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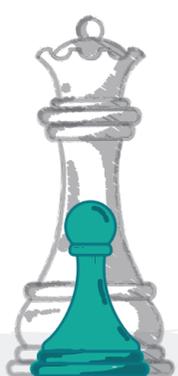
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IN BRIEF



Six arrested for rape, murder of Dalit sisters
Lucknow
Six persons have been arrested on charges of rape and murder of two minor Dalit sisters, who were found hanging from a tree in Lakhimpur Kheri district in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday. Lakhimpur Kheri Superintendent of Police Sanjiv Suman said, "The girls were coaxed and taken to the farm and sexually abused. Two accused have confessed to having forceful sexual relations with the girls."

NEWS ▶ PAGE 18

Karnataka passes anti-conversion Bill

Bengaluru
Setting the stage for clearance of the Karnataka Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, the Legislative Council on Thursday passed the controversial legislation by voice vote amidst vociferous protest and walkout from Congress members. High drama prevailed before the passage of the Bill.

STATES ▶ PAGE 10

Goa Cong. Legislature Party merges with BJP

Group has the required numbers, says Assembly Speaker

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE

A day after eight of the 11 Congress MLAs in the Goa Assembly defected to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Goa Assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar on Thursday formally accepted the merger of the State Congress Legislature Party (CLP) into the BJP.

Speaking to presspersons in Panaji, Mr. Tawadkar said he had gone through the letter submitted by the eight Congress MLAs and found that they had the required number (two-thirds) for their merger with the BJP.

The Congress rebel MLAs – former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat, Calangute legislator Michael Lobo and his wife Delilah Lobo, Aleixo Sequeira, Rodolfo Fernandes, Sankalp Amonkar, Rajesh Faldessai and Kedar Naik – joined the saffron party in the presence of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and BJP Goa president Sadanand Shet Tanavade on Wednesday.



Instant reward: Sources say a Cabinet reshuffle is likely in order to accommodate the new entrants to the party. ▶ P11

Speaking to presspersons on Thursday after a meeting of the BJP's core committee, Mr. Tanavade said the Congress MLAs had joined his party owing to Prime Minister Modi's development agenda and that the decision to allow the Congress MLAs into the BJP was green-lighted by the saffron party's central leadership. "Had the proposal of merger been given to me, then I might have said no. But when the party's central leadership decides on something, then the decision is binding on

all," Mr. Tanavade said. According to sources, a Cabinet reshuffle by Mr. Sawant is imminent and two or three BJP Ministers may be dropped to make way for the new turncoats.

Congress' Goa desk in-charge Dinesh Gundu Rao alleged that the BJP had offered massive sums to the tune of ₹40 crore-50 crore to lure each MLA into their camp, besides instilling the fear of unleashing Central agencies on them.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 16

Soren seeks clarity from Governor

Jharkhand CM calls for an end to three weeks of confusion over EC's letter

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday met Governor Ramesh Bais and urged him to clear the confusion prevailing in the State for over three weeks over the Election Commission's (EC) purported opinion on Mr. Soren's "disqualification" as a member of the

Legislative Assembly in connection with a mining lease contract.

"Provide a copy of the decision of the Election Commission and provide an opportunity for reasonable hearing at the earliest so that the atmosphere of uncertainty engulfing the State, which is dangerous for healthy democracy, can be



Hemant Soren

removed soon," Mr. Soren urged the Governor in a two-page letter submitted to him. Mr. Soren also said that the Opposition BJP in the State

had been using the uncertainty to "destabilise a democratically elected government by trying to poach ruling UPA (United Progressive Alliance) MLAs".

Later, Mr. Soren tweeted in Hindi: "Meeting Hon'ble Governor Shri Ramesh Bais ji today, handed over a letter to him to remove the uncertainty of unexpected circumstances in the State for more than three weeks."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 16

T.N. CM launches Breakfast Scheme

It is not a freebie, but government's duty, says Stalin

STAFF REPORTER
MADURAI

The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme rolled out for students of Classes I to V in government schools is not a freebie; in fact it is the foremost duty and responsibility of the State government to ensure its children are fed. Such schemes are the face of a government, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin



Meal mates: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin having breakfast with the students of a school in Madurai on Thursday. ▶ R. ASHOK

said here on Thursday.

He was speaking at the launch of the novel 'Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme' at

the Corporation Primary School Aathimoolam II in Simmakal, Madurai.

"While interacting with

students recently in a programme at Chennai, I asked a few students why they appeared tired and if they had eaten. They said that they usually don't eat in the morning, which struck a chord. Many officials and teachers affirmed the same. That spark led to the birth of the free breakfast scheme. Through this scheme, every student shall enter classrooms with their stomachs full," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 16

'NOT A CHARITY' ▶ PAGE 17

Delay in govt.'s flagship PMAY-G scheme to invite penalty

Centre to fine States that do not meet targets

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Pulling up the States for the delay in completion of the Narendra Modi government's flagship rural house-hold scheme – Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) – the Union Ministry of Rural Development has come up with a set of penalties that the State governments will have to bear for any further delay. Opposition-ruled West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha,



Ambitious goals: Under the scheme, the Union government has set itself a target of constructing 2.95 crore houses.

along with BJP-ruled Assam, are the leading four States who are far behind their targets.

This is the first time, since the scheme started in April 2016 with a target of constructing 2.95 crore houses,

that the Union Government has introduced a penalty clause. The initial deadline for the scheme was March 2022, which owing to the COVID-19 pandemic was extended by another two years till March 2024.

"The order is only to ensure that the States pay more attention to the programme. Because of the pandemic, we have already missed one deadline and now we have only 19 months till March 2024 to complete all the pending houses," a senior official at the Ministry said.

Under the scheme, the government has set itself a target of 2.95 crore houses. This number was deduced from the Socio-Economic Caste Survey, 2011. As per the statistics available with the Union Ministry of Rural Development, till August 2022, 2.02 crore houses have been constructed.

On September 13, the Ministry sent a circular to all States listing out six penalty clauses. If the sanction of the house is delayed for more than one month from the date of issue of the target, the State government will be penalised ₹10 per house for the first month of delay and ₹20 per house for each subsequent month of delay. Similarly, if the first instalment due to the beneficiary is delayed for more than seven days from the date of sanction, then the State governments will have to pay ₹10 per house per week of delay.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 16

Roger Federer to retire after Laver Cup



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Tennis legend Roger Federer called time on his glittering career through a social media post on Thursday. And just like his game on the courts he adorned for more than two decades, his note was high on grace. Winner of 20 Grand Slam titles, the

former world number one forged a formidable triumvirate with Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic that dominated men's tennis.

But Federer isn't finished yet. He wrote: "The Laver Cup next week in London will be my final ATP event."

FULL REPORT ▶ PAGE 21

'Aim is conciliation with all armed groups in N-E'

Fall in insurgency incidents, says Shah

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that it was the government's aim to resolve inter-boundary disputes in the north-east and strike a conciliation with all armed insurgent groups in the region before 2024.

Mr. Shah was speaking at the signing of a tripartite memorandum of settlement between the Government of India, the Assam government and eight armed Adivasi groups of Assam.

Violence goes down
He said that in the past three years, many agreements had been signed with the armed groups and 93% pacts had been implemented on the ground.

He said the number of insurgency-related incidents in the north-east decreased from 824 in 2014 to 158. The number of civilian killings in the region declined from 212 in 2014 to six, and the number of security forces killed during the same period had reduced to two from 20 earlier. More than 10,000



Home Minister Amit Shah greets representatives of the armed Adivasi groups. ▶ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

cadres had surrendered and joined the mainstream after 2014 and more than 7,000 weapons had been surrendered.

AFSPA relaxed
Mr. Shah said it was the aim of the government to make the north-east "terrorism-free".

The Home Minister said that because of the improvement in the security situation, the disturbed areas under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) had been reduced from a large part of the north-east.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 16

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BJP-run MCD planning to create 16 more landfills in Delhi: Dy. CM

No such plans, instead corporation working to flatten existing landfills, says BJP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday alleged that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is planning to create 16 new landfills in the city.

The BJP, in response, said AAP had stooped to a "new low" by "levelling a false allegation" against the MCD.

Mr. Sisodia said the BJP-run MCD has given three mountains of garbage to Delhi and, instead of working to get rid of them, the corporation was now coming up with plans for new landfill sites across the city.

'Lives at risk'

"This plan of the BJP will put the lives of Delhiites in danger. The BJP, which is on its way out of the MCD, wants to convert Delhi into a garbage city," Mr. Sisodia said.

"Chief Minister Arvind



This plan of the BJP will put the lives of Delhiites in danger. The BJP, which is on its way out of the MCD, wants to convert Delhi into a garbage city

MANISH SISODIA
Deputy Chief Minister

Kejriwal has a plan to eliminate the mountains of garbage in Delhi. To make Delhi clean and beautiful, people must give AAP a chance in the MCD as well," he added.

Responding to the allegations, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that there were no proposals to set up new landfill sites by the erstwhile BJP-run corporations – North, South and East.

He added that the recently unified MCD also has "no plan" of setting up new sani-

tary landfill sites in the city. He also said that the civic body has instead been working towards flattening the three existing landfill sites at Bhalswa, Okhla, and Ghazipur.

A senior MCD official familiar with developments said the civic body has explored options of acquiring land for landfill sites before the corporation's trifurcation.

"Around 2008, when the MCD was yet to be trifurcated, we got some land from

the Uttar Pradesh government. This was for the purpose of dumping waste since the Ghazipur landfill was already full," the senior MCD official said.

He added, "We also paid an advance of around ₹5 lakh. But due to resistance from the locals in the area, the government refused to hand over the land to us."

Exploring options

The official said, "Even now nobody in Delhi and NCR wants to give land to MCD for a landfill. But the corporation is still exploring its options."

AAP leader Durgesh Pathak alleged that the MCD had asked for land from DDA, DUSIB and Delhi Jal Board to set up new landfills.

"If the BJP succeeds, there will not be any area left in city without a landfill," Mr. Pathak added.

Ominous clouds



Break from heat: Visitors enjoying the pleasant weather at the rain-soaked Kartavya Path on Thursday. The Capital recorded the month's lowest temperature so far after receiving 1.8 mm of rainfall between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

L-G nod for ACB probe into guest teachers' salary 'fraud'

Two serving and two retired vice-principals under scanner

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena on Thursday granted permission to the Anti-Corruption Branch to conduct an investigation against two serving and two retired vice-principals of Delhi government schools who allegedly committed misappropriation/embezzlement of funds and fraudulently drew guest teacher's salary.



Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena ■ THE HINDU

tion were first detected in November 2018 by an audit team and since the matter pertained to embezzlement of government funds, it was taken up with the Anti-Corruption Branch for registration of FIR, the L-G house said. Thereafter, the matter was examined by the Directorate of Vigilance, which proposed the approval of the L-G to carry out the probe.

"I have carefully considered the submission on the pre-pages and the facts and records of the case and I am of the view that this matter requires to be investigated by the ACB. In view of the foregoing, I hereby accept the request of the ACB, and grant permission for conducting the investigation", the L-G said.

'Tip of a scam'

Sources in the L-G house said the investigation could be the "tip of a scam" in the appointment of about 25,000 contractual guest teachers in Delhi government schools.

"This case brings to the fore the devious modus operandi that involves fraudu-

lently appointing ghost guest teachers against permanent vacancies, cooking up their non-existent attendance and drawing salaries in their names that only went to the corrupt officials and their bosses in the Education Department," a source said.

The irregularities and discrepancies under investiga-

BJP releases sting video on excise 'scam'; Sisodia dares CBI to arrest him if it's true

Arvind Kejriwal extends support to his deputy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Continuing its attack on the Delhi government's now-scrapped excise policy, the BJP on Thursday shared a video of an alleged "sting operation" to claim that the government framed the policy to help a select few and used the money earned in kickbacks to fund its campaign in Goa and Punjab Assembly polls.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia reacted to the video saying the BJP should share it with the CBI and dared the agency to investigate the clip within four days and arrest him if the claims were true.

"If the CBI does not arrest



(From right) BJP leaders Sudhanshu Trivedi, Adesh Gupta and Manjinder Singh Sirsa addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHAKAR

me within four days, it will be accepted that the sting video is yet another lie and part of the conspiracy hatched at the offices of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to topple the Arvind Kejriwal-led government in Delhi," Mr. Sisodia said. He said after the CBI raids and the ED investigation failed to find anything against him, the BJP was trying to find other ways to topple the AAP government.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted in support of his deputy saying he hoped that the BJP would accept the challenge to have the video investigated by the CBI. "Wow Manish! Only a true and courageous person can throw such a challenge. I am sure BJP will accept your challenge," Mr. Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi.

The BJP said the "sting operation" had not been con-

ducted by them and that the video was already in the public domain. BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said, "The person speaking in the video is an accused in the FIR filed by the CBI. He said that the government deliberately kept smaller players out of its now-scrapped policy to help a few persons monopolise the market. Kejriwal used to tell people to do a sting on those seeking money illegally from them and he will act against the culprits. He should either act or apologise for his statement."

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri demanded that the Delhi government be dismissed immediately as there was "no doubt left" that big companies were favoured while framing the liquor policy and "gave a share of their commission to AAP".

Blood donation drive on Bhagat Singh's anniversary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday asked all Indians to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh, on September 28, by joining blood donation drives being organised by AAP at 50 locations in the Capital.

In a digital statement issued on Thursday, Mr. Kejriwal said, "Bhagat Singh laid down his life for the country. Let us all help those in need by donating blood on his birth anniversary. I appeal to the youth across the country to organise blood donation camps wherever possible and motivate as many people as they can to donate blood."

He added that the governments in Delhi and Punjab, as well as AAP itself, function on Bhagat Singh's ideology.

"Bhagat Singh has inspired crores of youth across various generations over the past nearly 100 years. He made the supreme sacrifice for the nation at the age of 23 years. He chose to get hanged for the nation. Let us give a heartfelt tribute to him on his birth anniversary," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Ambulance driver shot dead in city

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old ambulance driver, returning from work on a motorcycle, was shot dead by two unidentified bike-borne men near Samaspur Khalsa in south-west Delhi on Thursday morning, the police said. The victim, identified as Sunil, used to work at Rao Tula Ram Hospital. A case has been registered and investigation is under way.



Satyendar Jain ■ PTI

ED to move application for transfer of Jain's case

His lawyer calls the move 'baffling'

ISHITA MISHRA
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday told a court, hearing the bail application of AAP Minister Satyendar Jain, that it was going to move an application to transfer his case to another special CBI court.

The lawyer representing Mr. Jain, N. Hariharan, called the move "baffling".

The hearing of Mr. Jain's bail plea has been going on since August 30 in the court of special CBI Judge Geetanjali Goel who, on September 13, directed the ED's counsel to submit a fresh chart of entities and shares in the alleged money laundering case against Mr. Jain and two of his alleged aides.

The ED's money laundering case is based on a disproportionate assets FIR filed by

the Central Bureau of Investigation in August 2017.

The ED has already filed a prosecution complaint under relevant sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act against the Jains and four companies purportedly associated with them, for allegedly laundering proceeds of crime worth ₹4.8 crore.

The Delhi Minister was arrested by the ED in connection with the case on May 31, 2022.

Compensatory afforestation in other States likely

Union Environment Ministry has taken cognisance of DDA's letter seeking permission, says official

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry is likely to allow compensatory afforestation (CA) for development projects executed in the Capital in neighbouring States due to shortage of land in Delhi, according to a senior Ministry official.

The official said the Ministry has taken cognisance of the Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) request for the same but refused to elaborate further. The issue of shortage in land for CA was flagged by the DDA in two letters to the Ministry in March this year and in May 2021.

Senior DDA officials, who are familiar with the development, said they have not received any communication on the Ministry's likely move to allow CA in the neighbouring States.



Facing land shortage, the DDA has not been able to attend to requests from service agencies executing development projects in the Capital. ■ FILE PHOTO

On September 11, *The Hindu* had reported that the DDA continued to face land shortage due to which it had not been able to attend to requests from service agencies executing development projects in the Capital. The most recent request, according to a senior DDA official, was for around 25 hectares for CA to the Indian Railways.

In the March 30 letter to the Environment Ministry, DDA's vice-chairman Manish Gupta had sought relaxation in the guidelines issued under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, for CA to be allowed on degraded forest land in neighbouring States for projects implemented by the Centre and public sector undertakings.

In 2021, the DDA had provided 119.76 hectares to various service-providing agencies for CA, according to data provided by the senior DDA official.

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

'Exclusive relaxation'

Earlier, the senior official in the Environment Ministry had told *The Hindu* that the DDA was not facing any land shortage for CA and it was only looking for an "exclusive relaxation" by proposing CA on "double degraded forest land".

According to paragraph 2.3(i) of chapter 2 of the Act, CA has to be raised on suitable non-forest land, which is equal to the area proposed for diversion, at the cost to be paid by the user agency.

Simultaneously, paragraph 2.3 (iii) states that in cases where non-forest land is available but to a lesser extent, CA can be carried out on degraded land which is twice the extent of the forest area that is being diverted.

The Ministry official had earlier said the DDA was pushing for a relaxation to carry out CA on "double degraded forest land, which we will not allow".

He had said that the urban body had over 5,000 hectares on the Yamuna floodplains, which remains encroached upon and "the DDA was not acting on this".

HC seeks govt.'s response on curtailment of school hours

PIL claims 1 lakh students affected; govt. attributes it to 'higher population density', 'post-COVID rush'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the city government to respond to a plea alleging that some State-run schools in north-east Delhi were not imparting "full-time" education.

A Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad gave the direction while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) by NGO Social Jurist.

Advocate Ashok Aggarwal, representing the NGO,

told the court that some of the Delhi government-run schools in areas such as Khajuri, Sabhapur, Tukbirpur, Sonia Vihar and Karawal Nagar, were either imparting only two hours of daily education or teaching on alternate days.

'No action'

"Some of the schools are holding two hours of classes, some are calling children on alternate days. I have written to them repeatedly but (there has been) no response, no action," he said.



Mr. Aggarwal added that this system was affecting more than 1 lakh students. The NGO argued that the fundamental right to education, guaranteed under the Constitution as well as the

Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, were being violated.

Population density

In response, the Delhi government's counsel said, "After COVID, everyone has rushed to government schools." He added that the government was conscious of issues, including those related to infrastructure, in these areas, which, the counsel added, have a higher population density.

The NGO submitted that, on average, 5,000-6,000 stu-

dents are enrolled in these schools and it was a "really alarming situation" where the marginalised students were not getting full attention from the Delhi government in the matter of their education.

It also said that the government needed to ensure that its schools impart education to students for a minimum of 200 working days and 800 instructional hours for Classes 1 to 5 and 220 working days and 1,000 instructional hours for Classes 6 to 8, in an academic year.

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RISE	23:01	SET 12:42
SUNDAY, SEP. 18		
RISE	06:08	SET 18:23
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Safdarjang	32	24
Palam	31	25

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Nora Fatehi quizzed for second time in Sukesh Chandrashekhar case

Actor confronted with Pinky Irani: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Film actor Nora Fatehi was interrogated for the second time by Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) on Thursday in connection with conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar's ₹200 crore extortion case, the police said. Special Commissioner of Police (Crime and EOW) Ravindra Yadav told *The Hindu* that Ms. Fatehi was confronted with Pinky Irani, a close associate of Chandrashekhar, for five to six hours. Ms. Irani had introduced Ms. Fatehi and actor Jacqueline Fernandez to Chandrashekhar, the police said.

Earlier when Ms. Fatehi was called for questioning, the EOW was left with several unanswered questions. "We cleared all the contradictions after both [Irani and Fatehi] were interrogated together," the Special CP said.

Ms. Fatehi said she was approached by Ms. Irani on behalf of Chandrashekhar in January. She was called to Chennai for the inauguration



Nora Fatehi arrives at the EOW office in Delhi. •PTI

of a studio and Chandrashekhar's wife had gifted her an expensive bag and a car instead of fee, a police officer said. Ms. Fatehi received the bag and her brother-in-law Mehboob accepted the car on her behalf due to certain legal constraints.

Mr. Yadav said Mehboob, who is Ms. Fatehi's cousin's husband, was also a part of the interrogation.

Ms. Fatehi said she never met Chandrashekhar in person but they have had limited conversation over WhatsApp and she was not aware of his illegal activities, the officer added.

Convict in 2004 Vasant Vihar murder case arrested

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 52-year-old life convict, who jumped parole in 2007, was arrested on Monday in connection with a 2004 double-murder case. He was convicted of murdering Lt. Gen. (retd.) Harnam Singh Seth and his wife Roop Seth in Vasant Vihar, the police said on Thursday.

The accused, Bharat Bhandari, 52, a resident of Nepal, was arrested on Monday from the India-Nepal border at Gorakhpur-Sanuali road in U.P.'s Maharajganj, a senior police officer said.

Bhandari was reported absconding after he jumped parole in the double murder case, where he and his associate, Pradeep Dutta, robbed and murdered Mr. Seth and his wife in June 2004, DCP (Special Cell) P.S. Kushwah said.

Both the accused were given life sentences. After spending 14 years in jail, Bhandari received parole and fled to Nepal in 2017, police said.

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AAP, Oppn. trade barbs over 'bribes', 'poaching' in Punjab

'Oppn. trying to weaken democracy'; ruling party accused of diverting attention

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Opposition parties, including the BJP, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Congress, sharpened their attack against the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab over the latter's allegations that bribes were being offered to its (the AAP's) legislators to topple the State government. They accused AAP of trying to divert public attention from corruption cases linked to it. AAP hit back and said Opposition parties were working together to weaken democracy.

Several leaders from Opposition parties brought up the audio clip of a conversation that allegedly took place between State Minister Fauja Singh Sarari and his close aide, Tarsem Lal Kapoor. In the conversation, the duo are purportedly heard discussing a plan to extort money from foodgrain transporters.

State Finance Minister Harpal Cheema said the audio clip was being examined and if the allegations are found to be true, action would be taken. Mr. Sarari maintains the audio clip has

been doctored. He demanded a probe by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court into the case of alleged horse trading of Congress MLAs in Goa, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, and the alleged attempt to bribe AAP MLAs from Punjab and Delhi to switch sides.

Meanwhile, SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia demanded a probe by the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate into the allegations levelled by AAP on efforts to bribe its legislators. "A High Court-monitored probe could also be held on the is-

sue," he said. Members of the BJP's Punjab unit met Governor Banwari Lal Purohit. They sought a probe by a retired High Court judge into the AAP's bribery charges. BJP State president Ashwani Kumar Sharma said the AAP's allegations were "completely baseless" and sought to divert the attention of the public from the government's failure.

Mr. Cheema accused the Congress of being "a B-team of the BJP" and "clandestinely working for the saffron party".

Proud moment



Former athlete Bahadur Prasad (second left) and athlete Rupal Chaudhary being felicitated by (left) Navneet Sehgal (Additional Chief Secretary, Sports, Govt. of U.P.) and L.V. Navaneeth (CEO, THG Publishing Private Ltd.) during the Sportstar's North Sports Conclave in Lucknow on Thursday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

AAP calls all party public representatives to Delhi

BJP's 'poaching' bids to be discussed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

All elected public representatives of the Aam Aadmi Party, including all Punjab AAP MLAs, have been invited to Delhi for a meeting with party chief Arvind Kejriwal and other senior leaders on Sunday.

Alleged attempts of poaching of AAP MLAs by the BJP is going to be a major point of discussion, according to a party source.

From across country
Calling it the party's first-ever Rashtriya Janpratinih Sammelan, AAP said, "AAP's councillors, Zila Panchayat members, chairpersons, Mayors, Block Pramukhs, Sarpanchs and Pradhans, from across the country, will also join the conference."

It is expected to see the presence of 62 MLAs from Delhi, 92 MLAs from Punjab and two MLAs from Goa. AAP's 10 Rajya Sabha



AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal.

MPs from Delhi and Punjab will also attend the conference, the party said.

"Apart from this, the expansion of the Aam Aadmi Party across the country and strengthening the organisation will be discussed in the meeting. The issues of the public representatives who have come to the conference will be heard at length, so that concrete initiatives can be taken to strengthen the organisation in that State," the statement read.

Tamil Nadu CS summoned over alleged conversions

State was asked to inquire into complaint at a children's home

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has summoned Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu on September 20, after the State government failed to respond to the child rights panel's complaint of alleged conversions at an unregistered children's home in Chennai.

"The Commission requires you to appear through virtual mode along with the details of action taken on 20.09.2022 to explain the reasons for delay in submission of the report and to inform the Commission about the action taken on the complaint sent by the Commission," Priyanka Kanoongo, chairperson of NCPCR, wrote in his letter dated September 15.

