligning systems and processes to embrace alternate reference rates," said C. Venkat Nageswar, DMD, (International Banking Group).

Founder Ma appears in public providing a boost to Alibaba

Firm's HK shares rise 8% on his first appearance since Nov.

ANANTH KRISHNAN

Alibaba founder Jack Ma made his first public appearance since early November on Wednesday, quelling speculation about his fate and giving a boost to his embattled conglomerate.

Alibaba's shares surged 8% in Hong Kong after Mr. Ma's first appearance in close to three months, as he appeared "during a rural teacher-themed social welfare event via video link", Chinese media reported.

China's richest man, who started out as an English teacher before founding a company that would revolutionise how business is done in China, was attending the Jack Ma Rural Teachers Award ceremony via video "in which he met with 100 rural teachers from across the country and said 'we'll meet again when the [COVID-19] epidemic is over!'," the Global Times quoted Tianmu News, a website in Zhejiang province where Mr. Ma and Alibaba are based, as saying. There has been speculation about Mr. Ma after he kept a low-profile in the wake of recent troubles surrounding his group.

Jack Ma

On December 24, the State Administration for Market Regulation said it had initiated a probe into Alibaba's "suspected monopolistic acts" including "forcing merchants to choose one platform between two competitors".

IRFC IPO subscribed 3.49 times

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The initial public offering (IPO) of Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited was subscribed 3.49 times on the final day of bidding on Wednesday.

The offer received bids for 4,35,22,57,225 shares against 1,24,75,05,993 shares on offer.

Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) category was subscribed 3.78 times, non-institutional investors 2.67 times and retail individual investors (RIIs) 3.66 times.

The IPO comprises a fresh issue of up to 118.8 crore shares and an offer for sale of up to 59.4 crore shares. Price range was fixed at ₹25-26 per share.

IRFC had on Friday raised a little over ₹1,398 crore from anchor investors. It's primary objective is to meet the predominant portion of 'extra budgetary resources' need of the Indian Railways through market borrowings.

Emerging market NPAs to continue rising: S&P

'Cost of risk to stabilise at high levels'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath will continue to dominate the credit story for emerging markets (EMs), including India in 2021, S&P Global Ratings said in a report.

It said bank systems in its sample EMs were exposed to major sources of risk including that of likely deterioration in asset quality.

"We expect non-performing loans to continue increasing and cost of risk to stabilise at high levels as central banks start to remove regulatory forbearance measures in some of the markets where such measures were implemented and banks start recognising the full extent of asset quality deterioration." It said profitability of banks in EMs was likely to remain below historical levels due to lower global interest rates and slower growth. "In India, SMEs [accounted] for around 20% of total exposures at mid-2020. Stress in SMEs is somewhat tempered by the government's guarantee of new loans taken by SMEs," up to 20% of their total loans, it said.

CCI plans to export 10 lakh bales of cotton

India, Bangladesh may ink MoU

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA
COIMBATORE

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) plans to export at least 10 lakh bales of cotton during the current season.

Pradeep Kumar Agarwal, CMD of CCI, told *The Hindu* it had procured almost 85 lakh bales of cotton at minimum support price (MSP) since the beginning of the current cotton season (October 2020-September 2021). With cotton prices rising, the CCI had reduced the purchases at MSP.

Better prices

"The farmers are getting better prices," he said.

"Hence, CCI's daily purchase has dropped to 40,000 to 50,000 bales a day from about two lakh bales a day a few weeks ago," he added.

The CCI is active mainly in Telangana and Maharashtra. It will continue to be present in the market till the end of the season. Of the cotton procured so far, it had sold 12 lakh bales to the domestic textile sector.

The CCI has till now exported about 25,000 bales. It is looking at a minimum of 10 lakh bales for export this season, a majority of which would be to Bangladesh.

The governments of India and Bangladesh are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding in this regard. There could be exports to other countries through merchant exporters, Mr. Agarwal added.

DPIIT unveils compliance portal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has unveiled a regulatory compliance portal that will act as a bridge for citizens, industries and the government to minimise burdensome compliances.

It will also act as a first-of-its-kind central online repository of all central and State-level compliances, the department said on Wednesday. All central Ministries/departments and States/UTs would examine laws and regulations under their purview and implement an action plan to simplify all the processes and remove burdensome compliances, decriminalise laws and repeal redundant acts. These details would be captured and tracked on the portal. Industry stakeholders will also be able to submit compliances and recommendations.

विशाखापट्टणम पोर्ट ट्रस्ट
VISAKHAPATNAM PORT TRUST
VISAKHAPATNAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the termination of the Concession Agreement between SEW VCTPL & VPT in respect of **"Development of East Quay-1A (EQ-1A) berth on South side of EQ-1 berth in the Inner Harbour of Visakhapatnam Port on DBFOT basis"** and the orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal dated 22-09-2019 the Concessionaire M/s SEW VCTPL failed to transfer the project in terms of Article-16.5 of the Concession Agreement M/s SEW VCTPL (Concessionaire) and it lenders. As the Concessionaire as well as the lenders have not come forward positively, it is hereby notified that VPT shall carryout the Panchanama of EQ-1A between **25-01-2021 to 03-02-2021** to record the abandoned inventory at the site with the assistance of the Revenue Department. The Concessionaire and the lenders are invited to participate in the said exercise if they so wish and take away those movables in terms of Article-17.4 which are not taken over by Concessioning Authority.

Secretary & Attorney of the Board

cmpdi
CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Ltd.)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834031, Jharkhand, India

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in/** respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in**. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**."

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
KOTA SUPER THERMAL POWER STATION, Kota-324008, Ph./Fax 0744-2371134/2370061, E-Mail- cektps@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online E-tenders are invited for **TN-15180(RVU2021GLOB01577)** Supply of grinding roll, Bull ring segment and air port ring assembly for bowl mills XRP-763/803, TN-26108(RVU2021GLOB01587) Engineering Supply, installation, testing and commissioning along with CMC for consecutive 3 year of CCTV surveillance system and **TN-4864 (RVU2021WSOB01573)** Assistance in Operation of Wagon Tipplers, Stacker-cum-Reclaimer & IMWB and Unloading, Crushing Conveying, Feeding of Coal to Boiler Bunkers and Associated works in CHP area. Tender details are available on websites http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. RVUN/PR-3470

Raj.Samwad/C/20/8995 Chief Engineer (KSTPS)

NMDC Limited
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
10-3-311/A, CASTLE HILLS, MASAB TANK, HYDERABAD-500 028
Ph.: 0091-40-23538710, 23538713-21, Extn.: 228/270/535, Fax: +91-40-23538711
E-mail : jpsingh@nmdc.co.in; bmkumar@nmdc.co.in; bsamya@nmdc.co.in
CIN: L13100TG1958GOI001674

e-PROCUREMENT OPEN TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited through e-procurement mode for the following item(s) from reputed manufacturers directly or through their accredited agents in India required for our NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, India.

