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All India Rank 11	 Deevyanshu Malu LITTLE Genie + UDAYA - Two Year + Four Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 15	 Abhijeet Anand Four Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 21	 Harsh Kumar LITTLE Genie + UDAYA - Two Year + Four Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 25	 Kavya Gupta Intensive Contact Program	All India Rank 29	 Saumitra Garg Two Year Classroom Program														
All India Rank 31	 Anilesh Bansal Two Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 35	 Sanskar Shaurya One Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 36	 Rishabh RP Four Year Classroom upgraded to PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program	All India Rank 37	 Arnav Garg Four Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 39	 M Varun Kailash LITTLE Genie + UDAYA - Two Year + SUPREME - Four Year Integrated School Program	All India Rank 41	 Satyankar Chandra Two Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 45	 Utkarsh Pant Four Year Classroom upgraded to PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program	All India Rank 46	 Rijul Bhat LITTLE Genie + UDAYA - Two Year + SUPREME - Four Year Integrated School Program	All India Rank 47	 Chaitanya Garg Four Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 48	 Harsh Jakhar Intensive Contact Program	All India Rank 51	 Suryansh Srijan Four Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 55	 S Shravan PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program
All India Rank 58	 Kanishk Sharma Intensive Contact Program	All India Rank 59	 Sambhav Jain Four Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 60	 Nivesh Aggarwal Intensive Contact Program	All India Rank 68	 Kartik Gulia UDAYA - One Year + Four Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 70	 Aditya Prakash LITTLE Genie + UDAYA - Two Year + Four Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 71	 Abhinav Rajesh Shripad Intensive Contact Program	All India Rank 72	 Sanyam Garg SUPREME - Four Year Integrated School Program	All India Rank 88	 Vraj Parikh Four Year Classroom upgraded to PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program	All India Rank 89	 Vedant Talegonkar Intensive Contact Program	All India Rank 90	 Arnav Tandon Two Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 97	 Tarang Rishikesh Shah Intensive Contact Program	All India Rank 99	 Hemanshu Garg Intensive Contact Program

From Classroom Programs, 138 in Top 500, 256 in Top 1000 All India Ranks
 2 IIT Zone Toppers | 7 State Toppers | 22 City Toppers

All these Results are from Common Merit List only For detailed results and learning from Toppers, please visit www.iitjeetoppers.com

Total number of FIITJEE Students qualifying JEE Advanced 2022

Common Merit List	Classroom Programs	Non-Classroom Programs	Other Categories	Classroom Programs	Non-Classroom Programs
	2846	640		172	27

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JEE Advanced 2021			JEE Main 2022		Joint Toppers of JEE Main 2021																
All India Rank 1	 Mridul Agarwal Intensive Contact Program	All India Rank 2	 Dhananjay Raman UDAYA - Two Year + Four Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 3	 Anant Lunia Three Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 1	 Saumitra Garg Two Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 3	 Parth Bhardwaj LITTLE Genie + UDAYA - Two Year + Four Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 1	 Kavya Chopra UDAYA - One Year Classroom Program + Four Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 1	 Vaibhav Vishal One Year Classroom Program (for XII Pass Students) Earlier student of FIITJEE's Two Year Classroom Program	All India Rank 1	 Pal Aggarwal UDAYA - One Year + Four Year Classroom then switched to PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program	All India Rank 1	 Siddhant Mukherjee UDAYA - One Year + Four Year Classroom then switched to PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program	All India Rank 1	 Atharva A Tambat PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program	All India Rank 1	 Amaya Singhal All India Test Series & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program

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JEE Advanced 2022

From Classroom Programs, 14 in Top 100 AIR | Delhi State Topper is a FIITJEE Classroom Program Student

<p>All India Rank 21</p>  <p>Harsh Kumar LITTLE Genie + UDAYA - Two Year + Four Year Classroom Program at Delhi Dwarka Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 25</p>  <p>Kavya Gupta Intensive Contact Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 31</p>  <p>Anilesh Bansal Two Year Classroom Program at South Delhi Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 35</p>  <p>Sanskar Shaurya One Year Classroom Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 37</p>  <p>Arnav Garg Four Year Classroom Program at South Delhi Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 41</p>  <p>Satyankar Chandra Two Year Classroom Program at South Delhi Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 46</p>  <p>Rijul Bhat LITTLE Genie + UDAYA - Two Year + SUPREME - Four Year Integrated School Program at Delhi Dwarka Centre</p>
<p>All India Rank 48</p>  <p>Harsh Jakhar Intensive Contact Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 60</p>  <p>Nivesh Aggarwal Intensive Contact Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 68</p>  <p>Kartik Gulia UDAYA - One Year + Four Year Classroom Program at Delhi Dwarka Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 71</p>  <p>Abhinav Rajesh Shripad Intensive Contact Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 72</p>  <p>Sanyam Garg SUPREME - Four Year Integrated School Program at Delhi Dwarka Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 90</p>  <p>Arnav Tandon Two Year Classroom Program at South Delhi Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 99</p>  <p>Hemanshu Garg Intensive Contact Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>

Total number of FIITJEE Delhi & NCR Students qualifying JEE Advanced 2022

Common Merit List	Classroom Programs	1058	Non-Classroom Programs	80	Other Categories	Classroom Programs	51	Non-Classroom Programs	5
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For detailed results and learning from Toppers, please visit www.iitjeetoppers.com

JEE Advanced 2021 - From Classroom Programs, 21 in Top 100 AIR

<p>All India Rank 1</p>  <p>Mridul Agarwal Intensive Contact Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 2</p>  <p>Dhananjay Raman UDAYA - Two Year + Four Year Classroom Program at Delhi Dwarka Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 3</p>  <p>Anant Lunia Three Year Classroom Program at South Delhi Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 6</p>  <p>Soni Naman Nirmal Intensive Contact Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 12</p>  <p>Manpreet Singh Student of LITTLE Genie + UDAYA - Two Year + Three Year Classroom Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 14</p>  <p>Ameya Prashant Deshmukh Intensive Contact Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>
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JEE Advanced 2020 - From Classroom Programs, 13 in Top 100 AIR

<p>All India Rank 5</p>  <p>Keshav Agarwal Four Year Classroom Program at Gurgaon Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 7</p>  <p>Vedang D. Asgaonkar Intensive Contact Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 9</p>  <p>Harshvardhan Agarwal Three Year Classroom Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 12</p>  <p>Lakshya Gupta Four Year Classroom Program at South Delhi Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 19</p>  <p>Shashwat Garg Four Year Classroom Program at Ghaziabad Centre</p>
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JEE Advanced 2019 - From Classroom Programs, 10 in Top 100 AIR

<p>All India Rank 2</p>  <p>Himanshu Gaurav Singh Three Year Classroom Program at South Delhi Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 3</p>  <p>Archit Bubna Student of LITTLE Genie + UDAYA - Two Year + Four Year Classroom Program at South Delhi Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 14</p>  <p>Manan Aggarwal Two Year Classroom Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 35</p>  <p>Pranshu Pandey Intensive Contact Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 37</p>  <p>Abhinav Jain Four Year Classroom Program at East Delhi Centre</p>
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JEE Advanced 2018 - From Classroom Programs, 10 in Top 100 AIR

<p>All India Rank 3</p>  <p>Kalash Gupta Four Year Classroom Program at South Delhi Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 18</p>  <p>Shivam Goel Two Year Classroom Program at South Delhi Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 19</p>  <p>Shalabh Gupta UDAYA - One Year + Four Year Classroom Program at Delhi Dwarka Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 29</p>  <p>Parth Laturia Intensive Contact Program at Delhi Punjabi Bagh Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 32</p>  <p>Shreya Pathak Four Year Classroom Program at East Delhi Centre</p>	<p>All India Rank 35</p>  <p>Ayush Garg UDAYA - Two Year + Four Year Classroom Program at Faridabad Centre</p>
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IN BRIEF



BJP protest march turns violent in West Bengal

KOLKATA
 Large parts of Howrah and central Kolkata turned into a battle zone on Tuesday as clashes erupted between the police and supporters of the BJP during the latter's march to the State Secretariat.

NEWS PAGE 11

OPPORTUNITIES BACK PAGE

Delays mar MGNREGS social audits

SOBHANA K. NAIR
 NEW DELHI

The Union Rural Development Ministry (MoRD) has told States that failure to carry out social audit of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) will invite action, including withholding of funds. However, it is the Centre that bears the administrative cost of these Social Audit Units, and inordinate delay in the release of funds has left many of these units nearly paralysed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

India, China confirm withdrawal of troops from PP-15 in Ladakh

This disengagement marks a step forward to end the stand-off since May 2020

DINAKAR PERI
 NEW DELHI
 India and China on Tuesday carried out verification to confirm withdrawal of troops from Patrolling Point (PP) 15 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area of eastern Ladakh, marking the completion of the disengagement there, sources said on Tuesday.

"Both sides have completed disengagement at PP-15 in a phased, coordinated and verified manner, resulting in the return of the troops of both sides to their respective areas," a defence source said. Verification was carried out to ensure compliance, including aerial surveillance, another source added.

However, details of the disengagement were not available. In the past, buffer zones were created at the friction points as per the understanding at the Corps Commanders level with no patrolling to be undertaken by both sides till overall disengagement and de-escalation is achieved after which the two sides are to work out new patrolling norms.

Last Thursday, the two countries announced that



Easing tensions: Army chief General Manoj Pande with the troops during the Parvat Prahar exercise in eastern Ladakh, amid the ongoing disengagement with China on the LAC. • PTI

their Armies have begun to disengage from PP-15 in Gogra-Hot Springs, marking a step forward to end the stand-off since May 2020. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had said that the two countries will take up remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) once the ongoing disengagement at PP-15 is complete.

However, while India maintains that friction points at Demchok and Depsang remain, China has refused to accept them as legacy issues predating the 2020 stand-off. Demchok is one of the two mutually agreed disputed areas in eastern Ladakh,

while Depsang is one of the eight friction points in the area. In Demchok, while there are varying claims in the Charding La area, China has set up tents on this side of Charding nala.

Beijing had welcomed the disengagement at PP-15 as "a positive development", but reiterated that it would not accept India's demand for restoration of status quo ante prior to the stand-off saying that "the status quo of April 2020... was created by India's illegal crossing of the LAC".

As reported earlier, since the beginning of the stand-off there has been heavy Chinese presence in the Depsang

plains, at a crucial area called the Bulge and PLA troops have also been blocking Indian Army patrols from reaching the PPs 10, 11, 11A, 12 and 13, located on the Limit of Patrolling which lies much before the LAC. As reported by *The Hindu*, according to senior officials, Indian Army last accessed the PPs in Depsang in January-February 2020. The Chinese build-up threatens Indian positions at Burtse and Raki nala, which are well inside the Indian territory, and further at Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) by bringing Chinese troops closer to the 255-km-long crucial Darbuk-Shyok-DBO road.

EC delists 86 parties, deems 253 inactive

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Tuesday ordered the delisting of 86 registered unrecognised parties it found to be "non-existent" and declared 253 others "inactive", it said in a statement.

The commission, comprising Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey, acted against the 253 parties based on reports by the Chief Electoral Officers of Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

"These 253 [parties] have been declared inactive as they have not responded to the letter/notice delivered to them and have not contested a single election either to the General Assembly of a State or the Parliament Election 2014 and 2019," the EC said. Among these were at least 14 from T.N., 34 from U.P. and 33 from Delhi.

The 86 parties that were delisted were found to be non-existent after a physical check by the CEOs or based on report of undelivered notices, the EC said. The EC has taken action against 537 such parties since May 25.

Iran may urge India to restart oil import

Modi to meet Raisi on sidelines of SCO

SUHASINI HAIDAR
 TASHKENT

Iran will nudge India towards reviving its procurement of discounted Iranian sweet crude during a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi that is likely to take place this Friday on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand.

This will be the first time the two leaders will meet since Mr. Raisi's election last year, as Iran joins the SCO as a member this year. The question of India's oil imports from Iran, which were cancelled in 2018-19, and the next stage of Chabahar port development are expected to be on the agenda for bilateral talks.

Mr. Modi is also expected to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. All eyes will be on any contact with the Chinese President, their first since the LAC stand-off, and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whom he would be meeting for the first time since he took over.

The discussion over In-

dia's oil purchases from Iran has been revived four years after New Delhi decided to "zero out" or cancel its oil imports from Iran under the threat of U.S. sanctions. However, soaring oil prices and the U.S.'s current focus on sanctions against Russia may trigger a rethink, analysts have suggested.

When asked, an Iranian official said India's decision to buy oil was a purely sovereign decision, but added that "illegal, unilateral sanctions" should not weigh with India.

"India and Iran, like other countries, have their own friends and specific relations. But we should not allow third parties to jeopardise or determine our own mutual ties, shared interests and cordial relations," the official told *The Hindu*, in a reference to India's 2018 decision.

The two leaders are also likely to discuss the next steps in developing Chabahar port's Shahid Beheshti terminal run by India, and the possibility of linking it to the International North South Transport Corridor.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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Shivshri Khandal Rank-3	Varsha Sharma Rank-5	Ravi Kumar Goyal Rank-7	Binu Dewal Rank-8	Vikas Prajapat Rank-9	Monika Samore Rank-11	Poonam Choyal Rank-13	Niharika Sharma Rank-15	Hemichand Raniya Rank-18		
Malwika Tyagi Rank-19	Rohi Sathashu Farley Rank-20	Sarita Sharma Rank-21	Padma Choudhary Rank-24	Kalpiti Sheoran Rank-25	Sunil Kumar Rank-28	Devi Lal Yadav Rank-30	Manisha Choudhary Rank-32	Amita Maan Rank-33	Divyraj Singh Rank-36	Sanjeev Khedar Rank-39
Bajrang Swami Rank-47	Shivaji Shekhawat Rank-51	Vinay Choudhary Rank-52	Neetu Rathore Rank-53	Rajendra Bhinchar Rank-54	Prithviraj Parmar Rank-56	Neetu Karol Rank-58	Ashok Joshi Rank-61	Kratika Yadav Rank-62	Brajesh Choudhary Rank-65	Charul Gupta Rank-66
Archana Choudhary Rank-67	Megha Goyal Rank-68	Narendra Nagar Rank-70	Anugam Mishra Rank-71	Varsha Gehlot Rank-73	Kartikay Lata Rank-77	Shilpa Rank-25	Pooja Meena Rank-28	Sonu Choudhary Rank-29	Manisha Meena Rank-40	Deepak Singh Sharma Rank-83
Pooja Yadav Rank-84	Gulab Singh Verma Rank-85	Shivam Joshi Rank-87	Anand Singh Rathore Rank-88	Dr. Rachna Rathore Rank-91	Anjali Singh Rank-94	Parikshit Rank-95	Meenakshi Saharan Rank-98	Megha Shandilya Rank-98	Rajendra Singh Rank-99	Kanha Jangid Rank-100

RAS 2021 Interview 6 सितम्बर से बैच शुरू सायं 3 बजे

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City one step closer to holding civic polls

Draft delimitation order reduces civic wards in 23 Assembly constituencies; mixed reactions by parties

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

The draft delimitation order of the municipal wards in the city, published on Monday, highlights alterations in the ward boundaries across 24 Assembly constituencies, with the total number of wards reduced from 272, before the reunification of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), to 250 now.

Municipal wards were reduced in 23 Assembly constituencies including Burari, Timarpur, Shalimar Bagh, Wazirpur, Dwarka, Matiala and Shahdara.

The number of wards in each of these 23 constituencies has been reduced by one, by merging smaller wards within the respective constituencies.

New electoral map

The total number of municipal wards in the Capital has been reduced to 250 from 272. Except for the Mustafabad Assembly Constituency (AC), which will now have five wards instead of four, 23 ACs have seen a reduction in the number of wards. Here's how the numbers have changed:

Burari	Timarpur	Badli	Sultanpur Majra
5 → 6	3 → 4	4 → 5	3 → 4
Mangolpuri	Rohini	Shalimar Bagh	Tri Nagar
3 → 4	3 → 4	3 → 4	3 → 4
Wazirpur	Sadar Bazar	Madipur	Rajouri Garden
3 → 4	3 → 4	3 → 4	5 → 4
Janakpuri	Uttam Nagar	Dwarka	Matiala
3 → 4	5 → 4	3 → 4	6 → 7
Najafgarh	Deoli	Sangam Vihar	Trilokpuri
4 → 5	4 → 5	3 → 4	3 → 4
Kondli	Shahdara	Seemapuri	Mustafabad
3 → 4	3 → 4	3 → 4	5 → 4

● CURRENT NUMBER OF WARDS ● PREVIOUS NUMBER OF WARDS

SOURCE: STATE ELECTION COMMISSION DELHI

Explaining the process

"We have focused on Assembly constituencies that have more than three wards and are larger in size. This is also because the minimum number of wards in each constituency has been fixed at three," a source said.

In one case – Mustafabad – the number of wards was increased from four to five.

"The average population per ward varied from 50,000 to 70,000. There were only 11 Assembly constituencies where the population per ward did not fit into this bracket. Now we will wait for public suggestions and objections and after concluding this process, send

the proposal to the Centre for its approval," the source added.

Suggestions and objections by people on the draft order for the proposed delimitation of municipal wards of Delhi can be sent to the authorities by October 3 evening.

After the Centre gives approves the draft, which is likely to happen by early November, civic polls can be held in the city, the source said.

The background

The need for the delimitation exercise arose after the Centre notified the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022, in April reducing the number of councillor seats to "not more than 250".

On July 26, *The Hindu* reported that the exact number of seats had been fixed at 250, while a gazette notification on Saturday confirmed the number.

Another change announced through the gazette notification on Saturday was the reduction in the number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes from 46, before MCD's reunification, to 42.

The delimitation committee, which was constituted by the MHA on July 8, is headed by State Election Commissioner Vijay Dev.

It was asked to complete the exercise and submit its report within four months from the date of its

constitution.

Parties react

Reacting to the changes made in the municipal wards, senior Congress leader Chatter Singh alleged "foul play" in the number of wards allotted in "certain constituencies".

"According to the average population per ward in Burari constituency, the total number of wards should be six, not five. A similar pattern has been observed in constituencies such as Mangolpuri, Kondli, Seemapuri, which are reserved for SC candidates," said Mr. Singh.

He added that the SEC's calculation "in increasing and decreasing wards in these constituencies is flawed".

Senior AAP leader Gopal Rai told agencies that the exercise has been done in an "illogical manner".

"Those involved in delimitation of ward just picked one Mohalla (locality) from a ward and put it in another ward," Rai said.

Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta welcomed the report and said that his party will offer "practical suggestions" during the exercise.

City court reserves order on Qutub row

'Plea nothing more than publicity stunt'

ISHITA MISHRA
NEW DELHI

Lawyers of the Hindu plaintiffs and the Archaeological Survey of India have asked a court here to impose heavy costs on Kunwar Mahender Dhwaraj Prasad Singh, who claimed that the Qutub Minar was built on land that belonged to him, for wasting the precious time of the court. Additional District Judge Dinesh Kumar, who heard the application, will pronounce the order on September 17.

Mr. Singh, who claimed to be a descendent of the royal Beswan family, had sought legal rights on the land where the Qutub Minar complex exists. He had approached the Saket court after it had finished hearing a plea seeking the restoration of 27 Hindu and Jain temples at the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque inside the ASI protected monument.

The main suit was filed on behalf of Jai deity Tirhankar Lord Rishabh Dev and Hindu deity Lord Vishnu (through their next of

friends).

"Because the monument was built of his land, he must be made a party in the suit," the applicant had told the court. He also claimed in the petition that he owned land in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and other areas which the government had occupied without his consent.

ASI lawyer Subhash C. Gupta maintained that the applicant had no grounds to become a part of the main suit and told the court that he just woke up one day and decided to claim rights on land that is spread in so many States.

"Sir, this man is claiming that he owns half of Delhi, including the court premises where we are standing right now," the ASI lawyer said.

Amrita Sachdeva, the lawyer representing the Hindu plaintiffs in the court, said, "He is not interested in any kind of relief from the court. This petition is nothing more than a publicity stunt and should be dismissed with heavy costs."

Two held for extortion bid

Two men were arrested for allegedly attempting to extort ₹5 crore from a Delhi-based businessman in the name of jailed gangster Neeraj Bawana, the police said on Tuesday.

The duo have been identified as Sunny Dagar alias Sunny Issapur, 30, and Pushpender Lochav, 34.

The victim runs a business in Bamoli village in Dwarka. The accused, Lochav, is his cousin who would often pass on relevant information about the victim to the criminals.

The businessman received threats calls in the name of Neeraj Bawana gang through virtual international numbers. "The caller had introduced himself as Sunny Issapur from Neeraj Bawana gang and had demanded ₹5 crore from him," the police said.

DCP (Special Cell) Rajiv Ranjan Singh said Sunny Dagar, belonging to Bawana's gang, was involved in the crime. Dagar, currently in Patiala jail, was interrogated. He disclosed that Lochav used to give him details about the victim's business.

AAP to organise protest visits to landfill sites

Party starts month-long campaign today to highlight MCD's 'failures' under BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party is set to roll out a month-long campaign on Wednesday to highlight the BJP-run civic body's "failures" in the national capital, starting with organising trips for the public to three infamous garbage hills located at the city borders.

Announcing the party's decision at a press conference, Delhi Environment Minister and Delhi AAP con-

venor Gopal Rai on Tuesday said the party leaders, in the first phase of the campaign, will take people to the three landfill sites – Ghazipur, Okhla and Bhalswa – to show them the "biggest achievement" of the BJP, which ruled the municipal corporation in the national capital for 15 years.

The trips to the three "mountains of garbage" will be organised on three days, starting Wednesday, under the theme, '*BJP ka chamat-*

kar dekho, kude ka pahad dekho' (See the BJP's miracle, see the garbage hills), the AAP leader said.

He said if the dumping of garbage is stopped now, it will take at least 27 years to clear the landfill sites, going by "the BJP's style" of work at the current pace and plan.

He claimed cleanliness in Delhi has gone from "bad to worse" since the municipal polls were deferred in the three erstwhile civic bodies,

even as "the BJP's top leadership took the command promising to bring a miraculous change" in the functioning of the MCD.

"People are fed up as they do not know where to register their grievances. Hence, the party has decided to organise the campaign in multiple phases. We won't let Delhi to continue to remain in such a situation," Mr. Rai told reporters.

"Either garbage or the BJP will leave Delhi," he said.

Sports quota trials at DU to return after 2 years

Candidates can apply for a maximum of three out of a total of 14 ECA categories

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi University will conduct trials for admission to undergraduate courses offered under its Sports and Extracurricular Activity (ECA) supernumerary quota in the second week of October after a gap of two years.

On Monday, the university launched phase one of its admission process, in which applicants will have to pay the registration fee, fill in personal details and their qualifying Board examination scores.