On September 9, the Commission wrote to the State government and Tamil Nadu DGP C. Sylendra Babu about



V. Irai Anbu

a report from the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TN SCPCR) about a child care institution CSI (Church of South India) Monahan School Girls Hostel in Royapettah, Chennai, where "girls from poor background were forced to follow Christianity". The inspection by the SCPCR also found that the children's home was not registered as required under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. The NCPCR had requested the State government to res-

cue the girls within 24 hours and to produce them before the Child Welfare Committee. It also sought an inquiry into the matter and asked the government to submit a report. The Tamil Nadu government has not yet made a public statement about the NCPCR's letter and the allegations about the children's home.

Tussle with DMK
The TN SCPCR Chairperson and members are embroiled in a tussle with the DMK over a government order cancelling their appointment on the SCPCR panel, which was stayed by Madras High Court in March.

This government order was subsequently quashed by the Court in July. On Thursday, the State government appealed against the July decision and obtained a stay on the single judge's order from the division bench of the Madras High Court.

Protesters dispersed to rescue education director in Tripura

Ad hoc teachers demand reinstatement in service

SYED SAJJAD ALI
AGARTALA

In a belated response, security personnel removed protesters who locked the education director for hours in her chamber after holding a night-long vigil in the office complex. The director, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is pregnant and was confined to her room from 10.30 a.m. on Thursday.

The protesters, a section of 10,323 ad hoc teachers who lost their jobs in early 2021 after years of legal proceedings owing to serious flaws in their recruitment, were demanding their rein-



Water cannons being used to disperse protesters in Agartala on Thursday. ■ PTI

statement in service. The Supreme Court in 2017 upheld a 2014 order of the High Court of Tripura on the termination of their services.

The retrenched teachers have been staging protests in various forms on a daily basis to press their demand of reinstatement or fresh recruitment. They rejected the State government's assurance of "phased recruitment" in different capacities at various departments.

A group of retrenched teachers locked the office chamber of the education director soon after their leaders were released from custody following a brief detention.

The Tripura Commission for Women has taken cognisance of the forceful confinement of the pregnant officer.

Green nod awaited for housing project for MPs

184 flats to be built in central Delhi

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The Central Public Works Department's (CPWD) proposal to construct multistoreyed buildings with 184 flats and amenities for Members of Parliament on Baba Khark Singh Marg has been recommended for environmental clearance by the Delhi State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), according to the minutes of the meeting last week.

Under the project, four 23-floor buildings and a five-floor amenity block are to be built after demolition of the buildings on the site.

The SEAC, at its meeting held on September 9, ap-

proved the CPWD's plan to retain 150 of the 372 trees on the site and transplant 222 trees. SEAC chairman Vijay Garg said the condition of providing electric charging points for e-vehicles for at least 20% of the car parking was imposed in accordance with Delhi building by-laws.

The project was recommended to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority for issuing environmental clearance, according to the minutes that were signed on Monday.

A CPWD official said a construction agency, Sam India Infrastructure, had been selected following a tendering process earlier this year.

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Daler Mehndi's 2-year jail term in trafficking case suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday suspended the jail term of Punjab pop singer Daler Mehndi, who was convicted by a Patiala court in a 2003 human trafficking case.

A single-judge Bench of Justice G.S. Gill suspended Mehndi's two-year sentence in jail, said the singer's counsel Arshdeep Singh Cheema. Mehndi had moved the High Court in July after the Patiala court upheld the sentence awarded in March 2018 by the trial court.

The court of Additional Sessions judge in Patiala had dismissed his appeal on July 14 against the 2018 order of the trial court. He was then sent to the Patiala jail. The Patiala police had booked Mehndi and his brother, Shamsheer, who died in 2017, on a complaint filed by one Bakshish Singh. At least 35 more complaints levelling charges of fraud against the brothers also came up later.

The complainants had alleged that the brothers had taken 'passage money' from them to help them migrate to the United States illegally.

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Damyanti Kumari Sinha Vs. The State & Anr.
Damyanti Kumari Sinha S/o Late S.N. Tatarwary,
R/o H. No. 1642, Type-3, Delhi Admin Flats, Near Gulabi Bagh, Police Station, Malka Ganj, Delhi-07

FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925 To, All concerned

Whereas in the above noted petition the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs. xxx. As per record to be standing in the name of Late Sh. Rajan Kumar Verma deceased.

Whereas the 05.12.2022 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing of the application notice is hereby given to this concerned.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 14.09.2022.

(Midul Gupta)
Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Additional Rent Controller (Central), Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tanvi Mandaiya W/o Jaswant Singh R/o 24-A, 2nd floor, Ashok mohalla, Nangloi, New Delhi-110041 do hereby declare that Tanvi & Tanvi Mandaiya are same & identical person vide affidavit no. IN-DEL26655829931732U, Dt.02/05/2022.

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Name & Address of the Hospital	Contact Person's detail
Max Hospital Gurugram (A Unit of ALPS Hospital Ltd.), Block-B, Sushant Lok-1 Gurugram, Haryana-122001	Mr. Rahul Sharma Email: rahul.sharma3@maxhealthcare.com Mob: 9582854534 Office: 0124-6623000

For Max Hospital, Gurugram (A unit of Alps Hospital Ltd.)
Sd/-
Authorised Signatory
Date:27/08/2022

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-Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



Serial car thief's joyride comes to screeching halt

Delhi Police has arrested Anil Chauhan who allegedly stole around 6,000 cars from across the country over the past 24 years and is the kingpin of a gang of 500 auto-lifters with an annual turnover of at least ₹60 crore. **Arnabjit Sur** pieces together his journey from being a cab driver in the Capital to a repeat offender

Every week over the past few years, flight attendants on the two-hour flight from Guwahati to Delhi had been encountering two common faces: a middle-aged couple with expensive tastes. While the tall, dark and suited husband sported a Rolex watch, wore gold chains and rings, and carried a leather suitcase, the wife was dressed in formals and donned shades. A few days later, police personnel manning checkpoints on the 38-hour road journey from the Capital to Assam would see the same couple travelling in a high-end SUV. They spoke fluent English and passed off as hotshot entrepreneurs heading home after a business meeting.

Little did they know that the suave gentleman was none other than Anil Chauhan, 52, who, according to the police, has single-handedly stolen around 6,000 cars from across the country over the past 24 years and is the kingpin of a gang of 500 auto-lifters with an annual turnover of at least ₹60 crore. On September 5, Delhi Police revealed that it had finally nabbed him in the city on May 23 after being hot on his trail for several months. Geeta Devi, 48, Chauhan's third wife, who had not accompanied him on this trip to Delhi, was questioned when the team travelled to Assam and let off, the police said.

The *Hindu* dug into Chauhan's criminal records, FIRs and court orders in cases involving him, and spoke to investigators and neighbours to piece together his journey from being an ordinary cab driver in Delhi to an infamous car thief with around 300 cases, including attempt to murder, criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery and possessing illegal arms, lodged against him in Delhi, Assam and Meghalaya.



Days of innocence: A lane in south Delhi's Khanpur Extension where Anil Chauhan lived in a one-storey house along with his parents and three siblings. His neighbours remember him as an ambitious boy. **• R.V. MOORTHY**

Humble beginnings

Born in 1970 into a middle-class family, Chauhan was one of three siblings raised in a one-storey house in south Delhi's Khanpur Extension, police sources say. His father, Deshraj Chauhan, worked as a taxi driver and earned around ₹2,000 a month. His mother was a homemaker. Chauhan studied up to Class XII at a government school in Andrews Ganj and followed in his father's footsteps, the police say. He drove vehicles for various taxi services, earning around ₹4,000 a month. Officers say he never showed interest in pursuing studies and wanted to earn fame and wealth by hook or by crook.

His neighbours remember Chauhan as an ambitious boy who led a quiet life. "He worked as a cab driver and kept to himself. He was passionate about cars and wanted to own one himself. No one could match his knowledge of cars. Later, we learnt that he has been accused of stealing cars from several States. He never seemed like someone who would take to crime," says Pramod, 36, a resident of the locality for the past 30 years.

Sunny, 37, another resident of the area, says the news of Chauhan's arrest brought back memories of a boy who always sported a smile and treated neighbours as members of his own family. "Our family ran a tea shop near Chauhan's house and his father used to visit our shop every day to chat with my father. Chauhan was a simple man like his father. I knew he always wanted to taste success and desired a lavish life, but I didn't expect him to achieve those goals in this manner," Mr. Sunny says.

In 1990, Chauhan married Mamata and they had two children. Five years later, she passed away and he continued to work as a driver to support his children. "He got fed up with his meagre pay and decided to make a quick buck through illicit means," an officer says.

Taking to crime

In 1998, Chauhan joined a gym in his locality and started spending most of his time there. "He wanted to be known as a muscleman in his area," the officer says. At the gym, he met Raj Kumar, who dabbled in crime, and they soon became good friends. "Kumar told Chauhan about Shiva, who often drove to Nepal and learnt that stolen cars fetched good prices there," the officer says. Mr. Kumar sensed a hunger for money in Chauhan and made him his accomplice in stealing vehicles. "Kumar introduced Chauhan to Mohammad Alam, a locksmith. The trio then started stealing vehicles," a source says.

After carrying out a number of car thefts, they were arrested by the Hauz Khas police, but released on bail after a month. "The trio became notorious in the early 2000s for stealing vehicles from posh localities. They were jailed several times but would soon come out on bail. With CCTV not being so common then, nabbing them became a tough task," the source says. The police say the trio sold two to three cars a day to middlemen in Delhi, who sent them to Nepal or sold their parts in scrap markets in Sotiganj in Uttar Pradesh.

"Chauhan's expertise in stealing cars soon grew and he considered his accomplices a liability. So, after securing their contacts in the criminal world, he cut ties with them," the source says. He

had now become a "lone wolf" and learnt how to make duplicate car keys. "Fewer people meant lesser risk and more profit," the source says.

Chauhan also started carrying an unlicensed pistol to protect himself from the police. Of the 184 cases lodged against him in Delhi, 12 are related to firing at police personnel. "He fired his gun whenever we managed to intercept him in a stolen car. Many policemen have been injured in encounters with him and several attempt to murder cases have been filed against him. He had a strong build and several personnel were required to tackle him," the source says.

A police officer recalls an incident where he came face to face with the car-lifter. "I had received a tip-off that he was fleeing in an SUV from south Delhi. I rushed to the spot and found Chauhan's car right in front of my vehicle. He stared straight into my eyes and brandished his pistol. I was travelling alone and I feared that he would shoot at me," he says. In 2000, Chauhan fired at a policeman posted at the Nizamuddin police station who tried to stop him from stealing a car. In 2017, a court delivered its verdict in the case and sentenced him to five years in prison.

Expanding footprint

In 2001, Chauhan started expanding his operations to Nagaland and Assam, which were rife markets for stolen vehicles. He got in touch with Pukhvi Naga, a middleman who sold such cars in Nagaland. A year later, the Hauz Khas police arrested Chauhan in a car theft case and he was remanded in judicial custody in Tihar jail. Behind bars, he met Raju Verma and Bappi Sil, who sold stolen vehicles to clients in Assam.

On being released, Chauhan started driving the stolen vehicles all the way to Assam to hand them over to Mr. Verma. "Verma would then get in touch with Naga and send him vehicles for sale in Nagaland," a police officer says. These vehicles were also often fitted with fake number plates and used to commit various crimes, the officer says. Later, he forged ties with Bahadur, a middleman who paid him double the cost price of the cars to sell them in Nepal. "Chauhan then drove over 1,000 km from Delhi to Nepal without any stops to hand over the vehicles to Bahadur," the officer says. Chauhan soon built a strong network of auto-lifters and middlemen. "He impressed his accomplices with his sheer knowledge about vehicles and how to steal them from right under the nose of the police."

In the 2000s, Chauhan used to mostly steal second-hand Maruti Suzuki 800s, but later targeted high-end SUVs and luxury sedans that fetched him ₹10 lakh to ₹12 lakh, another officer, who interviewed him, says. Another officer explains Chauhan's modus operandi: "To steal a Maruti Suzuki 800, he would first remove the lock of its fuel tank and insert a narrow metal slab into it. He would turn the slab in a circular manner to ensure that the lock's structure got imprinted on it. Chauhan would then make deep cuts on the marked portions of the slab to create a duplicate key."

To save time, he made the duplicate key the night before the theft. The next day, he just had to insert the key in the car, start the engine and speed away, the police officer says.

In 2001, Chauhan bought a private bus under the Delhi Transport Corporation and two autorickshaws and gave them on rent, bringing him more income. "He could have easily sustained himself with that money but he was addicted to the world of crime," a police source says.

Building his own gang

In 2004, Delhi Police announced a reward of ₹25,000 on his head after which he shifted base to Sonitpur in Assam, where he married Rita, a local woman who had strong political connections in the ruling Congress government. After stealing over 200 vehicles in four years, he looked to build an army of young auto-lifters who were "looking to earn a quick buck" and "willing to go to any lengths to break the law", a source says.

The members of his gang were mostly criminals who were incarcerated with him in Tihar jail. "Every time he was sent to the prison, he would coax fellow inmates to join his gang. He taught them his style of stealing vehicles without leaving a trace," says a senior police officer whose team has nabbed Chauhan several times. The gang members were spread across the country and they also carried unlicensed pistols. "He earned a commission on every car that was stolen," the police officer says. "All 500 auto-lifters in the gang stole vehicles from different parts of the country and sold them to middlemen, who either sold them to clients or traded their parts for money. This way Chauhan received a cut out of all the thefts his gang members committed," the officer adds.

The officer pegged the total number of car thefts carried out by Chauhan at 6,000. During the early days of his criminal career in 1998, Chauhan and his accomplices stole at least two to three

cars a day and sold them to middlemen in the Capital. After shifting his base to Assam in 2004, he identified middlemen in the Northeast States and single-handedly stole around two to three vehicles a week and drove them to his receivers in Nepal, Assam and Meghalaya. He also continued to sell stolen vehicles to middlemen in Delhi who later sold them in cities like Meerut.

However, Chauhan remained suspicious of moles and informants among his gang members. "He asked his gang members to swear that they would never reveal his whereabouts if they were arrested. He would generally not reveal much about himself to his gang members and cut ties with them once they were arrested," the officer says.

Module busted

In 2005, Delhi Police's Crime Branch arrested Chauhan along with five Meerut-based accomplices and recovered 34 cars from their possession. The police said nearly 80 cases of car theft were solved with their arrest. "He had been selling most of the stolen cars in Meerut as he found buyers offering lucrative prices there," the source says.

The police say most auto-lifters arrested nowadays reveal that they learnt the tricks of the trade from Chauhan. "There was no one to rival Chauhan in the world of auto-lifting. People feared crossing his path as he commanded obedience from his followers and had built a reputation as a strongman. However, despite having so many people at his beck and call, Chauhan chose to steal vehicles on his own. He didn't like anyone interfering with his work," a Sub-Inspector says.

Police sources say to gain legitimacy in the corridors of power and expand his criminal empire, Chauhan used his

wife's political connections. "Rita had good contacts with politicians and used her influence to secure Chauhan a job as a Class-I contractor with the Assam government in 2014. He used it as a cover to carry out his nefarious activities," a source says. Apart from a ₹10-crore mansion in Guwahati, Chauhan owned several multi-storey properties across the country. "He lived an opulent life in Assam and splurged on clothes, wrist-watches and furniture."

In 2008, Chauhan married Ms. Geeta, whom he had met in the early 2000s through her brother Pawan, who worked with him as an auto-lifter in Guwahati. The police say the couple had one daughter and Ms. Geeta not only knew about her husband's criminal activities but also helped him in thefts. However, Chauhan didn't divorce Ms. Rita and maintained cordial ties with her and their four children. In 2009, the police arrested Pawan in Delhi.

Keeping up with the times

DCP (Central) Shweta Chauhan, whose team arrested Chauhan, says Ms. Geeta started accompanying him to Delhi so that no one could raise suspicions. "They wore expensive clothes and shoes as no one would expect such extravagance from auto-lifters," she says.

The officer says the couple had a fixed schedule. "They always boarded the 4 p.m. flight from Guwahati. On reaching Delhi, they would head to a IBHK flat that was taken on rent and shut themselves up. Neither of them would step out or speak to neighbours." A few hours later, Chauhan would step out and arrange for a stolen motorcycle to do a quick recce of posh localities and identify possible targets, the DCP says. Every five days, the couple would shift to another house in the same locality to evade suspicion.

According to the police, Chauhan started carrying a laptop with him as most cars now had a start button and he had to hack into the engine control module of vehicles and delete the default memory, a process that would take 10 minutes. The duo would then steal the car, take the Yamuna Expressway and head towards Assam or Nepal to hand over the vehicle to their associates.

"The couple would sometimes hire a driver, attach a fake number plate on the stolen vehicle and use forged documents to pass through border checkpoints. They posed as a family heading back home. They managed to steal and deliver at least two cars every month to middlemen in Nepal and Assam. They also constantly changed their SIM cards to prevent the police from tracing their calls. They mostly communicated using WhatsApp," a police source says.

An officer says Chauhan was able to continue his stealing spree despite being jailed several times as bail is easily granted in car theft cases. "Every time he was arrested, he secured bail within a month. Auto-lifting is a non-bailable offence but it is for the courts to adjudicate the merit of each case," he says.

In 2010, he was remanded in the custody of the Meghalaya police after he was arrested in a joint raid by Assam Police and Shillong Police from Silchar. Four of his accomplices were also arrested for allegedly tampering with the chassis and engine numbers of stolen vehicles and selling them to unsuspect-

ing buyers in Mizoram and other States.

In April 2015, Rumi Nath, a Congress MLA from Borkhola in Assam's Cachar district, was arrested for allegedly arranging car passes for Chauhan to enter the premises of the State Assembly and receiving a stolen BMW from him. His wife Rita was also arrested in the case after Ms. Nath in her response to the Assembly Secretariat's notice said that she had recommended issuance of car passes to the alleged car lifter at the behest of his wife who was also a Congress worker. He remained in jail for five years before being released in 2020. He then started living away from his family at a rented house in Sonitpur in Assam.

In August 2015, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) registered a case against Chauhan under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act for allegedly possessing ill-gotten wealth and owning several benami properties across the country. The ED alleged that Chauhan had carried out transactions amounting to ₹6.6 crore through 17 bank accounts.

The Central agency then froze his accounts and seized Chauhan's ₹10-crore bungalow in Assam and several other properties in other States. All his properties were later auctioned.

The DCP says apart from auto-lifting, Chauhan was also involved in smuggling the horns of rhinoceros from Assam to several other States and supplying arms to several gangsters. "Stealing vehicles was his bread and butter and he would never let go of it. Smuggling rhino horns and arms were a means to earn more money," a source says.

Retired Delhi Police ACP Rajender Singh, whose team caught him twice in the past, says Chauhan considered stealing a vehicle "a challenge". "He was an active criminal for several years in the Ambedkar Nagar area. If a particular vehicle that Chauhan had laid his eyes on was parked behind half a dozen cars, he would first break into those cars, set them aside and then steal the targeted vehicle," Mr. Singh says.

He adds that though Chauhan has been nabbed, cracking down on his network spread across the country will be an onerous task. "It is a well-oiled racket. There were other budding auto-lifters too, but only Chauhan managed to make it big," Mr. Singh says.

Police close in

In January this year, the Dispur police in Assam arrested Chauhan for allegedly stealing a Scorpio car from Guwahati's Zoo Road. After he was released on bail, a 10-member team of Delhi Police's Central district and an anti-auto theft squad were keeping track of Chauhan's movements. The police personnel also visited his bungalow in Sonitpur to learn about his whereabouts and deployed officers outside his hideouts in Delhi. On May 23, the team received a tip-off that Chauhan was coming to the Capital to meet his gang members.

A trap was laid at Desh Bandhu Gupta Road in central Delhi and he was arrested. The police recovered five country-made pistols, five live cartridges and one stolen car from him. An official said Chauhan had come to Delhi to deliver arms in the stolen car. He has been remanded in judicial custody and incarcerated in Tihar jail. The police say his criminal record will be produced in court so that he doesn't come out soon.

1970: Born into a middle-class family in Delhi's Khanpur Extension

1990: Works as a driver for taxi services, marries Mamata

1998: Joins local gym and meets auto-lifter Raj Kumar, who introduces him to locksmith Mohammad Alam. They carry out car thefts

2000: Fires at policeman at Nizamuddin police station. Sentenced to five years in prison in the case in 2017

2001: Gets in touch with Pukhvi Naga, a middleman who sells stolen cars in Nagaland

2002: Imprisoned in car theft case in Tihar jail. Meets Raju Verma and Bappi Sil who



ROAD TO INFAMY

According to the police, Anil Chauhan is the biggest car thief in the country

sell stolen cars in Assam

2004: Shifts base to Sonitpur in Assam, marries Ritu

2008: Marries Geeta Devi, who accompanies him to steal cars

laundering charges. Arrested in car theft case in Assam

Jan. 2022: Arrested by Dispur Police for allegedly stealing a Scorpio car from Zoo Road in Guwahati

May 2022: Arrested by team from Delhi Police's Central district. Remanded in judicial custody in Tihar jail

AUTO-LIFTERS ON THE PROWL
According to NCRB report 2021, over half of the total vehicle thefts in 19 metros of the country take place in Delhi

19 METROS

Total thefts: **2,53,068**
Motor vehicle thefts: **71,891 (29%)**

DELHI
Motor vehicle thefts: **37,765 (53%)**

'THE ACTOR I AM IS BECAUSE OF THE PERSON I AM'

Swara Bhasker on playing a meek housewife, prepping up for *Mrs. Falani* and why Bollywood is being targeted

•• ANUJ KUMAR

As somebody who has turned her "dreams into her zid (tenacity)", Swara Bhasker says her convictions drive the roles she plays. "The actor I am is because of the person I am. If I was the person who got easily scared and did not speak up, I would not have done *Nil Battey Sannata*, *Anarkali of Aarah* or *Veerey Ki Wedding*. My convictions not only influence what I say in public; they also influence my choice of scripts."

The Delhi-based actor is playing a meek housewife in *Jahaan Chaar Yaar* releasing this week. A fun film that puts a spin on the Bollywood staple of friends taking a road trip, Swara is excited to see the audience's response to the movie.

What compelled you to do *Jahaan Chaar Yaar*?

• Usually, the friends taking a road trip are cool, urban, rich young guys and girls. Here, the makers have put together a group of middle-class housewives, who are called "behenjis", by the more hip crowd in a coming-of-age story. I found it really cute. I liked the way the film re-appropriates the term *behenji* and flips it to say how cool, badass, and sassy they can be. Shivangi, the character I play is, a timid woman who has not been able to stand up for herself and is taken for granted by her family. I saw it as a challenge. Can I make audiences that see me as a Twitter warrior believe that the person on screen is a meek character from a small town?

How did you hide the real Swara?

• That's the craft and fun of it. As

an actor I don't judge my characters. After *Nil Battey Sannata* and *Anarkali of Aarah*, Shivangi is one character I felt emotionally connected to. It reminded me of my maternal grandmother. Married at the age of 15, she used to tell me stories of life as a teenage bride married to an Anglicised man, hailing from a zamindar family. She was a very devoted wife and mother. When I read the role of Shivangi, I saw my grandmother and I channeled everything that I knew about her into the character.

Tell us about *Mrs. Falani* that you recently signed up for

• Here I pick from where I left Shivani – I play a protagonist in each of the stories in this anthology of nine characters.



Bollywood is not as bad as people make it out to be. I don't have a mentor or godfather, I don't have an actor or producer boyfriend and on top of that, I don't have a model's body

Falani is taken from a colloquial word in Hindi *Falani Dhikani*. It is like Mrs. Etc. The film follows the small, unfulfilled desires of women in the age group between 35 and 45. The day I signed it, I started looking for theatre workshops that I could join to prep for the role.

How do you see the call for the boycott of Bollywood films?

• It is an organised, sponsored, agenda-driven noise on social media. It doesn't necessarily reflect in box office earnings. I think *Brahmastra*'s collection has shut everyone up.

Why is Bollywood being targeted?

• A section is targeting Bollywood because it has always been a symbol of secularism and fraternity, celebrating India's pluralism and diversity. Those who have a problem with India's secularism and pluralism have a problem with Bollywood.