Description of Materials	Qty	Display & Sale of Tender Documents Period	Last date & Time for submission of offer
(1) Tender No.HQMM/0001-20/V-III/ MagnetoMeter/31 Dated: 21/01/2021			
Proton precision Magnetometer with all accessories as per Annexure-III	01 Set	21/01/2021 to 18/02/2021 up to 2:30 PM (IST)	18/02/2021 2.30 PM (IST)
(2) Tender No.HQMM/0001-20/V-II/Res. & IP Meter/30 Dated: 21/01/2021			
IP & Resistivity Meter with all accessories as per Annexure-III	01 No.	21/01/2021 to 18/02/2021 up to 2:30 PM (IST)	18/02/2021 2.30 PM (IST)
(3) Tender No.HQMM/0001-20/ V-I/GP-Software/29 Dated: 21/01/2021			
Geophysical Software for mineral exploration as per Annexure-III	01 No.	21/01/2021 to 18/02/2021 up to 2:30 PM (IST)	18/02/2021 2.30 PM (IST)

The detailed information of the tenders can be obtained from our websites **www.nmdc.co.in** under e-procurement section; **www.eprocure.gov.in** and website **www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc** of MSTC Ltd. Any Corrigendum to the above Tender Notices and final tender document will be uploaded only on our website **www.nmdc.co.in** and will not be published. Prospective bidders should visit the above NMDC website from time to time to note the corrigendum, if any.

Chief General Manager (MM)

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560012
Phone: 080-23 460 460 (5 lines) Fax: 080-23461576
e-mail: keauthority-ka@nic.in Website: http://kea.kar.nic.in

No. ED/KEA/ADMN/CR-12 /2020-21 Date: 20.01.2021

NOTIFICATION

ADMISSION TO POST GRADUATE AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI AND HOMOEOPATHY PG AYUSH COURSES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21

In pursuant to the guidelines issued by Ministry of AYUSH, New Delhi, and as per the directions of the Government in their order HFW 70 PTD 2017 Bangalore dated 06.09.2017, applications are invited online from the eligible, qualified in AIAPGET-2020 candidates, for admission to Post Graduate Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani and Homoeopathy (PG AYUSH) courses for the academic year 2020-21 for the seats to be notified by Government.

Further, as per GOI, Ministry of AYUSH letter No. L-11011/2/2020-E-P (1) Part-2 dated 10.12.2020, 15% of All India Quota seats in Private Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy College will also be allotted through KEA. These seats are open in nature.

Interested and eligible candidates have to compulsorily register through online from **11:00 am** on **22.01.2021 to 25.01.2021** up to **5:30 pm** by selecting the appropriate link on the KEA Website. The registration fees Rs. 2,000/- (Rs.1000/- for SC/ST and Cat-I of Karnataka) should be paid through online before **27.01.2021.**

Schedule, original documents to be produced for verification, academic eligibility criteria as laid down in AIAPGET-2020 Information Bulletin and other conditions are also hosted on the KEA Website **http://kea.kar.nic.in** for the information of the candidates. Please note that SC/ ST/Cat-1/2A/2B/3A/3B eligibility criteria are applicable to SC/ST/OBC Karnataka candidates only.

Candidature is purely provisional and subject to fulfilment of eligibility criteria as mentioned in the AIAPGET-2020 Information Bulletin, further the provisional admission made is subject to approval of CCIM / CCH / Government / Competent Authority / Universities etc. Mere registration or verification of the documents does not confer any right to the candidates for admission to Karnataka AYUSH PG MD / MS courses.

For more details visit KEA Website **http://kea.kar.nic.in.**

DIPR/DDU/LC/2504/2020-21 *Sd/-*, Executive Director

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका, पिंपरी १८
वायसीएमएच - पीजीआय, स्टेशनरी भांडार
ई-निविदा सुचना क्र. ०६/२०२०-२१

चिंचवड महानगरपालिकेच्या वायसीएमएच - पीजीआय येथे २, नवीन जिजामाता रुग्णालय-पिंपरी, नवीन भोसरी रुग्णालय येथे प्रत्येकी १ अशा एकूण ४ मॉडयुलर ओटी (with turnkey project) बनविणेकामी दिलेल्या तपशिलाप्रमाणे संबंधीत उत्पादित कंपनी/ त्यांचे अधिकृत वितरक अथवा अधिकृत पुरवठाधारकयांचेकडुन ई टेंडरिंग कार्यप्रणाली पध्दतीने निविदा मागविणेत येत आहे.

अ. क्र.	कामाचा तपशिल	अंदाज पत्रकीय किंमत	अनामत र. रु.	बयाणा र. रु.	फॉर्म फी. र. रु. (परत न मिळणारी)	कामाची मुदत
१.	पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिकेच्या वायसीएमएच - पीजीआय येथे २, नवीन जिजामाता रुग्णालय-पिंपरी, नवीन भोसरी रुग्णालय येथे प्रत्येकी १ अशा एकूण ४ मॉडयुलर ओटी (with turnkey project) बनविणेबाबत	9,61,96,611/- + GST	48,09,831/-	9,61,966/-	31,360/-	60 दिवस

सदर निविदेतील पुरवठयाचा तपशिल, अनामत, बयाणा रक्कम, नियम, अटी-शर्ती, निविदा शेड्युल इत्यादीची माहिती मनपाच्या www.pcmcindia.gov.in या वेबसाईटवर उपलब्ध आहे. सदरची निविदा ई - टेंडरिंग पध्दतीने www.mahatender.gov.in या वेबसाईटवरुन भरावयाची आहे. याकामी पुरवठाधारकांनी महाराष्ट्र शासनाचे संकेतस्थळाद्वारे सेल्फ रजिस्ट्रेशन नोंदणी करणे आवश्यक आहे. वरील कामासाठी निविदा पुर्व सभा (Pre-Bid Meeting) दि. 27/01/2021 रोजी सकाळी 11.00 वाजता मध्यवर्ती भांडार विभागात ई-निविदा कक्षात होईल. तत्पुर्वी निविदेबाबत काही आक्षेप, खुलासे अडचणी असल्यास निविदा पूर्व सभेपुर्वी सायंकाळी 05.00 वाजेपर्यंत store@pcmcindia.gov.in या ई-मेलवर पाठविण्यात यावे. अथवा समक्ष आणून देण्यात यावेत. सदरची निविदा फक्त ई-निविदा प्रक्रीये अंतर्गत दि. 20/01/2021 ते दि. 10/02/2021 अखेर दुपारी 3.00 वाजेपर्यंत ई - निविदा पध्दतीने www.mahatender.gov.in या वेबसाईटवरुन भरता येईल. सदरची ई-निविदा प्रणाली वापराबाबत काही तांत्रिक अडचण निर्माण झाल्यास NIC यांचेकडील support-epro@nic अथवा Help Desk Number 0120-4200462, 4001002, 4001005, 6277787 या दूरध्वनीवर संपर्क साधावा.