Phase two will start after the release of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Students who wish to apply for the ECA quota will have to pay an additional fee



Students showing their skills during sports trial at Delhi University's North Campus. ■ FILE PHOTO

of ₹100 while applying through the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) portal.

Application process

The university said there are 14 ECA categories, which are further divided into sub-categories. A candidate can apply for a maximum of three

ECA categories. For each category, a candidate can upload a maximum of five certificates, issued between April 1, 2017, and June 30, 2022.

Candidates will be selected on their best three certificates and/or trials, as per DU's criteria.

"Seats will be offered on

the basis of combined ECA merit, which will be calculated by taking 25% of the highest program-specific CUET percentage score of all the programmes in which the candidate has applied, and 75% of the highest ECA score obtained from all the categories in which the applicant has been considered," Dean, admission, Haneet Gandhi said.

Ms. Gandhi added that the combined sports merit will be calculated by taking 25% of the highest program-specific CUET percentage score of all the programmes in which the candidate has applied. "25% weightage will be given to the highest graded merit/participation sports certificate and 50% of the highest score obtained in the sports trials," she added.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice

For and on behalf of President of India, Deputy Chief Commercial Manager/Catering/PH, Northern Railway invites E-Tender on www.ireps.gov.in for the supply of following items to Catering Units of MPs Canteen North Avenue, PMO & VIP Canteen Railway Board, New Delhi.

S. No.	Items	Tender No.	EMD (in Rupees)	Tender Closing date & time
1	Sweets, Snacks & Bakery Items	86-AC-O-DC-PH-SweetsSnacksBakery-2022	96,700/-	06.10.2022 up to 1100 hrs.

Cost of Tender Document is Rs. 1,770/- (inclusive of GST @ 18%) to be paid online as mentioned in NIT on www.ireps.gov.in as per instructions to Tenderers for submitting e-bids on IREPS site.

Detailed information and Tender Form is available on E-TENDER on www.ireps.gov.in. Instructions to Tenderers for submitting E-bids is also available on Learning Centre (User Manual) on www.ireps.gov.in. 2384/2022

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INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)
CORRIGENDUM NO.2

Attention is drawn to E-Tender Notice No.TKP-2-2022 for "Manufacture and supply of 60E1 R260 Grade Prime, Class-A Rails of 260m lengths" due for opening on 14.09.2022.

Following Corrigendum to "SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENTS" under the Head Time Schedule- Item Nos. 3 & 4 is hereby authorized:

ITEM NO.	FOR	READ AS
3.	Submission of e-bids- Date 14.09.2022 and time 1430 Hrs.	Submission of e-bids- Date 28.09.2022 and time 1430 Hrs.
4.	Opening of Technical bids- Date 14.09.2022 and time 1500 Hrs.	Opening of Technical bids- Date 28.09.2022 and time 1500 Hrs.

All other terms and conditions of Tender Notice shall remain unchanged.

(Alok Kumar)
Director/Track (P&P)
2nd Floor, Room No. 256-D,
Rail Bhawan, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001
Phone: 011-23304652
E-mail: alokkumar.g@gov.in 2382/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY
Sector- 16 C, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078
Tel. No. 011-25302138/139
Website: www.ipu.ac.in, Email: gaipudwarka@gmail.com

Tender Notice

An open tender is invited from interested firms for engagement of agency for providing & fixing of backdrop, banners, signages, display board, etc.

Tender document can be downloaded from the University website: <https://www.ipu.ac.in> as well as e-procurement portal of Govt. of NCT of Delhi (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>). The bids will be submitted in two stages viz. (i) Technical bid (ii) Financial bid. The Technical & Financial bid should be uploaded on e-procurement portal of Govt. of NCT of Delhi (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>) by 19th September 2022 upto 03:00 p.m.

DIP/Shabdhar/0337/22-23 Registrar

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)
RAIL BHAWAN, RAISINA ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110001
CORRIGENDUM NO. 8 to the Tender No. WTA-527
No. 2022/RS(WTA)-149/TENDER/527 New Delhi, dated 13.09.2022
Sub: E-Tender No. WTA-527 due on 10.10.2022 for "Manufacturing cum Maintenance of 200 nos. of Vande Bharat Trainsets including upgradation of the Government Manufacturing Units & Trainset Depots"

Some of the terms and conditions of the subject tender have been modified and Corrigendum No. 8 has been uploaded on IREPS website. The prospective Bidders are requested to visit website-<https://ireps.gov.in> for more details.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (RS)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
RAIL BHAWAN, RAISINA ROAD,
NEW DELHI-110 001
E-mail - drsm@rb.railnet.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

VENDOR GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL CAMP

Vendor Grievance Redressal Camps will be organized (in online mode) by the Stores Department of Eastern Railway, in observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2022 starting from 31.10.2022 at the following places as per the Schedule mentioned below. Vendors are requested to send their grievances, if any, by e-mail to the respective officers at least 07 days before and also to attend the online camp.

Sl. No.	Date	Time	Place	To be arranged by	Mail-id
1.	31.10.2022 (Monday)	15.00 to 16.30	Headquarters	Dy. CMM/ Crane	dycmmcrane470@gmail.com
2.	31.10.2022 (Monday)	15.00 to 16.30	Halisahar/ Kanchrapara	Dy. CMM/ Halisahar	dycmmhr@gmail.com
3.	01.11.2022 (Tuesday)	15.00 to 16.30	Jamalpur	Dy. CMM/ Jamalpur	dycmmjpw@gmail.com
4.	01.11.2022 (Tuesday)	15.00 to 16.30	Belur Scrap Yard	Dy. CMM/ Belur Scrap Yard	dycmms@gmail.com
5.	03.11.2022 (Thursday)	15.00 to 16.30	Howrah	SMM/D/ Howrah	smdm@whr.railnet.gov.in
6.	04.11.2022 (Friday)	15.00 to 16.30	Liluah	Dy. CMM/ Liluah	dycmmliluah@gmail.com

PCMM/ER

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD
Corrigendum to e-TENDER NOTICE No. - PR 155 / 2022
With reference to e-tender Notice No. - PR 155/2022 issued in various newspapers on 30th August 2022 for "Printing and Supply of Variable/ Non-variable Answer Books with OMR Cover and OMR Sheets for Intermediate and Secondary Examination, 2023 (Annual and Compartmental) & other Examinations", changes have been made in Tender terms & conditions. The updated Tender Document & allied documents can be downloaded from website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>.

Secretary

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tender through GEM's

N.I.T. No 0622-23 Dated 13.09.2022 GEM BID No. GEM/2022/B/2530353

Name of work with its location: Provision of security arrangement at Northern Railway Central Hospital New Delhi for one year in S/o ADEN/NRCH under Director/Admin/NRCH.

Approx Cost of work: ₹ 1,73,06,406.37

Earnest Money: Rs. 237098/-

Completion period of work: 01 Year

Date & time for submission of tender & opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs on 07.10.2022 Opening of tender at 15.30 hrs. On 07.10.2022

Website particulars notice board: Complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.

Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.gem.gov.in

128-W/269/OET/22-23/NRCH/NIT 06 Dated : 13.09.2022 2385/2022

Serving Customers With A Smile

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Technology & Development Department
Corporate Headquarters, M.A. Road
Srinagar 190 001 J&K

J&K Bank
e-Request for Proposal (e-RFP)

Empanelment of Vendor to Establish & Operate ASK's (Aadhaar Seva Kendra) / AEC's (Aadhaar Enrollment Center) on behalf of Bank along with ASK / AEC Infrastructure, Aadhaar Kits and UDAI Certified MANPOWER (OPEX MODEL at Bank Branches)

RFP Notice along with Complete RFP document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://ikbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. September 13, 2022, 16.00 Hrs. RFP Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is October 03, 2022, 17.00 Hrs.

e-RFP Ref. No. JKB/T&D/ASK-AEC/2022-411
Dated: 09-09-2022

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA

GIST OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 53 OF 2022-23 Dated: 10-09-2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South (Awantipora), invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms / Companies / Joint Ventures / Consortiums (between bidder / firm and financier of all classes registered in JKPWD / CPWD / Railways or any other state Government for "Supply, installation, Testing & Commissioning of electro-mechanical equipments and construction of pump house /panel room / operator room at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora". The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid on item rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

sr. No	Particulars of the work	Esttd. Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical equipments at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.	Work /Scheme wise details given in Form-I of Tender Document	Rs. 500/- for each work	02% of the estimate d cost of each work	90 days	As indicate against each item in Form-I of Tender Document

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
The tendering authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Critical Dates

	Publish Date on Tender Portal	10-09-2022 (04:00 pm)
I	Document Download / sale start Date	10-09-2022 (04:00 pm)
II	Date of Pre-bid meeting	19-09-2022 (11:00 am)
III	Bid submission start date	10-09-2022 (04:00 pm)
IV	Document Download/ sale end Date	01-10-2022 (04:00pm)
V	Bid submission end date	01-10-2022 (04:00pm)
VI	Date and time of Bid opening	03-10-2022 (01:00pm)

1. Bid Documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
2. The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
3. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
4. The bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
a. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified against each item of work.
b. Bid Security to be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR / FDR/ BG of any scheduled Bank and shall be valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bid.
c. The cost of tender documents should be in form of TR/E challan in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
5. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD / TR / e-challan Eanest money in shape of CDR / FDR/ BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
6. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid / tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
7. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from website www.jktenders.gov.in.
8. Queries by email if any should be made at phecmechsouth@gmail.com.

No. JSD/MSA/2458
Dated: 10/09/2022
DIP/K-977/22

Executive Engineer
PHE Mechanical Division
South Awantipora

13 year-old girl crushed by iron gate, dies

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 13-year-old schoolgirl died after an iron gate of a BSES office fell on her on Monday afternoon in north-east Delhi's Khajuri Khas, the police said on Tuesday.

The deceased, Dolly Singh, a Class VI student, was returning home from school with her two friends when the incident took place, a senior police officer said.

A gate she was walking past fell on her with its iron spikes piercing her head, the police said. Upon hearing her screams, several locals rushed to her rescue and the police were called to the spot. Dolly was declared dead shortly after being hospitalised, the police added.

According to a senior police officer, an FIR under IPC Section 304A (causing death by negligence) has been registered. "We are ascertaining the role of each person, including the security guard of the discom. Investigation is under way," a police officer said.

The victim's father, Vijay Pal Singh, an auto driver by profession, told *The Hindu* that he was in Mehrauli when the incident took place. He said the BSES office is 500 mts. from the school and his daughter would walk past it every day. "When I reached the hospital, I saw her bleeding from the head. She kept begging me to save her. I don't know how we will overcome this loss," Mr. Singh said.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम सतना (म.प्र.)
N.I.T. No. 13(E.T.)/नगरपालिका/न.पा.नि./2022-23 सतना, दिनांक 12/09/2022

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

नगर पालिक निगम सतना द्वारा केन्द्रीयकृत व्यवस्था के अन्तर्गत म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत निविदाकारों से नगरीय प्रशासन एवं विकास विभाग भोजपुर के ISSR दिनांक 10/05/2012 के अन्तर्गत पर निर्माणित कार्य हेतु ए.ओ.आर प्रतियोगिता पर ऑनलाइन निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है। उल्लेखित कार्य की निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्र.	निविदा क्र. व दिनांक	टे. क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत	अमानत राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य की समाप्ति (सर्वाधिकार सहित)
01	13/ 12.09.2022	2022_UAD_221657_1	नजीराबाद एवं मास्ली नगर में उच्च स्तरीय टीको को बनाने एवं सवार्ड करने हेतु फीडर एवं सिस्टीम बनाने का कार्य। (रिक्त एच कार्ड) II/rd Call	2,48,71,105/-	2,48,800/-	15,000/-	05 माह

शर्तें- (1) निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक 13/09/2022 समय 15:30 से दिनांक 28/09/2022 समय 17:30 बजे तक ऑनलाइन मुद्रित करने पर प्राप्त हो सकेगा। (2) निविदा में संशोधन की सूचना वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित की जावेगी, समाचार पत्र पर संशोधन की सूचना प्रकाशित नहीं की जावेगी। (3) अंतिम का जीतित पंजीवन, जी.ए.सी. का जीतित पंजीवन, पेन कार्ड दिया जाना अनिवार्य होगा। (4) ई.पी.एफ. कार्यालय में पंजीवन अनिवार्य करवाएँ।

नगर पालिक निगम सतना (म.प्र.)

Timings DELHI

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 14
RISE 06:06 SET 18:28
RISE 21:01 SET 09:47

THURSDAY, SEP. 15
RISE 06:06 SET 18:27
RISE 21:37 SET 10:46

FRIDAY, SEP. 16
RISE 06:07 SET 18:25
RISE 22:17 SET 11:45

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 35 24
Safdarjung 35 24
Palam 34 25

Delhi Palam Today
34°C The weather will be warm and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night will be comfortable. Chances of rain and thundershower.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be comfortable. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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DTC in 2019 flagged 'irregularities' in procurement of low-floor buses

AAP terms allegations 'baseless'; wrongdoings done under AAP's direct supervision, says BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) flagged "gross irregularities" in the proposed procurement of 1,000 low-floor buses by the Delhi government soon after the process was initiated in 2019, a government source said.

According to the source, the DTC flagged "deviations from established norms" and "procedures related to bus procurement" in a report on the issue.

CBI probe

It was this report by the DTC that the Chief Secretary brought to the attention of Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, who subsequently forwarded it to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), asking it to be clubbed with an ongoing investigation related to alleged irregularities in a similar bus procurement bid.

"According to this report, the Delhi government violated Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines and General Financial Rules (GFR) in the procurement of 1,000 low-floor buses," the source said.

"The government backtracked and scrapped the tender process only after a comprehensive report by the Deputy Com-



Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot (left) at the flagging off ceremony of DTC buses. ■ FILE PHOTO

missioner of the DTC exposed the wrongdoings being done in the department under the direct supervision of Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot," the source also said.

The source added that despite being brought to his notice, Mr. Gahlot "saw" but did not sign the files about the alleged "discrepancies".

According to the report, the DTC had floated a single tender for the procurement of 1,000 BS-IV buses; whereas in the pre-bid process, the procurement was divided into two batches of 400 BS-IV buses and 600 BS-VI buses.

The tender itself, however, re-

tion and the price negotiation was flagged as being violative of GFR and CVC guidelines," the source also said.

The DTC report, stating that the tender process had been vitiated, recommended that an inquiry be conducted to fix responsibility for the lapses, in addition to recommending that the DTC scrap the tender and call fresh bids "without any delay".

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri alleged that wrongdoings in the procurement of buses was being done "under the direct supervision of the AAP government".

'BJP frustrated'

In response, AAP termed the allegations "a symbol of BJP's frustration."

"When they found nothing against AAP even after sending the ED, CBI, Police, Income-Tax Dept. after us, they have resorted to baseless allegations and slander," the AAP stated. On Sunday AAP chief spokesperson Sarabjot Singh said, "The L-G has sent the bus matter to the CBI thrice now, despite the probe agency having found nothing so far."

Red flags

"One particular company made a bid for 600 buses only. Therefore, its bid should have been summarily rejected and the process should have begun from scratch. But that did not happen," the source said.

"The DTC also invited a company that bid for buses in one category while negotiating on the basis of rates quoted by a company which had bid for buses in a different category. This action of DTC was without any justifica-

Students seek protection for Aravalis, meet Hardeep Puri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Around a hundred children, aged between 10-15 years, from different cities in the National Capital Region knocked on the doors of Haryana Bhavan and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in Delhi on Tuesday, seeking removal of certain proposals in the Draft NCR Regional Plan-2041 aiming to dilute protection to the Aravalis.

'Engaging conversation'

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Puri shared the pictures of his meeting with the children on his Twitter account saying that he was pleased to have an engaging conversation with budding environmentalists and addressed their concerns about Aravalis.

"We have been very disturbed to hear from our parents and teachers and after reading in the newspapers that a new NCR Draft Regional Plan

2041 has been proposed which is excluding terms such as 'Aravalis', 'Forest Areas', 'Natural Conservation Zone'. Our natural ecosystems are our only shield that can protect us from the climate crisis looming on our heads," Aarjav Jain, a Class VIII student from Pragati Public School in Delhi said in his letter.

He added, "Why has the NCR Draft Plan 2041 dropped the target, 'total forest cover proposed to be 10% of the total area of the region' of the NCR Regional Plan 2021 when we live in one of the most polluted areas in the world? Climate action demands an exponential increase in afforestation efforts by the government."

Mudit Sharma from Blue Bells International School, Delhi, said that they met the Resident Commissioner and the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs with the bundle of letters and signed sheets from students and teachers.



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Two held for killing shoe store owner

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two house painters were arrested for robbing and killing a 58-year-old man, a shoe store owner, the police said on Tuesday.

The accused, identified as Mehraj Alam, 32, and Taufiq, 21, stabbed the deceased, Islam Ahmad, in his shoe shop in Okhla's Batla House area.

They stole his mobile phone with the intention of stealing over ₹40,000 he had in his online wallet, the police said. The two painters had earlier worked at the victim's house on August 29 and 30.

Ahmad was returning home after closing his shop on Monday night when the duo met him on the pretext of buying shoes and urged him to reopen his shop. Seeing him alone, they stabbed him with a knife.

The police received a PCR call at 12.20 a.m. Ahmad was found lying on the road in an unconscious state with stab injuries on his neck. He was declared dead when taken to a hospital, the police said. A case under IPC Section 302 (murder) was registered.

The police said 180 hotels and lodges were searched and the suspects were arrested.

Woman shot at in Outer Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 55-year-old woman was shot at by unidentified assailants in front of her daughter and granddaughter at their home in Outer Delhi's Shahbad Dairy area, the police on Tuesday said.

The victim, Santra, was visiting her daughter's family in Delhi when the incident happened. The police received a call at 8.58 p.m. about the incident.

The victim was sitting with her family outside her house when two bike-borne men broke into their house and fired at them. Everybody escaped, except Santra who sustained injuries, the police said, adding that she was then taken to a hospital.

DCP (Outer) Devesh Kumar Mahla said the motive behind the incident is not clear as of now.

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Interested vendors are requested to visit our website www.ril.com (eB2B) For Suppliers > E&P Notice for EOI) for further details on the above and submit their EOI through e-mail on devoresponse.eandp@ril.com, on or before **29 September 2022**. For documents size beyond 10 MB, vendors should request RIL through e-mail to provide FTP link for uploading EOI documents. Subject of the mail should mention "RIL/E&P/EOI/2022/04".

Address for Communication
Chief - Supply Chain Management,
Reliance Industries Limited, Petroleum Business (E&P),
Reliance Corporate Park (RCP),
Building No 11, 'A' Wing, Second Floor,
Thane-Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai - 400 701, India.
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Navneet Sehgal (Additional Chief Secretary, Sports, Government of Uttar Pradesh).

What athletes need for success
Suresh Raina (Cricketer World Cup winner), Lalit Upadhyay (Olympic hockey medalist), Commander R. Rajagopalan (Former head, TOPS), Sanjeeva Singh (High-Performance Director, Indian Archery), Vijay Yadav (Commonwealth Games medalist). Moderated by Vijay Lokapally

Making sport a part of the school curriculum
Sandeep Singh (Minister of State (Independent Charge), Primary Education), Tahsin Zahid (CEO, SPEFL - NSDC), Sudhanshu Fadnis (CEO, Sportseed). Moderated by Varghese George

Sports for development and employment
Manjusha Kanwar (DGM-Sports Coordination, IndianOil), Nidhi Punthir (Head CSR, HCL Foundation), Uday Sinha (Managing Director, Ekana Sportz City), Brij Bhushan Saran Singh (President, Wrestling Federation of India). Moderated by Rakesh Rao

The world of eSports and education
Tirth Mehta (Asian Games eSport medalist), Lokesh Sujji (Director, ESFI). Moderated by Sudhanshu Fadnis

Safety and women's sports
Vandana Kataria (Commonwealth Games medalist), Priyanka Goswami (Commonwealth Games medalist), Rachana Govil (Former ED, SAI Lucknow), Ekta Bhyani (Asian Para Games medalist). Moderated by Taruka Srivastava

Uttar Pradesh's One District, One Product: Sports as an economic driver
Shiv Prakash Singh (Chairman and MD, Shiv Nareesh Sports), Vivek Kohli (Co-Chairman, Stag International), Rakesh Mahajan (Owner, BDM), Navneet Sehgal (Additional Chief Secretary, Sports, Government of Uttar Pradesh). Moderated by LV Navaneeth

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J&K SI recruitment scam: CBI searches 36 locations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR
Several teams of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) carried out searches at 36 locations in different States on Tuesday in the Jammu and Kashmir Sub-Inspector recruitment scam.
A CBI spokesman said the searches were carried out in Jammu and Srinagar, Haryana's Karnal, Mahendragarh and Rewari, Gujarat's Gandhidham, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad and Kar-

nataka's Bengaluru.
"The premises of former Chairman and Controller Examination of the J&K Service Selection Board (JKSSB), gang members domiciled in Haryana, certain teachers, some serving and retired officials of J&K Police, including a DSP, and CRPF, were searched during the on-going investigation," the CBI said.
Incriminating documents and digital evidence had so far been recovered during

the searches, it added.
The CBI had registered a case on August 3, 2022 against 33 accused, including then Medical Officer, BSF Frontier Headquarters, Paloura; then member, JKSSB; then Under Secretary, then Section Officer (both of JKSSB); Ex-official of CRPF; ASI of J&K Police; owner of a coaching centre, Akhnoor; private company based at Bengaluru; private persons and unknown others.