But a section of the industry that remained silent or tried to further this agenda are also being targeted

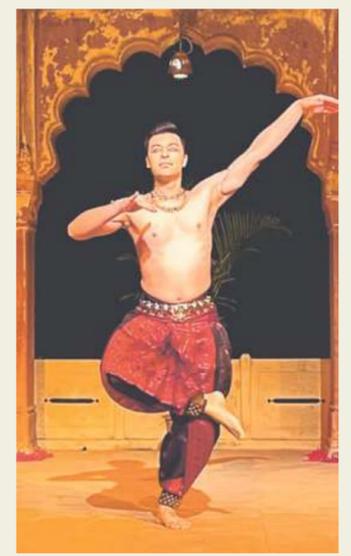
• We are storytellers and should tell stories in an honest way. I think Bollywood should not make itself a platform for propaganda. Having said that Bollywood is not one tangible, homogenous entity and there could never be one voice coming out of the industry. And that's the beauty of it. In a democracy, people should be allowed to express their political opinions as long as they are within the constitutional framework. Many actors realise this when their films are boycotted. We are legitimising a culture of authoritarianism. Nobody is going to be safe from a culture of mob frenzy.

You didn't try to fit in but still you got some really good parts to play...

• That shows that Bollywood is not as bad as people make it out to be. I don't have a mentor or godfather, I don't have an actor or producer boyfriend and on top of that, I don't have a model's body. A lot of young women come to me and say that they feel if I could become an actor, they could as well. I find it amazing that women see themselves in me.

What's next for you?

• I have written two scripts; though difficult I would like to produce them. One is a rom-com about two friends, not two lovers. The other is an edgy love story. None of them have any politics in them!



An ode to dance

At a two-day memorial festival Saroja Mohanam this weekend, Navtej Singh, Aditi Mangaldas and Kavita Dwivedi will present three different dance styles to pay homage to Mohan Khokar, dance historian while Shovana Narayan, Saroja Vaidyanathan and Sharon Lowen will pay oral tributes. A dance year book, *AttenDance 2022*, is ready for release on Saturday.

On Sunday, exponents such as Leela Samson, Madhavi Mudgal and Alarmel Valli will pay homage to Bharatanatyam veteran MK Saroja with their dance recitals. Oral tributes by Kathak duo Nalini-Kamalini, Meera Das and Rajendra Gangani will draw the evening to a close.

At *Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, Lodi Colony; September 17 and 18; 7 p.m.*

Celebrating Zohra Sehgal

Festival of the Arts features recorded interviews and recitation of Hafeez Jalandhari's nazm by the late Zohra Sehgal

besides plays and screening of her films as a tribute to the doyenne of Indian theatre. Qawwali by the Nizami brothers, Odissi performance by Sangini Kumar and a jugalbandi of sitar and cello are also billed. On *September 17 and 18; At C D Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre, 40 Max Mueller Marg; 3.30 p.m. onward*

Mobile photography

The Prithvi Fine Arts and Cultural Center is mounting Sanjay Bhattacharya's first mobile photography exhibition, on at the Prithvi Fine Arts and Cultural Center. At *A-1 / 232, Safdarjung Enclave, Opposite AIIMS Trauma Centre; Till September 30; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Sunday closed)*



The real Swara
Her conviction drives her
• SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT

When small is more

Tapas platters are gaining popularity in the city with youth, in particular, making the switch from heavy meals to snacks

•• RAHUL VERMA

During a road trip, I once stopped for tea at a small shack on the outskirts of a dusty little town. The owner placed a small piece of paper on top of my glass with a biscuit on it. It was a way of keeping the tea hot and ensuring that no flying elements took an uninvited dip in it. It worked. I took a sip of my tea, and, in that unlikely place, thought about the origins of tapas in Spain.

And here's why. Tapas, as we all know, are Spain's much-loved finger food. The word *tapa* means a lid, and legend has it that a drink at a pub came with a piece of bread or cheese covering the rim in earlier times in Spain, possibly to keep the flies at bay.

I have always loved tapas – simple ones such as salsa on sourdough or olives as well as the more elaborate ones such as *calamari* or *jamon Iberico pata negra*. So, I was happy when I learnt about a new restaurant in town – called *Amaltas Indian tapas* and bar. Interestingly, tapas here are regional dishes that have been innovatively tweaked. For instance, on the menu are banana flower tempura and small prawns flavoured with Bengal's *gondharaj* lemon.

The well-lit and airy restaurant in the M Block Market of Greater Kailash 2 has a pleasing décor that toasts the wonders of Nature. I entered a restaurant after a long, long time, and had a nice tapas-filled lunch.

The opener was a *jalebi chat* – a savoury *jalebi*, topped with spicy yoghurt, chutney, sev and pomegranate. The crunch of the *jalebi* complemented the sweet-and-sour



toppings, and I enjoyed it thoroughly, almost as much as the *Kalimpong* cheese tart, creamy cheese custard in a small pastry shell, served with a dollop of Bengal's mildly sweet tomato chutney.

The *Amdavad* special sandwich was interesting. Inspired by *handvo*, a Gujarati fermented rice and lentil batter dish, this gluten-free sandwich was stuffed with spiced potatoes and topped with crunchy sev. The *Kachampuli* chicken wings – with the strong flavour of the tart *kachampuli* – didn't appeal to me much, but I loved the meat *bhaji* with *pao*, a tasty *keema* patty, topped with a fried egg, and served with toasted *pao*.

The chocolate and *jaggery* pot au crème was sublime, as was the salted caramel *kheer* (barnyard millet cooked in milk, with *jaggery* and salted caramel). The menu includes small and big plates – with dishes such as sweet corn *momos* with *lebu* broth, onion *samosas*, pulled pork *samosas*, mutton pepper roast and *broccoli makhani*.

Tapas make for satisfying meals. And, you don't get a heavy I've-eaten-too-much feeling at the end of the meal. Not surprisingly, young restaurant goers are greatly fond of tapas, especially since these dishes can be eaten throughout the day. Finger food, indeed, can be finger-licking good.

At *Amaltas, M-25 First Floor, Greater Kailash 2 M-Block Market; 8595324189; Meal for two ₹2,000*

Manoj Arora's first solo show, 'Rediscover Hampi' features photographs that capture the beauty of the ancient capital of the Vijayanagar Empire

•• SOMA BASU

Manoj Arora's innate attraction towards monuments and their magnificent history took him to Hampi in Karnataka during the prolonged pandemic last year. "Luckily, it was not overcrowded and I had the space and time to connect with the subject leisurely, taking shots in whichever way that appealed to my eyes and touched my heart and soul," he says.

As a result, he returned with 600-plus frames that captured the beauty of the silent ruins of the ancient capital of the Vijayanagar Empire in multiple hues and moods. Arora froze bewitching images of monoliths, rocks and boulders, the elaborate carvings and inscriptions on the stones, the narratives in the murals of the temple ceilings, the sculptures and the trees against the play of light.

Just before the inauguration of his photo exhibition 'Rediscover Hampi' at Bikaner House, he was both excited and nervous about his first solo show. But the art connoisseurs magically engaged with his panels.

The exhibition features 80 prints that Arora describes as 'realist and mythical'. "There is an indescribable beauty in this timeless place that doesn't require a language to express. I want people to feel and experience this 14th Century city and take pride in the country's heritage," he says.

Whether you are looking at gods and goddesses carved in stone and captured in the refractive indices of dusk or fading murals on the ceilings of the famous *Virupaksha Temple*, or the sun rays falling on a wizened tree that stands tall amid the ruins – every shot of Arora's speaks through its composition, depth and solitude.

The destroyed forts, royal and



Majestic Hampi
Manoj Arora brings alive the unseen side of the medieval city and (below) Seen with art critic Uma Nair • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



The story of an empire, framed

sacred complexes, the pillared halls and *mandapams*, the memorial structures and shrines, the riverside features, the bazaars and residential quarters, the gates and stables, the reservoirs and hydraulic works, the towers, arches and ornate pillars: everything integrates harmoniously into the landscape and reveals the socio-political and economic prosperity of the times. "Every vestige of the past there has a story to tell," says Arora.

Art critic Uma Nair, who curated the show, says 'Rediscover Hampi' is a contemporary conversation on antiquity that brings out passages of time. She worked on the compositions for six months categorising them under six different themes in order to bring out the historical beauty of the UNESCO-recognised site by the banks of the *Tungabhadra River*.

"Arora's narrative assemblage is born within the sculptures, murals

and monuments of the capital of one of the greatest kingdoms of South India. His photographs help find a lost heritage, add to one's knowledge of history, highlight the art and skills of photography and brings to fore the vision and passion of the photographer," says Uma.

Hosted by *Masha Art*, the exhibition is on at *Main art gallery, Bikaner House, Pandara Road, India Gate; Till September 22; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.*

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 16.09.2022

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following jobs:

NIT No.	Brief Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Pre Bid Date & Time	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of opening
CMC/ BY/22-23/RS/ SV/39	Supply of LV Panels Including Integration With Scada System As Per Specification	3.95 Crore	7.90 Lakh	27.09.2022 10:00 Hrs	10.10.2022 14:00 Hrs	11.10.2022 14:00 Hrs
CMC/ BY/22-23/RS/ SV/40	Design, Engineering, Civil Work, Supply, Erection, Testing And Commissioning Including Warranty, Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar Plant of Various Capacities in NCT Delhi / Operational Areas of BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) - Under Simplified Procedure For Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Scheme (GCRTS) Ph-II of MNRE	-	-	23.09.2022 14:00 Hrs	-	-
CMC/ BY/22-23/RS/ SV/41	Turnkey Package For Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning (SITC) of Single Phase Sectionalizers For HVDS Network	0.60 Crore	1.20 Lakh	27.09.2022 11:00 Hrs	10.10.2022 14:00 Hrs	11.10.2022 15:00 Hrs
CMC/ BY/22-23/RS/ SV/42	Turnkey Package For Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing, & Commissioning of New 33/11kV Indoor GIS Substation Along with Allied Equipments and Works at Omare Sub-Station, Chandni Chowk, Delhi	6.00 Crore	6.00 Lakh	27.09.2022 12:00 Hrs	10.10.2022 14:00 Hrs	11.10.2022 16:00 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Documents: ₹ 1,180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/ submission of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com
-->Tenders --> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD --> Open Tenders Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 |
CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525 TEL: 011-41247111 | Fax: 011-4124 7787 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD. (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NO. OF OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	UHBVN	LT XLPE ARMOURD CABLE OF SIZE SCX120 SCXMM AS PER IEC 60227 PART 1 SPECIFICATION, CSC-2018-R40P UNP/2020-21 AND AS PER RELEVANT ALONG WITH ITS AMENDMENTS.	14.09.2022 06.10.2022	EMD 2 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in TENDER NO.-16/XEN/P411MM/01H-2086 Dated 13.09.2022	9988779248 corrm@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocmnt.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in
13/2023/40/12626/1/1997

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) MAHORE
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
E-NIT NO.EE/PMGSY/IM/04 OF 2022-23 DATED :- 09/09/2022

Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Mahore on behalf of The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders on %age Above / Excess (+) OR %age Below / Less (-) basis (i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways or equivalent and other State Govt.'s up to 5.00 PM of 24-09-2022 for the below mentioned work.

S. No.	Name of work	Name of the PUI	Advertisment Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of documents (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Time Allowed for Completion	Call of tender	Time and date of opening of tenders	Class of contractor
1	Permanent Restoration of road from Angralla to Gulabgarh road	PUI Mahore	68.94	0.06	1.38	03 Months	1st	26-09-2022 10:00 AM	Any registered contractor (A&B) with State PWD / CPWD / Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works and having experience in similar nature of works.
2	Permanent Restoration of road from Mahore to Sildhar Road		10.24	0.06	0.21	03 Months	1st		
3	Permanent Restoration of road from Mahore to Malla road		95.26	0.06	1.91	03 Months	1st		
4	Permanent Restoration of road from Shajroo to Chakrass		56.27	0.06	1.13	03 Months	1st		
5	Permanent Restoration of road from Chasana to Kalaban		88.86	0.06	1.78	03 Months	1st		
6	Permanent Restoration of road from Gundli to Panasa		48.25	0.06	0.97	03 Months	1st		
7	Permanent Restoration of road from Chasana to Sarsote upto Malkot		18.00	0.06	0.36	03 Months	1st		
8	Permanent Restoration of road from Gari to Jibagli		119.44	0.06	2.39	03 Months	1st		

Position of funds: Partially Released
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded

2. Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement - 09-09-2022.
3. Cost of Bid form : Rs. 6000.00 per package (non-refundable) only in form of e-challan / treasury Challan / receipt.
4. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <https://www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA).
*Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.
5. Bids must be uploaded along with scanned copy of cost of Tender Document as mentioned in column 3 in shape of e-challan / treasury challan / receipt favouring Accounts Officer to Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Mahore by crediting the requisite charges to MH 0059-PWD (Revenue) and Scanned copy Earnest Money / Bid security should be in the form of CDR / FDR / BG from Scheduled commercial Bank as mentioned in Column 8 of above table in the form as specified in the Bidding Document. The Bid Security for the schemes listed shall be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Mahore payable at Mahore and shall be valid for minimum 45 days beyond the validity of bid as referred to in the Appendix to ITB.
6. The original documents, when submitted by L1 for the cost of tender document, Bid Security declaration form should be same as uploaded online (Scanned Copies) otherwise the allotment will not be issued. The tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in PMGSY for a period of one year.
7.(a) The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <https://www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in> from 05.00 PM on 10-09-2022 to 24-09-2022 (5.00 PM)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Mahore
For and on behalf of The Government of Jammu and Kashmir

DIP/J-8564/22

WESTERN RAILWAY
e- AUCTION SALE DURING OCTOBER, 2022 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP
SPECIAL ATTENTION: ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS

Public e-auction for disposal of P. way scrap, rail scrap & other various scrap material will be held in OCT,2022 as per program given below:-

1 st Round	2 nd Round	Depot	Depot officer in Charge	Contact No.
06/10/2022	14/10/2022	RAJKOT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-RJT	02652641592 9724091750
07/10/2022	17/10/2022	SABARMATI	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-SBI	07927500080 09724093774
10/10/2022	20/10/2022	DAHOD	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-DHD	02673241295 09724090455
11/10/2022	28/10/2022	RATLAM	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-SBI	07927500080 09724093774
12/10/2022	19/10/2022	BHAVANAGAR	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BVP	02782444360 09724097750
14/10/2022	21/10/2022	AHMEDABAD	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-ADI	07922205888 09724093750
17/10/2022	27/10/2022	VADODARA JN	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BRC	02652641592 9724091750
18/10/2022	27/10/2022	MAHALAXMI	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-MX	022-24929571 09004495750
19/10/2022	28/10/2022	PRATAP NAGAR	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BRC	02652641592 9724091750
20/10/2022	28/10/2022	MUMBAI CENTRAL	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager MMCT	022-23094142 09004499006

For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot/Divisional Officers
Note - 1. Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-Auction. 2. e-Auction will start at as per scheduled time. 3. e-Auction catalogues will be available on site www.irps.gov.in e-Auction portal. 4. In case of any assistance required regarding e-Auction, digital signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned depot Officer. 5. All payment transactions shall be done through the online payment gateway.
(No. S.III/Auction Programme-1/OCT-2022 Dated 14/09/2022)

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) • Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly 435

Jharkhand Communication Network Limited
(A SPV under DoIT & e-Gov., Govt. of Jharkhand)
Office: Room No-1,3rd floor, Above Cafeteria, Project Building,
Dhurua, Ranchi-834004
CIN : U74999JH2017SGC009474
e-Mail: jcnl.itdept@gmail.com

NOTICE FOR WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Jharkhand Communication Network Ltd. invites application for General Manager Project (On Deputation basis) for supervision and maintaining work for Project Execution.
Application are invited for the following posts :

S.N.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Eligibility Criteria	Remuneration
1.	General Manager (GM Project, JCNL)	01	ITS (Indian Telecom Services). Cadre of JAG/SAG Level. (On deputation basis)	As per Norms of Central Govt./ State Govt.

Interested candidates may visit recruitment portal <https://recruitment.jharkhand.gov.in> for the complete details.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
CEO, JCNL.

PR.NO.277922 Information Technology(22-23):D

Annexure-A
Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), Government of NCT of Delhi
2nd, 4th and 5th Floor, ISBT Building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006
Helpline: 9311551393, Phone: 011-23862685/86
Email: dcpcr@hotmail.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Proposals are invited from reputed Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Not for Profit Organizations (NPOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for the purpose of setting up 'Child Well Being Centers', which will serve as one stop centers for rehabilitation and well-being of children engaged in substance abuse, children in street situations and children belonging to lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The scope of work includes set-up and operationalisation of the Child Well-Being Centers at a selected list of Bal Vikas Kendras (BVKs). Some of the key responsibilities of the selected agency will include managing the day to day functioning of the child well being centers, providing all the required services needed for child well-being, and setting-up of the center with the required human resources, physical assets and systems and processes required. The selected agency will also be responsible for ensuring the upkeep and maintenance of the center.

The eligible institutions / organizations may submit a soft copy of their project proposal in the prescribed format (as provided in the RFP at <https://dcpcr.delhi.gov.in/tenders>) through email at dcpcr@hotmail.com latest by **30th September 2022 up to 5:00 PM.**

Detailed information on the Request for Proposal can be obtained from our website at <https://dcpcr.delhi.gov.in/tenders>.

Sd/-
S.O, DCPCR

DIP/Shabdarth/0344/22-23

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Fresh-Tender Work

S.No.	Job No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1.	13/PGM/SM(WC-1)/2022-23	M/o Building (P/F Barricading Corrugated G.S. Sheet DND, Shani Mandir Side, C/o Laour Rooms in Gowshala in front of Sector-14A and Sector-15A), Noida	52.49
2.	22/GM/SM(WC-2)/2022-23	M/o Building (C/o Toilet for ladies & Gents at Multilevel Car Parking Compound botanical Garde Sector-38A)	35.99
3.	27/PGM/SM(WC-3)/2022-23	M/o Building (Annual maint. Work in work circle-3 area community center sec-40, 43, 45, 47, Staff Quarters, E/M, Horticulture, Health SPO office, Jal-III office, CMO office, Mahila Thana Sec-39 & Balika inter college sec 51) Noida	71.19
4.	09/PGM/SM(WC-3)/2022-23	D/o Sector-43 (Outer Development of Barat Ghar near Village Sadarpur in Sector-43) Noida	85.13
5.	25/PGM/SM(WC-3)/2022-23	M/o Road (Raising of Road and drain in 5% abadi plot of Sector-45) Noida	81.23
6.	27/GM/SM(WC-5)/2022-23	M/o Building (Repair and Painting work of Staff Quarters in Pocket-B-10A, B-10, B-01, B-03, B-05, B14 & Nilgiri Apptt. in Sector-34 and Sector-22) Noida	78.01
7.	31/GM/SM(WC-5)/2022-23	M/o Building (Annual Maintenance of Staff Quarter/ Office in Sector 22, 24, 33, 33a, 34, 52, 66 and 71) Noida	80.11
8.	42/PGM/SM(WC-5)/2022-23	M/o Road (Repair of Footpath & M.S. Jal and Painting work in Mansarovar Appt. Sector-61) Noida	31.62
9.	22/GM/SM(WC-6)/2022-23	D/o Sector-116 (Fixing of Barbed wire of Sector Boundary wall in Sector-116), Noida	52.03
10.	28/GM/SM(WC-8)/ET/2022-23	M/o Road (Repair of roads fillings of Pot Holes & Patches in Irrigation Pusta Road from Village Bhangel DSC road to 45.00M wide Salarpur Road) Noida	68.93
11.	27/GM/SM(WC-10)/ET/22-23	P/F Signage Board for Internal Gali in Village-Jhata, Badauli, Kondli, Samastipur, Monnathal and Nalagarah) Noida	62.45
12.	26/GM/SM(WC-8)/ET/22-23	M/o Building (C/o Community Toilets in area of WC- 8) Noida	32.30

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 29.09.2022 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on dated 30.09.2022 at 11.00 AM.

B) Re-Tender Work:-

S.No.	Job No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
13.	07/GM/SM(WC-8)/ET/2022-23	C/o Boundary wall (C/o Boundary wall wetland park in Sector-91) Noida	94.33
14.	03/GM/SM(WC-8)/ET/2022-23	M/o Drain (M/o Internal Drain 5% Abadi Plot in Sector-144) Noida.	88.06

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 22.09.2022 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on dated 23.09.2022 at 11.00 AM.

Principal General Manager
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rahul Arora, S/o: Harish Arora, R/o: H. No. 158, E-16, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 138/22, Dated: 13.07.2022, U/s 419/420/120B/34 IPC & 66C/66D IT Act, P.S.: Crime Branch, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rahul Arora**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rahul Arora**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rahul Arora**, accused of **FIR No. 138/22, Dated: 13.07.2022, U/s 419/420/120B/34 IPC & 66C/66D IT Act, P.S.: Crime Branch, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.10.2022**.

By Order
Shri Kapil Kumar,
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,
West District, Mag No.: 146,
DP/923/Crime/2022-(Court Matter) Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rahul Arora, S/o: Harish Arora, R/o: H. No. 158, E-16, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 138/22, Dated: 13.07.2022, U/s 419/420/120B/34 IPC & 66C/66D IT Act, P.S.: Crime Branch, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rahul Arora**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rahul Arora**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rahul Arora**, accused of **FIR No. 138/22, Dated: 13.07.2022, U/s 419/420/120B/34 IPC & 66C/66D IT Act, P.S.: Crime Branch, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.10.2022**.

By Order
Shri Kapil Kumar,
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West District, Mag No.: 146,
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Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India.)
Amravati Road, Wadi, Nagpur- 440 023. www.jnarddc.gov.in

Recruitment Notice - JNARDDC (Extension of last date)
Advt. No. 01/2022 (Aug-2022)

JNARDDC, Nagpur a 'Centre of Excellence' for research in the field of bauxite, alumina and aluminium invites applications from Indian nationals for the following posts.

Post & Upper age limit	Essential Qualification and Experience
Head of Department / HOD Level-13 (1,18,500) UR (One post) Age limit - 45 years (as on the date of issue of this advertisement)	Essential: 1) First class degree in Engineering in Chemical / Metallurgy / Material Science or 1st class Masters degree in Chemistry from a recognised university or institution or equivalent. 2) Ten years experience, out of which five years would be in a responsible supervisory capacity in the relevant area, i.e. bauxite evaluation/alumina production research /aluminium electrolysis downstream processing /analytical research or general services, instrumentation and control in a reputed aluminium industry or laboratory/university of repute.
Age limit - not applicable for internal candidates	Desirable: Master's in Engineering Or Doctorate degree in the subject concerned. Experience would be relaxed by two years for Master in Engineering / Technology degree holders, three years for PhD in Science and four years for PhD in Engineering.

Applications have to submitted online only. Detailed terms & conditions are available in the Centre's website www.jnarddc.gov.in under the sub-head Career. Application fees is Rs.500/- (SC/ST/PWD/Ex-Servicemen candidates are exempted from payment of fees). The last date for submission of online applications stands **EXTENDED UPTO 3rd Oct 2022**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India, Invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

Sl. No.	GeM Bid Number	Name of the Work	Tender Cost	Approximate Cost	Earnest Money	Completion Period	Validity of Offer	Date & Time from tender advertised on GeM website	Date & Time from tender submission start and end	Tender Closing Date & Time	Date & Time of tender Opening (immediately when tender submission ends)	Publication cost allocation
1	GEM/2022/B/2507745	Dated: 14.09.2022	Comprehensive Maintenance for refilling and hydraulic pressure testing of ABC type fire extinguisher at EMU Car Shed Ghaziabad.	Rs. 10,10,568/-	Rs. 20,211.00 (payment mode available on GeM website)	36 Months	90 days	14.09.2022	14.09.2022 to 06.10.2022 (17:00 Hrs.)	06.10.2022 (17:00 Hrs.)	06.10.2022 (17:30 Hrs.)	06041132

Note: 1. All participant Tenderer / Tenderers will submit their requisite documents along with their tender offer. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offer. Even suo-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void". Note 2: Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/uploaded. Tender Notice is available on website of www.gem.gov.in
GEM/2022/B/2507745 Dated: 14.09.2022 2408/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Himachal Pradesh. JSV Department
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, JSV Division Katrain (HP) invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works through e-tendering process:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest money	Time of completion.
1.	Improvement of LWSS Sari Bheklul and Bashing in Tehsil & Distt Kullu H.P. (SH- Providing & installation of pumping machinery and laying, jointing & testing of rising main)	Rs. 16,68,436/-	Rs. 32,527/-	Three Months

Last date of filing/uploaded the tender through e-tendering 22-09-2022 up to 11.00 AM.
The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
JSV Division Katrain.
HP / 4089/22-23 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Shiv Sharma @ Shivam, S/o: Late Sanjeev Sharma, R/o: H. No. 342, Janta Flats, GTB Enclave, Dilshad Garden, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 8806/2015, Dated: 01.08.2015, U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S.: Nand Nagri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Shiv Sharma @ Shivam**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Shiv Sharma @ Shivam**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Shiv Sharma @ Shivam**, accused of **FIR No. 8806/2015, Dated: 01.08.2015, U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S.: Nand Nagri, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **15.10.2022**.