जाहिरात क्रमांक - ६९५
क्र. YCMHभां/05/कावि/09/2021
दि. 19/01/2021

सही/-
आयुक्त
पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका
पिंपरी - 411018

सही/-
अति.आयुक्त (२)
पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका
पिंपरी - 411018

Pujara: the iron man of India

He is a blood and guts batsman who can withstand immense pain on the field

INDIA IN AUS

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

Steve Waugh and Mohinder Amarnath typified bravery. They took blows on the body from the quicks, shed blood on the pitch, but never gave their wicket away. It was a matter of pride and honour.

And both Waugh and Amarnath sported a red handkerchief in their pocket [for Amarnath it was the legacy of his father Lala] that was akin to showing the red rag to the bull. And they had the heart to withstand the barrage from the big, fast men.

In fact, when Amarnath made 91 and 80 taking on the Fab Four West Indian quicks on a fast Bridgetown pitch in '83, he was struck a grievous blow near his mouth by a Malcolm Marshall lifter. He spit out blood, got the wound stitched in the dressing room and returned to astonishingly hook the first delivery he faced – from Marshall – for a six.

Raw courage

We are talking raw courage here and Cheteshwar Pujara belongs to this breed. A blood and guts batsman who can withstand immense pain on the cricket field.

On the pulse pounding final day at the Gabba, Pujara took blow after blow on his body as the Australian quicks went after him with short-pitched deliveries; there was a distinct crack on the pitch too.

There were occasions when Pujara appeared in considerable pain but he batted on. Mentally he had entered a zone where physical agony was conquered by the will to stay at the wicket.

Pujara was the star the last time around when India defeated Australia for the first time in a Test series down under. This was a more demanding tour for Pujara. The Aussies bowled a lot closer to his off-stump, moved it both ways.

Pujara battled hard in Sydney staying at the crease for 286 minutes for a match-saving 77. And in the second innings at Gabba, he batted 314 minutes for a heroic 56.

Inside his shirt, his body would have sported many red marks caused by the impact of the lifting deliveries. There were times when Pujara endured painful hits on his knuckles. Nothing, though, broke his spirit as he went past 6,000 Test runs.

Pujara did not wilt and India, riding on young talent, ambushed Australia at fortress Gabba. And the seasoned Pujara was the unsung hero. He is the iron man of Indian cricket.

Unsung hero: Pujara took blow after blow on the final day at the Gabba, but did not wilt. ▪ AP

CA salutes India's 'resilience'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MELBOURNE

Cricket Australia on Wednesday saluted the Indian team's "resilience, courage and skill" during its historic Test series win over the hosts, and expressed gratitude to the BCCI for the "sacrifices" it made to ensure a smooth conduct of the series.

The note, written by CA interim CEO Nick Hockley and Chair Earl Eddings, was addressed to BCCI.

Top performers

BATTING

	M	I	R	HS	Avg.	50s	100s
Marnus Labuschagne	4	8	**426**	108	53.25	2	1
Steve Smith	4	8	**313**	131	44.71	2	1
Rishabh Pant	3	5	**274**	97	68.50	2	0
Cheteshwar Pujara	4	8	**271**	77	33.87	3	0
Ajinkya Rahane	4	8	**268**	112	38.28	0	1
Shubman Gill	3	6	**259**	91	51.80	2	0

BOWLING

	M	I	Wkts	BBI	Avg.	SR	5W/10W
Pat Cummins	4	8	**21**	4/21	20.04	46.3	0/0
Josh Hazlewood	4	8	**17**	5/8	19.35	51.0	2/0
Mohammed Siraj	3	6	**13**	5/73	29.53	62.0	1/0
R. Ashwin	3	6	**12**	4/55	28.83	67.0	0/0
Jasprit Bumrah	3	6	**11**	4/56	29.36	64.1	0/0
Mitchell Starc	4	8	**11**	4/53	40.72	74.7	0/0

Hanuma Vihari both 'proud' and 'gutted'

Happy with his Sydney effort but sad to have missed the Brisbane victory

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Hanuma Vihari, who was involved in a magnificent match-saving partnership with R. Ashwin in the third Test at Sydney, says he has mixed emotions.

"I feel happy and proud to (have) been involved in a stand with Ashwin which saved the Test for India and kept its hopes alive in the series.

"At the same time, I feel gutted that I was not there for the final Test when the Indian team recorded a historic series win," the 27-year-old Vihari told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

Speaking from Bengaluru where he will report to the NCA to rehabilitate his injured hamstring which ruled him out of the final Test, Vihari said that when he looks back at the series, he is glad to have contributed towards the team's success.

"It is a great feeling to play such an important innings with the hamstring injury causing acute pain. We had no option but to go for a draw because of injuries.

"It is the kind of effort I value greater than a Test century. Our knocks in Sydney ensured that India went to Brisbane with a chance of winning the series.

"We always knew it was one of those freak performances (bowled out for 36 in the first Test in Adelaide).

"Essentially, after the first Test debacle, we looked at the series as a three-match series to be mentally fresh for the bigger challenges ahead," Vihari said.

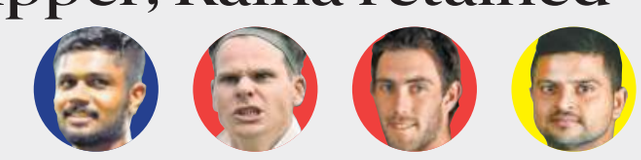
He said it was one of the greatest series wins ever.

"Full credit to the way the young bowlers performed. They know how to bowl with the red ball at this level because of the India-A exposure tours," he said.