Rahul interacts with SilverLine protesters

He meets MGNREGS workers; Bharat Jodo Yatra of Cong. leader completes Thiruvananthapuram leg

STAFF REPORTER THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi completed its Thiruvananthapuram leg on Tuesday.
The MP interacted with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers and those protesting against the SilverLine semi-high-speed rail project on the day.
The rally which resumed from the Alummoodu market in Kaniyapuram continued to draw large crowds who braved the intermittent downpour. The *padayatra* which halted at Kallambalam for the day will resume at Navaikulam on Wednesday.
Mr. Gandhi heard the concerns of the representatives of the *Samsthana* K-Rail SilverLine *Virudha Janakeeya Samiti*, which has been



Rahul Gandhi interacts with a supporter during the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra on Tuesday. •PTI

available for mass transportation."
Action council chairman M.P. Baburaj told mediapersons that Mr. Gandhi had pledged his support towards their movement.
"He voiced concern over the social and environmental impacts of the project. He advocated exploring options to enhance speeds of the existing railway system by strengthening rail lines and modifying the signalling system," he said.
Addressing his last public meeting in the district at Kallambalam, Mr. Gandhi said a divided and hateful India could not succeed in solving its problems. "The *yatra* aims at bringing harmony, peace and compassion back to the country. It will strive to bring together all Indians, regardless of their religion and community," he said,

while adding that he would pay respects to social reformer Sree Narayana Guru when the rally resumes on Wednesday.
The Congress leader urged the Kerala government to review the design of roads that had been witnessing numerous accidents. Pointing out that his was not a critical, but a constructive view, he said hidden behind such "bad design" were several tragedies.
"While walking on these roads for the past few days, I've noticed several ambulances carrying victims of road accidents. There is something wrong with the design of your roads. I am not blaming the LDF (Left Democratic Front) or the Chief Minister since some have been built during the UDF (United Democratic Front) rule too," he pointed out.

spearheading the agitation against the K-Rail project during the mid-day halt at Mamom, near Attingal.
Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh tweeted: "During lunch

break at Attingal, @RahulGandhi listened to MGNREGA workers and activists opposing K-Rail. He articulated the need for a paradigm for social welfare, and that K-Rail is unnecessary with cheaper and better options

Pawan Varma meets Nitish

AMARNATH TEWARY PATNA

Former diplomat and Janata Dal (U) national general secretary Pawan Varma, who was expelled from the party in January 2020 for questioning Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over his "ideological clarity" on ties with the BJP beyond Bihar, met the latter in Patna, sparking speculation that he may rejoin the party.
"Though I was expelled from the party, my relation with Nitish Kumar has always been cordial and respectful. I was expelled from the party due to my principles and opposition to the NRC [National Register of Citizens] and the CAA [Citizenship Amendment Act]. I came here to express my best wishes on the formation of *mahagathbandhan* government," he said on Tuesday.

RSS chief visits temple in Chhattisgarh

Chief Minister invited Mohan Bhagwat to visit cow protection centres, schools

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR RAIPUR

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat visited the Mata Kaushalya Temple at Chandrakhuri on the outskirts of Raipur in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday on the invitation of the Congress government.
Mr. Bhagwat was here for an RSS coordination meeting that concluded on Monday.
The Kaushalya Temple, renovated by the State government in 2020, is one of the many projects through which Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is portraying a connect between his government and Hindu deities and symbols. The Opposition BJP has all along accused the government of trying to politicise religious symbols. In the specific context of the Chandrakhuri temple, BJP



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

leaders have even questioned the validity of the claim that Chandrakhuri was the birthplace of 'Mata Kaushalya', the mother of Lord Ram.
"We had invited Mohan Bhagwat ji to visit Mata Kaushalya Temple. I am sure he must have felt a sense of peace upon reaching there... He must have realised the new form of the temple, the love of *Maa* Kaushalya and

the power of *Bhancha* Ram," tweeted Mr. Baghel after Mr. Bhagwat concluded his visit. The Chhattisgarhi word *bhancha* (nephew) is a term of endearment signifying the close association of Lord Ram with the region through maternal ties.
Through another tweet, Mr. Baghel invited the RSS chief to visit the 'Gauthan' or cow protection centres and Swami Atmanand English medium schools where "Sanskrit is a compulsory subject".
The State unit of the Congress said Mr. Bhagwat was compelled to accept the invitation to avoid an uncomfortable situation. "This is the first time in the history of India that a Congress Chief Minister has invited the Sangh chief for a temple visit and the chief of the RSS, a self-

styled flagbearer of Hindutva, was forced to visit the temple to save the credibility of his ideology. Mr. Bhagwat is well aware of how uncomfortable the situation would have been had he turned down the invitation by a Congress Chief Minister to visit the temple," said Sushil Anand Shukla, Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress media in-charge.
"Will Bhagwat ask the BJP why it did not take care of Mata Kaushalya's temple even after running the government for 15 years? After visiting the temple, the Sangh chief must have realised that religion does not require any feeling of hatred. While respecting all religions, our culture can be preserved, which Bhupesh Baghel and the Congress government have proved," Mr. Shukla said.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, K.GOVINDAN, S/o Kaliyappan 76Yrs Ex.Serviceman No.2755810F/ Sepoy of Maratha Light Infantry, Tamilnadu. Residing at 81, Bala Vinayagar, SUGO Nagar, Pomeri-601204, my Wifes name is Punitha Meri & Her Date of Birth is 26.11.1952. It is wrongly Mentioned as 16.01.1952 in records

MEDICAL

WANTED OPHTHALMOLOGIST: "Ophthalmologist" Needed for RR Lions Eye Hospital, Palakot West Godavari district (A.P.M.S.(Ophthalmology) Contact - Ln.K.V.R. Narasimha Rao Administrator @98492 49000, Email:rrlions@rediffmail.com

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Completion Period of Work	12 months of date of execution of work
Cost of Tender document on cash / by Post	NIL
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11:00 hrs. on 30.09.2022 Opening of Tender at 11:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No. E File No. - 140025 Dated: 08/09/2022 2379/22
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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male. Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o : Unknown Age: 40 years, Height:5'4", Complexion: Dark, Wearing: without shirt and line under wear, who was found at Rajdhani Park Nanloi Railway line ke pass, Delhi . In this regard a case DD No.0020A dated 08.09.2022 has been registered at PS: Nanloi, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- S.H.O.
Nanloi, Delhi
Ph: 011-25942225

DP/897/OD/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one female namely Gayetri Devi W/o Sonu Tamolia R/o H.No. Gupta Ka Makaan, Gali No. 4, Sai Nagar, Meethapur Extn. Jaitpur, Delhi, Age: 34 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Shallow, wearing Saree & Hawai Chappal, has been missing along with her 2 children, daughter (1) Laxmi, Age: 11 years and Son (2) Ashish, Age: 4 years, from the jurisdiction of PS Jaitpur, South-East District, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 99A, dated 12.03.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Jaitpur, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the female and her children but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about them please inform undersigned.

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Jaitpur, Delhi
Ph.: 011-26666410, 26666412

DP/243/SE/22

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Mohit S/o Shri Om (2) Rohit S/o Shri Om, both R/o Village Pooth Khurd, near Radha Krishan Mandir, Delhi have Committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 638/22, U/S 308/34 IPC, dated 09.08.2022, P.S. Begumpur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) Mohit (2) Rohit cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) Mohit (2) Rohit have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Mohit (2) Rohit of FIR No. 638/22, U/S 308/34 IPC, dated 09.08.2022, P.S. Begumpur, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint/case on or before 15.10.2022.

By Order
Sh. Deepak Kumar-1
Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate
Rohini Courts, Delhi
DP/776/RD/2022(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Arjun Prasad, S/o Subedar Singh R/o H.No.75, T-Hut, E-Block, JJ Colony, Raghur Nagar, Tagore Garden, Delhi-27 also at Vill. Larpur, PS Tehsil Akbarpur, Distt. Ambedkar Nagar, UP has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case No. 13224/18 u/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Arjun Prasad cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Arjun Prasad has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Arjun Prasad of case No. 13224/18 u/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 29.10.2022.

By Order,
Dr. Ompal Shokeen
Metropolitan Magistrate (NI Act-04) (West), Room No.103, First Floor,
DP/781/WD/2022 Court Building, Annex-II, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one dead male head was found at Pole KM No. 11/01-3, Up line Rly Track Shakur Basti Railway Station on 28.08.2022 at 16.36 hrs. In this regard DD No. 35-A Dated 28.08.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi.

Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 50-55 years, Height: Unknown Complexion: Unknown, Wearing: Unknown Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

By Order,
S.H.O
P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: 011-28711697, 8750871308, 9811235224

DP/570/RLY/2022

Aaditya flays Shinde over Vedanta plant

ABHINAV DESHPANDE MUMBAI

Multinational mining company Vedanta Limited's move to set up its \$20 billion (approx ₹1.54 lakh crore) Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor plant in Gujarat had caused uproar in Maharashtra, with Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray and other Opposition leaders lashing out at Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for sending away the investment from the State.
Mr. Thackeray said the Maha Vikas Aghadi government had brought and finalised the deal for the State. However, the Shinde-Fadnavis government let it go to Gujarat, which also caused a loss to 170 allied industries and about 1 lakh jobs.
Sharing the screenshots of Vedanta Ltd. CEO Anil Agarwal's tweets, Mr. Aaditya said, "Although I'm glad to see this in India, I am a bit shocked. New dispensation had tweeted photos, claiming to have brought this to Maharashtra. Our govt. had brought this to the final stage."

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Kerala's enduring fascination for Jean-Luc Godard

International Film Festival of Kerala conferred Lifetime Achievement award on the French filmmaker last year

S.R. PRAVEEN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Film buffs in Kerala will have their own personal favourites to pick from the extensive oeuvre of legendary French filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard who passed away on Tuesday at the age of 91. But one enduring personal memory for all of them perhaps would be the image of him speaking directly to them through a video conference from his home at the opening ceremony of the 25th International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) in 2021.

The filmmaker, who famously refused to accept an honorary Oscar some years ago, made the appearance to accept the Lifetime Achievement award conferred on him by the IFFK.

Lighting up a cigar on screen, he thanked the IFFK for screening good and sensible films and expressed joy at the fact that five of his films are being screened

too. "I am sorry for speaking in the tongue of the dominators (English)," he said, amid loud cheers.

Filmmaker Aduor Gopalakrishnan, who received the award in his absence, remembered Godard as someone who rewrote the grammar of cinema.

After presenting the award, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had recollected the filmmaker's part in raising voice against the Vietnam war, the attacks on Palestine and in lending support to the May 1968 protests in Paris.

In his condolence note on Tuesday, Mr. Vijayan wrote that the filmmaker had played a key role in bringing Left progressive ideas on to the screen.

Film editor Bina Paul, former festival director of the IFFK, remembers the several attempts made to bring Godard to Kerala, with COVID-19 spoiling the plans last year. During his



Memorable moment: Jean-Luc Godard speaking at the 25th IFFK when he was given the Lifetime Achievement Award.

75th birthday, the IFFK had a special package titled 'Happy Birthday Monsieur Godard'.

The adulation he has been receiving here is a reflection of the kind of influence he has had on film viewers as well as a generation of filmmakers. One might not be able to draw a straight line from the French new wave, pioneered by Godard, François Truffaut and others to the Malayalam new wave of the 1960s and 70s, but there

certainly have been influences.

"When the film society movement started in Kerala in the 1970s, it had a radical Left character. Godard was its biggest icon during that period, with strident critiques of the existing filmmaking paradigms as well as film criticism. There used to be a saying - 'In cinema, there is no god, only Godard'. It is not a surprise that he has such wide acceptance in a society such as Kerala," says film critic

G.P. Ramachandran who wrote the book *Godard Pala Yathrakal* (Many Journeys of Godard).

Politics in films

Godard's politics was not in his film's content alone, but in the form too, which he constantly reinvented. "The problem is not to make political films, but to make films politically," he had once said.

His debut film *Breathless* itself is marked by the pioneering use of jump cuts and a minimalist style. In *Alphaville*, his science fiction film on an all-powerful technology which snuffs out literature and art and keeps everyone under a tight leash, he used everyday objects to tell a futuristic story.

Cinema was for Godard one of the tools which he used to express his philosophy and politics. Films such as *Masculin Feminin*, which portrayed youngsters breaking away from an older set

of norms, became examples of his perceptive understanding of the changes around him. The 1972 film *Tout va bien* (Everything's Fine), made as part of the Dziga Vertov Group, had class politics as its focus, just like quite a few other of his works. *Les Petit Soldat* faced ban for some years in France due to its portrayal of French torture of Algerians. *Les Carabiniers* made his anti-war philosophy clearer.

Though his influence did wane in the later decades, he continued to make cinema in his own way. The 266-minute video project *Histoire(s) du cinema* showed his enduring love for the medium.

When he made a foray into 3D filmmaking with *Goodbye to Language* in his 80s, he would keep on experimenting as long as he made films, which was till the fag end of his long, fruitful life.

Won't interfere in Bengal govt's grant for Durga Puja, says Calcutta HC

Division Bench imposes six conditions for release of grant to Puja committees

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday refused to interfere in the decision of the West Bengal government to increase the grant to Durga Puja committees for organising community pujas and disposed of a series of petitions challenging the State government's move.

The court, while emphasising that the stand of the State was that the disbursement of the fund was for "public purpose", said the grant should be strictly utilised for the purpose.

'Public purpose'

"The stand of the State is that the disbursement of the fund is for public purpose and not to propagate or encourage a particular religion... we are not inclined to interfere in the decision of the State. However, we are of the opinion that the grant should be strictly utilised for the purpose which has been mentioned in the order dated September 6, 2022, so that the public purpose contained therein is achieved," the order by the Division Bench of Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava and Justice Rajarshi Bhadrachalam said.

The State government had decided to increase the grant to Durga Puja clubs this year from ₹50,000 to ₹60,000 each. About 40,028 clubs (37,028 under the West Bengal Police and 3,000 under the Kolkata Police) will get the grant

which will cost ₹240.16 crore to the State exchequer.

In the order, the Division Bench imposed six conditions that the "grant will be released only to those clubs/Puja committees who in the previous year had utilised the same for the purpose it was granted and had duly submitted the utilisation certificate within time".

Police to distribute

The grant is to be distributed through the West Bengal Police and the Kolkata Police.

The order added that the Puja committees "will submit the utilisation certificate along with the supporting vouchers not later than November 15, 2022," and competent officers of the State government will duly scrutinise these.

The State government had said that the grant to the community clubs is "for assisting in showcasing the cultural heritage of Durga Puja, to promote tourism in the State and community policing activities of the State government."

The Advocate-General in his arguments has referred to the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage issued by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, to point out that Durga Puja is the most important socio-cultural and religious event in the Bengali festival.

West Bengal had started awarding grants to community Durga Pujas from 2018. From ₹10,000 to ₹18,000 in 2018, the grant has increased six times and the number of clubs has more than doubled.

IN BRIEF



Monsoon session of A.P. Assembly from tomorrow

GUNTUR
The monsoon session of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly will commence on September 15. The session is expected to last till September 22, with five business days. The YSRCP government has dropped enough hints of introducing the new Bill on Decentralisation and 'three capitals' during the session amid the heat generated by the land owners in Amaravati.

Telangana fire toll rises to eight

Fire began in the cellar where electric scooters were kept

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

A day after a fire killed six guests of a hotel in Secunderabad, the death toll rose to eight. The fire began in the cellar of the building on Monday where electric scooters were parked.

According to the Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services (TSDRFS), the structure in which the fire broke out comprises a



Looking for clues: The police inspecting the site where a fire broke out in Secunderabad on Tuesday. ♦PTI

cellar, ground floor and four upper floors. It houses an electric vehicle showroom –

Ruby Motors – and a hotel that has 28 rooms. As many as 25 people

were staying in the hotel during the accident.

A total of 17 people – out of which 11 were injured – were rescued. At least six people managed to escape as they jumped from the fifth floor of the ill-fated building onto an adjacent structure.

The TSDRFS suspect that either an electric scooter or a generator that was kept in the showroom caused the fire. While the structure had fire fighting equipment, it was not in working condition. The owners were "illegally" storing electric vehicles in the cellar, the TSDRFS said.

Flood warning issued at A.P.'s Dowleswaram

STAFF REPORTER
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

The first flood warning issued for the Godavari river at Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage in Dowleswaram of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. The inflows into the river at Dowleswaram was put at more than 11 lakh cusecs. Alert has been sounded in East Godavari and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema districts.

As Godavari was in spate at Bhadrachalam in Telangana, second flood warning was issued.



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Part of a pattern

Courts should be wary of giving a toehold to communal forces in religious disputes

Hindu revanchism has found a way to use the legal route to record early success in its latest communal campaign. The district court in Varanasi has rejected objections to the maintainability of a suit filed by five Hindu devotees seeking the right of daily worship at a spot in the Gyanvapi mosque. Of particular significance is that the court ruled that the suit is not prohibited by the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, which freezes the status of places of worship as it was on August 15, 1947 and bars suits that seek to change their character. On the fact of it, the ruling only paves the way for the suit to be heard and is in consonance with law. The plaintiffs have argued that the spot had the status of a Hindu temple on that day and ever since, and that the suit does not seek to convert a mosque into a temple; on the other hand, they are only demanding the right to worship deities in the complex. If limited to this assertion of a religious and customary right, the suit may indeed not be barred by the 1991 law. However, it is a matter of concern that the ruling is also grounded in other claims that appear to question the mosque's status. For instance, the court says records produced by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee were not enough to show that the complex was Waqf property. This appears in concert with the Hindu side's claim that Muslims were "encroachers", an assertion that clearly makes it a dispute aimed at converting the property's status.

Courts should be wary of underhand designs behind the legal facade that such litigation builds to gain a toehold right that can be incrementally expanded. The mere pendency of some kinds of religious disputes can contribute to the vitiation of peace and harmony. It is now clear that the enactment of a special law to freeze the status of places of worship and prohibit litigation over inter-religious disputes over their location has not stemmed the Hindu right-wing's obsession with targeting mosques and stoking communal passions. It is no surprise that the latest efforts to raise civil and legal disputes involving the Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi and the Shahi Idgah Mosque in Mathura are being made in tandem with a campaign against the Places of Worship Act. Several petitions have been filed challenging its validity. That such a campaign goes on despite the experience of communal frenzy through the 1990s shows the unregenerate nature of majoritarian forces. The abominable destruction of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, the communal riots that took place in its aftermath, the serial bomb blasts in Mumbai, and the fundamentalist violence that the sequence of events spawned cannot be forgotten. It is unfortunate that an atmosphere has been created in which the political leadership can encourage divisive litigation and exploit the process, if not influence the outcome.

A different Slam

Alcaraz and Swiatek have emerged on top from a slow churn in tennis

The US Open defies tradition. It was the first Major to introduce a final-set tiebreak way back in 1970. It was the first to award men and women equal prize money in 1973. This year, it became the first to introduce coaching during matches. There is also non-conformity of a different kind; Flushing Meadows is no single male player's fiefdom. Since January 2006, the Australian Open, Roland-Garros and Wimbledon have collectively seen just five different winners. In the same time span, US Open has had 10, the last of which is Spanish sensation Carlos Alcaraz, crowned the king of New York on Sunday after a four-set victory over Norway's Casper Ruud. The triumph has taken Alcaraz, 19, to the pinnacle of ATP rankings, making him the youngest man to reach the top. He is also the first teenager to win a Grand Slam tournament since Rafael Nadal at the 2005 French Open. The title run was Alcaraz's baptism by fire. Prior to the final, he had spent over 20 hours on court and had to battle through three tough five-setters that finished well past midnight. Ruud, known for his consistency and court coverage, had past experience of a Major final (2022 French Open). But Alcaraz did not suffer a letdown, displaying the same spirit he had in clinching the Madrid Masters in May by defeating Alexander Zverev after having recorded back-to-back victories over Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

Circumstances played a role in Alcaraz's ascent. Djokovic not being awarded any points for his Wimbledon win and then being barred from entering the United States of America because of his unvaccinated status eased his path. While he undoubtedly plays first-strike tennis of the highest order, there may yet be contemporary equals. Jannik Sinner, after all, had a match-point in the fourth set of their quarterfinal. But no player in recent memory has combined as many good traits – shot-selection, temperament and a complete absence of big-match nerves – into such a wholesome package like Alcaraz. Even as the Spaniard ushers in the churn at the top of the men's game, the women's side seems to be settling down, with both a dominant force and a pecking order emerging. Iga Swiatek, the unquestionable World No.1 since the first week of April, captured her maiden US Open – second Grand Slam title in 2022 after Paris and third overall – while Ons Jabeur made her second straight final. Though Naomi Osaka has a higher Slam count (four), Swiatek's awe-inspiring all-court prowess makes her the ideal candidate to be the next figurehead. As Serena Williams heads into retirement – the third-round defeat in New York appears to be her last stand – it finally feels like the passing of the baton.

For India, the buzzword now is 'all-alignment'

Its participation in the SCO summit is a clear signal of pursuing multi-alignment with its partners worldwide



SUHASINI HAIDAR

In his book *The India Way*, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar offers a critique of India's traditional policy of "non-alignment" where he distinguishes between the "optimistic non-alignment" of the past, which he feels has failed, that must give way to more realistic "multiple engagements of the future". He writes, "This is a game best played on the front foot, appreciating that progress on any one front strengthens that on all others."

By announcing his visit to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan this week (September 15 and 16), Prime Minister Narendra Modi has certainly spoken with his feet, as have the other leaders attending the event, at a time when lingering strains of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian war in Ukraine, the upcoming Chinese Party Congress (in October), and floods in Pakistan could well have given them reason to hold the summit virtually – as they have for the past two years. Instead, the Uzbekistan SCO summit will host a full house: 15 leaders including eight member states from four Central Asian States, China, India, Pakistan and Russia, the observer states: Belarus, Mongolia and Iran (which will become member this year) – Afghanistan is not invited – and leaders of guest countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Turkmenistan.

Balancing the blocs

Even before the summit begins, Mr. Modi, by his plans to attend, is sending the world a number of messages. To begin with, the visit reinforces his commitment to an Indian foreign policy that balances various blocs – pitting India's membership of the SCO and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) against its membership of the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, the U.S.), groups such as the I2U2 (India-Israel-U.S.-UAE), and the Indo-Pacific Economic Frame-

work (IPEF). This was highlighted more recently with India joining the Russian-led 'Vostok' Army Exercises along with China, and plans to host SCO-RATS (or the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization) counterterrorism exercises while the Indian Air Force took part in the Australian 'Pitch Black' exercises, and the Indian Army is planning exercises with the U.S. (Yudh Abhyas) next month close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC). In a Venn diagram, India is the only country that would form the intersection, a part of all of those groupings.

Another juxtaposition is that of values over interests, or that of the western brand of a "coalition of democracies", against a more Eurasian brand of a "coalition of common goals". It is worth noting that the SCO membership is not premised on India's traditional non-aligned posture. While Mr. Modi has skipped all the Non-Aligned Movement summits in his tenure (the only Indian Prime Minister to do so, apart from caretaker Prime Minister Charan Singh in 1979), he chose to lead India into the SCO in 2017. Next year, India will host the SCO summit, and is expected to invite all members – this includes Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif – showing how far New Delhi will be willing to go in its commitment to the SCO.