By Order
Sh. Animesh Bhaskar Mani Tripathi,
Metropolitan Magistrate-03, Shahdara, Room No.: 19,
DP/867/NE/2022-(Court Matter) Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

Govt. of Jharkhand Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165,
E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

e-Procurement Notice
Tender reference no.: 18/JREDA/SHMLS/22-23 Dated: 13.09.2022

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning including 5 years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) of LED based Solar High Mast Lighting Systems (SHLMS) with Lithium Ferro Phosphate Battery on Turkey basis across the state of Jharkhand.
1	Total quantity (Nos.)	445 Nos.
2	Estimated cost (Rs.)	10,00,00,000/-
3	Period of Completion	04 (Four) Months
4	Contract Period	05 (Five) Years
5	Date of publication of NIT on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in	19.09.2022 (Monday)
6	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	28.09.2022 (Wednesday) at 2.00 P.M.
7	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	10.10.2022 (Monday) upto 05:00 PM
8	Submission of original copies of Bid fee & EMD (Offline)	10.10.2022 and 11.10.2022 up to 5.00 P.M.
9	Technical Bid Opening Date	12.10.2022 (Wednesday) at 3.00 P.M.
10	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency(JREDA) 3 rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002 (Jharkhand)
11	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491163/67/61/7903935514
12	Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491163/67/61
13	Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com . Further details can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com	

Sd/-
Director
PR 277840 Energy (22-23)_D JREDA, Ranchi

'Move to pick Gujarat based on expert advice'

Vedanta chairman says Maharashtra made huge effort to outbid other States for semiconductor plant

ABHINAV DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government made a competitive offer to outbid other States, but the decision to pick Gujarat for Vedanta-Foxconn's \$20-billion semiconductor unit was based on professional advice, said Vedanta Resources Limited chairman Anil Agarwal on Thursday.

He said they had decided on Gujarat a few months ago as the State government met their expectations. "But in the July meeting with the Maharashtra leadership, they made a huge effort to outbid other States with a competitive offer. We have to start in one place, and based on professional and independent advice we chose Gujarat," Mr. Agarwal said.

The 68-year-old billionaire industrialist took to Twitter and said Vedanta-Foxconn had been professionally assessing the site for a multibillion-dollar investment. "This is a scientific and financial process which takes several years. We started this about 2 years ago... This multibillion-dollar long-term investment



Vedanta chairman Anil Agarwal. FILE PHOTO

will change the course of Indian electronics. We will create a pan-India ecosystem and are fully committed to investing in Maharashtra as well. Maharashtra will be our key to forwarding integration in our Gujarat JV [joint venture]," Mr. Agarwal said.

Political blame game

The company's September 13 announcement of the JV and signing of the deal with the Gujarat government triggered a political blame game in Maharashtra with the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress - constituents of the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government - cornering the Eknath Shinde-led go-

vernment for letting the mega project slip away.

Slamming the Opposition over its criticism, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said it was disappointing that "negative, false and baseless claims" were being spread to gain political mileage. He hit back at them with questions about the Nanar refinery project. "I want to ask Opposition leaders, who sent back the ₹3.5 lakh crore refinery from Maharashtra?"

"My advice to these leaders is to focus on becoming competent and efficient and not negative and desperate," Mr. Fadnis said.

On Wednesday, Chief Minister Shinde said that the MVA government didn't cooperate on the Vedanta-Foxconn project, and he did not want to get into the blame game over neighbouring Gujarat bagging the project. "The Opposition can introspect," he said.

He said the group has stated that they would set up a manufacturing hub for iPhone and TV equipment in the State.

Centre's assurance akin to convincing a child: Pawar

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

The multibillion-dollar Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor plant should not have gone out of Maharashtra, said Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday. There was no hope of it coming back to the State as it has opted for Gujarat, he added.

"The Centre's assurance to the State that it will get a bigger project than the Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor plant is akin to trying to 'convince a child'," he said addressing a press conference in Pune.

The former Union Minister said it would have been good if the plant had come up at Talegaon near Pune, which is an automobile hub.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant claimed that



NCP chief Sharad Pawar

shifting out Vedanta-Foxconn to infeasible Dholera will harm the country.

'Under pressure'

He alleged that despite the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi government's offer for a better package than Gujarat, the JV has gone to Dholera 'under pressure' from the Central government. "It [Dholera] is an inconvenient place as compared to Talegaon, where it was earlier planned," the Congress leader said.

YouTuber gets 6-month jail for remarks on judiciary

He hasn't expressed regret for remarks: Madurai HC Bench

STAFF REPORTER
MADURAI

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Thursday held well-known blogger 'Savukku' Shankar guilty of criminal contempt for his remarks on the higher judiciary and sentenced him to six months of simple imprisonment. He was directed to be lodged in Madurai Central Prison.

The court initiated *suo motu* contempt proceedings against him following his remarks, "The entire higher judiciary is riddled with corruption," made to a YouTube channel on July 22. It framed charges and called upon him to explain, within a week, why he should not be held guilty of scandalising the judiciary by making statements in public domain.

Mr. Shankar requested the court to suspend the sentence, but a Division Bench of Justices G.R. Swaminathan and B. Pugalendi refused.

The judges observed that the conduct of the contem-

nor deserves to be noted. Nowhere did he express his regret or remorse. He did not offer any apology at all. On the other hand, he asserted that he was justified in making the charged statements. The Bench was of the view that a reading of the charged statements would lead anyone to the conclusion that they are likely to lower the prestige and dignity of courts and judges.

Taking note of the fact that criminal contempt had been initiated against him at the High Court principal seat six years ago, the judges said that yet, he made the offending statements.

"The contemnor has reiterated his resolve to continue his attack on the judiciary. He has gone to the extent of stating that he can be sentenced only to a maximum of six months and that after coming out, he will focus all his attention on judges and judiciary. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer stated that 'Justice fails when Judges quail'.

We do not propose to quail. There are occasions when Judges have to be firm and stern. Shrugging off such provocations by stating that we possess broad shoulders would be seen as a sign of weakness. The contemnor has shown himself to be an unrepentant character," the judges held.

'Bereft of jurisdiction'

At the hearing, Mr. Shankar contended that the proceedings were bereft of jurisdiction. Relying on the Contempt of Court Rules, he said that since the matter had not been forwarded to the Advocate-General in the first instance, the present proceedings were not maintainable. He submitted that he was concerned with the under-representation of the suppressed classes and the over-representation of Brahmins in the higher judiciary. He claimed his comments were taken out of context and that he had respect for the judiciary.

Odisha BJP asked to strengthen base to better 2019 LS tally

Three-day training camp in Puri ends

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

A three-day-long training camp of Bharatiya Janata Party concluded at Puri on Thursday with national leaders expecting the State unit to pull their socks up to either improve upon their 2019 Lok Sabha tally or retain their performance in 2024 elections.

The party appeared to have turned its focus on Odisha in wake of possible loss of seats expected in Bihar and West Bengal due to change in political scenario in two States.

BJP general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh, party in-charge of Odisha Sunil Banal and Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav interacted with party leaders, Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly.

The urgency being shown to strengthen its grassroots structure is happening at a time when party finds it difficult to recover from the crushing defeat at hand of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal in this year's panchayat and urban body elections.

Eight Union Ministers have visited the State in past eight days. The party hinted that there would be regular visit of Union Ministers in coming days. Party chief J.P. Nadda is likely to be in Odisha by end of September.

"The party has taken a long time from being non-entity in Odisha to becoming third party and subsequently second largest party. It has

been a long journey, but it is yet to become number one party. The kind of speed with which the party has moved in other States has not happened in Odisha," admitted senior party Muralidhar Rao here.

"The eastern Indian States has always been a promising State for us, but it is yet to become performing party here," Mr. Rao pointed out.

"The situation is too complex. The national and State leadership have to think some innovative way. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is playing a different game - aligning with Central government on certain issues while fighting at State level to retain government. It is an art. We have to overcome this," he said.

'Positive vibes'

When asked if election of President Droupadi Murmu would help the party, Mr. Rao said, "the nomination has created a receptive situation among tribals for the party not only in Odisha, but also in entire country. The leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modiji has been promoting such positive vibes. Sustained efforts from the government and party will have definite bearing. It was a powerful messaging."

The senior leader, however, hoped for a positive voting for the party in Lok Sabha election. "Voters do vote differently keeping the strong leadership and State's interest at national level in mind. It was seen in last elections too," he said.

MDMK to protest against Shah's remarks on Hindi

'Party will not allow imposition in T.N.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

MDMK general secretary Vaiko on Thursday criticised Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks linking Hindi and culture of India, stating Mr. Shah clearly did not have any knowledge on the Dravidian culture.

Addressing an event to mark the 114th birth anniversary of former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai, he recalled that Anna opposed Hindi imposition and went to jail for four months in 1938.

He also recalled that a resolution was passed in the State Assembly against Hindi imposition in 1968.

Mr. Vaiko said his party would never allow the im-

position of Hindi and Sanskrit in Tamil Nadu and that MDMK was organising a protest in Chennai on September 24. He urged the Central government to change its foreign policy towards Sri Lanka and stop supporting them.

Mr. Vaiko said India must ensure that the army was moved out from places where Tamils lived in Sri Lanka.

'Poll for Eelam'

He urged for an international poll on formation of a separate Tamil Eelam under the supervision of major nations, and said Tamils across the globe should be allowed to participate in the poll.

Government of Haryana

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

"On the occasion of World Ozone Day, let us all come together and take a pledge to protect the ozone layer for the protection of the environment and nature."
- Manohar Lal

"Let us collectively do whatever possible to ensure the flora and fauna with whom we share the Earth thrive. May we leave an even better planet for the coming generations."
- Narendra Modi

World Ozone Day

◆ Friday, September 16, 2022 ◆

Save Ozone, Save Nature Step Ahead, for Green Future

Do's

- Adopt Eco-Friendly vehicles
- Prevent Gas Leakage of AC/Fridge
- Reduce usage of Spray Paint
- Proper disposal of e-Waste
- Use cotton-made mattresses instead of Foam

Don'ts

- Avoid use of Pesticides
- Avoid usage of Chlorofluorocarbon contained sprays
- Avoid using disposables
- Reduce usage of vehicles
- Prevent emission of smoke

Collective Action - For Ozone Protection

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

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Curse of Goa

Mass defections undermine the electoral mandate

Eight of the Congress's 11 MLAs have merged with the ruling BJP, in the latest iteration of a Goan curse. The State has gained a particular notoriety for its politicians brazenly switching sides in utter disregard for the people's verdict. BJP Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has succeeded in splitting the Goa Congress twice in three years. In the previous Assembly, 15 of the 17 Congress MLAs left the party, a majority of them for the BJP. In the February Assembly election, the Congress fielded a large number of newcomers. All 37 of its candidates had twice taken a 'loyalty pledge,' once with leader Rahul Gandhi, in a temple, a church and a dargah, and signed affidavits vowing not to defect. All the gods could do little to prick the conscience of these MLAs who betrayed the mandate. If anything, all that drama only made this latest episode of the curse that much more of a mockery of democracy. It is not that Goa is the only place where this happens – in Bihar, the recent realignment in which the JD(U) replaced the BJP with the RJD as its partner amounted to dishonouring the popular verdict. Bihar was a rare instance of the BJP being at the receiving end of its own strategy.

The party has swung back, and in style, in Goa, though it did not need any more MLAs to be in power. In the 40-member strong Assembly, it had 20 MLAs of its own and support from three independents and two MLAs of the Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP). With the merger of eight Congress MLAs, the government now has the support of 33. The Congress has lost its capacity to be an effective opposition. This was in the making for months now, and the Congress had tried to avert it. As soon as it got wind of the move, the Congress removed Michael Lobo from the post of Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and Digambar Kamat from his position of being a permanent invitee to the Congress Working Committee (CWC). While both Mr. Lobo and Mr. Kamat have cited disaffection with the Congress high command as reasons, the true reasons are all too transparent. Despite serving as a Congress CM, Mr. Kamat, a seven-time MLA from Margao, has a history of being with the BJP as he was one of the four BJP MLAs who won in 1994. In 2014, the BJP had linked him with a multi-crore mining scam case, whose probe is still hanging over his head. BJP Minister Viswajit Rane had called for an investigation into Mr. Lobo's assets. Mr. Lobo and his wife Delilah are among the richest MLAs in the coastal State. With the defections of Aleixo Sequeira and Rodolfo Fernandes, the BJP now has a strong foothold in the Catholic-dominated South Goa. Mr. Kamat has said he went back to the temple and got the god's permission to renege on his pledge of loyalty to the Congress. The people of Goa, meanwhile, are left wondering whether their vote makes any difference.

Arbitrary, exclusionary

Even if EWS quota is upheld, eligibility will have to be properly defined

A Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit is now examining the validity of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which provides for 10% reservation to the economically weaker sections (EWS), excluding Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who already have reservation in higher education institutions and government jobs. The Bench has finalised three issues for hearing – whether the amendment has breached the Constitution's basic structure by permitting the state to make special provisions; whether it does so in relation to admissions to private unaided institutions and, lastly, if the exclusion of OBC/SC/ST communities from the scope of the quota tramples on the basic structure. These are valid questions and it could be argued that the legislation of the reservation in 2019 was done hastily without due diligence of the criteria adopted. For example, the setting of an annual family income of ₹8 lakh as a ceiling to determine if someone belongs to the EWS is clearly problematic. If available consumer expenditure surveys such as the NSSO report, 'Key Indicators of Household Consumer Expenditure, 2011-12', are relied on, a large chunk of the population will be eligible for reservations in the "below Rs. 8 lakh" EWS category and not just the truly deserving sections of the poor. A government-appointed committee submitted that this ceiling was reasonable, but it could not adequately explain how the income criterion was "more stringent" than the one for the OBC creamy layer. Also, the ₹8 lakh figure did not correspond to any data on the estimated number of EWS persons in the population with incomes related to it.

Petitioners have also argued that the net effect of the exclusion of Backward Classes and SC/ST aspirants from the EWS has been that they are now denied an opportunity to compete in the general category to the extent of 10%, in effect, limiting the quota to the "forward classes". This is a valid argument. Even if the Court agrees to maintain that reservations can be provided on economic basis – something that has been explicitly denied so far with only social and educational backwardness being mentioned in the Constitution and reiterated in several judgments – excluding people of certain communities from this benefit despite their belonging to the EWS renders the legislation discriminatory. In recent recruitment and entrance examinations such as the UPSC and JEE, marks cut-offs for admissions were lower for the EWS quota than that of the OBCs. In essence, if an income criterion for identifying the economically weaker sections has to be the basis, it must arrive at a clearly determined figure for the limit unlike the ₹8 lakh figure, and all sections of society, irrespective of caste, should be eligible to avail of reservation under this category.

Parliamentary business and an essential pit stop

Referring Bills to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committees does help the process of lawmaking



DESH DEEPAK VERMA

It was heartening to have the recently concluded monsoon session of Parliament (July-August), even though it was adjourned sine die on August 8, 2022, witnessing the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022 and the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 being sent to the Standing Committee of Parliament for detailed examination and a report thereon.

This is a significant step in light of the fact that Parliament had only limited legislative time this session and could pass only five pieces of legislation. This has also come in the wake of constant criticism by the Opposition that has been alleging that the Government has been trying to steamroll various pieces of legislation in the last few sessions. The worry of the Government has been that so much time is lost in disruptions in Parliament that the legislative process, as it is, becomes unduly delayed and therefore, referring the bills to the Standing Committees may be counterproductive – that could only add to this delay.

Relevant parliamentary data
The functioning of the monsoon session of Parliament this year bears testimony to this fact: the Lok Sabha's productivity was 47% and the Rajya Sabha only 42%. It may be mentioned here that Parliament has 24 Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committees (DRSC), comprising members of the Parliament of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in the ratio 2:1, which are duly constituted by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman

of the Rajya Sabha, jointly.

The mandate of these committees is to examine various legislations referred to it, the budget proposals of different Ministries, and also to do policy thinking on the vision, mission and future direction of the Ministries concerned. The objective of this article is to examine whether these committees have been able to achieve their stated objectives, and if not or if done inadequately, what the corrective actions could be to increase their efficacy and their relevance.

The percentage of Bills having been referred to the DRSCs during the tenures of the 14th (2004-2009), 15th (2009-2014) and 16th Lok Sabhas (2014-2019) has been 60%, 71% and 27%, respectively. The fall in this percentage during the 16th Lok Sabha was witnessed largely in the second half of its session, when the Government was in a hurry to push its big ticket reforms through and the Opposition was equally adamant to stall it in view of high stakes involved in the 2019 elections.

Committee versus Parliament
Even though it is not obligatory for the Government to agree to refer each Bill to the DRSC, the experience, both nationally and internationally, has been that referring a Bill to the DRSC has been of use to the process of lawmaking. It has been alleged that Bills which are not being referred to the parliamentary committees, are not examined properly, especially from the perspective of consumers and stakeholders and remain just a bureaucratically conceived piece of legislation. As proof of this, the case of the three Farm Bills is cited as they were passed without being referred to the DRSC and had to be withdrawn later.

Even though there could be many reasons for the withdrawal of the three Farm Bills – some of it political – it needs to be under-



V.V. KRISHNAN

stood that the examination of the Bills by the parliamentary committees is more to the benefit of the Government than the Opposition. The simple reason for this is that the tenor and the ambience of the discussions in the parliamentary committee and in Parliament are two entirely different things. The committee meetings are in camera and, therefore, the meetings are held in a comparatively congenial atmosphere of bonhomie and cordiality than they would be in Parliament.

The deliberations in these committees mostly add value to the content of the legislation and, more often than not, the Members, their party positions notwithstanding, try to reach a consensus. Additionally, such pieces of legislation after examination in the committees, have some sort of ownership of the members of the committee, both from the ruling side and the Opposition, even though it is also a function of the skill of the chairman of the committee.

Governments and the ruling party should not be wary of these committees, as in most of these committees, the government has a majority and the final decision is always by the process of majority voting. Therefore, there is no reason why any government should shy away from referring Bills to the committee. Skilled and experienced Ministers know this and generally have no aversion to a Bill being referred to the commit-

tees. So, fostering the trust of parliamentarians, both from the ruling party and the Opposition parties, in the relevance and usefulness of the system of the committees is of paramount importance.

Consider these steps

It has been observed that the reluctance to refer the Bills to the committee arises more out of inaction and ignorance of the Ministry concerned, and rarely out of ideological or policy reasons. So, the following changes could be suggested to be made into procedures meant for consideration of Bills.

First, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha have powers to refer Bills to a DRSC of Parliament. This requirement is often given a go by for various political or administrative reasons. It may be useful to make the process of reference of Bills to these committees compulsory/an automatic process. An exemption could be made with the specific approval of the Speaker/Chairman after detailed reasons for the same. The prerogative of the House to refer the Bills to the Standing committee, through an amendment, would, of course, remain unaffected.

Second, all discussions in the Parliamentary Standing Committee should be frank and free. For this, it may be provided that during the discussions of the committee meetings, no whip of the party would apply to them. In any case, they have the liberty to vote in favour or against the Bill in Parliament.

Third, the committees can be given a fixed timeline to come up with the recommendation and present its report which can be decided by the Speaker/Chairman. The committees mostly abide by this direction of the Speaker/Chairman. But to deal with just political exigencies, it can be provided that in case the committee

fails to give its recommendation within the approved/extended time, the Bill may be put up before the House concerned directly.

Fourth, to ensure quality work in the committees, experts in the field may be invited who could bring with them the necessary domain knowledge and also help introduce the latest developments and trends in that field from worldwide. It would be value for money if some subject matter experts/young researchers could be associated with the committee for a short period.

Fifth, the Speaker/Chairman should have the right to fix a time limit, sometimes even stringent, if the government of the day asks for it and the demand is found to be reasonable by the Speaker/Chairman.

Sixth, between two sessions, there is generally enough time to organise committee meetings for discussions on Bills in the parliamentary committees. Sometimes, the government and the committee chairmen are lax in this respect, and then try to push through these pieces of legislation when the next session is announced. Hence, it is important for the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to keep an eye on this and, in collaboration with the committee chairmen, get these parliamentary works organised during the inter-session period, in advance.

Seventh and last, when it comes to the budget proposals of the Ministries, the committees should not limit themselves to discussing just the budget proposals and endorsing them with a few qualifications here or amendments there. They should also come up with suggestions for the Ministry to take up new initiatives and people-friendly measures.

Desh Deepak Verma is a former Indian Administrative Service officer and a former Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha

Climate action that runs on cooperative federalism

The outcome of the 'Grand Challenge I, a tender for electric buses, is an innovative model for India and the world



MAHUA ACHARYA

India's procurement of 5,450 electric buses and subsequent increase in ambition to have 50,000 e-buses on the country's roads by 2030 represent the immense potential for progress on climate and development goals through close collaboration between the Union and State governments. With the shared aim to rapidly electrify a key pillar of India's public transportation, recent governance efforts have created a new business model for e-buses. If this sector is further developed, it can reduce air pollution in cities and fuel import bills, improve the balance sheets of State transport companies, and spur domestic manufacturing and job creation.

State of State-owned buses
There are currently around 1,40,000 registered public buses on India's roads, with large numbers of them having sputtering engines that spew planet-warming fumes into the atmosphere. At least 40,000 of these buses are at the end of their lifespan and must be taken off the roads immediately.

However, most buses are owned and operated by State trans-

port undertakings, which are in poor financial health. In part, they incur large losses because they play an important social function by providing subsidised fares to crores of Indians each day. With a few exceptions such as Mumbai's Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking (BEST) of the Brihanmumbai Mahanagarपालिका, when State transport undertakings go to the market to buy buses, they face problems of fragmented demand and high prices. Furthermore, there are limitations to nation-wide action on this issue as State governments control issues such as transit, urban governance and pollution control.

A success story
Until recently, there had never been a unified tender to address some of these challenges. Cooperative federalism can easily become a fraught issue. However, in the case of the Grand Challenge I, a tender for 5,450 buses (across five major Indian cities – Kolkata, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Surat), the opposite happened. Instead of a race to the bottom, the respective expertise, strengths and needs of Union Ministries and States informed the process and the successful outcomes.

Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a nodal agency of the Union government, acted as the programme manager in this effort at centralised procurement in concert, with State-led demand and customisation. Coordination between a range of Union govern-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

ment Ministries and State governments standardised demand conditions across these five cities and discovered prices that beat the increasingly outmoded internal combustion engines.

On a cost-per-kilometre basis, the prices discovered were 40% lower than diesel and 34% less than CNG (without factoring in the subsidy through FAME-II). A note on FAME: the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid & Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-India) Scheme was launched under the National Mission on Electric Mobility in 2011/National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020, and unveiled in 2013. The scheme encourages the progressive induction of reliable, affordable and efficient electric and hybrid vehicles.

With high fuel prices and energy security challenges in the wake of the war in Ukraine, the switch to electric vehicles appears even more sensible and lucrative.

This inflection point in unit economics was enabled by three key factors: collaboration, pace and transparency. First, the tender itself was a fully consultative process and varied contributions by participants already influenced the design of future tenders. Se-

cond, there was a shared sense of urgency that shaped this collaboration, which leveraged the bureaucracy's power when working on time-bound and measurable schemes and increased receptivity to creative and new ideas. Finally, transparency was the most resilient quality of a public process. From the outset, there was clarity about the intention to engender trust and build a publicly available process and tender that invited bids from automakers and operators.

In the wake of the first tender, it was incredibly gratifying to share a feeling of success with five States, five Transport Ministers, five State Secretaries and the heads of a range of State transport undertakings, each of whom had played a part in the process.

To be clear, excessive centralisation can have limitations and contradict the federal principles enshrined in the Constitution. For instance, India's States and districts vary vastly in their vulnerability to climate impacts, and decentralised decision-making and locally-led adaptation will help reduce potential damage to lives and livelihoods. Urban local bodies and gram panchayats can be the heart of climate action.

However, in certain areas where India must move the needle quickly or where States lack size and financial clout, such as the electrification of mass mobility, centralised procurement and programme management can deliver architectural transformations

rather than just incremental transitions.

There is much work ahead

Although a good start has been made, much work remains to be done to enable the electrification of mass mobility in India. The country's shift to clean public transportation will require a suite of efforts, from ramping up manufacturing capacity to domestic battery production to building out charging infrastructure (ideally plugged in to a grid powered by renewables) to capacity building of State transport undertakings to developing financial instruments and structures.