Vihari. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Smith released, Samson named RR skipper; Raina retained

Rajasthan Royals has released captain Steve Smith and appointed Sanju Samson as skipper for the 2021 edition of the IPL. Kings XI Punjab has released Glenn Maxwell while Suresh Raina has been retained by Chennai Super Kings. The franchises announced the list of released/retained players on Wednesday, the deadline day. The auction is likely to be held on February 10.



Chennai Super Kings

RELEASED: Kedar Jadhav, Harbhajan Singh, Shane Watson, Monu Singh, Piyush Chawla, M. Vijay.

RETAINED: M.S. Dhoni, Suresh Raina, Ambati Rayudu, K.M. Asif, Deepak Chahar, Dwayne Bravo, Faf du Plessis, Imran Tahir, N. Jagadeesan, Karn Sharma, Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Santner, Ravindra Jadeja, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shardul Thakur, Josh Hazlewood, R. Sai Kishore, Sam Curran.

PURSE REMAINING ₹22.9 cr.

7 SLOTS REMAINING (1 overseas)

Kings XI Punjab

RELEASED: Glenn Maxwell, Karun Nair, Hardus Viljoen, J. Suchith, Mujeeb ur Rahman, Sheldon Cottrell, Jimmy Neesham, K. Gowtham, Tajinder Singh.

RETAINED: K.L. Rahul, Chris Gayle, Mayank Agarwal, Nicholas Pooran, Mandeep Singh, Sarfaraz Khan, Deepak Hooda, Prabhsimran Singh, Mohammed Shami, Chris Jordan, Darshan Nalkande, Ravi Bishnoi, M. Ashwin, Arshdeep Singh, Harpreet Brar, Ishan Porel.

PURSE REMAINING ₹53.2 cr.

9 SLOTS REMAINING (5 overseas)

Kolkata Knight Riders

RELEASED: M. Siddharth, Nikhil Naik, Siddhesh Lad, Chris Green, Tom Banton

RETAINED: Dinesh Karthik, Andre Russell, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kuldeep Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Nitish Rana, Prasidh Krishna, Rinku Singh, Sandeep Warrier, Shivam Mavi, Shubman Gill, Sunil Narine, Eoin Morgan, Pat Cummins, Rahul Tripathi, Varun Chakravarthy, Tim Seifert.

PURSE REMAINING ₹10.85 cr.

7 SLOTS REMAINING (1 overseas)

Mumbai Indians

RELEASED: Mitchell McClenaghan, James Pattinson, Lasith Malinga, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Sherfane Rutherford, Digvijay Deshmukh, Prince Balwant Rai Singh.

RETAINED: Rohit Sharma, Aditya Tare, Anmolpreet Singh, Anukul Roy, Dhawal Kulkarni, Hardik Pandya, Ishan Kishan, Jasprit Bumrah, Jayant Yadav, Kieron Pollard, Krunal Pandya, Quinton de Kock, Rahul Chahar, Suryakumar Yadav, Chris Lynn, Mohsin Khan, Saurabh Tiwary, Trent Boult.

PURSE REMAINING ₹15.35 cr.

7 SLOTS REMAINING (4 overseas)

Sunrisers Hyderabad

RELEASED: Sanjay Yadav, B. Sandeep, Billy Stanlake, Fabian Allen, Yarra Prithviraj.

RETAINED: David Warner, Abhishek Sharma, Basil Thampi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jonny Bairstow, Kane Williamson, Manish Pandey, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Sandeep Sharma, Shahbaz Nadeem, Shreevats Goswami, Siddarth Kaul, Khaleel Ahmed, T. Natarajan, Vijay Shankar, Wriddhiman Saha, Abdul Samad, Mitchell Marsh, Jason Holder, Priyam Garg, Virat Singh.

PURSE REMAINING ₹10.75 cr.

3 SLOTS REMAINING (1 overseas)

Rajasthan Royals

RELEASED: Steve Smith, Ankit Rajpoot, Oshane Thomas, Akash Singh, Varun Aaron, Tom Curran, Anirudha Joshi, Shashank Singh.

RETAINED: Sanju Samson, Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer, Jos Buttler, Riyan Parag, Shreyas Gopal, Rahul Tewatia, Mahipal Lomror, Kartik Tyagi, Andrew Tye, Jaydev Unadkat, Mayank Markande, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Anuj Rawat, David Miller, Manan Vohra, Robin Uthappa.

PURSE REMAINING ₹34.85 cr.

8 SLOTS REMAINING (3 overseas)

Delhi Capitals

RELEASED: Alex Carey, Keemo Paul, Sandeep Lamichhane, Tushar Deshpande, Mohit Sharma, Jason Roy.

RETAINED: Shreyas Iyer, Ajinkya Rahane, Amit Mishra, Avesh Khan, Axar Patel, Ishant Sharma, Kagiso Rabada, Prithvi Shaw, R. Ashwin, Rishabh Pant, Shikhar Dhawan, Lalit Yadav, Marcus Stoinis, Shimron Hetmyer, Anrich Nortje, Chris Woakes, Pravin Dubey.

TRADED OUT: Harshal Patel, Daniels Sams.

PURSE REMAINING ₹12.8 cr.

8 SLOTS REMAINING (3 overseas)

Royal Challengers Bangalore

RELEASED: Chris Morris, Aaron Finch, Moeen Ali, Isuru Udana, Dale Steyn, Shivam Dube, Umesh Yadav, Pawan Negi, Gurkeerat Mann, Parthiv Patel.

RETAINED: Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Devdutt Padikkal, Mohammed Siraj, Navdeep Saini, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Josh Philippe, Pavan Deshpande, Shahbaz Ahamad, Adam Zampa, Kane Richardson.

TRADED IN: Harshal Patel, Daniel Sams.

PURSE REMAINING ₹35.7 cr.

11 SLOTS REMAINING (3 overseas)

* THERE WAS A TRADE-OFF BETWEEN DC AND RCB

GRAPHIC: A. GANESHAN

An honour: Samson

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Rajasthan Royals has an Indian captain once again. Sanju Samson is only the third homegrown skipper for the Jaipur-based franchise, after Rahul Dravid and Ajinkya Rahane.

He takes over from Steve Smith, one of the three Australians to have led Royals; Shane Warne and Shane Watson are the others. Smith is one of the eight players released on Wednesday by the franchise ahead of the 14th edition of the IPL.