On Russia's Putin

The next basket of signals Mr. Modi sends out is to individual members of the SCO, regardless of whether he will hold a one-on-one with each of their leaders on the sidelines or not. The first is to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is under a western siege over his invasion of Ukraine. Since February, India has refused to heed pleas from the U.S. and Europe to endorse resolutions critical of Russia at the United Nations, and has most often abstained on voting. The Government has not only rejected calls to cut its Russian oil imports but it has also done the reverse: imports of Russian oil jumped from 0.66 million tonnes in the first quarter to 8.42 million tonnes in the second this year. In particular, Rosneft-part owned



FILE PHOTO/PTI

Gujarat-based refinery Nayara Energy has imported a substantial part of the oil, much of it for export of crude products. During a virtual address at the Putin-led Eastern Economic Forum last week, Mr. Modi also said India wants to further strengthen energy ties, building on the \$16 billion investment Indian public sector units already have in Russian oil and gas fields. A Modi-Putin summit at this point would send out a much more powerful message to western leaders, who are planning to boycott Mr. Putin at the upcoming G-20 summit in Bali in November.

Meetings with these leaders

The other most closely watched engagement will be between Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi. The two leaders, who met 18 times between 2014-2019, have not spoken directly once since the standoff that began in April 2020 between the Indian Army and the People's Liberation Army (PLA). India-China bilateral ties have come to a virtual standstill on most fronts, with the exception of trade, and many have been sceptical that the latest round of disengagement at the LAC's Patrolling Point (PP)-15 can pave the way for summit-level discussions at this point in the relationship. It seems likely that the leaders will come face to face during the summit, and any discussion will be significant.

It should be remembered that during the Doklam conflict, it was a "brush by" meeting between Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi at the G-20 summit venue in Hamburg, in July 2017, that led to the "breakthrough" in talks and resulted in Mr. Modi's visit to Xiamen for the BRICS summit two months later (in September 2017); a similar trajectory may be pursued, leading up to the G-20 summit in Bali. To those aghast at the idea that India can hold such a meeting despite

the PLA's transgressions into Indian territory, it must be recalled that the Government has never formally stated that Chinese troops are on Indian soil, or updated Mr. Modi's June 2020 assertion that "no one came inside, nor is anyone inside Indian territory".

Other important signals would come from a proposed summit with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, given that Mr. Modi, at the SCO summit, is expected to pitch the Chabahar port terminal India is developing (Shahid Beheshti) as an important route for trade to Central Asia and Russia. Although India is no longer a part of the railway connectivity project from Chabahar, Iran has asked for support with "above ground" equipment and parts for its plans to extend the rail line from the Afghan border outpost to Turkmenistan, the shortest possible route for India. This would also tie in with the Modi government's plans to build a connectivity framework that counters the China-Pakistan-Economic Corridor from Gwadar, which China plans to connect through Afghanistan to Central Asia. Last week, Afghanistan, China, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan signed a railway agreement for a new "Regional Economic Corridor" to take their plan forward.

The oil issue

In addition to connectivity, Iran will focus, in meetings with India, on restoring Indian imports of Iranian crude at the earliest. While India cancelled its Iran oil purchases, a sizeable 12% chunk of its imports, in 2019 after the Donald Trump administration in the U.S. threatened New Delhi with sanctions, it is clear the geopolitical map has changed since then. The Biden administration is back in negotiations with Iran for its re-entry to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear agreement (the P5+1, the European Union, and Iran), and is much more focused on curtailing Russia's oil revenues than on Iran's.

It is puzzling that the Modi government – it asserts its right to buy discounted Russian oil in order to stave off inflation for the Indian consumer – has not yet considered reviving its old, cheaper and sweeter crude contracts that Indian refineries are better suited

for. New Delhi may also review its decision to kowtow to the U.S.'s unilateral, non-UN sanctions on Iran (and Venezuela). More recently, the Modi government's decision to push back against the American threats of sanctions on the S-400 Triumf missile defence system deal and on oil trade with Russia, has forced the U.S. to blink.

Finally, Pakistan

Finally, there are the optics of the Indian and Pakistan Prime Ministers attending the same conference, which will undoubtedly lead to speculation about a possible thaw in a frozen relationship. After the Modi government's claim in 2016 that it would ensure Pakistan is "isolated" on the terror issue, and the decision by the government of Imran Khan in 2019 that no trade with India is possible without a reversal of New Delhi's Article 370 moves in Jammu and Kashmir, formal communication has all but ended. However, a powerful backchannel with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Pakistani military interlocutors is evidenced by the ceasefire being largely maintained at the Line of Control, regular border commander talks and the relative calm after the misfiring of an Indian ballistic missile into Pakistan this year (March). With Pakistan reeling from massive floods, an economic crisis, and growing worries of an unstable Afghanistan at its border, it remains to be seen whether Pakistan leader Sharif can find a way to hold a conversation with Mr. Modi at the SCO, and if Mr. Modi, with an eye to hosting the SCO and the G-20 next year, is willing to reciprocate.

Above all, India's participation in the SCO summit, and Mr. Modi's decision to stand shoulder to shoulder with Putin-Xi-Raisi-Erdogan-Lukashenko just months after he met with Biden-Kishida-Albanese at the Quad summit affirms Mr. Jaishankar's prognosis: that "hedging" is the name of the game today, as India fights for its unique brand of multi-alignment or "all-alignment" with partners worldwide, without having to choose between them. As in Tokyo and Samarkand, just "showing up" is half the battle won.

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Connecting the dots to boost the patent ecosystem

Increasing the efficiency of processing patent applications and wider academia-industry collaboration are crucial steps



REJI JOSEPH

The recent report of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), 'Why India Needs to Urgently Invest in its Patent Ecosystem?', highlights the significance of a robust patent system for a knowledge economy and for the promotion of technological innovations. It highlights the rising share of residents in the total number of patent applications filed in India, which has more than doubled during the last decade. And, for the first time, the number of patent applications by residents has surpassed that of foreign applications during the last quarter of the financial year 2021-22. The Economic Survey 2022-23, for instance, highlighted the rising share of Indian residents in patent applications.

A major concern expressed in the EAC-PM report is the long pendency of processing patent applications in India. Therefore, it has recommended several measures to reduce this. Increasing the efficiency of processing patent applications will certainly improve the patent ecosystem in the country.

At the same time, we need to investigate the patent ecosystem more closely to connect the dots so that appropriate measures are adopted to improve the patent ecosystem, keeping in view the national innovation ecosystem.

On abandoned applications

The total number of patent applications to the Indian patent office has increased by 48% between 2010-11 and 2020-21, largely driven by applications by residents. Interestingly, the number of abandoned patent applications also increased at an astonishing rate during this period.

The latest Annual Report (2019-20) of the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, Trademarks and Geographical Indications (CGPDTM) shows that the number of abandoned patent applications, on account of not meeting the requirements under Sections 9(i) and 21(i) of the Patents Act, grew from 5,186 in 2010-11 to 23,291 in 2019-20, an increase by almost 350%. The share of such abandoned patents in the total number of patent applications soared from 13.6% in 2010-11 to 48% in 2019-20.

Section 9(i) of the Patents Act provides that those applications accompanied by provisional specifications be supported by complete specifications within one year. Section 21(i) requires patent applicants to re-file documents if



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the patent examiner finds them not meeting the requirements. A plausible reason could be that the applicants are not confident about their applications passing scrutiny and, therefore, do not pursue their applications. It may also be possible, especially in the case of innovations with short-life spans, that the long pendency discourages applicants from following up on their applications. But certainly, this is an aspect of the patent ecosystem where we need more information to connect the dots.

Another key issue

Since the adoption of the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy 2016, a lot of emphasis has been attached to the filing of patent applications. It is worth examining if perverse incentives have been created in the process, which encourage the filing of patent applications even when the innovator knows that their claims will not pass scrutiny. If that is the case,

eliminating such perverse incentives itself will add to improving the patent ecosystem of India.

The higher education sector of India is rising in prominence in the research and development spending and patenting landscape of India. The share of this sector in the gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) has increased from 5% in 2013 to 7% in 2018, as UNESCO's data on science, technology and innovation shows. The number of patent applications filed by the top 10 academic institutes and universities in India (in terms of the number of patent applications) rose by more than two times in four years, from 838 in 2015-16 to 2,533 in 2019-20. Their share in the patent applications by residents also doubled from 6.4% to 12.2% during the same period.

The growing prominence of this sector in patenting activity indicates the priority it attaches to commercially significant technological innovations. When the higher education sector is increasingly focusing on the development component of R&D, it is also expected that the collaboration between industry and academia will also increase in the area of R&D. But the reverse is true in the case of India.

Low score for this indicator

The Global Innovation Index (GII) is prepared based on the score that each country gets under 80

indicators – industry-academia collaboration is one. India's score for this indicator has in fact declined over the last few years, from 47.8 in 2015 to 42.7 in 2021. Consequently, India's ranking in this indicator in the GI declined from 48 to 65 during this period. However, improvements in some other indicators have resulted in India's overall ranking in the GI improving from 81 in 2015 to 46 in 2021.

The draft of the National Auto Policy 2018 (Draft) points out that collaboration between the industry and academia in India has been limited to niche research areas that have low commercial significance. It also admits that innovations from India, originating from collaborative research projects, and implemented and commercialised in the automotive space have been scarce. This is not confined to the automotive sector but is a phenomenon prevalent across most sectors in India.

As the patent system is a critical aspect of the national innovation ecosystem, investing in the patent ecosystem will help in strengthening the innovation capability of India. The right interventions should be made for the promotion of the quality of patent applications and collaboration between academia and industry.

Reji Joseph is an Associate Professor at the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi

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.

District court's decision

Going by the yardstick of what noted jurist Brett Kavanaugh famously said, "I believe that an independent judiciary is the crown jewel of our [American] constitutional republic", the judiciary of India, especially the lower courts, appears to be busy dissecting the law, perhaps on compulsions from the executive, rather than ensuring the delivery of timely justice, and finding amicable solutions (Page 1,

"Hindu women's suit in Gyanvapi case maintainable, says court", September 13). The real issues that the common man faces, which includes shrinking jobs, rising inflation, and fading social and religious harmony, have all been put on the back burner. The embers of a divisive politics appear to be kept warm and live for dubious purposes.
Dr. B. J. C. MATHWU,
Thiruvananthapuram

The lower court's decision may open the door for elements to further their divisive politics. There are right-wing outfits bent upon laying claim to certain places of worship as a part of their political project and tied to narratives of a certain 'nationhood'. The spirit guiding the Places of Worship Act that is designed to protect the secular features of the Constitution ought not to be undermined.
M. JEVARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Stray dog control

I would like to draw the attention of the authorities and the general public to the serious problem caused by stray dogs. It is now a common thing to come across packs of "community" dogs on most roads. As a young school student who goes to school and extra classes by cycle, I have been chased by such dogs, endangering my life in the process. I am aware how dangerous it is to be bitten by a dog.

Rabies is a deadly disease. It can also result in death in a horrible and painful way. This is the kind of risk I am exposed to every day. The authorities need to take action and ensure the safety of both the young and the old.
M. SREE CHANDHANA VARMA,
Coimbatore

In many places, stray dogs have got used to being fed by some people. Once this stops they begin to attack people out of hunger too. In Kerala, for example, stray dogs can be seen feeding on the remains of meat from poultry shops. This aspect and also garbage disposal need to be tackled at the earliest. Many people have stopped going on their daily walks due to the stray dog menace. Two-wheelers riders are exposed to grave danger. The stray dog issue has to be addressed.
KISHOR KUMAR R.,
Thiruvananthapuram

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An improved Bill, but still contentious

The draft Indian Ports Bill of 2022 has not resolved the main issue between the Centre and maritime States



K. ASHOK VARDHAN SHETTY

The Indian Ports Act of 1908 is obsolete in many respects and needs a complete overhaul. Pre-legislative consultation of a draft Bill with stakeholders is good practice, and the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways needs to be commended for holding four rounds of consultations on the draft Indian Ports Bill that will replace the 1908 Act. The 2022 draft of the Bill is an improvement over the 2021 draft, but it has only tinkered at the margins without resolving the main issue of disagreement between the Centre and the maritime States.

India has 12 major ports and 212 non-major ports. Most of the non-major ports are small fishing harbours and only a few of them cater to international shipping. Major ports figure in the Union List and come under the jurisdiction of the Central government. Non-major ports are in the Concurrent List and come under the respective State governments, but the Centre has overriding legislative and executive powers.

Problems of the 2021 draft Bill

In 1997, a Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) was created by an executive order, with the Union Minister of Shipping as chairperson and the Ministers in charge of ports of the maritime States/Union Territories (UTs) as members. The MSDC serves as an apex advisory body for the coordinated development of major ports and non-major ports. It has met only 18 times in the last 25 years. The Union Ministry of Shipping provides secretarial services for the MSDC's meetings. What made the 2021 draft of the Indian Ports Bill controversial were the provisions of Chapters II and III which sought to give statutory status along with wide-ranging powers and functions to the MSDC and make it a permanent body with its own office, staff, accounts and audit. A body like the MSDC is necessary, but the nature and quantum of its work do not call for either statutory status or a permanent body. It may be recalled that even the



Union Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) was created only by an executive order. Maritime States suspect that the real aim of a statutory-cum-permanent MSDC is to curtail their powers to develop and manage non-major ports; it is less about efficient allocation of resources and more about control by the Centre.

The 2021 draft contained several provisions that were a replay of the Socialist-era follies of Central planning and Inspector Raj. It sought to empower the MSDC to formulate a national plan, to be notified in the official gazette, for the development of major and non-major ports; to monitor the development of non-major ports and ensure their integrated development with major ports and the national plan; and to order an appropriate inquiry if any port contravenes the national plan. It also empowered the Centre to make a port non-operational if it was not in consonance with the national plan. It prescribed draconian penalties including imprisonment for non-compliance with the MSDC's directions by port authorities, port officials and other persons.

Centralising tendencies

The 2022 draft Bill has dropped or toned down many of these provisions, but it has retained the MSDC as a statutory-cum-permanent body. It has also retained open-ended provisions like Section 10(c) that authorise the Central government to entrust any administrative and financial functions to the MSDC. In order to ensure that the composition of the MSDC is in favour of the Centre, the draft Bill makes five Secretaries and one Joint Secretary to the Government of India, besides the administrators of the coastal UTs, as mem-

bers. This is a bad precedent wherein the vote of an officer would count the same as the vote of a Minister. Like the Goods and Services Tax Council, the MSDC should consist only of the concerned Ministers of the Union and maritime States/UTs; officers should only be special invitees. A fair arrangement would be to give 50% weightage to the votes of the Ministers representing the Centre and 50% weightage to the votes of Ministers representing the maritime States/UTs in proportion to the number of functioning non-major ports.

In contrast to the centralising tendency reflected in the draft Bill, most U.S. ports are owned and managed by counties and municipalities with port operations largely in private hands. Ports in Germany are managed at the municipal and regional levels. Even in China, ports are managed at the municipal level with the local authorities having a substantial stake in corporatised ports. Thus, international experience shows that ports are best managed by local and regional governments.

Performance of ports

There could have been a case for the Centre/MSDC to play a more active role with regard to non-major ports if the latter had been performing poorly. But data show that non-major ports have fared much better than major ports. Between 1993-94 and 2021-22, the share of the total cargo of non-major ports went up from 8% to 45%, and the CAGR of cargo traffic of non-major ports was 14% compared to the 4.8% of major ports.

While major ports performed the various port functions with their own staff and equipment and with all the usual shortcomings of public sector enterprises, maritime States de-

veloped non-major ports almost entirely on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis. Gujarat was the trendsetter. It developed India's first private port at Pipavav (with APM Terminals); the largest captive port at Sikka (with Reliance Industries); the largest commercial multipurpose port at Mundra (with Adani); the first two LNG Terminals at Dahej and Hazira; and the first dedicated chemical port terminal at Dahej. Other maritime States – Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu – followed suit. From 1996 onwards, the Centre also adopted the PPP model but the process of awarding concessions has been rather slow.

A 2011 World Bank Report, 'Regulation of the Indian Port Sector', observed that non-major ports are perceived as "more business oriented, customer friendly, cheaper and in general more efficient" whereas "unnecessary regulatory and financial burdens are imposed upon Port Trusts, private terminal operators and investors" by the Central government. So, the last thing we should be doing is saddling non-major ports with the same handicaps as major ports. A statutory-cum-permanent MSDC will do precisely that. It will choke future development of non-major ports and stifle novel initiatives by the maritime States of the kind that Gujarat did on its own. Central planning has no place in a market-oriented economy where non-major ports (and now even major ports) are developed almost entirely through private investments.

It is, therefore, recommended that Chapters II and III of the draft Bill relating to the MSDC be scrapped and that the MSDC remain an apex advisory body. In keeping with port reform strategies worldwide, the Centre should work towards greater decentralisation, deregulation, corporatisation and private sector participation. It should give the concerned maritime States and city municipal corporations a substantial equity stake in corporatised major ports. It should limit itself to overseeing only the 'higher functions' of border control, competition policy, port security, environment protection and hinterland connectivity.

K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty is former Vice Chancellor, Indian Maritime University, Chennai, and a retired officer from the Indian Administrative Service

An opportunity for India Inc

Corporate India's response to the country's job crisis has been more symbolic than substantial



C. SARAT CHANDRAN

We live in an age when businessmen command considerable influence in society. Ratan Tata, Mukesh Ambani, and Azim Premji are seen not as wealth creators but as nation builders. A good deal of business news today captures the imagination of the average citizen. A public issue, a trade agreement, the rise of a new corporate brand, a start-up, a collaboration is big news today. The guilt complex associated with making money has long since disappeared from the nation's conscience. India's stock markets are now in an explosive phase of growth and start-ups are reaping huge funds without any credible record of performance, largely on the trust of retail investors. Corporate India receives a reservoir of trust, goodwill and confidence from the nation and must return it in equal measure. Has India Inc lived up to those expectations? How much does an inclusive India figure in its vision?

Response to job crisis

Corporate India dreams big today. Brand power, digital technology, talent pools, scales of operations, and global connectivity are all part of its agenda. Yet, how much does the magnitude of India's jobless growth overwhelm the big business? Mahatma Gandhi's insight that "what we need is not mass production, but production by the masses" must be an enlightened vision of Indian business. Yet, the response of corporate India to the country's job crisis has been more symbolic than substantial. The reality is that much of India's blue-collar employment is generated in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and in its sprawling gig economy. Some 45% of India's manufacturing takes place in the sweat shops of garments units, hazardous chemical factories and in unsafe engineering workshops. The jobs thus created are sub-optimal with low wages and unstable working conditions. India's SME sector needs to modernise itself with the help of digital technology, professional management and better scale of operations. This is the 'new economy' and India's corporate sector can extend a helping hand across the aisle to help the SMEs achieve this transformation. That act must not be seen as large-heartedness but market-driven and backed by a strong value proposition.

The Indian SME sector has many hidden treasures waiting for this makeover. Take the

case of Indian food, which is popular worldwide. Most Indian restaurants abroad are owned by individuals with limited resources for growth. The result is that India has not been able to create a McDonald's or KFC to bring Indian food to the world stage as a global business in scale and sophistication. How many corporates here have seen an opportunity in this space? Many big houses in India have rushed to invest in electric mobility. Why hasn't even one of them seen the prospects of globalising Indian food? That could have created a million jobs for Indians.

Across the world, the informal sector is steadily evolving into the formal sector in partnership with the organised industry which is creating innovative business models. The most visible example is that of Uber and Ola, which have brought hundreds of individual taxi owners on their platforms to create a win-win situation for both, and added value to the consumer as well. This model could now be replicated in other situations. The vegetable vendor who wheels his cart to neighbourhood homes could be part of an e-commerce company and provide last-mile connectivity. The shoe shine worker at the street corner could be brought under the fold of a multinational shoe company to upgrade his work and quality of his life. The results could be overwhelming. They both could then open a bank account, be eligible for loans and credit cards, and be part of the formal sector with increased income and fixed hours of work. For the companies, the partnership offers a recognition for a meaningful contribution to the welfare of the community.

Learning from Taiwan

One needs to only look at Taiwan to understand how a low-level economy can transform itself through technology and innovation and become part of a global value chain. A quarter of a century ago, Taiwanese SMEs were selling cotton shirts, plastic flowers and wooden toys. Today, they are producing memory chips and laptops and assembling smartphones. Foxconn is now the main assembler of iPhones in several Asian countries. Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, said during his recent visit to India that Amazon plans to invest \$1 billion in digitising SMEs. The Government of India has launched an ambitious new e-commerce platform, ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce). This is a strategic vision which should unleash India's entrepreneurial dividend. A combination of these efforts must ensure that a job-enriched India is now within our sight.

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STATE OF PLAY

A tariff shock to power users

TNERC should also bear a considerable amount of the blame for all that is wrong with Tangedco

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

The Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) has administered a tariff shock to power users across the board by virtually endorsing a petition filed by the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) for a general tariff revision. For domestic consumers, the quantum of hike ranges from 11% to 45%, with effect from September 10. Those who use 550 units in two months will have to spend ₹2,350, which is ₹240 more than what they did in the past. Those consuming 450 units bimonthly will have to pay ₹1,425, which is ₹445 over the same level of consumption earlier. A consumer using over 1,000 units has been slapped with a rate of ₹1 for every unit in excess of 1,000 units. A new category – common facilities in multistoried tenements – has been created without any convincing reason, wherein a flat rate of ₹8 per unit has been imposed. This category will cover facilities such as gyms, community halls, amphitheatres and swimming pools, even if these facilities are used only by residents of the complexes concerned, free of cost. There is no rationale given for the introduction of this category, which can also cover any additional connection at any individual house. Also, the probability of field-level corruption is high when stiff consumption charges are levied. Eventually, the purpose of having a higher tariff would not be served.

Tamil Nadu

stipulation with regard to the metering of around 20 lakh farm connections enjoying free power supply.

While the TNERC has toed the line of power utility by providing an option to domestic consumers to voluntarily give up the free 100 units they are provided bimonthly, there is nothing in its tariff order to indicate that the panel has considered extending a similar option to other types of consumers who have free power supply. Among those consumers who are covered under the free power supply scheme are those with agricultural connections, including high-tension lift irrigation cooperative societies; huts; handlooms (up to 200 units); and power looms (up to 750 units).

Besides, the Commission has agreed to another key proposal of Tangedco: to implement an annual hike at least up to 2026-27, which will be linked to the consumer price index. Again, no strong reasons have been adduced for accepting this. There is no clarity on how rising labour cost, which has been covered under the head 'operation and maintenance expenses', is going to be brought down.

The justification for the increase runs like this: No hike was made in the last eight years, leading to the cumulative losses of Tangedco rising to ₹1,13,266 crore (March 31, 2021). There is pressure from Central agencies for the increase, with the Union Power Ministry making it mandatory for the States to introduce power sector reforms with tariff revisions for any additional borrowing.