Nonetheless, the progress we have made on electric bus tendering is a harbinger of climate action made possible by cooperative federalism. As India now ramps up its demand to deploy 50,000 buses across 40 cities, it will need to continue the spirit of true inter-ministerial and Union-State collaboration to fulfil its ambitious targets for green and inclusive economic development. The combined clout and strength of the federal compact can enable large strides being made towards innovative models that not only improve transit, the quality of life in cities and progress towards national climate goals but also build models for the rest of the world to emulate.

Mahua Acharya is Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Convergence Energy Services Limited, Government of India. The views expressed are personal

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.

Flip-flops, Goan style

By jumping ship, the eight Congress MLAs in Goa have administered a severe shock to the party (Page 1, "Congress meltdown in Goa as 8 MLAs defect to BJP", September 15). It is not only the oath the defectors had taken before god, at a temple, a dargah and a church, but also political etiquette and democratic values that have gone for a toss in the coastal State. The developments are also an indicator of the serious shortcomings in the fire-fighting mechanism within the Congress party. One aspect is clear. It appears that the key national party is trying to unsettle the Grand Old

Party by the time the GOP finishes its all-India *padayatra*.
V. JOHAN DHANARUMAR,
Chennai

■ The accompanying visual in the report, which shows unconcealed glee written on the faces of the MLAs who have defected, is enough to leave any reader disgusted and shocked. The MLAs have betrayed their electoral mandate and have conveniently joined the national party concerned for personal benefits. It is a pity that such selfish and greedy persons who are besotted with power and money have been elected lawmakers. Voters are also helpless and responsible for such

unscrupulous happenings. Voters need to teach such MLAs a lesson they will never forget.
D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

■ The political development is also a blow against the Congress's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. Those who matter in the party will find it hard to explain why the party that is on a lofty mission to unite India cannot even hold its flock together under trying circumstances. Disgruntled senior party leaders and power-hungry legislators are the twin challenges that the Congress faces in its battle for survival. The new Congress president will have to identify unscrupulous

fortune seekers masquerading as loyal workers and weed them out. With mass defections to the BJP having become rampant, any election and its outcome is now irrelevant. The Bharatiya Janata Party has proved that it will form governments wherever and whenever it wants irrespective of the election result. The bitter irony now is that people who venture to vote for non-BJP candidates eventually end up backing a party that they did not choose to vote for.
ABDUL ASSIS. P.A.,
Kandassankadavu, Thrissur, Kerala

Hindi use
The Union Home Minister appears to have stirred up

controversy with his statements on Hindi use; they may have the unintended consequence of resurrecting anti-Hindi sentiments in the southern States. Many in India have begun to realise that English use is a window to the larger world. English is a key means of communication in an increasingly globalised world. What the Minister should have focused on or advised his colleague who looks after Education is to step up outlay on education and ensure that schools in India reach modern standards in terms of facilities. All efforts should be directed towards quality education for all. Creating controversy and generating

resentment against certain languages are unnecessary.
M.P. MURALIDHARAN,
Bengaluru

■ One fails to get the import of what the Minister means when he says that speaking to children in their mother tongue would lead to an effortless learning of Hindi. One also wonders why there is a move by the Centre to push Hindi use in offices and banks abroad. There are serious issues that require the attention of the Government. Why is the Home Minister so worried about Hindi use?
MANI NATARAJAN,
Chennai

Should India choose manufacturing over services?

PARLEY

Manufacturing can create higher productivity jobs; but India's limited state capacity is a risk

Earlier this week, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Raghuram Rajan, questioned the Central government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, arguing that it works against the interests of Indian consumers. In doing so, he revived the larger debate on the government's efforts to promote the country's manufacturing sector through subsidies, and on its relative importance vis-a-vis the services sector. *Ajay Shah and Nagesh Kumar discuss this issue and talk about creating enabling conditions, in a discussion moderated by Prashanth Perumal J. Edited excerpts:*

Should government policy focus on promoting any particular sector of the economy?

Ajay Shah: I'm sceptical of the state bureaucracy being able to understand and anticipate which sectors will do well and which sectors will do badly. It is very difficult to forecast the future. Only risk-taking entrepreneurs can take speculative bets, such as saying the computer hardware industry or automobile component manufacturing will do well in India. Who could have predicted that two-wheelers in India would fight off foreign competition pretty well while dozens of other manufacturing businesses would get butchered by foreign competition? It is not feasible for officials in bureaucracies to look at the industrial landscape and make speculative calls. That's because they do not have the necessary information or the forecasting ability. Nor do they have the incentive, like private businesses do. Also, there is nobody to protect them if their speculation goes wrong; when their speculation goes wrong, they will be investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate. So, which official is ever going to take a risk? For all these reasons, the task of figuring out which sector to focus on is best left to the private sector. The job of the government is to create a broad enabling environment.

Nagesh Kumar: I have a slightly

different view. I think the history of development not just in developing countries, but also in industrialised countries today tells a different story. They all made strategic interventions, or had an industrial policy. While I agree that the government can't do everything, prioritising certain sectors that have desirable features such as higher job creation or greater industrialisation is welcome. There was a time when industrial policy had become a bad word, but it has resurfaced in an aggressive manner with different countries favouring certain industries. The latest example is the 2022 CHIPS [and Science] Act in the U.S., under which some \$50 billion in incentives will be given to American companies to develop or to strengthen their semiconductor industry. Each of the East Asian countries such as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, China and Vietnam has a story of strategic interventions by the state and has become a manufacturing powerhouse running consistent trade and current account surpluses. There is something to be learned from them. In such a context, the Centre's decision to promote the manufacturing sector is timely because India has favoured an agriculture and services-dominated economy over the years.

Should India focus on manufacturing over services?

NK: So far, in services, we have certainly developed some advantage and we are doing rather well. Services' share of the economy has gone up to over 50% of the GDP. However, this sector has not been able to create enough jobs in a commensurate manner. The result is that agriculture still continues to sustain nearly half of India's workforce, which means that 15% of GDP is supporting some 45% of the workforce. We need more productive job opportunities for the workforce to shift away from agriculture. We need to focus attention on the manufacturing sector because of the direct and indirect jobs that it can create. It is an empirical fact that manufacturing of all productive sectors has the highest backward and forward linkages. So, all together,



there is significant potential for the manufacturing sector to create higher productivity jobs for people stuck in agricultural activities. That is the future for India.

AS: On industrial policy, when we look at world history, we see many attempts by governments to pick winners. It is always possible to find interventions which look good with the benefit of hindsight. But at the same time, there are many more stories of failure. Everyone who thinks that you should have a strong leader and points to [former Prime Minister of Singapore] Lee Kuan Yew as an example of how well a strong leader works also needs to counterbalance this with the fact that there are hundreds of strong leaders all over the world who have done badly. So, while it is always possible to find individual episodes, such as the role of the Taiwanese government in fostering the semiconductor ecosystem in Taiwan, it is also possible to identify a very large number of failure stories. And the overall assessment of industrial policy is not good.

Second, we should think about the country that we operate in. We should think about state capacity, bureaucratic capacity, the incentives of policymakers, the capabilities of policymakers, etc. We've got to come up with policy ideas that are sensitive to our realities. There was remarkable civil service quality in the early years after independence in India. Later, interventionist policies led to a corrosion of civil service quality and of state capacity. So, we should be careful in giving high discretion in the hands of the state. Since we already have low state capacity, the greater the discretion in the hands of the state, the greater the danger of further cor-

When we are trying to revive our economy, we need to persuade investors to invest. And for that, some incentivisation is important.

AJAY SHAH

roding state capacity.

Aren't schemes like the PLI prone to the risk of cronyism?

NK: It is possible that the PLI would lead to some kind of cronyism. But when subsidies are linked to performance, there is little room for discretion. There are objective criteria which have been defined, such as you getting a certain percentage in incentive if you perform better than last year. And of course, one can have third-party verification of performance to minimise misuse. Also, as we go along, we can tighten the criteria further to things such as export performance, competitiveness and innovation. So, it is possible to have an incentive system and achieve most of the objectives without major problems.

AS: If you read the details of the PLI policy framework and the industries that it applies to, of course it is subject to many discretionary decisions. There are always pushes and pulls. When these frameworks are established, only large firms are able to do the hard work of pounding the corridors of power, and engaging with the government, filling in all the forms and getting these benefits. If there are structural problems, it's better to go to the root cause and solve it because then everybody benefits, every company — large or small, domestic or outward-oriented — benefits from a more rational policy environment. If there

is a mistake in the GST (Goods and Services Tax), solve it; if there is a mistake in the Companies Act, solve it; if there is a mistake in income tax treatment, solve it. I don't buy it when people say electricity is expensive in India or labour is cheap. The competitive advantage of operating in India is that labour is cheap. But it doesn't mean everything has to be cheap. There will be a variety of inputs that goes into an industry and each firm has to figure out whether it is competitive to operate in India. What policymakers should focus on is just mistakes of public policy. We should focus on things like the way the Companies Act works, the way Indian capital controls work, the way income tax works, the way GST works, etc.

Shouldn't the government liberalise all sectors and let market forces decide outcomes?

NK: The sectors that have been selected by the government include some of the new sunrise sectors, such as the semiconductor industry, which are highly import-dependent. The feeling is that we can make some of these things in India a part of a domestic industrialisation drive. Industries have been chosen based on where there is an opportunity to create new industries or reduce the dependence on imports, or where there are high spillovers or linkages to other sectors. So, industries benefiting from these subsidies have not been randomly chosen. Of course, one could argue that there are also other sectors that merit subsidies, but one has to start somewhere. The start would obviously be from the most promising sectors and sunrise sectors which are coming up. I don't think these sectors have been selected to benefit a particular individual. You could find one or two of them, but most representing opportunities that India should be exploiting at this moment.

AS: I remain sceptical, as economic policymakers do not have a crystal ball to know the future. In India's history, the decisions of some of the most respected thinkers and policymakers, when it comes to favouring this or that sector, have proved to be wrong. So I just don't find it persuasive that we have the forecasting capacity. It is risky, it is speculative,

and the word speculative appropriately belongs in the private sector. You want to trade on the stock market? I'm all for sophisticated discussion on that. Should we be buying the stocks of a labour-intensive garment company? Or should we be buying the shares of an electronics manufacturing company? That's a discussion for private speculators to have; it's not a discussion for people in public policy. And I just want to come back to the argument that since in the U.S. there is the CHIPS Act, that justifies a similar policy in India. I have two problems with that. First, as Ashok Desai stated, 'Every bad idea has been adopted in at least one good country.' For example, because they have agricultural subsidies in Europe, you will argue that we should have agricultural subsidies in India. That's a slippery slope. We should always be able to argue things from first principles. And then remember the magnitude of the numbers we are comparing. When you look at the European agriculture subsidy divided by European GDP, it's nothing. When you take the American subsidies for chips and divide it by the American GDP, it's nothing. Whereas here, in India, if you think of a trillion dollars of exports, and then 6% of that, it's taking a significant chunk out of the tiny amount of tax revenues of the Indian state.

NK: I don't buy this argument. Until a policy has been implemented, how will you know if it is right or wrong? When we are trying to revive our economy, and we want the investment cycle to pick up, we need to persuade investors to invest. And for that, some incentivisation is important, especially in the context of other countries offering incentives. If we don't offer incentives, we do so at our own peril. So, we need to be vigilant. It is an open economy context that we are working in; it is not a closed economy context any more. So, we have to see what others are doing. And if you don't, all the investments of chip manufacturers will simply go to the U.S. or Taiwan. Wherever they get more incentives, they will go, and we won't get any of them. So, I feel that what has been done through the PLI, and the current focus of the government to promote the manufacturing sector, is the right thing to do at this moment.



Ajay Shah is Research Professor of Business at Jindal Global University, Sonapat



Nagesh Kumar is Director at the Institute of Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

NOTEBOOK

A dilemma over blood donation

Not taking sides and not getting involved is an art that journalists have to master

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

"How many of you here volunteer to donate blood?" This question wouldn't have drawn any attention in, say, an emergency hospital setting, but it was unexpected at a press conference. The person asking the question was a Central government Minister, who had just announced a series of 'humanitarian programmes' to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 70th birthday celebrations on September 17.



SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The act of donating blood is undoubtedly noble as it helps save lives. Most blood donors do this voluntarily. But for journalists sitting there, the question suddenly threw up a dilemma. We were there to report the programmes being announced, not volunteer to participate in them. Some of us wondered, how much involvement with a story is too much? Should we become part of the news that we were reporting? And what causes demand a journalist to switch roles from reporter to someone involved in the story? The tussle between professional ethics and empathy, though these categories are not mutually exclusive, is something journalists face with every story.

The blood donation programme, to be organised by the Union Health Ministry, aims to bring over one lakh units of blood into blood banks across the country. As soon as he made the announcement, the Minister wanted a show of hands to know how many would be willing to be part of this donation. Following the question, hands shot up and some judgmental eyes scanned the room, which was packed with reporters and Ministry staff. The Minister presented the programme as "our" contribution to the humanitarian work being done by the Prime Minister.

It is true that the line between reporter and subject gets crossed sometimes and the heart does take over the head. Reporters sometimes sit down to wipe the tears of their interviewees. Many of my reporter friends have emptied their purses and lunch boxes for their interviewees. Some have even been advocates of causes, asking higher authorities to help a

person or group.

But does that allow us to do our job of reporting 'as it is'? More important, is there a correct answer to these questions? In this context, who did the right thing: the journalists who raised their hands or those who did not?

In a world where the form and flavour of news is rapidly changing, choices also make news. The famous example of this is the South African photojournalist Kevin Carter. Carter photographed 'The Struggling Girl', which showed a child, later revealed to be a boy, slumped on dry grass in hunger, while being watched keenly by a vulture. Carter won a Pulitzer Prize for the photograph. But he found himself, not the child, being the subject of discussion, with people asking why he did not help the emaciated child.

This dilemma is often at the heart of human-interest stories that journalists report, whether big or small. Our professional ethics demand that we report honestly, accurately and without manipulating the story, getting involved with the subject or taking sides. Besides this, reporters often work with the handicap of not being aware of the entire story when we walk into one.

Listening to our gut feeling and thinking with our heart is what we often do initially, but training and experience thankfully kick in soon enough. Not taking sides and not getting involved is an art that journalists have to master. Forcing someone on a job to take a side or get involved isn't a welcome move.

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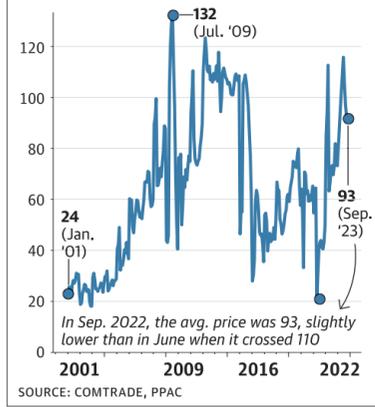
DATA POINT



Will Iran make a comeback?

On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi are likely to discuss the revival of oil imports from Iran. After the U.S. ended waivers that allowed the import of crude from Iran without sanctions, India stopped buying oil from Iran in FY19. In the immediate years before the ban, Iran was India's third biggest source of crude oil. In fact, between FY07 to FY09 Iran was the second biggest source after Saudi Arabia. Interestingly, after Iran's exit, India filled the void by importing oil from the U.S., the country which initiated the sanctions. However, in FY23, the U.S.'s share in India's oil imports halved and Russia became the third-biggest source. Russia's share in India's crude oil imports was close to 14% in FY23. Notably, the last time Russia's share was this high was in the late 1980s when it was still part of the Soviet Union. With international crude oil prices soaring, local consumption of petroleum products back to pre-pandemic levels and the U.S. calling for sanctions against Russia, Iran may make a comeback as a major oil partner for India. **By Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Rebecca Rose Varghese**

Crude shock | The chart shows the average crude oil prices (Indian basket) in \$/barrel



1 Share of imports | The table lists the % share of a country in India's total crude oil imports. Iran was the third biggest source before the ban in FY19. Currently, most of India's oil is being imported from Iraq and Saudi Arabia, with Russia's share surging ahead of the U.S.'s. In the table, years are shortened: 88 corresponds to FY1988, 00 is FY2000 and so on

Year	USSR	Iran	Venezuela	Yemen	Egypt	Malaysia	Qatar	Oman	Nigeria	Kuwait	USA	UAE	Russia	Saudi	Iraq	
88	4	4			2	2				5	27		51	5		
89	17	9			3					11	26		25	10		
90	13	16			1	5		1		2	20		33	8		
91	6	17			1	2	5		1	4	7		28	28		
92	10				0	2	6	2		16	15		21	0	26	
93	9				2	2	2	1		24	14		19		28	
94	11				4	4				12	16		27		25	
95	12				1	3				21	19		19		25	
96	13				1	4				28	15		17		22	
97	10				4	4	0			24	15		15		21	4
98	7				4	6				30	14		17		18	4
99	9				3	4	5	1	1	31	12		14		19	2
00	12				6	6	4	3	1	17	13	0	12		24	2
06	13	1	4	1	5	2				15	10		8	0	23	12
07	15	1	3	1	4	0	0	0	12	10			9	0	24	10
08	14	5	1	1	4	2	1	1	11	10	0		12	0	21	11
09	15	3	2	2	2	3	3	9	10				8	1	18	9
10	11	6	2	1	1	3	3	12	9				8	0	18	8
11	8	5	1	2	2	4	3	11	10	0			9		19	14
12	8	8	1	1	1	5	0	9	11	0			9	0	19	13
13	5	10	0	1	1	3	1	9	11				8	0	21	14
14	7	10	0	1	2	3	0	11	10				9	0	19	12
15	6	9	0	1	2	2	0	13	6	0			9	0	21	16
16	11	8		1	3	3	0	11	5	0			9	0	20	16
17	11	7	0	1	2	2	2	9	5	1			8	2	18	19
18	11	7	0	1	2	1	1	8	5	3			8	1	19	20
19	3	6		1	2	1	1	9	5	5			10	1	20	21
20				1	1	2	2	8	5	6			12	1	19	23
21				1	1	1	3	8	6	10			11	2	17	24
22				0	1	1	1	3	7	9			10	2	19	25
23				1	1	1	3	4	5	5			12	14	17	23

■ In the 1990s, Nigeria and Kuwait were major sources of oil.
■ The UAE, which was the second biggest source in the 90s, recorded a decline thereafter. However, lately it has been picking up again.
■ Data were not available between FY01 and FY05

2 Consumption spikes | The table lists the consumption of select petroleum products (in 1,000 metric tonnes) in India

Products	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
LPG	9,309	9,997	10,369	10,993	11,220	11,365
Petrol	10,907	11,798	12,933	9,668	12,109	14,595
Diesel	33,519	34,880	35,523	25,394	30,149	35,142

In FY23, consumption has gone back to pre-pandemic levels. The data pertain to the April-August months of each year

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 16, 1972

Pak. asked to account for 200 Indians

New Delhi, Sept. 15: The Government of India has taken up with Pakistan the question of about 200 Indian nationals captured by Pakistan from areas occupied by it during the December war, but yet to be accounted for by it. The International Committee of the Red Cross has also been requested to get in touch with Islamabad to ascertain the whereabouts and welfare of these Indian nationals. The exchange of civilians captured by India and Pakistan during the December conflict will take place during the next four days at Wagah checkpoint.

According to official sources, Pakistan had captured about 500 Indian nationals, when its army occupied some Indian territories on the western sector and out of them, 300 are being returned on September 16 and 17. While Pakistan is holding back 200 nationals captured by it, India has decided to hand over all the 700 Pakistani civilians captured when the Indian army occupied some Pakistani territories. The repatriation of Pakistani civilian prisoners will take place at Wagah checkpoint on September 18 and 19.

Besides this, Indian nationals who had gone to Pakistan before the conflict on valid travel documents and got stranded there when the hostilities broke out will be allowed to return home. Similarly, Pakistan nationals stranded in India will be free to return home. The proposal for reciprocal action on this question was made by India in February last but Pakistan responded only in August last year.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT 16, 1922

Reparations

Berlin, Sept. 14: It is reported that Government is sending the Governor of the Reichsbank to negotiate with the Bank of England regarding guarantees for reparations treasury bills.

Paris, Sept. 15: An inspired statement is published pointing out that the period of grace to Germany in respect of the payment of the hundred million gold marks, representing sums due in August and September expires to-night. The statement declares that Germany is able to meet the payment, but if it is not fulfilled, Belgium, to whom money is payable, will not fail to notify the Reparations Commission, which will then proclaim Germany's default and the Allies will have to consider the necessary measures to be adopted

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Pay gap

5,000 in ₹, the gap between the monthly earnings of non-SCs and non-STs and the wages of persons from the SC/ST communities, according to a report by Oxfam India. As per the 'India Discrimination Report 2022', which highlights bias in accessing jobs, the mean income for SCs and STs in urban areas, who are regular employees, is ₹15,312 as against ₹20,346 for those belonging to the general category. This means that the general category is earning 33% more than SC/STs. PTI

Death toll in Pak floods

1,486 The death toll in Pakistan floods. Unprecedented floods have submerged huge swathes of Pakistan. Authorities state that hundreds of thousands of people are still sleeping in the open air after the disaster. The deluge, brought by record monsoon rains and the glacial melt in northern mountains, has impacted 33 million people out of a population of 220 million, sweeping away homes, vehicles, crops and livestock in damages estimated at \$30 billion. AGENCIES

Milk procurement

18,000 In ₹ crore, the estimated milk procurement by producer companies, in the next five years, according to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). NDDB Chairman Meenesh Shah said that the milk producer companies procured milk worth ₹5,575 crore last fiscal year and the same is set to triple in the next five years. He also assured that the NDDB through its dairy services will facilitate the setting up of more milk producer companies across the country. PTI

Jewellery exports

6.7 In percentage, the rise in overall gems and jewellery exports in August to ₹26,418 crore compared to the same month last year, according to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). The gems and jewellery exports stood at ₹24,749 crore during August 2021. The GJEPC Chairman said that the cut and polished diamond exports were largely affected due to a slowdown in the Chinese economy caused by ongoing lockdowns in the last two months. The Russia-Ukraine conflict is also affecting diamond exports to some extent. PTI

More aid for Syria

750 In \$ million, the amount of additional aid the U.S. announced on Wednesday for the Syrian people. U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the UN Security Council that the new assistance "will bring immediate relief to millions of refugees and displaced persons.. it will help humanitarian partners provide clean water, food, hygiene and relief supplies, shelter, protection services, and critical health and nutrition assistance, and it will include support for early recovery programs." AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The Eastern Economic Forum and India's balancing act

What are the benefits of investing in the Russian Far East? Which all countries are currently investing in the region?

THE GIST

■ The Eastern Economic Forum was established in 2015 to encourage foreign investments in Russia's Far East. As of 2022, almost 2,729 investment projects are being planned in the region.

■ During the forum, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed the country's readiness in expanding trade, connectivity and investments in Russia. India is keen to deepen its cooperation in energy, pharmaceuticals, maritime connectivity, healthcare, tourism, the diamond industry and the Arctic.

■ India has vested interests in both the EEF and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and has worked towards balancing its involvement. The IPEF is a vital platform for India to strengthen its presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

AVISHKA ASHOK

The story so far: Russia hosted the seventh Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) Vladivostok from September 5 to 8. The four-day forum is a platform for entrepreneurs to expand their businesses into Russia's Far East (RFE).

What is the Eastern Economic Forum? The EEF was established in 2015 to encourage foreign investments in the RFE. The EEF displays the economic potential, suitable business conditions and investment opportunities in the region. Agreements signed at the EEF increased from 217 in 2017 to 380 agreements in 2021, worth 3.6 trillion roubles. As of 2022, almost 2,729 investment projects are being planned in the region. The agreements focus on infrastructure, transportation projects, mineral excavations, construction, industry and agriculture.

Who are the major actors in the Forum? What are their interests?

This year, the Forum aimed at connecting the Far East with the Asia Pacific region. China is the biggest investor in the region as it sees potential in promoting the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative and the Polar Sea Route in the RFE. China's investments in the region account for 90% of the total investments. Russia has been welcoming Chinese investments since 2015; more now than ever due to the economic pressures caused by the war in Ukraine. The Trans-Siberian Railway has further helped Russia and China in advancing trade ties. The countries share a 4000-kilometer-long border, which enables them to tap into each other's resources with some infrastructural assistance. China is also looking to develop its Heilongjiang province which connects with the RFE. China and Russia have invested in a fund to develop northeastern China and the RFE, through collaborations on connecting the cities of Blagoveshchensk and Heihe via a 1,080 metre bridge, supplying natural gas, and a rail bridge connecting the cities of Nizhneleninskoye and Tongjiang.