Samson first played for Royals in 2013, and except for the two seasons that the team was banned for (when he moved to Delhi), he has been at Jaipur. In 2012, he was in the Kolkata Knight Riders squad, but didn't play.

Samson, who was also reinstalled as the Kerala skipper for the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament recently, said it was an absolute honour to have been made the Royals captain.

"It's a team that is so close to my heart, which I've been lucky enough to play for over the years," he said. "I'm excited about the challenge that lies ahead of me as the leader of the team."

He added that he was looking forward to the new IPL season.

Malinga retires from franchise cricket

ANI
MUMBAI

Lasith Malinga, one of the greatest Twenty20 bowlers, has decided to retire from franchise cricket.

The Sri Lankan speedster had conveyed his decision to the Mumbai Indians management earlier this month, making himself unavailable for the five-time IPL champion's retention wishlist.

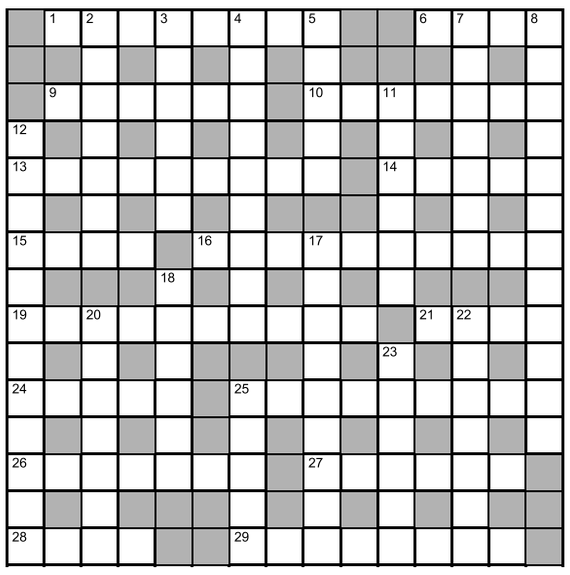
On his decision to quit, Malinga said, "After discussing with the family, I think now is the right time to retire from all franchise cricket. The pandemic situation and the restrictions on travel will make it difficult for me to participate fully next year and therefore it is best to make this decision now. I would like to thank everyone at the Mumbai Indians franchise and all our fans for the wonderful 12 years."

TH CROSSWORD + 13150

(set by Gridman)

Never go off the grid. We are digital now. Come solve online: @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 After a couple of drinks, setter's game! (3,5)
6 A good journalist up in years (4)
9 Manet's reproduction of part of a flower (6)
10 Economist endlessly goes over old time that is critical (7)
13 People who will be addressed the same way (9)
14 Large guards over Richa's odd sea creatures (5)
15 Mild movement of sea at end of day (4)
16 Wave almost excessive with delight late in coming (10)
19 Administrator in rig industry too plusher in a way (4,6)
21 Tea for a large number in African republic (4)
24 Self-independent nurses are small and delicate (5)
25 In the style of German base's illumination (9)
26 Interior parts of hotels divided by a road (7)
27 Shrink back like learner among judges (6)
28 Kicked the frog, reportedly (4)
29 Annoys son – quite unnecessary (8)

DOWN

2 Sh! I must tear off the narrow strip (7)
3 Careless and extremely restive girl (6)
4 These pieces of swimwear are singular (9)
5 One thousand stolen by word of agreement – "Oh, no!" (5)
7 Leading gastronome raises negative vote on cold/hot Italian dish (7)
8 Reprimand for wrongness did badly (8,4)
11 Landholder of the old sultanate (6)
12 The number of people in operation theatre (12)
17 Two articles (one French, another English) on board but such that they can't be consumed (9)
18 Old one with retirement allowance leaves northern Mumbai suburb for first game (6)
20 Take it to feel displeasure (7)
22 His Excellency's false accounts about 100 spirals (7)
23 Trying experience with nothing right about transaction (6)
25 A royal descendant in criminal act (5)

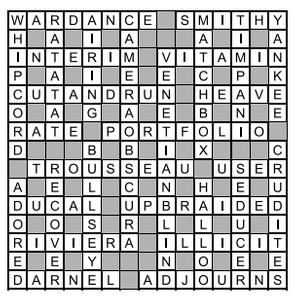
SUDOKU

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

No.SS4962 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13149



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

A devotee is enslaved

Sundaramurthy Nayanar is the central focus and lead in the Periyapuranam. Sekkizhar brings out through subtle strokes the ways in which Sundarar's bhakti blends into close friendship with the Lord, pointed out K. Kalaivanan in a discourse. It is the Lord's wish that Sundarar, who was engaged in His personal service in Kailasa, should be born on earth to make known the infinite value of the various kinds of devotion evinced by the Nayanmars through hymns. Sundarar is aware of the trappings of worldly life and pleads with the Lord to guide him into the path of devotional service and not let him go astray.

Sundarar is born as the son of Sadayanar and Isaignaniyar and is not aware of his life in Kailasa. But the compassionate Lord chooses the time and manner for redeeming him and enters into his life in the guise of an old Brahmin when Sundarar's wedding is to take place. His impressive demeanour makes a deep impact on all the people and He is received with due honours. Without mincing matters, the Lord claims Sundarar as His slave by showing a document signed by Sundarar's grandfather Arooran, where he has pledged himself and his progeny to the Lord's service. Sekkizhar reveals the law practices of those times that relied on traditional practice or precedent, written evidence, and oral attestation. Sundarar is unwilling to accept this claim and tears up the document.

To settle this issue, the Lord leads them to Tiruvennainalloor. He produces the original document and the grandfather's signature is verified. Sundarar then accedes to the Lord. Siva and Parvati then grant a vision to Sundarar, who becomes enlightened about his antecedents and is immersed in their boundless compassion.

TV PICKS

ISL: Star Sports 2 & 3 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Thailand Open badminton: Star Sports 2 HD & 3, 7.30 a.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

IN BRIEF

Yet another high for Rishabh Pant

DUBAI

India's Rishabh Pant became the top-ranked wicket-keeper batsman in the world after his Brisbane knock pushed him to a career-best 13th spot in the ICC Test batting rankings, issued on Wednesday. Pant has 691 points. South Africa's Quinton de Kock (677) is the next best in 15th position. PTI

Supreme Court to hear BCCI's plea on Feb. 16

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday posted the hearing on a petition by the BCCI related to the extension of the term of its president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah to February 16. ANI

Indian women hold Argentina juniors

BUENOS AIRES

Skipper Rani Rampal's goal in the 58th minute helped India salvage a 1-1 draw against the Argentina junior side here. It was the second straight draw for the Indian hockey team. Argentina converted a penalty corner in the 13th minute to go up 1-0. PTI

Harikrishna holds Caruana

WIJK AAN ZEE

P. Harikrishna (2.5 points) continued his impressive run by holding World No. 2 Fabiano Caruana and stayed among the five leaders after four rounds of Tata Steel Masters chess tournament on Tuesday.
With all the seven games ending in draws, there was no change in placings.
Harikrishna, along with Magnus Carlsen, Caruana, Anish Giri and Nils Grandelius retained their half-point lead.