If accumulation of losses is the main reason for the tariff hike move, one should not overlook the fact that the TNERC, which issued a suo motu tariff hike order in December 2014, did not repeat the exercise. It should have been closely following the financial health of Tangedco all these years. The TNERC should also bear a considerable amount of the blame for all that is wrong with Tangedco.

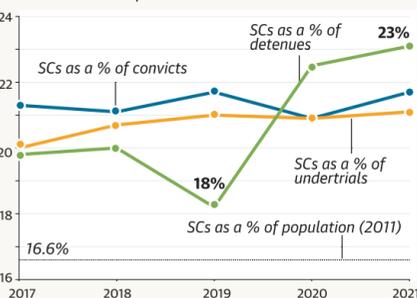
ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

DATA POINT

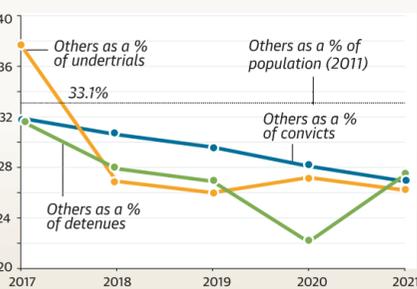
In detention: Caste-wise report

In 2021, over 23% of all detainees in Indian prisons were from the Scheduled Castes (SC) whose share in the population was 16.6% (as of 2011). The share of SC detainees saw an increase from 18% in 2019 to 23% in 2021. Indian jails host four types of prisoners – convicts (persons found guilty of a crime and sentenced by a court), undertrials (currently on trial in a court of law), detainees (persons held lawfully in custody), and those who do not belong to any of these three categories and who comprise a small share of the total number of prisoners. Notably, in Tamil Nadu, over 30% of convicts and 30% of undertrials were SCs, while the SC share in the State's population was 20%. Among States with a relatively high number of detainees, the share of SC detainees was notably disproportionate to the SC population share in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. By Rebecca Rose Varghese and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

1 SHARE OF SCs | The chart shows the share of SCs in the total population in India in 2011, the share of SC convicts, the share of SC undertrials, and the share of SC detainees in Indian prisons as of 2021



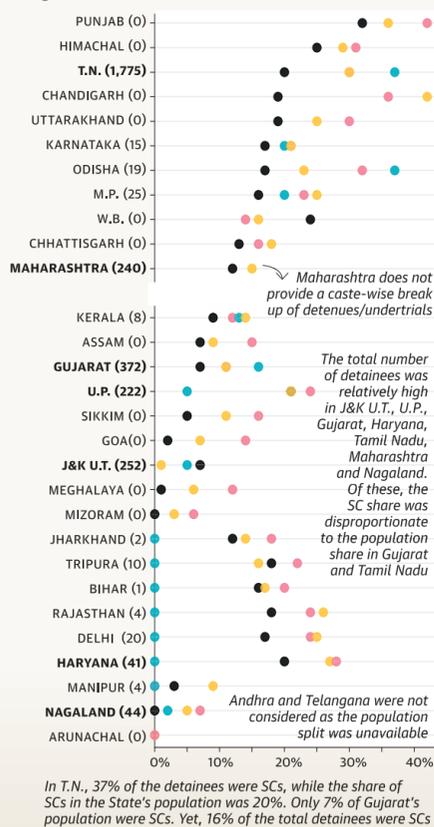
2 SHARE OF OTHERS | The chart shows the share of non-SCs, non-STs, and non-OBCs (Others) in the total population in India in 2011, the share of convicts from this category, the share of undertrials from this category and the share of detainees from this category in Indian prisons as of 2021



SOURCE: NCRB PRISON STATISTICS



3 SHARE OF SCs STATE-WISE | The chart shows the share of SCs in the total population in 2011 (●), the share of SC convicts (●), the share of SC undertrials (●) and the share of SC detainees (●) in prisons across States as of 2021. While the share of SC detainees was high in some States, the total number of detainees (number given in brackets) was higher only in two of them. So, the share has to be read along with the total number of detainees



In T.N., 37% of the detainees were SCs, while the share of SCs in the State's population was 20%. Only 7% of Gujarat's population were SCs. Yet, 16% of the total detainees were SCs

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 14, 1972

U.S. not for world disarm meeting

London, Sept. 13: There was no agreement between the United States and Russia at the latest session of the 25-nation Geneva Disarmament conference, which has just concluded, on Soviet proposals for a world disarmament conference. While the Russians are keen on a global conference, the American delegate at Geneva, Ambassador Martin expressed the view that it was not yet time for it and any premature conference on a global scale might lead to more polemics and propaganda than to the sort of serious negotiation which is a feature of the Geneva Disarmament conference. The forthcoming session of the U.N. General Assembly will anyhow examine the Soviet proposals along with the annual report of the Geneva conference. The latest session of the Geneva conference also produced no agreement on the Mexican proposals for its reorganisation and enlargement. Mexico supported by a few other members had suggested that as a prerequisite for these measures the 10-year-old arrangement by which the U.S. and Russia provide permanent co-chairmen for the conference should be ended. Many member countries agreed that eventually both France and China must be brought into the Geneva discussions, but others led by Canada advised that the bus should not be stopped until one was sure that there was some more passengers to be picked up. The present arrangement had worked well so far and it should not be changed before there was a definite assurance that France and China wished to participate in the Geneva deliberations.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 14, 1922

In S. Africa

London, Sept. 12: The 1820 Settlers' Association answering the numerous enquiries for advice says, that although the Government will not allow the free entry into South Africa of the second hand furniture brought out by the settlers from overseas under their scheme, nevertheless, customs authorities place a low valuation when such personal effects arrive. The Association has now completed arrangements whereby a husband and wife may obtain free tuition at the Government Agricultural College at Middleburg, Cape Province. Board and lodging is obtainable nearby at 10 pounds per month for husband and wife. Married couples can therefore live at the rate of £120 per annum while undergoing tuition.

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Sunflower oil imports

89.6 The % by which India's imports of sunflower oil jumped in August according to the Solvent Extractors Association. India, the world's leading vegetable oil buyer, is dependent on imports of sunflower oil, which constitutes 16% of the total edible oil imports. Before the Russia-Ukraine crisis, 70% of the sunflower oil imported by India used to come from Ukraine, while 20% came from Russia. After the Ukraine crisis, Russia and Argentina have emerged as major suppliers of sunflower oil to India. PTI

Losses due to floods

40 In \$ billion, the estimated economic loss and damage to Pakistan due to the recent cataclysmic floods that have ravaged the country. The new number is far higher than the \$30 billion figure given by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres who was in the country on a solidarity visit last week. Over 33 million people have been affected by the floods who immediately require assistance, far more than the initial ₹25,000 cash handout. If losses increase to \$40 billion, it means that the GDP growth this year can turn negative. PTI

Migrant crossings

28,561 The number of people who have made the dangerous crossing across the Channel to the U.K. from northern France. More migrants have crossed the Channel, which is one of the world's busiest shipping routes, so far this year than in the whole of 2021. The 2022 figure to date is nearly double the number that had been detected by this point last year, which was just under 14,500. Irregular migration is a thorny political issue for the U.K. government. AFP

Armenian soldiers killed

50 The number of Armenian soldiers who have been killed in the worst clashes with Azerbaijan since their war two years ago. After several hours of fierce border fighting, Armenia appealed to world leaders for help, saying Azerbaijani forces were trying to advance on its territory. The fighting was the worst since the end of a 2020 war between the ex-Soviet republics over the contested Nagorno-Karabakh region that left more than 6,500 dead on both sides. Russia said it had succeeded in bringing the clashes to a halt. AFP

Long COVID symptoms

17 In million, the number of people in the European Union who may have experienced long COVID-19 symptoms during the first two years of the coronavirus pandemic, with women more likely than men to suffer from the condition, according to the World Health Organization. The research was unclear on whether the symptoms that linger, recur or first appear at least one month after a coronavirus infection were more common in vaccinated or unvaccinated people. One-in-three women and one-in-five men are likely to develop long COVID-19. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The fall in natural rubber prices in India

Why are natural rubber farmers protesting against the government? What has led to the decline in prices?

THE GIST

After a moderate post-pandemic revival, the price of natural rubber (NR) has crashed to a 16-month low of ₹150 per kg (RSS grade 4) in the Indian market. Under the aegis of the National Consortium of Rubber Producer Societies India, a day-long sit-in protest was staged in front of the Rubber Board headquarters in Kottayam, Kerala, last week.

The current fall in prices is attributed primarily to a weak Chinese demand and the European energy crisis, along with high inflation and an import glut, among other things.

The Rubber Board professes to be relatively sanguine as it regards the price fluctuation as cyclical and rests its hopes on the projections of a remarkable shortage of rubber seven years from now.

HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN

The story so far: After a moderate post-pandemic revival, the price of natural rubber (NR) has crashed to a 16-month low of ₹150 per kg (RSS grade 4) in the Indian market. The price of latex, which soared during the pandemic due to huge demand from glove makers, took a more severe drubbing with its prices rolling down below ₹120. With the impact of the falling prices beginning to reflect in their daily lives as well as the local economy, the growers are up in arms against the authorities for their perceived delay in checking the slide. Under the aegis of the National Consortium of Rubber Producer Societies India, an umbrella organisation for rubber growers, a day-long sit-in protest was staged in front of the Rubber Board headquarters in Kottayam, Kerala, last week.

What has caused the sharp fall in prices?

The current fall in prices is attributed primarily to a weak Chinese demand and the European energy crisis, along with high inflation and an import glut, among other things. While the unremitting zero COVID strategy in China, which consumes about 42% of the global volume, has cost the industry dearly, analysts have also flagged the acceleration of imports.

The domestic tyre industry, according to them, is sitting pretty on an ample inventory, especially in the form of block rubber from the Ivory Coast and compounded rubber from the Far East.

Where does India stand in terms of the production and consumption of natural rubber?

India is currently the world's fifth largest producer of natural rubber while it also remains the second biggest consumer of the material globally. (About 40% of India's total natural rubber consumption is currently met through imports)

A latest report by the Rubber Board has projected the natural rubber production and consumption in India during 2022-23 as 8,50,000 tonnes and 12,90,000 tonnes

respectively. The production of the material improved by 8.4%, to 7,75,000 tonnes, during 2021-22 compared to 7,15,000 tonnes in the previous year. An increase in yield, tappable area and area tapped during the year contributed to the rise in production.

The impact of the price fall is felt more in the rural areas, where most people are solely dependent on rubber cultivation and have no other option but to cut expenses

On the demand side, the domestic consumption rose by 12.9%, to 12,38,000 tonnes in 2021-22 from 10,96,410 tonnes in the previous year. The auto-tyre manufacturing sector accounted for 73.1% of the total quantity of natural rubber consumption. Import of the material, meanwhile, increased to 5,46,369 tonnes from 4,10,478 tonnes.

How does the falling price affect the growers?

The turnaround has exposed the growers – mostly small and medium scale – to a painful reckoning, contributing to wide-spread panic in Kerala, which accounts for nearly 75% of the total production. The precipitous plunge in prices coupled with high costs have also left them staring at an uncertain future, forcing some to stop production for the time being.

The impact of the price fall is felt more in the rural areas, where most people are solely dependent on rubber cultivation and have no other option but to cut expenses. This has caused a sluggishness in the respective local economies, which also coincided with the festive season in Kerala.

If a reversal in prices seem distant, the trend may also trigger a crop switch or even a fragmentation of the rubber holdings in the long run.

What do the farmers demand?

The key demands they have raised to the Union government include raising the import duties on latex products and compound rubber to make it on par with



H. VIBHU

natural rubber, by either 25% or ₹30 per kg, whichever is lower.

Its demands to the state government are to raise the replanting subsidy in Kerala, which remains at ₹25,000 per ha, and the support price of the crop under the price stabilisation scheme to ₹200 from ₹170.

What are the other implications of falling rubber prices in Kerala?

As ripple effects of the price crash slowly unfold in the local economy, the issue has also assumed a new dimension in the Central Travancore districts – a political landscape crystallised through the anguish and anger among the rubber farmers over the past several decades. Expectedly, the sparring Kerala Congress factions were the first to take up the cudgels on their behalf.

While Jose K. Mani, chairman of the Kerala Congress (M) has urged the Kerala

government to hike the support price for the material to ₹200, P.C. Thomas, working chairman of the Kerala Congress, called for the constitution of a special fund to support the growers. Sensing trouble, the Bharatiya Janata Party, which governs the Centre and is responsible for the policy decisions on NR, has appealed against turning rubber into a 'political crop'.

How is the Rubber Board reacting?

Amidst all the gloom, the Rubber Board professes to be relatively sanguine as it regards the price fluctuation as cyclical and rests its hopes on the projections of a remarkable shortage of rubber seven years from now due to slow replanting in place of old trees in existing plantations. The agency, for the time being, is said to be also working on a set of programmes to arrest the free-falling of prices.

EXPLAINER

Understanding windfall tax

Why has the Union government introduced such a tax recently? What are the benefits of imposing this tax?

DIKSHA MUNJAL

The story so far: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on September 2, defended the windfall tax imposed by the Centre on domestic crude oil producers, saying that it was not an ad hoc move but was done after full consultation with the industry.

What is a windfall tax?

Windfall taxes are designed to tax the profits a company derives from an external, sometimes unprecedented event – for instance, the energy price-rise as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. These are profits that cannot be attributed to something the firm actively did, like an investment strategy or an expansion of business. The U.S. Congressional Research Service (CRS) defines a windfall as an "unearned, unanticipated gain in income through no additional effort or expense".

Governments typically levy this as a one-off tax retrospectively over and above the normal rates of tax. One area where such taxes have routinely been discussed is oil markets, where price fluctuation leads to volatile or erratic profits for the industry. There have been varying rationales for governments worldwide to introduce windfall taxes, from redistribution of unexpected gains when high prices benefit producers at the

expense of consumers, to funding social welfare schemes, and as a supplementary revenue stream for the government.

The Central government on July 1, introduced a windfall profit tax of ₹23,250 per tonne on domestic crude oil production, which was subsequently revised fortnightly four times so far. The latest revision was on August 31, when it was hiked to ₹13,300 per tonne from ₹13,000. Ms. Sitharaman explained the introduction of the windfall tax as a way to rein in the "phenomenal profits" made by some oil refiners who chose to export fuel to reap the benefits of skyrocketing global prices which affected domestic supplies.

Why are countries levying windfall taxes now?

Prices of oil, gas, and coal have seen sharp increases since last year and in the first two quarters of the current year, although they have reduced recently. Pandemic recovery and supply issues resulting from the Russia-Ukraine conflict shored up energy demands, which in turn have driven up global prices. The rising prices meant huge and record profits for energy companies while resulting in hefty gas and electricity bills for households in major and smaller economies. Since the gains stemmed partly from external change, multiple analysts have called them windfall



A refinery of Reliance Industries at Jamnagar, Ahmedabad. AFP

profits.

In early August, Antonio Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General, sharply criticised the "grotesque greed" of big oil and gas companies for making record profits from the global energy crisis on the back of the world's poorest people. He said it was "immoral" that the largest energy companies in the first quarter of the year made combined profits of close to \$100 billion. The UN chief urged all governments to tax these excessive profits "and use the funds to support the most vulnerable people through these difficult times."

In July, India announced a windfall tax on domestic crude oil producers who it

believed were reaping the benefits of the high oil prices. It also imposed an additional excise levy on diesel, petrol and air turbine fuel (ATF) exports. Also, India's case was different from other countries, as it was still importing discounted Russian oil. Sources told *The Hindu Business Line* that the windfall tax was targeted mainly at Reliance Industries Ltd and Russian oil major Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy, who the government believed were making a killing on exporting large volumes of fuel made from discounted Russian oil at the cost of the domestic market. Analysts also saw the windfall tax as a way for the Centre to narrow the country's widened trade deficit.

What are the issues with imposing such taxes?

Analysts say that companies are confident in investing in a sector if there is certainty and stability in a tax regime. Since windfall taxes are imposed retrospectively and are often influenced by unexpected events, they can brew uncertainty in the market about future taxes. Stuart Adam, a senior economist at the Institute for Fiscal Studies in London, told *Deutsche Welle* (DW) that he isn't keen on such taxes. "It's better to say in advance how much tax you are going to levy in different circumstances and then do it rather than creating sudden one-off

surprises in the tax system." German economist Andreas Peichl told *Reuters* that such taxes are populist and politically opportune in the short term.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), which released an advice note on how windfall taxes need to be levied also said that taxes in response to price surges may suffer from design problems—given their expedient and political nature. It added that "introducing a temporary windfall profit tax reduces future investment because prospective investors will internalise the likelihood of potential taxes when making investment decisions".

There is another argument about what exactly constitutes true windfall profits; how can it be determined and what level of profit is normal or excessive. A CRS report, for instance, argues that if rapid increases in prices lead to higher profits, in one sense it can be called true windfalls as they are unforeseeable but on the other hand, companies may argue that it is the profit they earned as a reward for the industry's risk-taking to provide the end user with the petroleum product. Another issue is who should be taxed – only the big companies responsible for the bulk of high-priced sales or smaller companies as well—raising the question of whether producers with revenues or profits below a certain threshold should be exempt.

THE GIST

Windfall taxes are designed to tax the profits a company derives from an external, sometimes unprecedented event – for instance, the energy price-rise as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

In early August, Antonio Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General, sharply criticised the "grotesque greed" of big oil and gas companies for making record profits from the global energy crisis on the back of the world's poorest people. He urged all governments to tax these excessive profits.

Analysts say that companies are confident in investing in a sector if there is certainty and stability in a tax regime. Since windfall taxes are imposed retrospectively and are influenced by unexpected events, they can brew uncertainty in the market.



KEYWORD

Cognitive dissonance

A psychological theory that discusses how individuals or groups perceive and manage inconsistencies among beliefs/thoughts and behaviour

REBECCA ROSE VARGHESE

THE GIST

■ The cognitive dissonance theory was one of the most influential theories in social psychology first proposed by Leon Festinger in his book *A Theory of Cognitive Dissonance* in 1957.

■ Cognitive dissonance theory contradicts most behavioural theories that attribute positive changes to higher incentives.

■ Cognitive dissonance theory explains how individuals or groups rationalise their support and belief toward different religions, cults or political parties, partially blinding themselves to reduce the contradictions between their thoughts and behaviour.

The cognitive dissonance theory was one of the most influential theories in social psychology first proposed by Leon Festinger in his book *A Theory of Cognitive Dissonance* in 1957. Festinger's theory was the product of an experiment conducted by him and his colleagues to understand the conflicts between thoughts and behaviour. The theory proposes that inconsistency between one's thoughts and behaviours would lead to an uncomfortable psychological or emotional tension (cognitive dissonance) among individuals/groups which results in them either changing the inconsistent elements to reduce the dissonance or adding consonant elements to restore harmony.

The experiment

The study of a cult by Festinger resulted in the theory of cognitive dissonance. A woman started a cult claiming that she received messages from extraterrestrial aliens that the world would end due to a flood on a specific date and that a flying saucer would arrive to rescue people who believed in the prophecy. Many people joined the cult leaving their families, jobs, money and possessions. Festinger and his colleagues joined the cult to observe how believers would react if and when the prophecy failed.

It was observed that while believers shunned publicity when they were waiting for the flood, immediately after the prophecy failed, most of the group members contacted media and attempted to proselytise many (attempts to lure others into their cult) so as to enlist new believers to obtain social support (consonant elements). Festinger suggested that the disapproval of the prophecy created cognitive tension among the believers and to maintain consistency between their thoughts and behaviour, they sought social support. More members were added to the cult to reduce the dissonance created by the disconfirmation of their prophecy.

Forced compliance paradigm

Through a series of experiments, Festinger postulated the forced compliance paradigm, extending the cognitive dissonance theory. In an experiment where the subjects had to perform a series of menial tasks and lie to another person about the tasks being interesting and enjoyable, it was found that the subjects who received \$1 to lie

did a better job than the ones who received \$20. Festinger explained that this was because the subjects who were paid more did not experience dissonance, as they were rewarded well and had ample justification for lying. Whereas the subjects who were paid a mere dollar experienced dissonance and to justify their experience, they re-evaluated the menial tasks as enjoyable, making their lie more believable to others (as the subject believed in it themselves).

The experiment shows that in an attempt to reduce dissonance, the attitude towards it changes, more likely in the direction of less incentive. Cognitive dissonance theory, in this regard, contradicts most behavioural theories that attribute positive changes to higher incentives.

Resolving dissonance

Festinger explained that there were different ways in which individuals or groups resolved cognitive dissonance to best suit their situations. One could change one's thoughts, change one's behaviour to match one's thoughts, add a thought to justify the behaviour or trivialise the inconsistency between thoughts and behaviour.

There are various ways to resolve cognitive dissonance, but mostly people tend to justify their behaviour by either adding consonant elements or negating contradictory or inconsistent thoughts

Let's take the example of X- a 25-year old-graduate (unemployed) who has newly started supporting a political party. He follows the political party as he believes in their promises of providing better job opportunities and development for youngsters in the country if they came to power. His party wins the elections. Despite five years of governance by his party, no significant changes occur in the employment sector and X is still unemployed. As the next elections approach, the political party members request his support. In such a situation, what would X do?

X can change his thought about the situation- He looks at his neighbours B and C, who are also graduates. They have started a chai shop and samosa shop respectively, in their street. X concludes that though not in a conventional sense, jobs were created after his party came into power, changing his opinion about the situation,

and reducing the inconsistency in his belief. He will still vote for the same political party with a change in his perspective.

X can change his behaviour towards the situation- He understands and accepts that the promises made by the political party he supported were false and decides not to trust them anymore. Thus, he changes his behaviour and attitude towards the situation and does not vote for the political party already in power, which had deceived him with promises of better job opportunities and development.

X can add a thought- He analyses the activities of his government. Though the party failed to provide job opportunities to youngsters, it successfully built 200-metre tall statues, a new Supreme Court (building), monuments and bridges in the last five years. He concludes that though the government failed to provide jobs, in the past five years under his party's leadership, there was infrastructural development.

He resolves the cognitive inconsistency between his thoughts and behaviour by adding a thought that rationalises his support of the political party. He will still vote for the same party with the hope that the party will fulfil its promise and provide employment for its citizens in the next term.

X can trivialise the inconsistency- He compares the state of his country after his party came into power with economically poorer neighbouring countries. He observes that while only 40% of the educated youth in his country are employed, the share is less than 30% in his neighbouring countries. In trivialising the faults in his political party's governance, the tension created due to the inconsistency between his thoughts and behaviour is negated. He will thus continue voting for the same political party as he has now justified the reason behind supporting the party.

Cognitive dissonance theory explains how individuals or groups rationalise their support and belief toward different religions, cults or political parties, partially blinding themselves to reduce the contradictions between their thoughts and behaviour.