Besides China, South Korea has also been gradually increasing its investments in the region. South Korea has invested in shipbuilding projects, manufacturing of electrical equipment, gas-liquefying plants,

agricultural production and fisheries. In 2017, the Export-Import Bank of Korea and the Far East Development Fund announced their intention to inject \$2 billion in the RFE in a span of three years.

Japan is another key trading partner in the Far East. In 2017, Japanese investments through 21 projects amounted to \$16 billion. Under Shinzo Abe's leadership, Japan identified eight areas of economic cooperation and pushed private businesses to invest in the development of the RFE. Japan seeks to depend on Russian oil and gas resources after the 2011 meltdown in Fukushima which led the government to pull out of nuclear energy. Japan also sees a market for its agro-technologies which have the potential to flourish in the RFE, given similar climatic conditions. However, the momentum of trade that existed with Shinzo Abe was lost with the leadership of Yoshihide Suga and Fumio Kishida. The trade ties between Japan and Russia are hindered by the Kuril Islands dispute as they are claimed by both countries.

India seeks to expand its influence in the RFE. During the forum, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed the country's readiness in expanding trade, connectivity and investments in Russia. India is keen to deepen its cooperation in energy, pharmaceuticals, maritime connectivity, healthcare, tourism, the diamond industry and the Arctic.

In 2019, India also offered a \$1 billion line of credit to develop infrastructure in the region. Through the EEF, India aims to establish a strong inter-state interaction with Russia. Business representatives of Gujarat and the Republic of Sakha have launched agreements in the diamond and pharmaceuticals industry.

What does the EEF aim for?

The primary objective of the EEF is to increase the Foreign Direct Investments in the RFE. The region encompasses one-third of Russia's territory and is rich with natural resources such as fish, oil, natural gas, wood, diamonds and other minerals. The sparse population living in the region is another factor for encouraging people to move and work in the Far East. The region's riches and resources contribute to five per cent of Russia's GDP. But despite the

abundance and availability of materials, procuring and supplying them is an issue due to the unavailability of personnel.

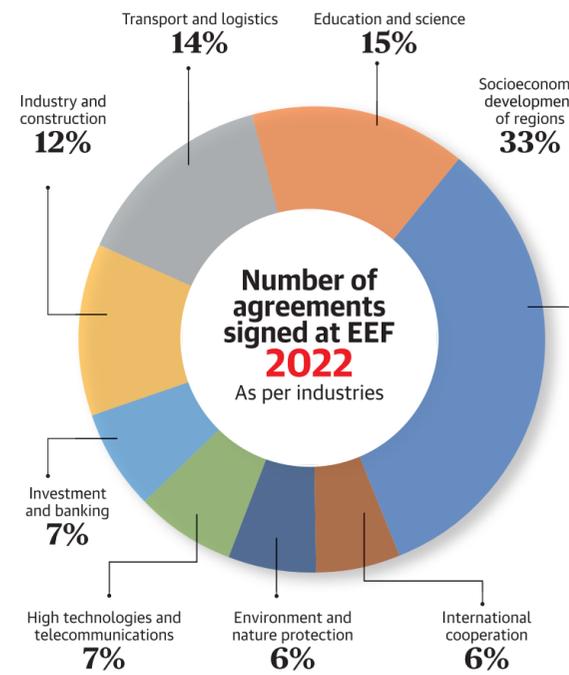
The RFE is geographically placed at a strategic location; acting as a gateway into Asia. The Russian government has strategically developed the region with the aim of connecting Russia to the Asian trading routes. With the fast modernisation of cities like Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Ulan-Ude, Chita and more, the government aims to attract more investments in the region. Russia is trying to attract the Asian economies in investing and developing the far east. The Ukraine war is a worrying issue as it affects the economic growth of the country. However, Russia believes that it can survive the economic crisis and the sanctions with the help of China and other Asian powers.

Although, the EEF is an annual gathering, the forum comes at an opportune time for Russia who is dealing with the impact of the sanctions. Moreover, the coming together of countries like Myanmar, Armenia, Russia, and China seems like the forming of an anti-sanctions group in the international order.

Will India be able to achieve a balance between the EEF and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)?

The U.S.-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) and the EEF are incomparable based on its geographic coverage and the partnership with the host-countries. India has vested interests in both the forums and has worked towards balancing its involvement. India has not shied away from investing in the Russia-initiated EEF despite the current international conditions.

At the same time, India has given its confirmation and acceptance to three of the four pillars in the IPEF. The country understands the benefits of being involved in the development in the RFE but it also perceives the IPEF as a vital platform to strengthen its presence in the Indo-Pacific region. The IPEF also presents an ideal opportunity for India to act in the region, without being part of the China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership or other regional grouping like the



Source: Data from Eastern Economic Forum, forumvostok.ru

Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership .

The IPEF will also play a key role in building resilient supply chains. India's participation in the forum will help in disengaging from supply chains that are dependent on China and will also make it a part of the global supply chain network. Additionally, the IPEF partners will act as new sources of raw material and other essential products, further reducing India's reliance on China for raw materials. Although, Mr. Modi has refrained from full participation in the trade pillar of the IPEF, it does not signify an end to India's role in the forum.

Avishka Ashok is a Research Associate at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore

EXPLAINER

Tamil Nadu's new breakfast scheme in schools

How has the history of the idea of nutrition in school schemes progressed so far?

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

The story so far: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on Thursday, at the Madurai Corporation Primary School Aathimoolam II in Simmakal, Madurai, launched the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme for students of Class I to V in government schools. The scheme covers around 1.14 lakh students in 1,545 schools which include 417 municipal corporation schools, 163 municipality schools and 728 taluk and village panchayat-level schools. A sum of ₹33.56 crore has been set apart for the scheme. The inauguration of the scheme marks an important milestone in the State's history of providing free meals to school students.

How has the idea evolved?

In November 1920, the Madras (now Chennai) Corporation Council approved a proposal for providing tiffin to the students of a Corporation School at Thousand Lights at a cost not exceeding one anna per student per day. P. Theagaraya Chetty, the then President of the Corporation (the modern-day equivalent of Mayor) and one of the stalwarts of the Justice Party, said the boys studying at the school were poor, which affected the strength of the institution 'greatly'. The scheme, which

was extended to four more schools and facilitated higher enrollment of students, suffered a setback in 1925 when the British government disallowed the expenditure on the supply of mid-day meals to students from the Elementary Education Fund. It was revived two years later, benefitting around 1,000 poor students in 25 schools.

The concept saw a State-wide application in 1956 when the then Chief Minister K. Kamaraj decided to provide free noon meal to poor children in all primary schools across the State. The Budget for 1956-57 contained a provision for supplying mid-day meals to schoolchildren for 200 days a year, initially covering 65,000 students in 1,300 feeding centres.

In July 1982, it was left to the then Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran to extend the programme to children in the 2-5 age group in Anganwadis and those in 5-9 age group in primary schools in rural areas. Subsequently, the scheme – now called Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme – was extended to urban areas as well. Since September 1984, students of standards VI to X have been covered under the scheme.

Over the years, there have been improvements to the programme. M.



The inauguration of the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme. ■ ASHOK. R

Karunanidhi, as Chief Minister during the short-lived Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Ministry (1989-91), introduced the provision of boiled eggs once every fortnight, starting June 1989. His successor, Jayalalithaa, in March 2013, extended the scheme by including variety meals along with masala eggs as per the children's choice.

What are the number of beneficiaries of the programme? As of now, there are nearly 46.7 lakh

beneficiaries spread over 43,190 nutritious meal centres. This includes around 3,500 students of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) special schools. The State budget for 2022-23 has provided around ₹2,077 crore for the nutritious meal programme.

Besides, as a consequence of the collaborative implementation of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and the nutritious meal programme, around 15.8 lakh children in the age group of 2+ to 5+ years receive nutritious meals.

What was the impact of the mid-day meal scheme on school education?

After the improved version of the mid-day meal scheme in 1982, the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) at primary level (standards I to V) went up by 10% during July-September, 1982 as compared to the corresponding period in 1981.

The rise in boys' enrollment was 12% and in the case of girls, 7%, according to a publication brought out by the Tamil Nadu government on the occasion of the launch of the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme.

Likewise, attendance during July-September 1982 rose by 33% over the previous year's figure.

Kamaraj - An Era (2008), a biography

authored by senior Congress functionary A. Gopanna, states that after the inauguration of the mid-day meal scheme in 1956, the number of primary schools went up from 15,800 in 1957 to 29,000 in 1962.

Where should the programme focus more?

Anaemia is a major health problem in Tamil Nadu, especially among women and children, says the 2019-21 National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5's report. From 50% during the period of the 2015-16 NFHS-4, the prevalence of anaemia in children now went up to 57%. This and many other health issues can be addressed through the combined efforts of the departments of School Education, Public Health and Social Welfare and Women Empowerment.

Based on expert advice, those in charge of the implementation of the ICDS and the nutritious meal programme can enhance the component of nutrition to those children having specific problems. The latest Breakfast Scheme is a step in this direction.

Besides, a continuous and rigorous review of the progress of the scheme and nutritious meal programme should be carried out in a sustained manner, says a senior government official.

THE GIST

■ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on Thursday, at the Madurai Corporation Primary School Aathimoolam II in Simmakal, Madurai, launched the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme for students of Class I to V in government schools.

■ Anaemia is a major health problem in Tamil Nadu, especially among women and children, says the 2019-21 National Family Health Survey-5's report. Those in charge of the meal programme can enhance the component of nutrition to those children having specific problems. The latest Breakfast Scheme is a step in this direction.

■ As of now, there are nearly 46.7 lakh beneficiaries spread over 43,190 nutritious meal centres.



A scene from *Asuran* (2019).

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Waking up to the writer

Writing and screenwriting are two different professions and have to be treated that way

THE GIST

There has been a long-standing battle in the Tamil industry to marry literature and cinema. Film adaptations of popular novels — such as Jayakanthan's *Sila Nerangalil Sila Manithargal* or Pudhumaipithan's *Chitrannai* — did not translate into more writers coming in.

There is often a misconception about writing for cinema. A lyrical masterpiece may not necessarily work for cinema. That is why when filmmakers rue over the need for more writers, the argument holds very little water for the simple reason that not all writers qualify as 'screenwriters'. What usually goes for pages in a novel comes to just about a few minutes in films.

It is hard to find a writer who knows and appreciates cinema as a form, while at the same time possessing the gift of the mighty pen.

SRIVATSAN. S

There has been a long-standing battle to marry literature and cinema. This has been a beef in Tamil cinema for decades for the simple reason that it did not have a parallel cinema movement as opposed to the neighbouring States of Kerala and West Bengal. Nor did it nurture the idea of a film society movement. This 'invisible wall' so to say, made it even more difficult for the crossover to happen. Very few have succeeded in bringing about a bridge between these two artforms. Film adaptations of popular novels — such as Jayakanthan's *Sila Nerangalil Sila Manithargal* or Pudhumaipithan's *Chitrannai* — did not translate into more writers coming in. Novelists simply stayed away from films. So much so that Kamal Haasan recalls in an interview how he literally forced the celebrated Tamil writer Sujatha (S. Rangarajan) to write for cinema. Their first and only collaboration was *Vikram* (1986).

The art of screenwriting

Screenwriters with a successful track record — like Salim-Javed in Bollywood — have been far and few in between. Sure there have been successful phases in Tamil cinema: MGR-M. Karunanidhi, the two pillars of the Dravidian movement, were a success story. As were Sivaji Ganesan and Vietnam Veedu Sundaram. C. V. Sridhar often wrote films with his friend Chitralaya Gopu. Then came the Rajini-Kamal era: K Balachander had Ananthu by his side, while Bharathiraja had K. Bhagyaraj. But two of the most influential screenwriting collaborations have come from Kamal Haasan and 'Crazy' Mohan, and Shankar and Sujatha.

There is often a misconception about writing for cinema, as the language that cinema speaks is not literature. A lyrical masterpiece may not

necessarily work for cinema. One never knows what will work. In a recent interview, writer B. Jeyamohan discussed how he and Mani Ratnam saw the potential for a lengthy scene from a short piece of text while brainstorming for *Ponniyin Selvan*.

Particularly in the last decade, veteran Tamil-Malayalam author B. Jeyamohan has emerged as one of the important literary voices operating in mainstream Tamil cinema space

That is why when filmmakers often rue over the need for more writers, the argument holds very little water for the simple reason that not all writers qualify as 'screenwriters'. What usually goes for pages in a novel comes to just about a few minutes in films. Writing and screenwriting are two different professions and have to be treated that way.

The need for 'cinema' writers

It is in this context we need to acknowledge the towering contribution of Sujatha. It has been said about Sujatha's works that he was an accessible writer and that truly reflected in the films he wrote for Shankar (*Indian, Mudhalvan, Sivaji: The Boss and Enthiran*) and Mani Ratnam (*Kannathil Muthamittal* and *Aayutha Ezhuthu*). Not just Sujatha but Balakumaran too, who has written dialogues for classics such as *Nayakan, Guna, Baasha* and *Pudhupettai*, ushered in an easiness to film writing. Having said that, it is even harder to find a writer who knows and appreciates cinema as a form, while at the same time possessing the gift of the mighty pen.

Which is why what Vetri Maaran does is

perhaps a wonder. To give an example, the filmmaker famously said during the release of his blockbuster *Asuran* (2019), adapted from *Vekka*, that people who have read writer Poomani's novel might not end up liking the film. Because what *Asuran* was on screen was not Poomani's *Vekka*. Vetri had taken somebody else's written material and made it his own.

Particularly in the last decade, veteran Tamil-Malayalam author B. Jeyamohan has emerged as one of the important literary voices operating in mainstream Tamil cinema space, in the post Sujatha-era. The position Jeyamohan occupies today is rather delicate. Starting from Bala's *Naan Kadavul* (2009), based on his novel *Yezhaam Ulagam*, Jeyamohan has mostly been a dialogue writer in films such as *Neerparavai* (2012), *Papanasam* (2015) and *Sarkar* (2018) to name a few. The first screenplay he wrote was with Mani Ratnam for *Kadal* (2013), followed by *Kaaviya Thalaivan* (2014) and *2.0* (2018) — all of which were marred by mixed reviews and box-office figures. It is interesting that three upcoming biggies — *Vendhu Thaniadathu Kaadu* (VTK), *Ponniyin Selvan* (PS) and *Viduthalai* — have Jeyamohan in common. It's as if Tamil cinema has suddenly woken up to the writer. Based on his short story, Jeyamohan has written VTK with Gautham Menon, while PS has dialogues by him. Vetri Maaran's *Viduthalai* too is based on his short story.

The box-office success of the aforementioned films remains crucial for Jeyamohan, more so for Tamil cinema. If they are a success story, then it will give birth to a new beginning in Tamil cinema, ensuring that this cross-pollination is here to stay. In the case of an anti-climax, it remains to be seen if the gap between Tamil cinema and literature would widen further.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"How do you use 'look up', sir?"

"You know its literal meaning, don't you?"

Don't put your head down. Please look up.

'Look up' has several figurative meanings. One is 'to improve in price or prosperity'. When your business is bad and, after some time, it gets better, you say 'My business is looking up', 'automobile shares are looking up'. 'Look up' also means 'to search for a word in a dictionary, facts in a book of reference, etc'.

You don't know the meaning of 'phobia'? Look up the word in the dictionary. If you want to know more about the word, look up a good encyclopedia.

Could you please look up this number in the telephone directory?

Please look up Krishna Express in the railway guide.

A third meaning is 'to pay a call or visit'.

Next time I come to Madras, I will look you up.

I looked up my friend at his office.

If possible, I'll look her up on my way back.

"What is the meaning 'I haven't a clue to what's going on', sir?"

"It means 'I don't know what is going on or I don't understand what's going on'. A clue is 'a fact, or object that helps to solve a mystery or problem'.

The police didn't get any clue to the theft.

'Clue in' means 'to provide with the necessary information.

Please clue me in on what really happened.

This is used in informal contexts. 'Clueless' in British English means 'stupid or ignorant'.

I am clueless about sailing.

I am clueless about gardening.

"What's the difference between 'understand' and 'comprehend', sir?"

"When I say that I understand a person, I mean that I have a fairly clear idea of that particular person. 'Understanding' means a fairly good knowledge of the person or the thing concerned. 'Comprehend' means to understand something in all its aspects. You can understand something without comprehending it. When you comprehend something, you understand it fully, minutely. You understand men and things. You comprehend ideas, principles. You don't say 'I can't comprehend him'. But you can say 'I am not able to comprehend his ideas'. You can understand a poem without being able to comprehend it. To comprehend is more difficult than to understand. Comprehension is more intellectual. Do you understand?"

"Yes, sir. But I can't say that I have comprehended the difference."

"Anyway you understand the difference. That's good. Let us stop here. Goodbye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme was launched in Tamil Nadu by M.K. Stalin on September 15. Tamil Nadu is also the pioneer of the midday meal scheme, arguably among the best government interventions which links food and nutrition to education and development. How much do you know about this scheme?

1 On November 17, 1920, the Chennai Corporation Council approved a proposal to provide tiffin to the students of a corporation school at a subsidised cost. This was expanded to four schools but discontinued five years later. Who was the man responsible for this?

2 Which Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is the midday meal in the State named after?

3 A human rights body founded by Jayaprakash Narayan argued in the Supreme Court about the right to food. This case was

decided in 2001 and midday meals were mandated to be provided by every State and U.T. Which body was this?

4 Recently, the midday meal scheme, which provides one hot cooked meal to students of Classes 1-8 in government and government-aided schools, was revamped to include pre-primary classes too. It was also renamed. What is the scheme called today?

5 How much nutrition in calories are primary and upper primary children supposed to get according to the scheme?



◀ This man, a prominent anti-caste activist in the Madras Presidency, began a famous newspaper which he ran until his death. M.K. Stalin said that the midday meal scheme rose from this man's Buddhist thoughts. Who is this man?

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

- Questions (abridged) and Answers of the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The metro stations named after Sir MV. **Ans: Sir M. Visveshwaraya Station, Central College, Bengaluru; Sir Vishveshwaraiah Moti Bagh, New Delhi**
2. The freedom fighter who wrote to Sir MV saying that they hold diametrically opposite views. **Ans: Mahatma Gandhi**
3. Name the two reservoirs Sir MV helped build after a flood that occurred in 1908. **Ans: Osman Sagar, Himayat Sagar, Hyderabad**
4. The two waterfalls that power India's first hydroelectric power station. **Ans: Bharuchukki Falls, Gaganachukki Falls**
5. The type of gate installed at the Khadakvasla Reservoir and KRS Dam. **Ans: Automatic gates**
6. The name of this educational institution. **Ans: Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi, Jnana Sangama**

Early Birds: Varghese Joseph | Shoury Patil

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

FROM PAGE ONE

Goa Cong. Legislature Party merges with BJP

"This is a sad day for the Congress as well as for Goa... the BJP is practising this *modus operandi* everywhere. Where are such massive amounts of money coming from? They are brazenly misusing the power by breaking elected representatives from other parties," said Mr. Rao, who reached the coastal State for damage assessment on Thursday.

Conspiracy to split

Calangute MLA Michael Lobo had been named the Leader of Opposition after the Assembly election result in February, but was swiftly

removed from the post after the party leadership found him conspiring along with Digambar Kamat to split the Congress in coordination with the ruling BJP.

Goa Pradesh Congress Committee chief Amit Patkar revealed that one of the MLA who had defected had allegedly been approached with ₹30 crore in cash.

Stressing that the remaining three MLAs of the Congress would take up people's issues, Mr. Rao, alluding to the defections, said that the "second round of garbage" had left the Congress.

Hemant Soren wants clarity from Governor

Earlier, when BJP leaders had petitioned Mr. Bais seeking Mr. Soren's "disqualification" from the Assembly in the office-of-profit case, the ECI had reportedly sent its decision to the Governor on August 25, which sparked a political row in the State. BJP leaders had accused Mr. Soren of awarding the lease of a stone chips mine in his and his younger brother Basant Soren's name in 2019, at a time when was holding the post of the State's Mines Minister in a "clear violation" under Section 9(A) of the Representation of People's Act,

1951. Mr. Soren in a strong rebuttal has said the lease of the mine was given to him in 2008 and was to be renewed after 10 years, in 2019.

On September 1, a group of UPA leaders submitted a memorandum to the Governor, requesting him to clear the air over Mr. Soren's "disqualification". Mr. Soren later won a trust vote in the Assembly, with 48 MLAs supporting his government.

The ruling coalition UPA has the support of 49 MLAs in the 81-member Assembly. The Opposition BJP has 26 MLAs.

CM launches Breakfast Scheme in Tamil Nadu

The schoolchildren sat alongside the Chief Minister and broke their fast with a serving of vegetable *rava kichidi*, *rava kesari* and *sambar* - the menu for Thursdays.

The significant breakfast scheme has been rolled out after 102 years, when P. Theagaraya Chetty, the then President of the Corporation (Mayor) of the Justice Party approved the proposal to provide tiffin to students of a Corporation School at Thousand Lights, Chennai, Mr. Stalin said.

The scheme, in due course, was improved upon

by former Chief Minister K. Kamaraj, who introduced mid-day meals for government primary schools, followed by former Chief Ministers M. G. Ramachandran, M. Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa, who extended the programme's coverage to anganwadis, he said.

Mr. Stalin urged authorities to serve children with utmost care and treat them as their own while he asked students to focus on their academics and to reach higher positions in life.

(With inputs from Chennai)

'Aim is conciliation with all armed groups in N-E'

"About 60% of Assam is now free from the AFSPA. In Manipur, 15 police stations in six districts were taken out of the periphery of the disturbed area. In Arunachal Pradesh, the AFSPA remains in only three districts and two police stations in one district. In Nagaland, the disturbed area notification was removed from 15 police stations in seven districts and in Tripura and Meghalaya, the AFSPA was withdrawn completely," the Minister said.

The Home Ministry said that as per the agreement, the eight tribal groups had

consented to abandon armed group violence, to follow the rule of law established by the Constitution and join the peaceful democratic process.

Mr. Shah said the major provisions of the agreement included fulfilling political, economic, and educational aspirations and protecting, preserving, and promoting social, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic identities.

A special development package of ₹1,000 crore would be provided over a period of five years for infrastructure development in Adivasi-populated areas.

Delay in PMAY-G scheme to invite penalty

The circular has specified that no penalty would be imposed if the central funds are not available with the State.

Out of the remaining 93 lakh houses, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal are the biggest offenders. The Union Government is yet to release funds for 12 lakh houses in Chhattisgarh and 11 lakh houses in West Bengal. Funds to both these States for this financial year were withheld for various lapses.

In case of West Bengal, after complaints from the BJP MPs from the State against the Mamata Banerjee go-

vernment's move to repack the scheme as *Bangla Awas Yojana* and other procedural gaps, the Union Government had withheld funds due to pending response from the State government. The decision to release the funds now lies with Union Minister Giriraj Singh.

Among other States, Assam has not sanctioned seven lakh houses and Odisha has not sanctioned nine lakh houses. Maharashtra with 2.5 lakh houses and Bihar with two lakh houses are also among top offenders.

Nothing to hide in Congress presidential poll, says Mistry

New president can appoint State chiefs as per the resolutions by PCC delegates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The entire process to elect a new Congress president is and will always be "open" and the party has nothing to hide, chairman of the party's Central Election Authority, Madhusudan Mistry, said on Thursday.

Mr. Mistry also clarified that the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates will pass resolutions authorising the new Congress president to appoint the party's State chiefs and All India Congress Committee (AICC) delegates, and these resolutions will have no bearing on the polls to elect the party's president.

The clarification came after a section of the media reported that the PCCs would authorise the Gandhis to



Madhusudan Mistry displays an identification card and a list of PCC delegates, at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi. •PTI

pick a new party chief.

"The Pradesh Returning Officers will call a meeting of PCC delegates, where they will pass resolutions to authorise the incoming president to appoint PCC presidents and AICC delegates," Mr. Mistry said, adding, "This process will have no bearing on the election of the new

Congress president."

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, Mr. Mistry reiterated that those seeking to file nominations for the post of AICC president and seeking the support of 10 PCC delegates from different States to sign on their form can see the list of the over 9,000 de-

legates at the AICC's Central Election Authority's office from September 20.

Alternatively, they can check if the person concerned has a QR code-bearing identification card, he said.

The election to the post of Congress president will be carried out by over 9,000 PCC delegates. With the passing of the resolutions by the PCC delegates, the new president will then be able to appoint new PCC or State unit chiefs and AICC delegates.