Leicester City goes to the top

Blanks Chelsea 2-0; Leverkusen moves to second spot in Bundesliga

EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS
LEICESTER

Leicester City beat Chelsea 2-0 on Tuesday to go top of the Premier League, for 24 hours at least, thanks to goals from Wilfred Ndidi and James Maddison.

Leicester has 38 points from 19 games, while Chelsea's third defeat in five matches dropped it to eighth place, nine points behind the leader.

Leicester took a sixth-minute lead when a short-corner ended up half-cleared to Ndidi on the edge of the box and his shot flew in off the inside of the post.

First blow: Leicester's Wilfred Ndidi and Wesley Fofana celebrate the opening goal. ▪REUTERS

Penalty denied

Chelsea was awarded a penalty in the 38th minute when Jonny Evans brought down Christian Pulisic, but after a VAR review, the challenge was ruled to have occurred just outside the area and Mason Mount blasted the freekick over the bar.

Within three minutes Frank Lampard's side went from the brink of an equaliser to being 2-0 down when Chelsea's defence failed to deal with a high ball from Marc Albrighton, which fell to an unattended Maddison whose composed finish gave Edouard Mendy no chance.

Chelsea substitute Timo Werner had an effort ruled out for a narrow offside in the final stages but the Foxes were good value for their win.

Diaby shines

In the Bundesliga, Moussa Diaby scored one goal and set up the winner for Florian Wirtz as Bayer Leverkusen beat Borussia Dortmund 2-1 to move into second place and snap a four-game winless run this year.

Dortmund's title hopes has suffered a serious blow and the Ruhr valley club has now won just three of its last nine games.

Sevilla goalkeeper Bono rescued his side with a 91st-minute penalty save to earn a 2-1 win away to Alaves on Tuesday, taking his side up to fourth in LaLiga.

The results: Premier League: Leicester 2 (Ndidi 6, J. Maddison 41) bt Chelsea 0; West Ham 2 (Bowen 45+2, Antonio 66) bt West Brom 1 (Pereira 51).

LaLiga: Cadiz 2 (Perea 4, Cala 28) drew with Levante 2 (Roger 8, 11); Real Valladolid 2 (Herrero 71, Fernandez 89) drew with Elche 2 (Josan 9, 43); Alaves 1 (Mendez 12) lost to Sevilla 2 (En-Nesyri 3, Suso 30).

Bundesliga: Borussia Monchengladbach 1 (Elvedi 66) bt Werder Bremen 0; Mainz 05 0 lost to VfL Wolfsburg 2 (Bialek 65, Weghorst 79); Hertha Berlin 0 lost to Hoffenheim 3 (Rudy 33, Kramaric 68, 88); Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Diaby 14, Wirtz 80) bt Borussia Dortmund 1 (Brandt 67).

DELHI ROUND-UP

LB Shastri Club enters final

Man-of-the match Himanshu Bhati's three for 11saw LB Shastri Club beat Uday Gupte Academy by eight wickets to enter the final of the BR Sharma memorial tournament.
The scores: UGA 141 in 35.4 overs (Himanshu Bhati 3/11) lost to LBSC 144/2 in 27.2 overs (Aman Gurnani 36 n.o., Turang Pandit 36 n.o., Abhijeet Sharma 33).

Ankit, Sagar sizzle for Skillz Academy

Ankit Kumar top-scored with 143 and Sagar Kumar Dhojia picked up five wickets as Skillz Academy beat Quetta DAV Academy by 210 runs in the Skillz Youth Cup Under-19 tournament.
The scores: Skillz Academy 322 in 39 overs (Ankit Kumar 142, Vivek Panthri 58, Tarun Bisht 35, Arjun Rexwal 3/40) bt Quetta DAV Academy 112 in 29.1 overs (Sagar Kumar Dhojia 5/29, Riyanshu Kumar Singh 3/13).

Facile win for WCL Academy

Three wickets each by Priyanshu Kumar and Vaibhav Pandey and an unbeaten 43 by Kanishk Dalal saw WCL Academy beat NN Academy by nine wickets in the 7th SN Dubey Under-16 tournament.
The scores: NNA 83 in 31.1 overs (Surya Kumar 30; Priyanshu Kumar 3/11, Vaibhav Pandey 3/11) lost to WCLA 87/1 in 13.1 overs (Kanishk Dalal 43 n.o.).

Narrow win for Dogra Academy

Vivek Yadav's four for 21 helped Dogra Academy beat Tyagi Cricket Nursery by two wickets in the Swasthik Cup under-17 tournament.
The scores:
TCN 155 in 36.1 overs (Rhythm Gupta 51, Vivek Yadav 4/21) lost to Dogra Academy 156/8 in 39.1 overs (Aditya Dubey 33).

Success for Turf and VJCA

Aryan Dabas'sunbeaten 131 led the charge for Turf Academy's 58-run victory against RCC Club in the Endurance Under-15 League. In another match, Vidya Jain Cricket Academy beat Friends Academy by six wickets.
The scores: Turf Academy 231/5 in 35 overs (Aryan Dabas 131 n.o., Nasa Kumar 42) bt RCC Club 173/7 in 35 overs (Sarthak Pal 71, Dwij Vats 3/37); Friends Academy 178/6 in 35 over (Vansh Sharma 35) lost to VJCA 179/4 in 31.5 overs (Yash Kumar 70, Sachin Yadav 37 n.o.).

Quickfire ton by Vaibhav

Delhi Ranji Trophy batsman Vaibhav Rawal slammed an 84-ball 116 while Abhinav Tejrana and Piyush Chikara picked up three wickets each as RP Academy beat Sai Develop Zone by 40 runs in the 1st Tripathi Premier League.
The scores: RPA 261/9 in 40 overs (Vaibhav Rawal 116, Ankit Chillar 5/45) bt SDZ 221 in 38.3 overs (Raman Rana 105, Abhinav Tejrana 3/39, Piyush Chikara 3/48).