While there are various ways to resolve cognitive dissonance, in most cases, people tend to justify their behaviour by either adding consonant elements or negating contradictory or inconsistent thoughts. This is because it is easier to change one's thoughts than to introspect and question one's belief system.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

“Good morning, sir.”
“Good morning.”
“What is the meaning of “He is up and about” sir?”

“When a person falls ill, he is down in bed. He is not able to move about in the usual way. When he is all right, he gets up and moves about. He is “up” from bed and moves about. This is what is meant by “He is up and about.”

He was ill sometime ago. He is up and about now.

“What is the meaning of “His hopes of marriage were put paid to by her reply?”

“This means that his hopes were destroyed. “Put paid to” means “destroy chances of success in something, finished completely.”

His horrible speech put paid to his chances of getting elected to the Assembly.

When a customer has paid for the things he has bought, the word “paid” is written against the item in the account book to indicate that no further bills should be sent to the customer. “Paid” here means that the transaction is closed or finished. This is the origin of the expression “put paid to.”

“What’s the meaning of “looking up to” and “look down on,” sir?”

“You look up to those whom you respect. “Look up to” means “to have a feeling of veneration or admiration for someone.”

They looked up to her as their leader. I look up to him for guidance.

You look down on people you don't like. You express your contempt for people when you look down on them.

The rich look down on the poor. She looks down on him for his incompetence.

Some college teachers tend to look down on primary school teachers.

They look down on the servant.

“How do you distinguish these sentences, sir? She is thin. She is slim. She is slender.”

“The opposite of thin in this context is “fat” or “plump.” The word “thin” when applied to human beings means that the person concerned does not have adequate flesh, it also carries the connotation of weakness. The word “slim” also means thin, but it has the connotation of attractiveness. The word “slender” also means slim, but it has the connotation of gracefulness. So, a thin woman is a skinny woman, a slim woman is a trim person, and a slender woman is a graceful person. Well, let's stop on this graceful note. Goodbye.”

“Thank you, sir. Goodbye.”

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here's a quiz on personalities featured in currency notes and coins.

1 Name this Italian poet, known for writing *The Divine Comedy*, who features in the national side of the Italian €2 coin.

new denomination has a motif of a 13th-century temple on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage. Name the temple.

2 Known as 'The Father of Economics', this personality put forth the theory of the Invisible Hand. Name this economist who appears on the ₹20 note issued by the Bank of England.

5 This politician served as the 11th and 13th Prime Minister of Pakistan from 1988 to 1990 and from 1993 to 1996. Name this political figure who appears on the Pakistani 10 rupee coin.

3 Which monarch was the most featured woman on a banknote worldwide?

6 Name the communist revolutionary leader depicted in all denominations of the Vietnamese bank note.

4 In 2018, the RBI issued ₹10 denomination banknotes as part of the 'Mahatma Gandhi New Series'. The



◀ This Swedish writer of fiction and screenplays features on the 20 kronor banknote. Name her. •WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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

- Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:**
- The christened name and the official surname of the U.K. queen. **Ans: Elizabeth Alexandra Mary and Windsor-Mountbatten**
 - The queen's birthday was changed due to this reason and to coincide with this pageant. **Ans: Because of the weather which could be cold in April and 'Trooping the Colour'**
 - The queen's place in the line of succession at the time of her birth. **Ans: Third-in-line**
 - The queen's family nickname. **Ans: Lilibet**
 - The 'unit' to which the queen was attached to in the Second World War. **Ans: Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service. She was trained as a truck driver and mechanic.**
 - The names of the queen's four children. **Ans: Charles, Anne, Andrew, Edward**
 - The castle the queen owned herself. **Ans: Balmoral Castle**
 - This person won an Oscar for her portrayal of the queen. **Ans: Helen Mirren**
 - The date of her coronation in 1953. **Ans: June 2**
 - The first and last Prime Ministers under the queen. **Ans: Winston Churchill and Liz Truss**
- Visual: This breed of dog was a constant presence around the queen. **Ans: Corgi**

Early Birds: K. N. Viswanathan| Aarushi Aggarwal

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

FROM PAGE ONE

Iran may urge India to restart oil import

In his address to the SCO on Friday morning, Mr. Modi is expected to focus on the need to make Chabahar an important part of trade in the region. Speaking to journalists in Tashkent, Indian Ambassador Manish Prabhakar said two rounds of talks of the Uzbekistan-Iran-India trilateral had already been held and a third round would be held soon.

"Chabahar port is now not a stand-alone initiative, it has become a focal point in the entire INSTC framework. And once that happens, all the partner-countries will benefit a lot," Mr. Prabhakar said, calling Chabahar a "connectivity hub" for the SCO region, which makes up about half of the world's population.

He referred to the "Trans-Afghan railway" as a project that is generating interest as he said more economic activity in the region would lead to more stability.

Sources said India and Iran are also working on a long-term agreement on the management of the Chabahar terminal, which has run into trouble over arbitration issues, given that the Iranian government has said that it is bound by its constitution to hold any dispute resolu-

tion for such projects in Iranian courts, while India is holding out for arbitration in a third country, should disputes arise. According to an official in Mr. Raisi's office, the Iranian leader is expected to also meet Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the summit.

According to the programme outlook, Mr. Modi will land late evening on Thursday in Samarkand, and may skip the SCO pre-summit dinner with leaders of Russia, China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, host Uzbekistan and new entrant to the SCO, Iran. Leaders of Belarus, Turkey and Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Mongolia will also attend the summit as special invitees.

Afghanistan, which is an SCO observer state, has not been invited to the summit as the Taliban regime is not recognised internationally. On Friday, they will attend the SCO summit in the morning, followed by a "family photo-op", after which Mr. Modi will have a number of bilateral meetings with leaders present, officials said.

MGNREGS social audits marred by delays

According to the report titled 'Social audit calendar vs audits completed' released on September 13 by the MoRD, only 14.29% of the planned audits have been completed in this financial year.

SPECIAL

The *Hindu* made enquiries in four States – Kerala, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, which are ruled either by the BJP or its rival parties. The Social Audit Units of these States had not received the administrative funds that the Centre owes them, and whatever little has come about has been delayed.

Because of this, in Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, auditors' wages have been delayed by three months to one year.

The original MGNREG Act had provisions for social audit, though the auditing standards were issued only on December 19, 2016.

According to them, every Social Audit Unit is entitled to funds equivalent to 0.5% of the MGNREGS expenditure incurred by the State in the previous year. The audit involves quality checks of infrastructure created under the MGNREGS, financial misappropriation in wages, and checking for any procedural deviations.

This fund is released by the Centre in four tranches. The BJP-ruled Himachal Pradesh, for example, received ₹1.3 crore – the first instalment of this financial year – only last week.

This is against a ₹4 crore liability this year and an additional ₹4.5 crore liability of the previous year.

This amount was credited after desperate calls from the Audit Department, which was unable to pay its auditor for over a year.

Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh also has a remarkably similar story with the Centre's dues piling up to ₹9 crore.

In Kerala, too, for the last five to six months, the auditors were not paid, because the funds were not forthcoming from the Centre. Even when it comes, the Centre rarely pays the entire amount. In the last financial year, out of ₹20 crore that the Centre owes, only ₹4 crore was sent to Kerala, and this year, out of ₹18 crore liability, as of now, only close to ₹3 crore has been received.

"The delay in disburse-

ment of funds leads to near paralysis. Since we are unable to pay salaries for the auditors, there is a high attrition rate. We obviously cannot force them to travel to distant villages on their own without actually paying them," Kerala Social Audit Director M. Ramakantan told *The Hindu*.

According to the findings of a periodic report on social audits by the non-profit People's Action For Employment Guarantee, released last month, eight State Social Audit Units in 2020-21, and nine in 2021-22, have received less than half of the fund to which they are entitled. At least six States – Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka – received their share of funds from the MoRD over a year ago, in 2021.

In the peculiar case of Bihar, the Bihar Social Audit Unit has not received any funds since 27th April 2020 – since more than two years. Moreover, none of these states have got their full quota of funds. Three state – Maharashtra, Bihar, and Chhattisgarh received zero funds in 2021-22 to conduct social audits despite their collective expenditure of more than Rs 6000 Crore in MGNREGS in FY 2020-21.

The social audit units in Jharkhand, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Karnataka were forced to take loans from their respective state governments in order to sustain their operations.

Rural Development Secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha agreed that there have been delays in the disbursement of funds to a "few states", though he said, the problem is limited to the ongoing financial year, because of the recent overhauling of the Public Finance Management System but it will be streamlined soon, he assured.

"The Social Audit Units were formed to check corruption in the MGNREGA implementation. To ensure their autonomy, they were to be funded by the Centre and not the State. Now, if our auditors are not paid, how will they fund their travel and meals? We are opening the doors to corruption simply by delaying their wages. And by forcing the Social Audit Units to take loans from State governments, the Centre is also asking us to surrender our autonomy," the Director of a Social Audit Unit said on the condition of anonymity.

'103rd amendment was a fraud on Constitution'

During the argument in SC, lawyer says reservation cannot be implemented as poverty alleviation programme

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Reservation cannot be implemented as a "poverty alleviation programme" for the socially and educationally forward classes, which is what the quota for the economically weaker sections does, petitioners opened their challenge before a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) U.U. Lalit on Tuesday.

Reservation addresses structural inequality and is not a means to become financially well-off. The purpose of reservation is to provide representation or empowerment to classes of people who were historically denied access to education and employment. Benefits of reservation cannot be given solely on the basis of economic criterion, they argued.

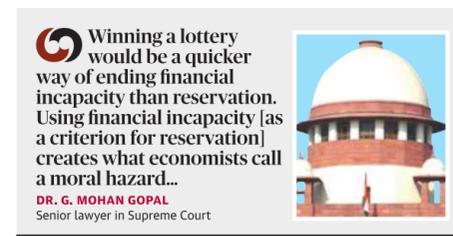
'Quota a moral hazard'
Poverty in the forward classes can also be due to "poor

personal wealth management". Reservation on the basis of economic criterion creates a "moral hazard" – a gambler who lost all his money cannot be made eligible for reservation.

"Winning a lottery would be a quicker way of ending financial incapacity than reservation. Using financial incapacity [as a criterion for reservation] creates what economists call a moral hazard... It has the potential to reward those who lose money foolishly or carelessly or "immorally" such as through gambling by making them eligible for reservations," renowned jurist, Dr. G. Mohan Gopal, opened the arguments for the petitioners before the five-judge Bench.

Dr. Gopal said the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which introduced the 10% EWS quota, was a "fraud on the Constitution".

"Parliament knew well that it has no power to provide reservations for socially



and educationally forward classes. That it has no power to provide reservation to any class except backward classes as held in the Indra Sawhney judgment. Yet, because of political considerations, it did so deliberately and falsely projecting the Amendment as economic reservation for the benefit of economically weaker sections..." he contended.

Petitioners and intervenors, represented by senior advocates Meenakshi Arora and Sanjay Parikh and advocate Prasanna S., found chinks in the criteria set to

identify EWS in society. "To judge anyone as poor on the basis of self-declaration and only on the basis of one previous year's income makes the implementation of the whole scheme full of loopholes. No one can be termed as poor by having one year's income as less than ₹8 lakh. In a country where less than 5% file income tax returns, and that too is open to manipulations, any such scheme is practically not implementable. To make such unreal, arbitrary and impractical scheme a part of the Consti-

tution is disrespectful to the Constitution makers and shows lack of thinking on the part of the Union of India," one of the petitioners argued.

Dr. Gopal argued that those earning a gross annual family income of at or below ₹66,666 a month or ₹8 lakh annually were eligible for the EWS quota.

"These numbers should be compared against the 2021 estimate of Pew Research, the renowned global fact-tank, once helmed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, that 93.7% of the people of India have a family income of less than ₹25,000 per month per family of four. The EWS criteria will therefore give eligibility not only to Forward Classes amongst this 93.7% but also to those who earn between ₹25,000 and ₹66,000 per month per family of four, who fall amongst an elite 6% of the country that earn above ₹25,000 per family per month," he contended.

Submissions drafted by advocate Kaleeswaram Raj pointed out how the amendment clearly excluded citizens belonging to OBC/SC/ST who were economically weaker. Poverty is an impediment which knows no caste or social backwardness. It transcends across categories and across geographical spread. It is an impediment which cannot be restricted to advanced castes alone, by any stretch of imagination, the petitioners argued.

Mr. Raj said no demographic study was conducted before proposing the 103rd Amendment, which was only a "populist measure". The court would resume hearing on Wednesday. Earlier, the court had fixed three issues for adjudication arising from the pleas challenging the Centre's decision to grant 10% reservation to EWS in admissions and jobs through the amendment to the Constitution.

India to hold G-20 summit in 2023

Bangladesh, UAE, Singapore, Spain, Mauritius, Oman will be 'guest countries'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India will hold over 200 G-20-related meetings across the country during its presidency of the grouping that will begin on December 1, 2022 and continue till November 30, 2023.

The G-20 Leaders' Summit will be held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10 in 2023, and Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the UAE will be the "guest countries" at the event, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on September 13.

"India is currently part of the G-20 Troika [current, previous and incoming G20 presidencies] comprising Indonesia, Italy and India. During our Presidency, In-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping during the G-20 summit in 2019. •REUTERS

dia, Indonesia and Brazil would form the troika. This would be the first time when the troika would consist of three developing countries and emerging economies, providing them a greater voice," the Ministry of External Affairs said in an official statement. The announce-

ment said the priorities of the upcoming summit are being "firmed up", and said discussion among all the member countries will include issues related to "women's empowerment, digital public infrastructure, health, agriculture, education, culture, tourism, cli-

mate financing, circular economy, global food security, energy security, green hydrogen, disaster risk reduction and resilience, fight against economic crime and multilateral reforms". A major challenge of the G-20 session in India will involve the ongoing crisis in Ukraine which has vitiated relation between Russia and the industrialised nations of the West most of which are members of the G-20 which represents 85% of global GDP and 75% of international trade. G-20 includes Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the U.K., the U.S. and the European Union (EU).

Officer who probed Ishrat Jahan case dismissed

He was removed for giving interview

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Satish Chandra Verma, who assisted the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in probing the Ishrat Jahan fake encounter case, was dismissed from service on August 30, a month before he was to superannuate on September 30, for giving an interview to a TV channel in 2016.

Mr. Verma has filed two special leave petitions (SLPs) in the Supreme Court against the order which states that in 2016, a concerted media campaign started to discredit the evidence in the Ishrat Jahan encounter case with "senior members of the ruling party" and retired officers joining the campaign. It adds that false accusations of torture were made against him by R.V.S. Mani, a former Under Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and he denied the accusations as media surrounded him at the official guesthouse in Guwahati in 2016.

The 1986-batch IPS officer had challenged the disciplinary proceedings initiated against him by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the Delhi High Court and it



Satish Chandra Verma

was during the hearing of the case on August 30 that the Ministry informed the court that Mr. Verma has been dismissed from service on August 30. "The dismissal would mean that he will not be entitled to any pension or other benefits. The High Court had earlier given him protection from any coercive action. We have filed two SLPs in the Supreme Court. The High Court order says the dismissal cannot come into effect till September 19," Sarim Naved, counsel for Mr. Verma, told *The Hindu*.

In all, three chargesheets were served by the MHA on Mr. Verma – August 13, 2018, September 28, 2018 and May 9, 2016. The dismissal is made as per the chargesheet served on August 13, 2018.

Famous seminaries in U.P. are 'unrecognised madrasas'

'Recognition may lead to interference of State officials'

ZIYA US SALAM
NEW DELHI

At a time when the Yogi Adityanath government has started a controversial survey of unrecognised madrasas in Uttar Pradesh, it has come to light that not just thousands of small, irregular madrasas but even some of the biggest ones with international fame are not recognised by the State Madrasa Education Board. Among them are the historic Darul Uloom, Deoband; Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow; and Mazahir Uloom, Saharanpur.

None of them is affiliated with the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board or recognised by the State government. Their students cannot aspire to sit for State or Central government examinations for jobs unless they complete graduation from a recognised university.

Set up in 1866, the Darul Uloom, Deoband, has more than a thousand students passing out of its portals every year. Except for those who complete their school through correspondence and follow it up with graduation, most are destined to be associated with madrasas



The U.P. government started the process of conducting a survey of Islamic education institutions.

only where they can aspire for a teacher's job or be an imam or muezzin.

With salaries being as low as ₹6,000 in some cases, their pay scales fall well short of the government schools which they would have got had the seminary imparted them both theological and secular education with due recognition by the State bodies.

It is said that these historic madrasas, including Deoband and Lucknow Nadwa, do not apply for recognition to avoid paying their academic and administrative staff according to the official scales of the State. There is a feeling too that recognition by the Madrasa Board is a two-edged weapon. On the

Rohatgi set to become Attorney-General again

Venugopal's tenure ends on Sept. 30

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi is set to become Attorney-General from October 1 for a second time. The tenure of the incumbent Attorney-General, K.K. Venugopal, is coming to a close on September 30. The 90-year-old jurist has made it clear that he would not want to continue as the top law officer.

Mr. Rohatgi (67) had served as the 14th Attorney-General of India when the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014. He had served for three years, till 2017. He had returned to private practice and Mr. Venugopal was appointed the 15th Attorney-General. Mr. Venugopal had initial-



Mukul Rohatgi

ly served a tenure of three years and was later given extensions. The last one was in June 2022 for a period of three months.

Mr. Rohatgi recently represented the Special Investigation Team in the Zakia Jafri case in which the Supreme Court had upheld the clean chit given to the Gujarat government in connection with the 2002 riots.

Mehbooba flays stance of Azad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Several regional leaders in Jammu and Kashmir, including Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti, on Tuesday criticised former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad's stand on Article 370 and accused him of "infusing defeatism" among the people of J&K.

Ms. Mufti termed Mr. Azad's statement – which said the restoration of special status under Article 370 was unlikely – "unfortunate". "Such a statement from such a senior leader was unfortunate. I want to remind him that when the BJP-led Centre can talk to Nagas in the northeast on a separate flag and a separate constitution, why not Kashmir where the Maharastra signed a conditional Instrument of Accession with India?" Ms. Mufti said.

Ms. Mufti said Mr. Azad's statements were aimed at dashing the hopes of the people of J&K. "The Centre chose engagement with the Nagas in spite of the attacks on a security forces' bus that left 18 dead. Why is Azad sahib telling people restoration is not possible. It's very much possible. We will fight for it," she said.

'Extremists using social media to recruit'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Lured via social media platforms, youths in Assam continue to join extremist groups despite a slew of peace pacts with such outfits since 2014.

A fortnight ago, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs had

listed the Bodo Accord of January 2020, Karbi agreement of April 2021, and suspension of operations with the pro-talks faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) as factors for a significant dip in extremism and violence in the State.

Chief Minister Himanta

Biswa Sarma told the Assembly that 1,561 young men and women had joined at least five extremist groups since 2016. These groups are the National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB), the People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK), the ULFA, and the

United People's Revolutionary Front.

Replying to a question, he said the extremist groups, specifically the ULFA (Independent) headed by Paresh Baruah, have been brainwashing youths with propaganda via Facebook, Messenger and Twitter.



RERUN APPEAL

10 years old Vignesh is suffering from Muscular Dystrophy which has taken a toll on severely percent of his body. He is in urgent need of an electric wheel chair to gain mobility and a world of opportunities. This wheel chair costs around Rs. 90,000/- only. The donations sent through Ch/D/NEFT Transfer (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.6015201006330, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail id is requested. All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No.GF 1, Corrdel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai- 600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324. E Mail ID: womenswelfare.org@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfare.org

WWW

BJP protest march turns violent in Bengal

Supporters clash with police personnel in the streets of Kolkata and Howrah; several injured

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Large parts of Howrah and central Kolkata turned into a battle zone on Tuesday as clashes erupted between the police and supporters of the BJP as the latter tried to march to Nabanna, the State Secretariat.

Thousands of BJP supporters descended on the streets of Kolkata and Howrah during the day and tried to reach the Secretariat from different sides. Violence erupted at Santragachi in Howrah, where the police fired tear gas and used water cannons to disperse the BJP supporters who threw stones at the police.

The situation at Santragachi remained volatile for several hours, with pitched battles between the police and the BJP supporters. Violence also erupted at Howrah Maidan and the Howrah railway station.

In Kolkata, the police had to use force near the police headquarters at Lalbazar and M.G. Road. BJP supporters set a police vehicle on fire in the busy M.G. Road area.



Tense situation: The police vehicle that was set on fire by a mob in Kolkata. • DEBASISH BHADURI

The police used water cannons to disperse the supporters but within minutes, they regrouped and threw stones at the personnel.

Leaders detained

Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari and Hooghly Lok Sabha member Locket Chatterjee were detained before they could reach Howrah and lead a rally of party supporters.

BJP State president Sukanta Majumdar was detained and taken to the Chitpur police station.

Mr. Majumdar, who spent the night at the Howrah railway station to evade police action, held demonstrations at Howrah Maidan.

"Didi [Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee] is scared seeing so many BJP supporters on the road. This is only 30%

of the people we had asked to come; many could not reach and several others have been detained by the police," Mr. Majumdar said.

Several BJP supporters were detained by the police and some also sustained injuries. Some policemen sustained injuries after being hit by stones.

There was violence near the BJP State headquarters on Muralidhar Sen Lane,

when a large contingent of police personnel tried to apprehend the BJP supporters. Several BJP MPs, including the party's national vice-president, Dilip Ghosh, were among those who joined the march to the State Secretariat in a major show of strength by the party's State unit.

The violence and pitched clashes continued for several hours in the afternoon, throwing traffic out of gear in large parts of Howrah and Kolkata.

Vehicular traffic on Howrah Bridge, which connects Howrah to Kolkata over the Hooghly river, was stopped for several hours in the afternoon. Commuters were seen walking on foot on the bridge and other parts of central Kolkata.

The BJP had called the march to the Secretariat to protest against the "corruption of the Trinamool Congress", particularly after the arrest of heavyweights Partha Chatterjee and Anubrata Mondal. West Bengal Chief Minister is on an administrative tour to the districts of south Bengal.

Kejriwal attempts to make a mark in poll-bound Gujarat

AAP is trying to become the main challenger to BJP in State

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

From riding an autorickshaw to visiting schools and temples and announcing sops for different constituencies, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has taken the ruling BJP head-on in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's native State of Gujarat, where Assembly election is scheduled to be held in three months.

Since March this year, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo has made a dozen trips to Gujarat. He has visited various regions, addressed rallies, offered prayers at temples and held town hall meetings with different communities in a bid to position the AAP, a new entrant in State politics, as the main challenger to the ruling party that has been in power since 1998.