The AICC delegates, in turn, can elect members to the Congress Working Committee (CWC).

He noted that if there is a consensus on the names of 23 members, then polls may not be required.

CPI hits out at Cong. govt. for ban on Sukma march

'When Rahul is on a yatra, why not us?'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (CPI) strongly criticised the Congress government in Chhattisgarh for refusing permission for a 100-km padayatra from Silger to Sukma, to be organised by the party in solidarity with the tribal community protesting against alleged police atrocities.

Calling the move "highly undemocratic", the party sought to remind the Congress that its own Bharat Jodo Yatra was currently passing through Kerala, ruled by the Left parties.

In a statement, the National Secretariat of the CPI said, "The Chhattisgarh government's action is unconstitutional. Suppression of democratic movement is

the reason for people to adopt non-democratic methods of resistance, which is not in the interests of progress and development." The party urged the Bhupesh Baghel government to revoke its decision.

Protest against firing

The tribal community in Silger has been holding a long-drawn protest seeking action against police officials involved in the firing of May 17 last year that killed three villagers, who were protesting against a new security camp. It also wants the government to set up schools and hospitals in Bastar rather than security camps.

"We must remind that Rahul Gandhi is on a padayatra but a CPI yatra is not allowed," the CPI said.

Why can't economic criteria be used for quota, asks SC

Constitution Bench hearing petitions against amendment

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

What is "so principally, so fundamentally wrong" in singling out economic criterion for grant of reservation, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lallit asked on its third day of hearing petitions challenging the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which introduced 10% quota for 'economically weaker sections' (EWS) of society.

"What is so principally, so fundamentally wrong in singling out an economic criterion for reservation? Is it that they do not belong to a homogenous group? Is it

cast in stone that they [beneficiaries of reservation] should belong to a homogenous group? Why cannot economic criterion be a ground for the state's affirmative action?" Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, on the Constitution Bench, asked advocate Shadan Farasat, who is appearing for a petitioner, on Thursday.

'Affirmative action'

Mr. Farasat replied that "affirmative action" could take form of a whole range of measures like money transfers of ₹6,000 to farmers.

"There are other affirmative actions which can address the problem of econo-

my, but not necessarily reservation. Reservation was a way for reparation for the Backward Classes. It was the most assertive, the most aggressive way of affirmative action. Reservation was not meant to address any problem, but a specific problem - to bring Backward Classes to the mainstream by giving them access to education, government jobs," Mr. Farasat answered.

"The Amendment, by excluding the Backward Classes from the ambit of the EWS quota, betrays the actual intent to serve as a quota for middle class members of the forward castes," Mr. Farasat argued.

Plea to raise retirement age of judges

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Advocates' bodies, including the Bar Council of India (BCI), have resolved to push forward with a demand to enhance the retirement age of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

The BCI, its counterparts in the States, High Courts' Bar Associations intend to communicate their resolution to the Prime Minister and Union Law Minister. A press statement said the advocates' bodies unanimously came to the conclusion that amendments should be made to raise the age of HC judges' from 62 to 65 and that of SC judges' from the 65 to 67 years.

Pratap Pawar elected chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations

Srinivasan K. Swamy was elected Deputy Chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Sakal Media Private Ltd. chairman Pratap Pawar has been unanimously elected Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2022-2023.

Mr. Pawar, a Padma Shri awardee, is former president of The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture, Pune and he is on the Board of several organisations, a press release said on Thursday.

Chairman and Managing Director of R.K. Swamy Pvt Ltd, Srinivasan K. Swamy, who has been the Advertising Agency Member on the Council, was unanimously

elected Deputy Chairman of the Bureau.

Besides 16 members who are representatives from publishers and advertisers were named members of the Bureau's Council of Management.

Sakal Papers Pvt. Ltd.'s Pratap G. Pawar (Chairman), Malayala Manorama Co. Ltd.'s Riyad Mathew (Honorary Secretary), The Bombay Samachar Pvt. Ltd.'s Hormusji N. Cama, Jagran Prakashan Ltd.'s Shailesh Gupta, HT Media Ltd.'s Praveen Someshwar, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.'s Mohit Jain, ABP Pvt. Ltd.'s Dhruva Mukherjee, Lokmat Media Pvt. Ltd.'s Karan Darda are pu-

blishers' representatives.

R.K. Swamy Pvt. Ltd.'s Srinivasan K Swamy (Deputy Chairman), Madison Communications Pvt. Ltd.'s Vikram Sakhujia (Honorary Treasurer), IPG Media Brands, Media Brands Pvt. Ltd.'s Shashidhar Sinha, Group M. Media India Private Ltd.'s Prasanth Kumar are representatives of advertising agencies.

United Breweries Ltd.'s Debabrata Mukherjee, ITC Ltd.'s Karunesh Bajaj, TVS Motor Company Ltd.'s Aniruddha Haldar and Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.'s Shashank Srivastava are representatives of advertisers, said the release.

Shun militancy, says Azad at Kashmir rally

'J&K shouldn't see deaths any more'

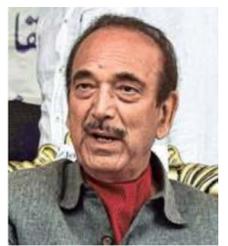
PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and ex-Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday addressed a rally in volatile south Kashmir and appealed to people to "shun militancy and guns".

"Those nations - from Afghanistan to Iraq to Palestine - that took to guns and militancy saw nothing but destruction. Generations were lost. I don't want J&K to witness more bodies of our boys on the streets. Our boys were killed by militants and many died in encounters," he said, while addressing supporters in Anantnag.

Mr. Azad, who is touring J&K ahead of the launch of his party, reiterated that he would not play with religious emotions and win elections.

"Azaadi [independence]



Ghulam Nabi Azad

could not be achieved. Many elections were fought on autonomy and self-rule. Nothing fruitful came out except dead bodies. Why should I raise such slogans?" he added.

Meanwhile, Mr. Azad claimed that militants had threatened to kill him. "In a threat letter, it was said that I met Union Home Minister Amit Shah before visiting J&K. It's wrong as I did not meet him," he said.

Allahabad HC rejects AMU students' pleas on police action

'Students enter universities for the purpose of education'

ISHITA MISHRA
NEW DELHI

The Bench of Chief Justice of Allahabad HC and Justice J.J. Munir dismissed a bunch of petitions filed expressing concerns regarding the anti-CAA protest that took at the campus of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) followed by the police's actions on protesters.

The court observed that students enter universities or any educational institution for the purpose of education and not indulge in activities which bring a bad name to great educational institutions.

The court ordered the administration of the AMU to establish a mechanism for better communication with



peacefully protesting, and the police provoked and later cane-charged them.

The HC, in January 2020 had ordered an inquiry in the matter which was done by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The inquiry had to be done both on the students' claims and the police's action.

According to the court order whose copy is with *The Hindu*, the dismissal of multiple pleas came after reviewing of the report of the NHRC which had criticized students' as well as the police's action. It also had several recommendations for both State and the institution.

"Nothing survives in the petitions. Dismissed," the court stated.

the students' fraternity so that they are not influenced by outsiders. It maintained that communication channels should always remain open with students.

The matter pertains to a protest that was held at AMU on December 15, 2019, in which the petitioners claimed that students were

Prominent madrasa in U.P. surveyed by officials

Islamic institute was established in 1898

STAFF REPORTER
LUCKNOW

A team of officials from the Lucknow district administration conducted a survey at the famous Muslim seminary, Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, in the capital on Thursday. The visit is in line with the orders of the State government to conduct surveys of all madrasas in Uttar Pradesh.

The team collected information as per a 12-point proforma, including the names and details of the organisations running the seminary, number of students, the source of funding, the year of establishment, course curriculum and facilities provided/available, among other details.



Officials during a survey at Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama on Thursday. •PTI

Established in 1898, Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama is one of the oldest Islamic seminaries in India.

Mohammad Rabey Hasani Nadwi, the president of All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), one of the leading bodies of Muslims in India, is also the chancellor of Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama.

Yatra started to break govt.'s silence: Congress

Why is govt. silent on inflation: Jairam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday attacked the Centre over the wholesale price-based inflation remaining in double digits for 17 months, and said the Bharat Jodo Yatra has started to break the government's silence on inflation.

The wholesale price-based inflation eased to a 11-month low of 12.41% in August, on softening in prices of manufactured and fuel products, even as food items remained expensive.

Although the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation declined for three consecutive months in August, it remained in double digit for 17 months beginning April last year. The in-



Jairam Ramesh

flation was 13.93% in July and 11.64% in August last year.

"Why is the Modi govt. silent on inflation?" Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet. "Bharat Jodo Yatra has been started to break this silence," Mr. Ramesh said.

'Breakfast scheme should not be counted as freebie, charity or gift'

Students learn comfortably and with enthusiasm once hunger is satiated



M.K. STALIN

After assuming the office of Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu by swearing "I, Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin" last year, I feel, Thursday's inauguration of the Breakfast Scheme for students of classes I to V, will remain in the golden pages of history and bring a positive change in the lives of my people.

We have enabled the schoolchildren to get their breakfast before attending their classes. The 'Athimoolam' (root cause) of the problems faced by the suppressed and marginalised people in the society must be

identified and suitable remedies be provided. That is why, we have launched this scheme in Athimoolam Primary School, Madurai. It is a coincidence that the school is located in Keezh Anna Thoppu. I am proud to be one of Anna's (former CM Annadurai) younger brothers to have started this scheme on his birth anniversary. Exactly, 102 years ago, on September 16, one of the leaders of the Justice Party, Sir Pitti Thigarayar passed a resolution to introduce mid-day meal scheme for children in Chennai Corporation. After a century, the breakfast programme is being launched.

Breakfast Schemes in schools have been implemented in many states of United States of America by the Department of Agriculture.



Nutritional boost: The mid-day meal scheme was started in Tamil Nadu in 1956. ■ FILE PHOTO

Such schemes have been introduced in European countries, particularly in France three years ago. Research shows that providing breakfast in schools improves the learning ability of students and increases attendance. Analysts say the demand for breakfast schemes has increased after the COVID-19 pandemic. I am ready to make any sacrifice to alleviate the poverty of the Tamil community and hunger of

the children. Now I see the joy on the faces of children as they get their breakfast. I have no words to explain my happiness.

The Dravidian movement was established to ensure children belonging to poor and suppressed families should not be prevented from going to school. That is why the doctrine of Self-respect and Social Justice were coined. Communal reservation was brought as Thanthai

Periyar (E.V. Ramasamy), Perarigan Anna (Annadurai) and Muthamizh Aringar (M. Karunanidhi) thought neither poverty nor caste should be a hindrance to one's education. I am overwhelmed that I, the follower of their path, have come to a position to fulfil their dreams and have implemented it.

No starvation
We believe the children of Tamil Nadu should not starve at any cost. 'Ayodhidas Pandithar' (a Dalit icon) was the first to express the noble intention of providing food to schoolchildren along with education. In the early period of 1900, he sowed the seed for the idea of providing mid-day meals in the Olcott Memorial schools in Chennai region. A few months before India's independence, the meal scheme was discontinued by the British government citing financial crisis. The mid-day meal scheme

was started in 1956 when Perunthalaivar Kamarajar was the Chief Minister. Then Director of Public Education N.T.Sundaravadivelu, an ardent follower of Periyar, was the one who implemented it despite strong opposition from some officials. To enhance this scheme, in 1971, Chief Minister Karunanidhi took charge of the Nutritional Meals Programme. He made it a grand movement by providing nutritional meals to children and pregnant mothers. He offered nutrient-rich bread to children (aged up to 3 years in municipalities around Chennai). In 1975, he launched an Integrated Nutritional Programme across the state.

'Makkal Tilagam' M.G. Ramachandran, as Chief Minister, took great efforts to expand it setting up more centres and allotted more funds. In 1989, Karunanidhi added egg in the nutritious

meal; he also added chickpeas, green gram and boiled potatoes. In 2010, he extended eggs for five days a week and provided bananas to those who do not prefer eggs. Former Chief Minister Jayalalitha Amma ordered the provision of variety rice during her regime.

When I attended a programme at a school in Chennai, I asked a few children if they'd had their breakfast. They replied 'no'. Later, when I consulted the authorities, they said that many children come to school skipping breakfast. I thought no child should attend classes with empty stomach. Under the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme, 1.14 lakh children from 1,545 schools will benefit at a cost of ₹12.75 per day / per child. I quote the 'cost' in administrative terminology. In fact it is not an expenditure; it is the duty of our government! We will progressively expand this project

and take all steps expeditiously for its implementation to the fullest. Such schemes should not be counted as freebies, charity, gift or privilege. This is the bounden duty and responsibility of the government!

Students learn comfortably once hunger is satiated. They grasp easily and attend the school with enthusiasm. There will be a regular attendance in schools. Tamil Nadu will have a great educational ratio. If a person who benefits from this scheme occupies the highest position later, the benefits to the society remains immeasurable. For me, the schemes devised for education, medicine and the mitigation of hunger stand beyond criticism. These schemes form a face of governance. I request the people to measure the success of the government only with such schemes.

(M.K. Stalin is the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu)

Law Minister presses for fast track courts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Law Minister Kiren Rijju has written to the Chief Justices of High Courts to accelerate the process of setting up fast track courts (FTC) and fast track special courts (FTSC) in their respective States to hear cases of heinous crimes against women, children and senior citizens.

In the letter, dated September 2, Mr. Rijju noted that of the 1,800 FTCs recommended by the 14th Finance Commission, only 896 were functional as of July 31 and more than 13.18 lakh cases were pending in these courts.

He said that more than 3.28 lakh cases were pending in the FTSCs, which was "an alarming situation". His letter to the Chief Justices of High Courts followed a detailed review of the FTCs and FTSCs.

Modi in Samarkand for Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting

Narendra Modi will meet Xi Jinping for the first time since the LAC stand-off

SUHASINI HAIDAR
SAMARKAND

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Samarkand late on Thursday evening, just ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Head of States meeting, where he will come face-to-face with Chinese President Xi Jinping for the first time since the April 2020 LAC stand-off, as well as Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Mr. Modi was the last of the eight SCO members to arrive in Samarkand and missed both the pre-summit dinner hosted by Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and tree planting that all the leaders undertook, leading to speculation that Mr. Modi's late arrival was meant to avoid any



Late arrival: Narendra Modi was the last of eight leaders of SCO member countries to arrive in Samarkand. ■ PTI

inconvenient "photo-ops" while India's relationship with China and Pakistan remain tense.

Mr. Modi's absence was felt particularly as other leaders held a number of bilateral meetings on Thursday, including a highly anticipated meeting between

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin for the first time since the war in Ukraine began.

On Friday, PM Modi will hold three bilateral meetings, with Mr. Putin, Mr. Mirziyoyev and Mr. Raisi, the MEA confirmed.

No separate domicile for a State, says SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

State reorganisation laws cannot curtail a citizen's right to reside and settle in any part of the country, the Supreme Court has held in a judgment.

A Bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and V. Ramasubramanian observed that "there is only one domicile, that is, the domicile of the country and there is no separate domicile for a State".

"Every part of every State is an integral and inseparable part of India," Justice Banerjee, who authored the judgment, wrote.

The Bench was dealing with an appeal filed by Telangana against a High Court decision upholding an Animal Husbandry department officer's claim to be posted in Telangana and not Andhra Pradesh, post the bifurcation of the State.

Former bureaucrats seek action against AAP

They send complaint to poll panel chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over 50 retired bureaucrats on Thursday wrote to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar seeking action against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleging that AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal had induced public servants to work for the party during a press conference in Gujarat on September 3.

The letter, sent by retired IAS officer M. Madan Gopal and signed by 56 former IAS, IFS and other services' officers, said the AAP leader's statements were in violation of Order 16A of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 and asked for the AAP's recognition under the same to be withdrawn.

"A perusal of live stream of the press conference reveals that while addressing the press, Mr. Kejriwal re-

peatedly induced public servants of the State of Gujarat to work in tandem with the AAP to ensure its victory in the State elections that are to be conducted in the subsequent months. Mr. Kejriwal called upon public servants to aid the AAP in the upcoming State elections," the letter said.

"We emphatically state that through his comments, Mr. Kejriwal has attempted to persuade public servants to act in contravention with the principles and ethics by which they are governed and to act as agents for the AAP in the upcoming elections," the letter said.

The ex-bureaucrats noted that the Representation of the People Act, 1951 barred corrupt practices such as use of government machinery and undue influence to interfere with free exercise of electoral rights.

Rival Naga extremist groups fresh reconciliation pact

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Rival Naga extremist groups have refreshed a 13-year-old reconciliation treaty to "move forward" together for an honourable solution to the 'Naga political issue'.

The issue pertains to the peace deal signed between the Centre and the National Socialist Council of Nagalim or the NSCN (Isak-Muivah) and the Naga National Political Groups (NPPGs) comprising seven other organisations, including the factions of the Myanmar-based Khaplang group.

On September 14, the NSCN (I-M) represented by retired General V.S. Atem and the NPPGs represented by Alezo Venuh signed a document reaffirming the Covenant of Reconciliation of June 13, 2009, in the first meeting facilitated by the Forum for Naga Reconciliation after eight years.

The meeting was held at Chumoukediema near Dimapur, Nagaland's commercial hub.

The NSCN, formed in 1980, had violently split into the I-M and K factions in 1988.

"We renew to work together in the spirit of love and desist from all forms of armed violence and refrain from indulging in violence of words through print and social media among Naga political groups and the general public. From this time forth, in order to chart a path forward, we remain committed to peace and respect and to resolve outstanding issues among us," the September 14 declaration read.

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
Coimbatore - 641 003, Tamil Nadu, India. Ph: 084-42618201 Fax: 084-42343192. Email: registrar@tnau.ac.in Website: www.tnau.ac.in www.agnotech.tnau.ac.in

TENDER NOTICE
No. NDB/DOE/TENDER/CW/2022/CBE/PNLR/TPR/SEPTEMBER/2022

For and on behalf of the Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore e-tenders are invited online. All the details are available in the website www.tenders.tnau.ac.in and tender notice is available in www.tnau.ac.in from 16.09.2022 at 10.00 AM, onwards. Further particulars may be obtained at the office of the Estate Officer, TNAU, Coimbatore on working day during office hours only.

1.	Construction of Farmers Hostel for KVK Pongalur in Tirupur District.	Rs. 84.00 Lakhs
2.	Construction of Students Hostel Building at Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	Rs.1720.00 Lakhs
3.	Construction of Administrative Building for KVK Pongalur in Tirupur District	Rs. 207.00 Lakhs

DIPR/4138/TENDER/2022
ESTATE OFFICER, OFFICE OF THE ESTATE OFFICER, TNAU, Coimbatore

Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 19 / 2022-23
email : coekeonjharpdcircle@gmail.com / secpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No.4058, dt.09.09.2022

- No. of the work :- 2 number Building Works
- Estimated cost :- Rs.199.52 Lakhs to Rs.669.34 Lakhs
- Period of completion :- 9 (Nine) Calendar Months to 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months
- Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal :- From 11.00 Hours of 15.09.2022 to 16.00 Hours of 30.09.2022.
- Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :- 16.00 Hours of 30.09.2022
- Date of opening of Bid from Portal :- 11.30 Hours on 01.10.2022
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid :- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>"
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.
B-583; OPR-340331/11/0027/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
File No - C-IIM-IFB-06/2019 (PT) No.34632 Dtd. 12.09.2022

3rd Corrigendum Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-06/2022-23
The following changes is made to the work invited vide Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-06/2022-23 vide letter No.24853 dtd.24.06.2022 as per Works Department, Government of Odisha O.M. No.12586 dtd.09.09.2022-Amendment to Rule-3 of Appendix-VIII of O.P.W.D. Code Volume-I.

Sl No	Name of work	Class of bidder as per DTCN	Modification Class of bidder as per Corrigendum
1.	Improvement such as widening and strengthening of Nudurpada-Kaliahata road from 0/00 km to 31/811 km in the district of Keonjhar under State Plan.	Super Class	Super Class / Special Class

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Chief Engineer, DPI & Roads, Odisha
B-582; OPR-34111/11/0034/2223

Adv. No. 107/2022
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Director (Technical)
in
Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL)
Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is
by 15.00 hours
on 21st November, 2022.
For details login to website
<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

LOOK OUT NOTICE
The person shown in the above photograph is Christin C Joseph, Age-32/22, S/o Joseph, Choorakkulam House, Ammanchery Bhagam, Mannam Kara, Athirampuzha Village, Kottayam District, Kerala. A case has been registered against him in Ettumanoor Police station as Cr. 1131/2022 U/s 143, 145, 147, 148, 341, 308, 326, 294(B), 506(i), 323, 324, 427, r/w 149 IPC and enquiry is being conducted. If anyone get information regarding the above said person, please inform through the phone number provided below.
DySP KOTTAYAM - 9497990050, IPSHO KOTTAYAM EAST - 9497987071, SI KOTTAYAM EAST PS - 9497980326, KOTTAYAM EAST PS - 0481 2560333
RO/02264/F/2022/I&PRD

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyalay Block-DJ, Sector-11, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in

NIT No.: DPD/Tender/HVDS/2022-23/WB/24 Date: 16.09.2022
The Chief Engineer, Distribution Project Department, WBSedCL, Vidyalay Bhavan (5th Floor: 'B'-Block), Salt Lake, Sector-11, Kolkata-700091 invites e-tender for 'Supply and installation of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS) in semi-urban and rural areas in Darjeeling District (Hill area), Kalimpong District of West Bengal under West Bengal Electricity Distribution Grid Modernization Project'. Tender ID: 2022_WBSED_403951-1; Pre-Bid Meeting: 23.09.2022 at 12:00 hrs.; Due date of Bid Submission: 02.11.2022 (up to 13:30 hrs.). For other details, please visit <https://wbstenders.gov.in> & www.wbsedcl.in

Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
"Construction of PGIMER Satellite Centre at Una, Himachal Pradesh, a 300 Bedded Hospital with allied services and facilities"

Tender No.-HITES/PGIMER-UNA/2022
HLL Infra Tech Services Ltd. (HITES), B-14-A, Sector-62, Noida-201307, as Executing Agency of Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, invites online bids on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis through e-tendering from eligible contractors/firms in two bid systems for the following work:-

Name and Description of work	Estimated cost in Rs. in Crore	Completion period of Work	Last date to fill/upload the bid through e-tendering	Bid Security (EMD) amount (in Rs. in Lakhs)
Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) of PGIMER Satellite Centre at Una, Himachal Pradesh, a 300 Bedded Hospital with allied services and facilities.	265.26 Crs.	24 Months	06.10.2022 Up to 11:30 Hrs.	Rs.275.26 Lakhs

The bid document shall be available online from 17.09.2022.
For submission & other tender details, please refer detailed NIT available on websites www.hllhites.com, e-Procurement System at NIC's (CPP Portal) <https://etenders.gov.in/e-procure/app>. Corrigendum/amendments etc., if any, will be notified on these websites only and separate advertisement will not be made for the same.
HITES reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason or incurring any liability whatsoever.
Vice President (ID)

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Executive Engineer(C), Postal Civil Division, Thiruvananthapuram invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tenders for the following work.
NIT No.29/EE-TVM/22-23. Name of work : Construction of Post Office Building at Kunniode, Pathanamthitta Division. Estimated Cost: Rs. 63,79,487/- (Civil); Rs. 58,37,468/-+ Elect; Rs.5,42,019/- Earnest Money: Rs. 1,27,590/- Period of completion: 8 months
Last date and time of submission of bid: 23.09.2022 upto 11.00 hrs. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://dopcivil.eunizardde.com>

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number 9646118721)

Tender Enquiry No. QW-304/PO-W Dated 15.09.2022
Chief Engineer/Stores & Workshops Organization, Sarabha Nagar, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites E-tender of Repair of 3-phase, 50 cycles, outdoor type oil immersed, naturally cooled, stack core type construction, OWP Aluminium Wound Distribution Transformers (Type Conventional) of capacity 63KVA, 200 KVA (w/o tap changer) and 300 KVA (w/o tap changer) with voltage ratio 11/0 433 KV conforming to ISS - 2026 (with latest amendments, if any) and 1180 part-1 (2014) complete with first filling of oil conforming to ISS: 335/1993 (with latest amendments, if any).