Kunal bats well for Sporting Club

Kunal Sangwan's 66 led the charge for Sporting Club;'s 84-run win against VS Academy in the 1st Ratan Lal Saini memorial Under-16 tournament.
The scores: Sporting Club 258/5 in 40 overs (Kunal Sangwan 66, L. Sangwan 64, Nikhil Maan 36, Rameshwar Dhar 3/35) bt VSA 174 in 38.3 overs (Pranjal 80).

Century for Mukul

Mukul Dabas scored a century as PMG beat DAV, Paschim Vihar by 92 runs in the 1st RCC Under-13 tournament.
The score: PMG 201/8 in 40 overs (Mukul Dabas 108) bt DAV 109 in 23.1 overs.

Ayaan, Azimul star in Dahiya Academy's win

Man-of-the-match Ayaan Qureshi top-scored with 64 and Azimul Haq took three wickets as Dahiya Cricket Academy beat County Cricket Academy by five wickets in the 2nd Sanjeev Tank memorial tournament.
The scores: CCA 172 in 37.1 overs (Abhishek Singh 97, Azimul Haq 3/34) lost to DCA 176/5 in 34 overs (Ayaan Qureshi 64, Ronak Modi 47, Ishan 3/15).

Blasters steal a win over BFC

Rahul and Lalthathanga on target for the Kerala side

ISL 2020-21

SPORTS BUREAU

Kerala Blasters ran out 2-1 victors over Bengaluru FC (BFC) following a stunning smash-and-grab at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim on Wednesday. K.P. Rahul's strike three minutes into injury time brought his side only its third win of the season and lifted it above East Bengal into ninth place on 13 points.

The goal came from a swift counter-attack after BFC's Cleiton Silva had hit the post with an overhead.

Earlier, Moosa shook things up by playing Sunil Chhetri centrally and Udanta Singh just off him. The two looked lively all through the first half.

The first two chances, both in the opening quarter, fell to the Blasters, with defender Costa Nhamoinesu failing to hit the target from six yards out and Gary Hooper sending a looping shot just wide.

K.P. Rahul. ▪SPORTZPICS/ISL

BFC made Blasters pay in the 24th minute through an acrobatic volley from Silva. Rahul Bheke's long throw fell to the Brazilian and he hoodwinked goalie Albino Gomes by going for the near post rather than across the goal.

Chhetri nearly doubled the lead just before half-time, but his freekick was saved well by Gomes.

Blasters' attacking patterns improved in the second half and the equaliser, through scrappy, came after sustained pressure. On 73 minutes, Hooper's shot from point-blank range hit BFC custodian Gurpreet Sandhu in the face and floored him. But Juanan's failure to clear the stray ball resulted in Lalthathanga Khawlhring smashing it in.

The result:
Kerala Blasters 2 (Lalthathanga 73, Rahul 90) bt Bengaluru FC 1 (Silva 24).

Thursday's match: ATK Mohun Bagan vs Chennaiyin, 7.30 p.m.

Gritty Prannoy ousts Christie

The Indian has been battling pain after COVID-19 recovery

THAILAND OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BANGKOK

H.S. Prannoy battled through pain in his ribcage and a shoulder injury to stun Asian Games champion Jonatan Christie 18-21, 21-16, 23-21 in the opening round of Toyota Thailand Open Super 1000 tournament here on Wednesday. It is Prannoy's first win against the sixth-seeded Indonesian in last four attempts.

The 28-year-old had spent two weeks stressing over his physical and mental health after contracting COVID-19 last November. The infection left him with pain in his ribcage even though everything looked normal in the tests.

He could resume training only in the second week of December but had to go through the ordeal of a false COVID positive result ahead of the Yonex Thailand Open last week.

Prannoy and Sameer Verma will carry India's charge in men's singles after the withdrawal of compatriots B. Sai Praneeth and K. Srikanth. Praneeth and roommate Srikanth were forced to pull out after the former tested positive for COVID-19.

The results (first round): Men: H.S. Prannoy bt Jonaton Christie (Ina) 18-21, 21-16, 23-21.
Doubles: M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapila bt Oliver Leydon-Davis & Abhinav Manota (NZ) 23-21, 21-17.
Women: Doubles: Linda Efler & Isabel Herttrich (Ger) bt N. Sikki Reddy & Ashwini Ponnappa 21-11, 21-19.
Mixed doubles: Pang Ron Hoo & Yee See Cheah (Mas) bt B. Sumeeth Reddy & Sikki Reddy 21-14, 18-21, 21-13.

Yesss! H.S. Prannoy vents his feelings during his comeback win over Jonaton Christie ▪AFP

Bangladesh rides on Shakib show

Shakib Al Hasan. ▪AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Shakib Al Hasan took four wickets for just eight runs in a stunning international comeback on Wednesday as Bangladesh defeated the West Indies by six wickets in the the first One-Day International here.

Shakib, playing his first ODI after a one-year ban, helped Bangladesh bowl out a weakened West Indies for 122 in just 32.2 overs. In reply, the home side reached 125 for four in 33.5 overs, with skipper Tamim Iqbal making 44 off 69 balls.

Kyle Mayers top-scored for the West Indies with 40, while debutant Hasan Mahmud claimed three for 28 for Bangladesh.

Debutant left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein impressed with the ball for the visitor, taking three for 26.

The scores: West Indies 122 in 32.2 overs (Kyle Mayers 40, Shakib Al Hasan 4/8) lost to Bangladesh 125/4 in 33.5 overs (Tamim Iqbal 44).

Samaresh Jung wary of high scores

Feels that pressure is needed to shake them from their slumber

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Samaresh Jung, the Champion of Champions in the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, appreciates the struggle endured by the cream of Indian shooting, but he is wary of the high scores.

"I don't want them to be doing this great," said the high performance pistol coach of the Indian team, as Samaresh looked at the intimidating scores of Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker in some of the matches during the recent selection trials.

Of course, the two top shooters also slipped in some matches, especially the finals, which would keep them focused on the work on hand till they reach Tokyo for the Olympics.

Samaresh Jung. ▪FILE PHOTO

Equally, Samaresh was able to understand the struggles of World No. 12 Anish Bhanwala, who failed to reach the finals of the rapid fire pistol event. Different shooters feel different pressure, but Samaresh was categorical that "this was required" to shake up the shooters from their slumber.

Asian Games gold medallist Rahi Sarnobat has been shooting very well in the finals, but the qualification has not been to her high standards in sports pistol.