So far, he has announced a wide range of pre-poll sops, including free electricity, unemployment allowance to youth, monthly allowance to women, stipend



Point of view: AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal interacting with local people in Rajkot. • PTI

to new lawyers and free education and healthcare services for all.

On Tuesday, he said the Congress was "finished in Gujarat" and claimed that the AAP was the principal challenger in the State. He reiterated that the BJP was rattled with the rise of the AAP in the State.

On Monday evening, the Delhi Chief Minister had dinner at an autorickshaw driver's home in Ahmedabad's Ghatlodia, which is the Assembly constituency of Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

Though BJP leaders in the State have publicly dismissed the challenge from the AAP, calling it a "media hype", privately they talk about the "disproportionate visibility" the AAP and Mr. Kejriwal have generated ahead of the high-stakes election.

"He has been able to generate visibility and has become a talking point of discussions," a State BJP leader admitted.

Gujjar divide reveals fault lines in Rajasthan Congress

Resentment on various issues creating dispute among leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The mobilisation of Gujjars on caste lines in Rajasthan has promoted divisions in the ruling Congress, with the rival factions attacking each other with the hope of getting political dominance ahead of next year's Assembly election. The resentment of Gujjars on various issues, including reservation, is creating disputes and conflicts among the party leaders.

A ceremony for *Asthi Visarjan* (immersion of ashes) of Gujjar leader Kirori Singh Bainsla in Ajmer district's Pushkar Lake on Monday turned out to be an ugly show of factionalism in the ruling party. Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs Ashok Chandna, who was heckled at the programme, challenged former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot. Both Mr. Chand-

na and Mr. Pilot belong to the Gujjar community.

Thousands of people from the Most Backward Classes (MBCs) had gathered for the ceremony, while a public meeting was organised before the immersion of ashes.

Leaders of both the Congress and the Opposition BJP were present on the occasion.

The audience heckled Mr. Chandna and Industries Minister Shakuntala Rawat, also a Gujjar, while raising slogans in support of Mr. Pilot. Some of them, upset over Mr. Pilot allegedly not being invited to the ceremony, allegedly hurled shoes towards the stage.

Chandna's challenge

Mr. Chandna, 38, the youngest Minister in the State Cabinet, sought to connect the heckling with a perceived indignity by Mr. Pilot. He

took to Twitter and challenged the former Deputy Chief Minister, saying he could fight it out with Mr. Pilot.

"If Sachin Pilot becomes the Chief Minister by getting shoes thrown at me, then he should do so quickly, because I am not in a mood to fight today. The day I come to fight, only one will be left, and I don't want this," Mr. Chandna said in a tweet.

Mr. Chandna represents Bundi district's Hindoli constituency in the Assembly. He has been supporting Mr. Gehlot since the formation of the Congress government and had sided with him during the political crisis caused by Mr. Pilot's rebellion in July 2020. Gujjar youths and Congress party workers supporting Mr. Pilot have protested against Mr. Chandna several times, questioning his affiliation despite being a Gujjar.

'Neighbours' stop Secretariat work

Construction of office model shifted to a more convenient site, says Ministry

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Construction of mock-ups of an office for the Common Central Secretariat (CCS) project in the plot next to Bharatiya Janata Party president J.P. Nadda's official residence was abruptly stopped soon after it began in June, according to sources.

As a part of the government's larger redevelopment of the Central Vista area, three buildings of the new CCS are coming up at the site of the erstwhile Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) campus on Janpath.

The project was awarded by the Central Public Works Department to Larsen and Toubro Ltd. on October 27, 2021 for ₹3,141.99 crore, the largest contract given by the CPWD till then, and is currently under construction.

In connection with the CCS project, some mock-ups and a steel shed were to be constructed at 9 Janpath, an empty plot right next to Mr.



Some mock-ups were to be constructed at an empty plot, in photo, next to J.P. Nadda's residence. • R.V. MOORTHY

Nadda's residence at 7-B Motilal Nehru Marg, according to the sources.

However, the work was stopped soon after it was started, they said.

A complaint sent to the Prime Minister's Office on July 9 and to the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on July 20 alleged that the work was stopped by the "next door neighbours".

Asked for a comment, a CPWD spokesperson declined, but added that the agency had already replied

to the "PG complaint in this matter", referring to the public grievance redressal system. L&T spokespersons did not respond to requests for comment.

When asked for comment on the matter, a Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry spokesperson said the site was changed when a more convenient spot became available and that the construction of the CCS buildings itself would not be affected.

"One mock-up of the office is required to be con-

structed before carrying out large-scale finishing work in CCS buildings being constructed at the IGNCIA plot between Mansingh Road and Janpath. Earlier, it was planned to be constructed at 9 Janpath as no suitable land was available nearby. Only preparatory work was taken up there," he said.

"Later, the Defence Ministry agreed to give land for providing storage and labour accommodation on a temporary basis in Princess Park on C-Hexagon, which is near the site and more convenient. It was therefore decided to construct the mock-up office at Princess Park. As the CCS building is still at the basement level, there will not be any impact on project timeline due to shifting of site for mock-up," the spokesperson said.

The first three buildings of the CCS are a part of 10 new buildings proposed to be built by 2026 to house all Union Ministries and provide for a conference centre.

Left parties flay order in Gyanvapi case

Sharply reacting to the Varanasi district court's order in the Gyanvapi case, the Left parties on Tuesday said the wrong interpretation of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, by a section of the judiciary would lead to serious consequences, including redefining the basic character of India.

"Wrong interpretations of the law by sections of the judiciary will lead to serious consequences of the kind that the law was meant to prevent. It is no secret that the ruling party is hell bent on a distorted interpretation of history to target minority communities," the CPI(M) Polit Bureau said in a statement.

CPI general secretary D. Raja called it a dangerous trend that "elected representatives are out to challenge a law passed by Parliament and are working towards redefining the secular nature of our country."

DVAC books ex-Ministers in two different scams

CHENNAI
The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) has booked former AIADMK Ministers S.P. Velumani and C. Vijayabaskar in two different cases.

The two are the sitting MLAs in the Tamil Nadu Assembly from Thondamuthur and Viralmalai respectively. Agency sleuths conducted simultaneous searches on the premises of both politicians and their associates in different locations across the State on Tuesday.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Name of the Work : " Third Party Inspection & Quality Control / Assurance for the works (1) Construction and Widening of Concrete Road, Retaining Walls etc. in Harbour area (2) Construction of Retaining Walls in the Stack yard (MCHP area)". EMD cost : Rs.50,000/- . Last date and time of submission of Bid : 20.09.2022 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details please refer our Website : eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app . Executive Engineer Harbour Works Division No.1 PPA/PR/192/22-23, DL13/09/22

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E Tender MAS/EGS/ET/20/2022-2023 DATE:12-09-2022
1) Name of work: Chennai Division Electrical arrangements for Provision of Electronic Interlocking HUTS, MSDAC, Huts in various sections of Chennai Division
2) E-Tender notice number: MAS/EGS/ET/20/2022-2023 dated 12-09-2022.
3) Tender number: ME 29-11-1012RRI-2022
4) Value of work: Rs. 57, 69, 855/-
Further details regarding the tender may please be viewed from www.ireps.gov.in.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer / General / Southern Railway / Chennai
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.
e - Procurement Tender Notice
TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (a) 55 Sq.mm AAA Conductor, (b) 11kv 3cx185+70 Sq.mm XLPE AB cable (c) 500KVA 3 Ph- Cu Wound DTRs with BIS EEL 2 Star 2, (d) 11KV 24V Feeder VCBs, (e) 11KV HG Fuse Sets and (f) 33/11 KV Indoor Switchgear on e-procurement platform. For further details of each item above, please visit www.tssouthernpower.com, www.tender.telangana.gov.in
Phone no : 040-23431360 Sd/-
R.O.No:671-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2022-23 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&M)

JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(An Institution of National Importance Under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
धनवंतरी नगर, पुदुच्चेरी / Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry - 605 006
Website: www.jipmer.edu.in / Ph : 0413 - 2296022

No.JIP/Admn./Con./1(3)/2022 Dated:14.09.2022
The Director, JIPMER, Puducherry invites application from Central / State Govt. retired persons for engagement as **Consultant (Admin)** on contract basis. The format of the application, other details regarding remuneration, age, qualification, experience and other conditions of eligibility etc. are available in the JIPMER website "www.jipmer.edu.in".
The last date for receipt of filled-in application is 13.10.2022 till 4.30 P.M.
DIRECTOR

E-Procurement Notice
GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)
(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)
National Open Competitive Procurement
Name of the project: Construction of Flyovers at Chakkar Bypass (from Shimla side towards Totu), MLA Crossing (Boikauanj) (Shimla side to Bilaspur/Mandi road), Vidhan Sabha chowk (from Cart Road to Vidhan Sabha) and widening of road with Retaining wall at Victory Tunnel under SSCM.
Date: September

The Director (Projects) cum-Chief Engineer, State Roads Project, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh, India on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites online bids (separate) for the construction of the works detailed in the table:-

Name of Work	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of Document (Rs.) plus GST	Period of Completion	Estimated Cost (INR)	Date of availability of Documents	Last date & Time for submission of Bids
Construction of Flyovers at Chakkar Bypass (from Shimla side towards Totu), MLA Crossing (Boileauganj) (Shimla side to Bilaspur / Mandi road), Vidhan Sabha chowk (from Cart Road to Vidhan Sabha) and widening of road with Retaining wall at Victory Tunnel under SSCM.	Bid Security INR 75.00 lakhs	Rs. 5,000	18 months	30 Cr.	September 17, 2022	October 15, 2022

The detailed Request for Bids (RFB) Notice, Bidding Document alongwith other necessary information will be available on <https://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html> & <https://hptenders.gov.in/> link.

Note:- Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Bids (RFB) Notice shall be available to all interested bidders on official web site of HPRIDC under <https://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html> & <https://hptenders.gov.in/> link.
Director (Projects)-cum-CE, H.P State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002
H/P/0468/2022-2023

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU - POLICE DEPARTMENT
RC.No.Tr.Imp. 1 / 54 / 9108 / 2022-3, TENDER NOTICE Dated : 03.09.2022
REPLACEMENT OF MORE THAN 10 YEARS OLD 68 SIGNALS
S. No. Name of Equipment to be procured Tender Value EMD Amount in Rs. (1% on Tender Value) Issue of Tender Document (Sale) Closing Date and Time for receipt of Tender Document Tender Opening Date and Time
1. New Signal68 Nos. Rs. 4,76,00,000/- 4,76,000/- 28.09.2022 28.09.2022 upto 12.00 hrs. 28.09.2022 at 15.00 hrs.
Note: 1. The cost of Tender Document is Rs.525/- (Rupees Five hundred and twenty five only) which is inclusive of all taxes. The D.D. should be drawn in favour of Addl. Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Vepery, Chennai-7. Requisition by post would cost additionally Rs.75/- (Rupees Seventy five only). The Tender document fee should be submitted along with Tender document. If the tender document is downloaded from website the fee will be exempted. 2. Tender Documents can be obtained from the office of the Addl. Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Chennai-7 on payment between 11.00 hrs. and 15.00 hrs. on all working days by Cash or Demand Draft. Separate tender application should be submitted for each package. Quote for the above package should be submitted in a sealed cover on or before the date stipulated above. EMD should be enclosed with the Tender Document. 3. The Tenderers / bidders are requested to submit the Power Point Presentation/Video Clippings/Sample Miniature and live demonstration at the time of opening of Technical bid. 4. The Department/Tender Committee reserves the right to reject all or part or any of the Tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever and the Department/Tender Committee is not bound necessarily to accept the lowest tender. 5. The filled up Tender Document may be sent to the Addl. Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Vepery, Chennai-7 on or before the closing date and time. Tender Documents can be downloaded from the website www.tn.gov.in / www.tenders.gov.in.
6. The above dates are final and no further extension shall be given.
DIPRU 4059 /TENDER/2022 Addl. Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Chennai.

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Chennai - 600 008. Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259. Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in, E-mail: mngprudrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, qmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in
Sealed Tenders are invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, TNMSC Ltd., from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria in the tender document for the supply of **Bleaching Powder Grade-I** to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for one year from the date of acceptance.

Tender Reference No.	Dated/17(M)/BL-POWDER/TNMSC/2022
	14.09.2022
Tender Document Sale Period	14.09.2022 to 26.09.2022
Last Date and Time for receipt of tender	27.09.2022 upto 11.00 AM
Date and time of opening	27.09.2022 at 11.30 AM

The tender document can be downloaded from the websites of www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in and www.tenders.tn.gov.in on free of cost.
General Manager (Drugs)
DIPRI 4108 /TENDER/2022

Office of the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Rushikulya Bahuda Vansadhara Nagavali Basin, Brahmapur-760004
e-mail : ce_rvn@yahoo.co.in
e - Procurement Notice No. CE & BM, RBVN - 05 / 2022-23
1. Type of Work : System Improvement Work.
2. Total No of Works : 01 (One) No.
3. Amount put to Tender : Rs.1406.79 Lakh
4. Period of Completion : 11 (Eleven) Calendar months
Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh) Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, RBVN Basin, Berhampur, Ganjam. CE & BM, RBVN (BNID) - 02 / 2022-23 1406.79 From 17.09.2022, 10.00 A.M. to 06.10.2022, 5.00 P.M.
Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- 07.10.2022 at 11.30 A.M.
Further detail can be seen from the Govt. Website "www.tendersodisha.gov.in".
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, RBVN Basin, Berhampur.
A-302: OIPR-324591/110004/2223

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur
RISL invites e-bids from the eligible bidders for the following:
NIB No./Date/Unique bid no. Particulars Estimated Cost/ EMD Last date
3991/09.09.2022 RFP for Development and FMS of Web Rs. 02.00 Lacs 09.09.2022
(RS2223SLOB00053) Portals & Websites in AEM Rs. 04.00 Lacs 06.10.2022
Details can be seen on the websites <http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>. Bids are to be submitted through <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>.
Raj.Samwad/C/22/7617 A C P (Dy. Director)

Wheels India Limited
Regd Office : 21, Patallos Road, Chennai - 600 002
CIN : L35921TN1960PLC04175
Phone : 044-2623 4300; Fax : 044-26257121
Website : www.wheelsindia.com
Invites offers from interested parties for purchase of Mild Steel scrap items, for the two month period OCT - NOV 2022.
Details of the items available for disposal and tender terms and conditions can be had from the Company on written request.
Sealed offers can be submitted to the Vice President (Supply Chain), Wheels India Limited, Padi, Chennai - 600 050 to reach on or before 29th SEPTEMBER 2022.

राजस्थान स्टेट सीड्स कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
राज सीड्स द्वारा वर्ष 2022-23 में बीज निगम के बीजोत्पादन एवं व्यापार संवर्द्धन के लिए प्रचार-प्रसार हेतु रजिस्ट्रार फर्नी से प्रचार-प्रसार वाहन (बीजथर) मय जी.पी.एस., एल शेप कंत्रिकेशन, फ्लेक्स, हेल्पर, ड्राईवर, ऑडियो एवं वीडियो सिस्टम सहित किराये पर लेने के लिए ई-निविदा दिनांक 21.09.2022 को अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। विवरण <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/> / www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or www.rajseeds.org/agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।
UBN-SDS2223SLOB00053 प्रबन्ध निदेशक (DIN 08383856)
राज संवाह/सी/22/7643

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
CENTRALISED ADMISSION COMMITTEE-CENTAC
PUDUCHERRY TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY Campus, Puducherry
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION TO MBBS/BDS/BAMS/B.V.Sc&AH (SS & NRI) COURSES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR -2022-23
Online applications are invited from NEET UG Qualified candidates for admission to the first year MBBS/BDS/BAMS and B.V.Sc & A.H courses in Government and Self Financing Medical / Dental and Veterinary colleges in the UT of Puducherry. Applications are invited under Government / All India (Management) /NRI and Self-Supporting (SS) Quota. For more details visit www.centacpuducherry.in.
IMPORTANT DATES
➤ Online application submission opens on : 12.09.2022
➤ Last date for online submission of application : 25.09.2022
Co-Ordinator (Admission)
CENTAC
No.266/DIP/AD/Press/2022-23

IN BRIEF



'Focus on FTAs with developed countries'

NEW DELHI
Addressing the reconstituted Board of Trade here on Tuesday, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal argued for the need to sign more free trade agreements (FTAs) with developed economies. The Board of Trade meeting focused on export target setting, the new Foreign Trade Policy (2022 to 2027), and the strategies and measures to be taken in order to take forward domestic manufacturing and exports.

Debt-ridden Nagpur farmer found dead

MUMBAI
A 60-year-old debt-ridden farmer from Nagpur was found dead in his agricultural field here on Monday. The police said the victim, Rajiv Baburao Judpe, a resident of Pimpaldara village, allegedly killed himself after his crop got damaged in heavy rain. According to reports, five farmers have died by suicide this month due to crop failure in Nagpur. (Those in distress may call BMC 24X7 helpline: 022-24131212)

Nursery student raped in Bhopal, van driver held

BHOPAL
A three-and-a-half-year-old nursery student was raped allegedly by her school bus driver inside the vehicle in Bhopal, a police official said. The police have arrested the driver and a woman attendant who, according to the child's parents, was present inside the vehicle at the time of the crime on September 8. The district administration has demolished the "illegal" house of the accused driver on orders, said an official. PTI

BSF to have protocol for rescued cattle

NEW DELHI
The Standing Committee of Home Affairs headed by Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi, according to sources, has asked the Border Security Force to establish a clear protocol for rehabilitating the rescued cattle from smugglers on the Indo-Bangladesh border. As per the latest orders, they cannot be auctioned due to which they have to look for animal welfare organisations to hand over the cattle.

Three killed as trailer falls on car in Punjab

CHANDIGARH
Three members of a family were killed after their car was crushed by a loaded trailer in Punjab's Nawanshahr on Monday, the police said. The trailer truck, loaded with sand and stones, took a sudden turn on the Phagwara-Chandigarh National Highway near Behram and overturned on the car. A couple from Batala and their son, aged around 25, were killed. The trailer truck driver has been arrested for rash driving. PTI

384 drugs on essential medicines list

Ivermectin and mupirocin have been added, while ranitidine and sucralfate have been dropped

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Twenty-six drugs, including the common gastrointestinal medicines ranitidine and sucralfate, have been excluded from the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022, released on Tuesday by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

A total of 384 drugs find place on the list with the addition of 34 drugs. Twenty-six from the previous list have been dropped. The medicines have been categorised into 27 therapeutic categories. The first NLEM was compiled in 1996 and was revised thrice in 2003, 2011, and 2015.

According to a Health Ministry official, drugs deleted from the NLEM include medicines banned in India and those having reports of concerns on the safety profile.

"Drugs also go off the list if medicines with better efficacy or favourable safety profile and better cost-effectiveness become available. Also if the disease burden for which a medicine is indicated is no longer a national health concern, it is deleted from the NLEM," the official said. In case of antimicrobials, if the resistance pattern has rendered them ineffective, the drugs are taken off the list.

The new list includes four drugs that are still under pa-



Core medicine needs

- The pricing of essential medicines is regulated by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority
- The new list includes four drugs that are still under patent — bedaquiline and delamanid used in the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis, dolutegravir used to treat HIV infection, and daclatasvir used in treating viral infections such as Hepatitis C
- No drugs used specifically for the treatment of COVID-19 have been included in the list

Several antibiotics, vaccines, anti-cancer drugs and many other important drugs would become more affordable, and the "out-of-pocket expenditure" on health care would come down — MANSUKH MANDAVIYA, Health Minister

tent — bedaquiline and delamanid used in the treatment of multiple drug-resistant tuberculosis, dolutegravir used to treat human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, and daclatasvir used in treating viral infections such as Hepatitis C, the Health Ministry said.

No drugs used specifically for the treatment of COVID-19 have been made part of the list as the committee in charge of the list is of the view that the clinical trials of the drugs are not yet conclusive, it said.

Several antibiotics, vaccines and anti-cancer drugs are set to become more affordable with their addition to the list. Ivermectin, mupiro-

cin and nicotine replacement therapy have been added. Endocrine medicines and contraceptives fludrocortisone, ormeloxifene, insulin glargine and teneligiptin have been added to the list. Montelukast, which acts on the respiratory tract, and ophthalmological drug latanoprost figure in the list.

Cardiovascular medicines dabigatran and tenecteplase also find place in the list, as also medicines used in palliative care. The drugs in the NLEM are included in the schedule category and their price is regulated by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.

In a tweet on Tuesday, the Health Minister said that several antibiotics, vaccines, an-

ti-cancer drugs and many other important drugs would become more affordable, and the "out-of-pocket expenditure" on health care would come down.

"The primary purpose of the NLEM is to promote rational use of medicines considering the three important aspects — cost, safety and efficacy. It also helps in optimum utilisation of health-care resources and budget; drug procurement policies; health insurance; improving prescribing habits; medical education and drafting pharmaceutical policies," he said.

Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of State for Health, stressed the need to enhance awareness regarding antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

which she said "is emerging as a big challenge for our scientists and community and we need to create awareness in the society about AMR". Sudarshan Jain, secretary-general, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, noted that the pharmaceutical industry in India was a strategic sector that was recognised around the world for providing affordable and high-quality medicines.

Malini Aisola, of the All India Drug Action Network, said that the release of the NLEM, 2022, comes after a long gap of seven years, when it is recommended for an NLEM to be revised more frequently, every two-three years, to be responsive to changing health needs. She said that the industry associations had been rallying to keep patented medicines out of the NLEM which to some degree was successful.

"However, in respect of cancer, it is disappointing that more of the highly priced, effective treatments for various cancers have not been included in the list. It is positive that the diabetes section has been expanded to include teneligiptin and insulin glargine. However, there was a need to include more synthetic insulins and other classes of oral antidiabetics keeping in view the diabetes epidemic in the country," she said.

SC hears plea on term of BCCI office-bearers

'3-year cool-off period is too stringent'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it is considering whether the three-year cooling-off period for Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) office-bearers should kick in only after they complete two consecutive terms in the apex cricket body.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud orally observed that imposing a cooling-off period of three years after only one term in office would be "too stringent".

"A cooling-off period of three years after just one term of three years in office is really too stringent. People should be allowed to get acquainted... You will have networks, deal with international counterparts," Justice Chandrachud remarked. The court's suggestions came while examining a plea by the BCCI for permission to amend its constitution.

The "cooling-off period" was a major recommendation made by the Justice R.M. Lodha Committee to reform cricket administration in the country.

However, the court did not *prima facie* agree with the BCCI proposal to remove the bar on sending persons above 70 years of

age to the International Cricket Council (ICC).