Quantity
63 KVA = 2500 Nos.
200 KVA = 200 Nos.
300 KVA = 10 Nos.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 15.09.2022 at 02:00 P.M. onwards.
NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C-355/22 76155/12/1112/2021/17096

LOOK OUT NOTICE
The person shown in the above photograph is Vineeth Sanjayan, Age - 35/22, S/o Sanjayan, Mankeezhepadil House, Jayanthi Junction, Ayanam Village, Kottayam District, Kerala. A case has been registered in Kottayam East Police Station as Cr. No. 1620/22 u/s 353,506(ii) r/w 34 IPC and Cr. No. 1624/22 u/s 323, 294(b), 506(ii) r/w 34 IPC and enquiry is being conducted. If anyone get information regarding the above said person, please inform through the phone number provided below.
DySP KOTTAYAM - 9497990050, IPSHO KOTTAYAM EAST - 9497987071, SI KOTTAYAM EAST PS - 9497980326, KOTTAYAM EAST PS - 0481 2560333
RO/02264/F/2022/I&PRD

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmiipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008, Phone: +91-44285 54479, 2855 4480
Fax: +91-44285 53729 | Website: <https://tidco.com>
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327

NOTICE NO.TIDCO/TNDIC/DTIS03/2022-23 Date:16.09.2022
Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO), a Government of Tamil Nadu Enterprise involving in establishing and facilitating the large and medium industries to stimulate industrial development in the State. TIDCO is the nodal agency for the implementation of Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor in the state. The Government of India (GOI) has launched a new scheme called Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) for setting up of Greenfield Defence Testing Infrastructure (required for defence and aerospace related production), as a common facility through the Defence corridors along with private sector with Government assistance in Tamil Nadu.

In this context, TIDCO proposes for selection of industrial partners for "Development, Operation and Management of Defence Testing Infrastructure (DTI) for Electro Optics (EO) under DTIS". TIDCO invites interested firms to submit proposals for undertaking the services described in the Tender document. Interested firms can download the Tender from the website <https://tidco.com>, www.tndefencecorridor.in & www.tenders.tn.gov.in. The Terms of Reference, Qualification Criteria and other terms and conditions are provided in the Tender Document.

The schedule for the bidding process is as follows:-
1. Pre-bid meeting at 3:00 P.M on 23.09.2022 in TIDCO Office / online VC
2. Last date and time for submission of Proposals / Bids is on or before 3:00 P.M on 17.10.2022 through hard copy submission
3. Opening of Technical Proposals / Bids is at 3.30P.M on 17.10.2022 at TIDCO Office.

Managing Director
Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmiipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
E-mail: cmd@tidco.com, Website: <https://tidco.com>
DIPR/4137/Tender/2022

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560064.
Tender Notice No. RW/F/S/O/2022-23 Dated: 15/09/2022

On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager invites Electronic Open Tender from experienced OEMs / Manufacturers or authorized agents for supply of the following items on the Indian Railways e-portal www.irps.gov.in. The tender documents and the Corrigendum to the Tenders, if any, will be available on the portal only.

Tender No.	Item Description
P2225731	Design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of SCADA system for 3 phase 66KV & 11kV Substation Automation and Energy Management for 15 substations in Rail Wheel Factory, Pre bid conference on 29/09/2022 @15:00 hrs

Qty: 01 set each Tender Closing Date and Time: 16/11/22 14:00 Hrs.
Tender details can be viewed on our website www.indianrailways.gov.in or www.irps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Materials Manager

NIA arrests three more in heroin seizure case

It was seized in Mundra port last year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested three more accused in connection with the 3,000-kg heroin seizure case.

The accused have been identified as Rah Matullah, Ishwinder Singh and Jasbir Singh. The NIA probe has revealed that five consignments of the heroin-laden goods were imported into India through the same network from November 2020 to September 2021.

“Three such consignments of the semi-processed Talc stones ultimately reached a warehouse in Neb Sarai, Delhi, which was rented by the absconding accused, Najibullah Khalid, in the name of another Afghan national, Noorzahi Abdul Salam. The heroin was segregated from the concealing goods in this warehouse by Afghani experts and then sent for distribu-

tion in the market through a network of drug suppliers and peddlers,” said the agency. The consignment was then shifted to another warehouse taken on rent allegedly by Shaheen, also an Afghan national who is a close associate of Najibullah, through Jasbir and Ishwinder.

“Ishwinder Singh, a known drug distributor, was in direct touch with Javed, an Afghanistan-based accused and a key aide of prime accused Hassan Daad. On Javed’s directions, he and Jasbir Singh forged papers and rented a warehouse in Hamidpur village (Delhi), to where the semi-processed Talc was shifted from the Neb Sarai warehouse for further disposal,” said an official.

The DRI had seized the heroin consignment at the Mundra port in September last year. The NIA took over the case in October 2021.

Six held for rape, murder of Dalit sisters

Hathras repeated, says Opposition blaming BJP govt.

STAFF REPORTER
LUCKNOW

Six persons have been arrested on charges of rape and murder of two minor Dalit sisters, who were found hanging from a tree in Lakhimpur Kheri district in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference, Lakhimpur Kheri Superintendent of Police Sanjiv Suman said, “On Wednesday, the girls were coaxed and taken to the farm and both were sexually abused. Two accused have confessed to having forceful sexual relations with the girls.”

The police have also registered a case under Sections 302, 323, 452, 376 and 3/4 of the POCSO Act.

In Lucknow, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said, “All the six accused namely Junaid, Suhail, Chhote, Hafizur Rahman,



Heinous crime: Congress workers taking out a march in Prayagraj to protest the rape and murder of the siblings. •PTI

Karimuddin and Chhotu have been arrested. A 315 bore pistol, two live cartridges and an empty shell have been recovered from the main accused Junaid’s son.”

The family of the deceased, who were reluctant to perform the last rites, relented after getting assurance of financial help and other aid from the U.P. government. The post-mortem was videographed and the bodies were handed over to the family for the last rites.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has also instructed officials to provide ₹25 lakh, a house and farming land to the victims family in the case. The administration has also agreed for the trial of the case in a fast-track court.

In the aftermath of the incident, Opposition parties trained their guns on the ruling BJP government alleging that the killing of the two Dalit girls was a repeat of ‘Hathras ki beti’ episode.

SC panel issues notice to U.P. govt.

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following the rape and murder of two minor Dalit girls in Uttar Pradesh’s Lakhimpur Kheri, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has issued a notice to authorities in the State and the district, seeking an Action Taken Report as soon as possible.

The commission on Thursday took *suo motu* cognisance of media reports on the deaths, and sent the notice to the Chief Secretary of the U.P. government, the State Director-General of Police, the District Magistrate of Lakhimpur Kheri, and the local police.

NCSC head Vijay Sampal took to Twitter and called the incident “very unfortunate”, directing authorities to submit their report to the panel “immediately”.

In the notice, NCSC said it had decided to independently probe the incident.

“The kidnapping and murder of two minor Dalit sisters in Lakhimpur in broad daylight is a very disturbing incident. Women’s safety cannot be expected from those facilitating the release of rapists and welcoming them,” Mr. Gandhi said in a reference to 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case being released last month under the Gujarat government’s remission policy.

Lok Sabha member and Trinamool Congress leader Kakoli Dastidar questioned the ‘silence’ of the National Commission for Women (NCW) and criticised the law and order situation.

Expressing his condolence to the family of the victims, Communist Party of India general secretary D. Raja tweeted, “This heinous crime exposes the hollowness of the Prime Minister’s ‘Nari Shakti’ slogan. Even children are not safe in Yogi Adityanath’s Hindu-Raj. Shameful!”

(With inputs from Sandeep Phukan)

IN BRIEF



CBI takes over Sonali Phogat death case

NEW DELHI
The CBI has taken over the probe into the death of BJP leader and actor Sonali Phogat under mysterious circumstances in Goa last month. The move came after it was referred to the CBI through the Home Ministry on September 12. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had said that he would urge Home Minister Amit Shah, to transfer the case to the CBI.

Medical college in Gujarat named after PM Modi

AHMEDABAD
The BJP-ruled Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has decided to rename a medical college being run by the civic body after Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Medical Education Trust (MET) runs the college in Ahmedabad’s Maninagar area, which was PM Modi’s Assembly constituency during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

Name new Parliament building after Ambedkar

NEW DELHI
The All India Confederation of SC/ST organisations urged the Centre to name the new Parliament building after B.R. Ambedkar. In a statement here, former Lok Sabha MP Udit Raj, who is the national chairman of the organisation, sought to remind the PM about the demand first raised in a letter to him in December 2020. The organisation had also held a demonstration to emphasise the demand.

‘Wearing hijab is an expression of self’

Kapil Sibal says Supreme Court should refer the case to a Constitution Bench

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Hijab is a Muslim woman’s self-expression. She cannot be compelled by the state to shed her persona at the gates of her college, senior advocate Kapil Sibal told the Supreme Court on Thursday.

“As Polonius said in ‘Hamlet’, ‘clothes maketh the man’. Wearing hijab is an expression of what you are, where you are from, who you are. It is an expression of the self,” Mr. Sibal argued.

The senior counsel, appearing for a student-petitioner against Karnataka’s ban on wearing hijab in classrooms, said the Supreme Court should refer the case to a Constitution Bench, which should in turn first decide whether “wear-

ing a dress is self-expression, which lies both at the heart of the fundamental rights of privacy and freedom of expression”. Hijab can be given the same protection as Sikh turbans and kirpans.

The petitioners were responding to a repeated question from the Bench as to “where is your right to wear a hijab to school?”

“Privacy and dignity is attached to your person and not to the place you go to... A convict does not shed his fundamental rights at the gates of the prison...”, advocate Shoeb Alam, for a student, said.

Mr. Alam said the state could not “barter” one fundamental right for the other. “The state cannot say I will give you education and

The school or the state can have no say to what extent I should clothe myself to feel safe

SHOEB ALAM
Advocate for student-petitioner

in return you surrender your privacy, lay it on my doorstep. The school or the state can have no say to what extent I should clothe myself to feel safe. It is a matter of choice, of my discretion,” he contended.

Religious identity

Advocate Prashant Bhushan said the hijab, has over the years, acquired a religious identity, protected under Article 25 of the Constitution.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves said the Karnata-

ka High Court’s observations overturning a Muslim student’s right to attend classes in hijab were “hurtful”.

“The HC said in schools there are no individual rights... The High Court said such ‘qualified spaces’ by their very nature repel the assertion of individual rights to the detriment of their general discipline and decorum. The use of such obscure terms like ‘qualified spaces’ conclude that constitutional and fundamental rights are somehow absent and are at a lower pedestal in schools, war rooms and defence camps,” he submitted.

He said the HC judgment gave the impression that “order” in schools was somehow threatened by a girl wearing a hijab.

Centre cites law to deny seats to Ukraine-returnees

Health Ministry files affidavit in SC on medical students’ plea

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday told the Supreme Court that the law does not allow undergraduate medical students, who fled the “war-like situation” in Ukraine, to be accommodated in Indian medical colleges.

The affidavit from the Health Ministry was in response to petitions filed by students, in their first to fourth year of undergraduate medical studies in Ukraine, seeking transfer to colleges in India to continue their semesters here.

“So far as such students are concerned, there are no provisions either under the Indian Medical Council Act of 1956 or the National Medical Commission Act 2019 as well as the Regulations to accommodate or transfer medical students from any foreign medical institutes/colleges to Indian medical colleges. Till now, no permission has been given by the National Medical Commission to transfer or accommodate any foreign medical students in any Indian medical institute/university,” the Health Ministry said.

Public notice

However, the Centre said, in order to “aid and assist such returnee students who could not complete their MBBS courses in Ukraine, the National Medical Commission, in consultation with the Ministry of External



A group of students, who were studying in Bukovinian State Medical University in Ukraine, arriving in Chennai. •FILE PHOTO

Affairs, has issued a public notice on September 9 indicating that the National Medical Commission would accept completion of their remaining course in other foreign countries (with the approval of parent university in Ukraine). “Further, after such completion, the certificate of course completion/degree is expected to be issued by the parent institutions in Ukraine,” the Ministry affidavit said. The affidavit clarified that this global “academic mobility programme” mentioned in the September 9 public notice cannot be interpreted to mean accommodation of the Ukraine-returnee students in Indian colleges.

“The extant regulations in India do not permit migration of students from foreign universities to India. The public notice cannot be used as a back door entry into Indian colleges offering undergraduate courses,” the government explained.

Two reasons

Besides, these students, if admitted in Indian colleges, would again face the problem of affordability.

The government said these students had left for foreign universities for two reasons, poor marks in National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and affordability of medical education in foreign countries. “In case these students with poor merit are allowed admission to premier medical colleges in India by default, there may be several litigations from desirous candidates who could not get seats in these colleges and have taken admission in either lesser known colleges or have been deprived of a seat in medical colleges,” the Ministry affidavit reasoned.

“The government said these students had left for foreign universities for two reasons, poor marks in National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and affordability of medical education in foreign countries. “In case these students with poor merit are allowed admission to premier medical colleges in India by default, there may be several litigations from desirous candidates who could not get seats in these colleges and have taken admission in either lesser known colleges or have been deprived of a seat in medical colleges,” the Ministry affidavit reasoned.

PM bats for a ‘greener’ automobile sector

Modi urges the industry to focus on self-sufficiency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called on the automobile sector to achieve self-sufficiency, while also stressing on the need to expedite innovations for greener alternatives.

The automobile industry, on its part, has set a target of becoming near 100% self-reliant in the entire manufacturing value chain by 2047, while also becoming one of the two largest producers in



Narendra Modi

product development.

“Our government has adopted an enabling approach towards creating a global manufacturing hub by encouraging manufacturers to ‘Make in India’. ‘Amrit Kaal’ is an opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency in every sector and the automobile sector is no exception,” the Prime Minister said in his message to the industry at the 62nd Annual Convention of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.

Need of the hour

Mr. Modi added that it is a need of the hour that the automobile industry’s innova-

tion for greener alternatives attains a new momentum, to ensure the protection and conservation of environment, as well as help in making India self-reliant.

Speaking at the event, SIAM President Kenichi Ayukawa said that currently the industry is going through a unique phase.

“Some segments have started to see recovery after the pandemic, while a few are still struggling. For example, mass segments like entry-level cars and two-wheelers are facing huge reduction in demand owing to significant increase in the acquisition cost,” he said.

THE CROSSWORD + 13662
(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site @ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjptn>

- Across**
- 1 Ended something special? Let’s help (5,3,5)
 - 10 Darling, sweep Buzzer’s storeroom (9)
 - 11 Brave lady, say (5)
 - 12 Abruptly throw board, you finally have a change of heart (5)
 - 13 Only the added will go through training material (9)
 - 14 Smoke at corner? It’s closed (6)
 - 16 Second class material... (4)

- 19 ...available for 0 pound (4)
 - 20 Perhaps signs last letter before cricket match at a college (6)
 - 25 Shut nine schools to redesign as a military shelter (6,3)
 - 26 Tiny woman reportedly with ease reached New York (5)
 - 27 Computer Graphic Interface used to portray golden dog (5)
 - 28 Primarily silly troll at party, but somehow shows modesty (4-5)
 - 29 Actor is stone-cold, wait, will warm up (5,8)
- Down**
- 2 Give up on boy, say starting to cheat sweetheart (8)
 - 3 Boat with king and a beast... (5)
 - 4 ...on wrong route crossing Portugal with company (6)
 - 5 Faulty mobiles with some mishandling can lead to occlusion (8)
 - 6 Observance of formalities in dirty politic? UN should interfere (9)
 - 7 Story about Boris’s dalliances in the beginning with member of an English political party (3-3)
 - 8 Produces copies after shop closes halfway (6)
 - 9 Strong people are vehement to dismiss veteran (2-3)
 - 15 Lion Peter slaughtered to satiation (9)
 - 17 Cornered by bunch as terrible as immoral (8)
 - 18 A musical term for routine arrangement without tempo (8)
 - 21 Animal is shy to mingle with some enthusiasm (6)
 - 22 Type of shirt woven in the middle kept by American farm labour (colourless) (1,4)
 - 23 Wrong to dismiss youth leader, in the beginning lad was angelic (6)
 - 24 Stops the giant in ship (6)
 - 26 Agree to take two wives, on either side with a dowager (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13661

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

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

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

Putin, Xi hail 'great power' ties at SCO talks

Russian leader condemns 'U.S. provocation on Taiwan'; China seeks to 'inject stability' into the world

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAMARKAND

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping met for their first face-to-face talks since the start of the conflict in Ukraine on Thursday, hailing their strategic ties in defiance of the West.

The two leaders met at a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the Uzbek city of Samarkand, a stop on the ancient Silk Road.

The meeting was part of Mr. Xi's first trip abroad since the early days of the pandemic and for Mr. Putin a chance to show Russia has not been fully isolated despite Western efforts.

"China is willing to make efforts with Russia to assume the role of great powers, and play a guiding role to inject stability and positive energy into a world rocked by social turmoil," Mr. Xi told Mr. Putin. Mr. Putin took a clear broadside at the U.S., which



Enhanced role: Chinese President Xi Jinping, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Samarkand on Thursday. ■ AP

has been leading efforts to support Ukraine and impose sanctions on Russia.

Putin thanks Xi

"Attempts to create a unipolar world have recently acquired an absolutely ugly form and are completely unacceptable," Mr. Putin said.

"We highly appreciate the balanced position of our Chinese friends in connection

with the Ukrainian crisis," Mr. Putin told Mr. Xi, while reiterating Moscow's backing for China on Taiwan.

"We adhere to the principle of one China. We condemn the provocation of the U.S. and their satellites in the Taiwan Strait," the Russian President said, after a U.S. Senate committee on Wednesday took the first step towards Washington directly

providing billions of dollars in military aid to Taiwan. It was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since Mr. Putin saw Mr. Xi in early February for the Winter Olympic Games, days before the Russian leader launched the military offensive in Ukraine.

'Alternative' to West

The Kremlin has touted the SCO summit in the ancient Silk Road city of Samarkand as showing there is an "alternative" to Western dominated international institutions.

The SCO — made up of China, India, Pakistan, Russia and the ex-Soviet Central Asian nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan — was set up in 2001 as a political, economic and security organisation to rival Western institutions.

The leaders of those countries were to attend, as well as Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Mr. Putin met with the leaders of Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan earlier on Thursday, as well as with Mr. Raisi and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

With both Mr. Raisi and Mr. Sharif, he said ties were "developing positively", while the Iranian leader told Mr. Putin that U.S.-backed sanctions on both countries would only make their relationship "stronger".

"The Americans think whichever country they impose sanctions on, it will be stopped, their perception is a wrong one," Mr. Raisi said.

For Mr. Putin the summit comes at an important time, as his forces face major battlefield setbacks in Ukraine and amid a continued Western push to make Russia an international pariah.

For Mr. Xi, it is an opportunity to shore up his credentials as a global statesman ahead of a pivotal congress of the ruling Communist Party in October.

Migrants dropped off near Harris' residence

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Two buses of migrants from the U.S.-Mexico border were dropped off near Vice-President Kamala Harris' home in residential Washington on Thursday morning in the bitter political battle over the Biden administration's immigration policies.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has been busing migrants out of Texas to cities with Democratic Mayors as part of a political strategy this year because he claims there are too many arrivals over the border to his state. Arizona Governor Doug Ducey also has adopted this

policy, and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis also got in on the act recently. It was first dreamed up by former President Donald Trump.

Mr. Abbott tweeted that he'd sent the buses that arrived on Thursday: "We're sending migrants to her backyard to call on the Biden Administration to do its job & secure the border."

About two dozen men and women stood outside the U.S. Naval Observatory at dawn, clutching plastic bags carrying their belongings, before moving to a nearby church. Ms. Harris' office had no immediate comment.

Armenia-Azerbaijan border clashes toll rises to over 170

Truce holding, no fresh violence reported overnight: Yerevan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YEREVAN

Azerbaijan said on Thursday that 71 of its troops had died in border clashes with Armenia over the last two days in the worst fighting since 2020.

Yerevan said a ceasefire was holding on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, with no fresh violence reported overnight.

The earlier death toll given by Azerbaijan was 50.

Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry published a list of 71

servicemen killed in clashes between the historic rivals since Tuesday while Yerevan said 105 of its troops were killed.

The clashes ended "thanks to the international involvement" overnight on Thursday, Armenia's security council said, after earlier failed attempts from Russia to broker a truce.

The European Union welcomed the ceasefire, which it said was "being respected so far."

"The EU remains strongly

involved in the normalisation process between Armenia and Azerbaijan," Peter Stano, the bloc's spokesman for foreign affairs and security policy, said in a statement.

EU Special Representative, Toivo Klaar, was holding consultations in Baku on Wednesday and in Yerevan on Thursday, he said.

Baku and Yerevan have traded accusations of initiating the violence, which saw hundreds of Armenian civilians flee their homes.

Sweden's right-wing in talks to form govt. with far-right

Ulf Kristersson holds meetings with coalition partners

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
STOCKHOLM

Sweden's incoming leader got to work on Thursday on the thorny task of building a government supported for the first time by the far-right, a day after securing a slim election victory.

Conservative Moderates chief Ulf Kristersson was expected to be formally tasked sometime next week with forming a government after Social Democratic Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson on Thursday tendered her resignation.

While the far-right Sweden Democrats became the biggest party on the right with 20% of votes, observers said it was unlikely the anti-immigration and nationalist party would be given Cabinet seats due to divisions in the right-wing bloc.

The small Liberal party has said it would withdraw



Ulf Kristersson

its support for Mr. Kristersson — which would leave him without a majority — if he includes the far-right in the government.

With 176 seats — 73 of them going to the far-right Sweden Democrats — the four-party coalition will have a slim majority over Ms. Andersson's left bloc, which won 173.

Sweden Democrats leader Jimmie Akesson said on election night that obtaining Cabinet posts was the party's

"goal", but he has also made it clear that he was ready to present a long list of demands in exchange for the party's informal support outside government.

Speaker of Parliament Andreas Norlen said on Thursday he would summon party leaders for talks next week before assigning Mr. Kristersson the task of building a government, opening a period of formal negotiations.

But Mr. Kristersson, 58, has already rolled up his sleeves and held meetings with the leaders of the Christian Democrats, Sweden Democrats and Liberals.

"I now begin the work of forming a new and strong government," Mr. Kristersson said on Wednesday evening in a post on Facebook after final vote counting gave his side the win.

"Now we will restore order in Sweden!"

U.S. rail strike averted with 'tentative' deal

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Major U.S. railroads and unions secured a tentative deal after intense talks brokered by the Biden administration to avert a rail shutdown that could have hit food and fuel supplies across the country. President Joe Biden announced the deal on Thursday, calling it "a win for tens of thousands of rail workers."

A rail shutdown could freeze almost 30% of U.S. cargo shipments by weight, stoke inflation, cost the U.S. economy as much as \$2 billion per day.

Hungary no longer a full democracy: EU resolution

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

Hungary is no longer a "full democracy" and the EU needs to do everything to bring it back into line with European values, the European Parliament said on Thursday.

MEPs voted 433 in favour, 123 against, to now describe Hungary — ruled by populist Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who maintains close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin — "a hybrid regime of electoral autocracy" in "serious breach" of EU democratic norms.

The vote was largely symbolic and does not change

the course of the Union's decision making, which requires unanimity of all 27 member states — including Hungary — to adopt major issues, such as sanctions on Russia.

With their vote, the EU lawmakers roundly adopted a parliamentary resolution that said Hungary has been backsliding on democratic and fundamental rights since 2018 through the "deliberate and systematic efforts of the Hungarian government".

The report said lack of action by EU institutions had exacerbated the degradation.

Can a newspaper's reporting ethos and design philosophy have something in common?

Evidently, it can.

Revealing on September 20, 2022

MMA
All India Management Students Convention
2022

Tuesday, 27 September 2022
09.30 am to 05.00 pm

IIT Research Park Auditorium, Chennai

Speakers

- Mr Vijay Sankar**
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, THE SANMAR GROUP
- Prof V Kamakoti**
DIRECTOR, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY-MADRAS
- Dr M Arumugam**
DIRECTOR, TNPL
PROFESSOR OF TECHNOLOGY, PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY, UK
- Mr Nishant Chandra**
PRINCIPAL AND SENIOR DIRECTOR - AI MICROSOFT
- Dr K Senthil Kumar**
DIRECTOR, DR KALAM ADVANCED UAV RESEARCH CEO, TAMILNADU UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE CORP.
- Mr Rave Shankar**
PARTNER, DB PRODUCTIONS
- Mr Umakant Soni**
FOUNDING PARTNER, PI VENTURES & AI FOUNDRY CEO, ARTPARK
- Mr Mithun Saghetti**
CEO, CARATLANE
- Mr Vijay Karunakaran**
CEO, INGAGE TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD
- Mr Suresh Raman**
VICE PRESIDENT & REGIONAL HEAD, TCS, CHENNAI
- Mr V Shankar**
CONVENTION CHAIRMAN
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