"Rahi's duelling is good, but she is working on her precision," said Samaresh.

Yashaswini Deswal, Chinki Yadav and Abhishek Verma are the other pistol shooters who had won the Olympic quota and are slowly getting into their rhythm.

Week of training

Before the second set of trials, the Olympic core group will undergo another week long training.

"We assembled on January 20 and after a week of quarantine, the camp will start on January 27," said Samaresh.

The two foreign coaches Pavel Smirnov and Oleg Mikhailov have joined the team and thus the Indian shooters would continue to get better with adequate guidance.

Samaresh felt that a bit of work on physical strength and conditioning could be an ideal blend to the technical tuning.

With Germany and England experiencing lockdown, Samaresh said that arrangements have already been made to acquire the right ammunition for the shooters.

Reshma survives to enter last eight

ITF TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Second seed Reshma Maruri overcame a sluggish start and survived six match-points to beat Anjali Rathi 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 in the girls' pre-quarterfinals of the ITF grade-4 junior tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Wednesday.

Inspired by Reshma's performance, her sister Suhitha pulled off a 2-6, 6-3, 7-6(7) victory over Sachi Sharma.

Sanjana Devineni of the US sustained her good work, after beating the fourth seed in the first round, by getting past wild card Kavya Khirwar 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

In the boys' event, Chirag Duhan overcame the National sub-junior champion Karan Singh in straight sets.

The 13-year-old Manas Dhamne overcame the strong game of Yuvan Nandal in straight sets.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Boys: Nishant Dabas bt Aayush Bhat 0-0 (retired); Manas Dhamne bt Yuvan Nandal 6-3, 7-5; Nikhil NIranjan bt Sarthak Gandhi 6-2, 6-2; Kirtan Patel (Can) bt Torus Rawat 6-2, 6-3; Ajay Malik bt Wyatt Obrien 6-1, 6-1; Aman Dahiya bt Aarav Samrat Hada (Nep) 6-4, 6-2; Chirag Duhan bt Karan Singh 6-2, 7-6(5); Sanjith Devineni (US) bt Krishang Raghuvanshi 6-0, 6-1.
Girls: Sanjana Sirimalla bt Adithi Are 6-4, 6-3; Suhitha Maruri bt Sachi Sharma 2-6, 6-3, 7-6(7); Renne Singla bt Mirthula Mahalakshmi 6-3, 6-0; Rutuja Chaphalkar bt Aarni Reddy Yellu 6-0, 6-1.
Sweta Samanta bt Priyanshi Chauhan 6-2, 6-2; Sanjana Devineni (USA) bt Kavya Khirwar 2-6, 6-2, 6-4; Shruti Ahlawat bt Bhakti Shah 7-5, 6-2; Reshma Maruri bt Anjali Rathi 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Aizawl downs Gokulam

I-LEAGUE

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Former champion Aizawl FC picked up its first win of the tournament as it beat Gokulam Kerala FC 2-0 in an I-League fixture at the Mohun Bagan ground on Wednesday.

Aizawl took the lead late in the first half when MC Malsawmzuala scored a penalty. Lalrammawia doubled the lead in the final quarter of the action.

The first goal came in the 40th minute after Malsawmzuala was tripped inside the Gokulam box by its Ghanaian defender Awal Mohammed.

Lalrammawia settled the issue for Aizawl FC in the 76th minute when he volleyed home a nicely curled corner from Lalengmawia.
The result: Aizawl FC 2 (MC Malsawmzuala 40-pen, Lalrammawia 76) bt Gokulam Kerala FC 0.

Injured Prajnesh pulls out of his first round match

Rutuja Bhosale makes the doubles semifinals in Fujairah

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
ISTANBUL

Prajnesh Gunneswaran, grappling with an injured wrist, retired while trailing 6-4, 3-2 against Arthur Rinderknech of France in the first round of the €132,280 Challenger tennis here.

The Frenchman had knocked out Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-3, 6-3 in the final qualifying round.

In the $25,000 ITF women's event in Fujairah, Rutuja Bhosale made the doubles semifinals, but lost in the second and final qualifying round of singles.

The results:
€132,280 Challenger, Istanbul: Singles (first round): Arthur Rinderknech (Fra) bt Prajnesh Gunneswaran 6-4, 3-2 (retd).
Qualifying: Second and final round: Rinderknech bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-3, 6-3; **First round:** Ramkumar bt Koray Kirci (Tur) 6-3, 6-2.
$25,000 ITF women, Fujairah, UAE: Doubles (quarterfinals): Naiktha Bains (GBr) & Rutuja Bhosale w.o. Mariam Bolkvadze & Ekaterine Gorgodze (Geo).
Qualifying: Singles (second and final round): En Shuo Liang (Tpe) bt Rutuja Bhosale 6-2, 6-3.
$15,000 ITF men, Antalya, Turkey: Singles (first round): Mikail Alimli (Fra) bt Dev Javia 6-2, 7-6(8).
$15,000 ITF, Cairo: Men: Singles (first round): Filip Cristian Jianu (Rou) bt Yash Chaurasia 6-2, 6-1; Roman Andres Burruchaga (Arg) bt Muthu Aadhitiya Senthilkumar 6-2, 6-3.
Women: Singles (first round): Riya Bhatia bt Smriti Bhasin 6-3, 6-0. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Yuriko Lily Miyazaki (Jpn) & Riya Bhatia bt Alessandra Simone & Marion Viertler (Ita) 6-3, 6-2.

Jazz snare the Pelicans

NBA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LOS ANGELES

Donovan Mitchell scored 28 points to lead the Utah Jazz to a sixth straight NBA victory on Tuesday, a 118-102 triumph over Zion Williamson and the New Orleans Pelicans.

Mitchell piled up 15 points in the first quarter.

It was similarly lopsided in the other contest, with Denver Nuggets guard Nikola Jokic scoring 27 points and pulling down 12 rebounds in a 119-101 victory over the Oklahoma City thunder in Denver.
The results: Denver 119 bt Oklahoma City 101; Utah 118 bt New Orleans 102.

Kashish make last four

SONIPAT: Kashish Bhatia beat Sanjami Arora 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the ₹1,00,000 AITA women's ranking tennis tournament on Wednesday.
Other results (quarters): Jagmeet Kaur bt Ayushi Singh 7-5, 6-2; Prapti Soni bt Niyati Kukreti 2-6, 2-0 (retd.); Sara Yadav bt Mahi Panchal 6-0, 7-6(6).