"Why should you have 75-year-old representing us in the ICC? Let younger people represent us in the ICC," Justice Chandrachud said.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta replied that it would be beneficial for the nation to have veterans in the ICC.

"Their word will count and will be respected. They will have stature and can negotiate in the ICC," Mr. Mehta said.

"Let people after 70 give way to the younger generation. I mean, there may be fantastic doctors and lawyers at 70, but this is sports... We are not compelling you to send a 20-something person to ICC, you could send a 60-plus... Don't tell us Cricket Australia and the English Cricket Board have only people who are above 70," Justice Chandrachud said.

The court asked *amicus curiae*, senior advocate Maninder Singh, to prepare a chart with the draft changes on September 14. The court said it would hear the case on Wednesday.

The case is significant for the BCCI as the date of amendments may decide the tenures of its president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah.

Centre hanging up on 1098; children will have to call 112

Many puzzled at the nature of 'integration' of the helplines

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The only dedicated helpline for children, Childline 1098, running successfully for the past 26 years as a partnership between civil society and the government, will be integrated with the national emergency number 112, the Union government has informed the States and the Union Territories.

A September 12 letter from the Union Women and Child Development Ministry has asked them to identify a State-level nodal officer and second-level officers to support C-DAC and provide a building or space for setting up a control room for takers of calls on the child and women helplines. The guidelines on Mission Vatsalaya, issued by the Ministry in August, mentioned integration of the two helplines.

In March 2021, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani told presspersons during an interaction that Childline 1098 would be moved from the administrative control of the

Women and Child Development Ministry to the Home Ministry. However, the civil society is up in arms because Childline 1098 has been a very effective and successful project, and is meant exclusively for children unlike 112, which deals with emergencies related to police matters, health and women's safety.

They fear that with the police becoming first responders to calls from children, there may be a drop in reporting of offences.

80 lakh calls
Childline is run as a private trust called Childline India Foundation which is funded by MWCD.

Set up in 1996 as a project at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, the child helpline now receives 80 lakh calls a year and has a presence in nearly 700 districts in the country through over 1,000 intervention units, which include help desks at railway stations and bus stands.

These units also typically have phone operators, who

are sometimes children rescued from the streets, social workers or counsellors.

Childline officials have also written to the Ministry to understand the nature of integration, but have so far been kept out of any dialogue, it is reliably learnt.

"Childline 1098 is not just an emergency helpline. It provides a range of services to children and, therefore, the transfer to the Home Ministry is very odd. It is assumed that once police teams receive a call on 112, it will be transferred to 1098. But there is no clarity. However, police personnel should not be the first responders as they can't provide support and counselling children need. I can say that from my experience as the former Joint Commissioner of Police in Delhi where I have handled police control rooms," Amod Kanth, founder of Prayas, an NGO, said.

His NGO runs seven 1098 centres in Delhi and provides emergency intervention on the ground.

Tally oxygen shortage deaths: panel

MPs' committee says Ministry denying such mortalities, upset at its 'ignorance'

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Centre could not accurately anticipate the gravity of the possible resurgence of the COVID pandemic and its subsequent waves, the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, in its report "Vaccine Development, Distribution Management and Mitigation of Pandemic COVID-19", has said.

The panel said it was disturbed that the Health and Family Welfare Ministry had denied COVID-19 deaths due to oxygen shortage in the country. The committee said there were no definite guidelines for identifying the deaths due to inadequate supply of oxygen.

Death audit

"Oxygen shortage is not noted as a cause of death in the medical records and most of the deaths were attributed to co-morbidities. The committee is disappointed at this utter ignorance by the government and strongly recommends the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to examine the number of deaths due to oxygen short-



Taking stock: Relatives of patients waiting in a long line to get oxygen during the second wave of the pandemic. ■ FILE PHOTO

tage, especially during the second wave of COVID-19," the committee said.

It has now recommended that the Ministry, in coordination with the States, must audit the deaths due to oxygen shortage and enable robust documentation of the COVID-19 deaths that will, in fact, generate a responsive and responsible sense of government and cautious formulation of policy and help combat situational healthcare emergencies.

The committee further expects more transparency and more accountability from the government agencies. The Ministry must meticulously examine the oxy-

Despite the Health Ministry's repeated caution to maintain the vigil, many States were unable to cope with the uncertainties and medical emergencies in the wake of the pandemic resurgence during the second wave that caused more than five lakh registered deaths.

The committee said that India was one of the countries with the heaviest burden of COVID-19 cases in the world. The enormity of the population of the country posed a major challenge in the face of the pandemic. With the fragile health infrastructure and the huge shortage of healthcare workers, the country witnessed tremendous pressure, it added.

The committee said that it had taken into account that there was still a lack of concrete evidence on whether the coronavirus reached humans via a laboratory incident, and said that India should look into biosafety and biosecurity issues.

It recommended that genome sequencing be made part of an effective virus containment strategy and appreciated the government's role in providing COVID-19 testing infrastructure.

THE CROSSWORD + 13660
(set by Vidwan)

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9							
10			11		12		
13			14				
15				16	17		
18			19				20
21	22			23			
24			25		26		
27					28		

- Across**
- 1 Most 'sleepless' city (6)
 - 5 First point made in an open court perhaps (7)
 - 10 John's operating principle (5)
 - 11 Argument results after agent gets high with this drink (3)
 - 12 Staff working for nobleman (5)
 - 13 Just don't start to panic! (5)
 - 14 Getting used to run-in and meet sorts (9)

- 15 Engagement with that trouble making, striking trade union (9)
 - 16 Shakira's ex is hurt (5)
 - 18 Remdesivir usually limits this microbe (5)
 - 19 Charm is about living in a sin as part of destiny (9)
 - 21 Reed wrung out, had come up from beneath (9)
 - 23 Buyer wanting large piece of rock (5)
 - 24 No-limits party lingo (5)
 - 25 Basically atmosphere is route to relay (3)
 - 26 British Royal having fresh air of a wild rose (5)
 - 27 R = Archie (3,4)
 - 28 Spent days around the empty stable (6)
- Down**
- 2 One who gives up hate is disheartened, overcomes pessimism halfway (9)
 - 3 7 letters for years spent in office (6,2,7)
 - 4 Heterosexual, progressive and uncomplicated (15)
 - 5 Big claim proven wrong like Zyzzyva and Zythum (6,5,5)
 - 6 Brief topic about 600 feet of high speed data connection (5,5,5)
 - 7 Eagle may shelter here finally, around one's nest (5)
 - 8 Free internet not right for this girl (7)
 - 9 Small vehicle with a black Egyptian symbol (6)
 - 17 One field managed and led by frauds partly with competence (9)
 - 18 Pass over such headless liberal (7)
 - 20 Trading volume at every diner (6)
 - 22 Not having energy, refused to return, had lunch (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13659

V	E	A	T	A	E	B		
D	I	S	M	A	L	O	U	T
L	B	K	P	R	H	O		
E	L	D	O	R	A	D	O	
A	L	L	I	M	R	I		
V	I	C	I	N	I	T		
N	I	C	H	I	L	L		
S	Y	N	C	H	O	P	E	
C	H	I	L	L	I	T	R	
G	O	B	B	E	T	C	A	
G	O	B	B	E	T	C	A	
R	E	A	S	S	U	M	E	
D	H	T	R	N	D	R		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Benefits of Sat Sanga

The crux of Kapila's instruction to Devahuti is bhakti. He shows how bhakti can grow into jnana in an atmosphere of Sat Sanga, pointed out Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse.

Kapila waxes eloquent about the sadhus who serve as living examples of devotion, renunciation and total detachment to worldly attractions even when engaged in their daily chores. The Lord says that only after many births of striving does one get the chance to be in Sadhu Sanga that can confer untold spiritual benefits by providing the chances to cultivate many good qualities that make life meaningful. Such realised souls do not have any foes in life. So they have nothing to fear. They are always calm. They have controlled the senses and have conquered anger. Anger and desire are the cause of mental and physical unrest in people. Their exclusive devotion to God is hailed as 'ananya' bhakti or Advaita bhakti. They exemplify many admirable traits such as tolerance, compassion, absence of hatred, and so on. They are not affected by the ups and downs in the course of their personal life. They have the ability to bear the effects of the pairs of opposites that constantly erode our physical and mental strength. This quality is called Titiksha.

At the same time, they are very sensitive to human suffering and their hearts will melt to go out to help those in distress. These ideals they stand for straightaway appeal to our hearts even without our intellectual comprehension of their essence. With no effort on one's part it will be easy to cross janna. The way is quick. A deer caught in the mouth of a tiger may or may not escape. But for a bhakta once in Sat Sanga, there is no escape from the right path to moksha. He is safe in the company of the realised soul who will see to it that he moves towards salvation.

49 Armenian soldiers killed in clashes

Country appeals to world leaders for help, saying Azerbaijani forces are trying to advance on its land

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YEREVAN

Armenia said on Tuesday that 49 of its soldiers had been killed in the worst clashes with Azerbaijan since their war two years ago, but Russia said it had convinced the historic rivals to agree to a rapid ceasefire.

After several hours of fierce border fighting overnight, Armenia appealed to world leaders for help, saying Azerbaijani forces were trying to advance on its territory.

The fighting was the worst since the end of a 2020 war between the ex-Soviet republics over the contested Nagorno-Karabakh region that left more than 6,500 killed on both sides.

It came with Yerevan's closest ally Moscow - which deployed thousands of peacekeepers in the region after the war - distracted by its six-month invasion of Ukraine.



Image taken from a footage released by Armenian Defence Ministry on Tuesday showing Azerbaijani servicemen crossing the border and approaching the Armenian positions. -AP

Russia said it had succeeded in bringing the clashes to a halt, with the Foreign Ministry in Moscow saying a ceasefire had been agreed from 9:00 am Moscow time.

"We expect that an agreement reached as a result of Russian mediation on a ceasefire... will be carried out in full," the Ministry said in a

statement, adding that it was "extremely concerned" by the uptick in fighting.

Armenia's Defence Ministry said later that clashes had subsided but that the situation on the border "remains extremely tense".

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan addressed Parliament on Tuesday

morning, after calling French President Emmanuel Macron, Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to demand "an adequate reaction" to "Azerbaijan's aggressive acts".

"For the moment, we have 49 (troops) killed and unfortunately it's not the fi-

nal figure," Mr. Pashinyan told lawmakers. Azerbaijan said it had also suffered casualties but did not specify the number killed.

The Defence Ministry in Yerevan said the clashes started early Tuesday, with Armenian territory coming under fire from artillery, mortars and drones in the direction of the cities of Goris, Sotk, and Jermuk.

"The enemy is trying to advance" into Armenian territory, it said in a statement.

But Azerbaijan accused Armenia of "large-scale subversive acts" near the districts of Dashkesan, Kelbajar and Lachin and said its armed forces were responding with "limited and targeted steps, neutralising Armenian firing positions".

Baku's long-standing political and military sponsor Turkey blamed Armenia and urged Yerevan instead to "focus on peace negotiations".

Charles visits Northern Ireland; Queen's coffin arrives in London

King pledges to 'seek the welfare of all the inhabitants'

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
LONDON

More than 26,000 people, as per an official count, paid their respects in Edinburgh to the Queen Elizabeth II at St. Giles Cathedral, queuing up through the night to file past her coffin.

In central London, authorities erected barricades along the pavements in the vicinity of Buckingham Palace and Westminster, in preparation for throngs of people expected to come to say goodbye to the Queen, whose body arrived in London on Tuesday evening.

Earlier in the day, King Charles III, the U.K.'s new monarch, and his wife, Camilla, the 'Queen Consort' as she is now known, visited Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland, where the King met with a diverse group of political leaders at a reception, and faith leaders from various backgrounds [including Chinese, Muslim and Hindu] at a church service for the Queen. British Prime Minister Liz Truss was also in attendance at the church. There, he pledged to "seek the welfare of all the inhabitants" of Northern Ireland.

Sinn Fein, the *de facto* political wing of the former Irish Republican Army (IRA), did not attend the ceremony proclaiming the King over the weekend, but its first minister-designate, Michelle O'Neill participated in the King's visit on Tuesday and offered her condolences.

Protests Curbed

While mourners, in the tens of thousands, paid their respects to the Queen, there have also been a few protesters trying to exercise their right to protest and - specif-



King Charles III

cally - protest the institution of monarchy.

A group opposite the entrance to the cathedral held up blank signs to signify their right to protest, the *Guardian* reported. They were there because people were being detained for showing anti-monarchy signs, one protestor told the newspaper.

On Saturday, a 22-year-old woman carrying a sign "F*** Imperialism", "Abolish Monarchy", was arrested and charged on "breach of peace" grounds.

On Monday, footage emerged on social media, of a 22-year-old man being pushed to the ground by an individual on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh after he heckled the Queen's son, Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, who along with his siblings, was walking behind the vehicle carrying his mother's coffin on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. He was then taken away by a police officer and has been charged.

"Andrew, you're a sick old man," the man had said. The Prince had reached a settlement over allegations of having sex with a minor in the United States.

These were the arrests made for protesting.

Republic, a group campaigning for Britain to have

an elected head of state, condemned the arrests.

"Free speech is fundamental to any democracy. At a time when the media is saturated with fawning over a king appointed without discussion or consent, it is even more important," the group said.

Censorship appears to have extended to media content as well. Segments of comedian John Oliver's show on *HBO, Last Week Tonight*, were edited out by *Sky* for the U.K. broadcast, as per reports.

The Queen's coffin left Scotland - a part of the U.K. that was loved by her - on Tuesday evening. The route of the journey from St. Giles Cathedral to the airport was lined by mourners, some taking photographs, clapping, some with bowed heads and others standing silently.

Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, was present at the airport to see the C-17 Globemaster aircraft off. The coffin was accompanied on the flight to London by the Queen's daughter, Princess Anne and her husband, Timothy Laurence.

Coffin Arrives in London

The Royal Air Force plane carrying the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II arrived in London late on Tuesday night. The body will be brought to Buckingham Palace - the Queen's home in the capital city.

From there, on Wednesday afternoon, the coffin will be taken to Westminster Hall, a 900-year-old hall in the U.K. parliament complex, where the Queen will lie in state until the funeral on Monday, which world leaders are expected to attend.

'Massive strikes' on Ukraine front: Russia

Reprisal comes after blows in Kharkiv

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Russia said on Tuesday it was carrying out "massive strikes" across the Ukrainian front line and accused Ukrainian soldiers of abusing civilians in territories recaptured in a dramatic counter-offensive.

Moscow's retaliation came after it was forced to pull back its troops from swathes of the northeast, particularly in the Kharkiv region, following Kyiv's lightning assault to wrest back terrain.

The territorial shifts marked one of Russia's biggest setbacks since its troops

were repelled from Kyiv in the earliest days of the nearly seven-month war, yet Moscow signalled it was no closer to agreeing to a negotiated peace.

"Air, rocket and artillery forces are carrying out massive strikes on units of the Ukrainian armed forces in all operational directions," the Russian Defence Ministry said in its daily briefing on the conflict.

"High-precision" strikes have also been launched on Ukrainian positions around Sloviansk and Konstantinovka in the eastern Donetsk region, the Russian Defence Ministry added.

Succession, Ted Lasso top Emmys; touts impact of TV

Lee Jung-jae the first Asian to win best drama series actor

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LOS ANGELES

Succession and *Ted Lasso* topped the Emmy Awards on Monday, in a ceremony that touted the influence of TV and extended honours to global sensation *Squid Game* and winners who delivered messages of empowerment.

The evening's uplifting tone, as voiced especially by *Zendaya*, *Lizzo* and *Sheryl Lee Ralph*, was in contrast to the darkness that pervaded the storytelling of best drama series winner *Succession* and even comedy series victor *Ted Lasso*.

"Thanks for making such a safe space to make this very difficult show," said *Zendaya*, claiming her second best drama actress award for *Euphoria*, about a group of teens' tough coming-of-age.

Drama awards

Succession, about a media empire run by a grasping and cut-throat family, split drama series honours with *Squid Game*, the bold South Korean-set drama about the idle rich turning the poor into entertainment fodder.

Lee Jung-jae of *Squid Game*, who played the

show's moral centre, became the first Asian to win the Emmy for best drama series actor. "Thank you for making realistic problems we all face come to life so creatively on the screen," Mr. Lee said to *Squid Game* creator Hwang Dong-hyuk, who earned the Emmy for best drama series directing.

The achievements of *Squid Game*, *Abbott Elementary* and a few other shows didn't change the relative lack of diversity in this year's nominations, which included significantly fewer people of colour than in 2021.

French cinema giant Godard dies

Macron hailed the director's talent and mourned the loss of a 'national treasure'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ROLLE, SWITZERLAND

Jean-Luc Godard, one of the most influential filmmakers of the 20th century and the father of the French New Wave, died "peacefully at home" on Tuesday aged 91, his family said.

The legendary maverick blew up the conventions of cinema in the 1960s, shooting his gangster romance *Breathless* on the streets of Paris with a hand-held camera, using a shopping trolley for panning shots.

He continued to thumb his nose at Hollywood and an older generation of French filmmakers by breaking all the rules again in *Contempt* (1963) with Brigitte



Jean-Luc Godard

Bardot and *Pierrot le Fou* in 1965.

"No official (funeral) ceremony will take place," his family said. "He will be cremated... And it really must happen in private."

The secrecy - and choos-

ing to disappear in a puff of smoke - is typical of Godard, who loved to surprise the world from his lair in the Swiss village of Rolle where he lived as a virtual recluse for decades.

It was there that he died "peacefully at home", his wife Anne-Marie Miville at his side, his producers said.

Godard's influence is hard to underestimate, with directors from Martin Scorsese, Quentin Tarantino and Paul Thomas Anderson to Robert Altman, the maker of *M*A*S*H* and *The Player*, often speaking of their debt to him.

French President Emmanuel Macron hailed the director's talent and mourned

the loss of a "national treasure".

"Jean-Luc Godard, the most iconoclastic filmmaker of the New Wave, invented a resolutely modern, intensely free art. We have lost a national treasure, a genius," Mr. Macron tweeted.

Godard's house, with green shutters and a green bench out front, looked empty on Tuesday, its shades drawn, with an abandoned ashtray and teapot on the windowsill.

Despite the filmmaker's often difficult relationship with critics, *The Guardian's* Peter Bradshaw heaped praise on Godard, saying, "The last great 20th-century modernist is dead."

William Ruto is Kenya's President

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NAIROBI

William Ruto was sworn in as Kenya's President on Tuesday after narrowly winning the August 9 election in East Africa's most stable democracy, and quickly signaled that his leadership will be a strongly Christian one.

The Supreme Court last week rejected a challenge by losing candidate and long-time Opposition figure Raila Odinga of the official results, completing a markedly peaceful election in a country with a history of troubled ones.

The 55-year-old Mr. Ruto had been the deputy to outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta but had a bitter split with Mr. Kenyatta that left the two not speaking for months at a time. On Tuesday, the audience cheered as the two shook hands, and again as Mr. Kenyatta handed over the instruments of power.

Shivamogga, Davanagere and Chitradurga Dist Co-operative Milk Producer's Societies Union Ltd.,
Machenahalli, Nidige Post, Shivamogga - 577 222.

IFT.No:SDCMUL/PUR/E.Proc/Tender-281D/5065/2022-23 Date: 08.09.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Through GOK E-Procurement Portal only Logon to: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Shivamogga, Davanagere and Chitradurga Dist Co-Operative Milk Producer's Societies Union Ltd., invites in two tender document system i.e. Technical and Commercial system from the manufactures or from interested eligible bidders for supply of following materials.

Sl.No	Particulars	Qty	EMD (in ₹)
1	Annual Rate Contract for Supply of 5kg Curd Containers (Bucket) with our art work to Shivamogga Dairy.	10,000 Nos	15,750/-
2	Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 3KL Capacity Bulk Milk Cooler Unit with standard accessories along with hot water system by heat recovery unit without DG set and on buy back of existing old 2KL capacity BMC unit and old Servo stabilizer at specified places of Shivamogga, Davanagere & Chitradurga District area	05 Nos	1,12,500/-
3	Annual Rate Contract for Supply of Caustic Soda Lye on liquid solution basis in 75kg carboys and empty carboys on returnable basis to Machenahalli Shivamogga Dairy	1,30,000 Kg	2,00,000/-
4	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 25KVA Water Coolant Cooled DG Set along with accessories suitable for BMC units on turnkey basis and on buyback of existing 25KVA 02 nos DG Sets at Haramagatta and Siddarahalli BMC centers.	02 Nos	22,500/-
5	Supply, Erection and Commissioning of 20 KLPH capacity plate chiller for milk with accessories on buyback of existing 10KLPH capacity plate chiller at Tadaganai and Honnali milk chilling centers.	02 Nos	35,000/-
6	Annual Rate Contract for Supply of Seetun N 68/ Friz N 68/ Equivalent grade Ammonia Compressor lube oil in 210Ltr barrels to Machenahalli Shivamogga Dairy	20 Barrel	10,000/-

1. Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement Portal of GOK from : 14.09.2022
2. Last date for uploading the filled Tender documents : On or before 29.09.2022 up to 16 Hours
3. Date of opening of Technical Tender : 30.09.2022 at 17.00 Hours
4. Date of opening of Commercial Tender : 01.10.2022 at 17.00 Hours

The bidder may download the tender documents with the Technical Specification & Terms & conditions of the tender by paying e-portal fees.

The details regarding participation for this tender can be obtained by login to <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> Any additional information regarding tender may be obtained from A.M (Pur) during office hours, e-mail id: dmpur.shimul@gmail.com Contact Numbers: 08182-246161, Mob: 7760971951

Sd/- Managing Director

ENTERPRISE CONNECT A Business Initiative

Six New Products Launched By Nafed Under PM FME Scheme

India for a variety of reasons, with employment being the main driver. Since there are Patanjali Ayurveda outlets in every Indian city and town, they are widely accessible. Because of easier accessibility to the outlets, the working Nepalese in India can visit any of the locations to use the money-saving scheme. Many Nepalese who reside abroad use IME as their preferred method of sending remittances to Nepal. IME India has teamed with Patanjali Ayurveda, a reputable company in India, to maintain and strengthen this level of trust. As a result of this collaboration, Nepalese residing in India will now be able to send money to their families in Nepal more easily and will also be guaranteed that the money sent will be received by their relatives in Nepal instantly into their bank account or mobile wallet (IMEPAY) or withdraw money as cash from IME agents spread everywhere around Nepal. Param Pujia Swami Ramdev Ji, "This partnership will strengthen Indo-Nepal relations and will provide Nepalese brothers and sisters a convenient mode to send money to their family members or relatives. All my blessings for the success of this partnership." Shradhey Acharya Balkrishna Ji, "This partnership is like adding a feather to the wing of Financial Services offered by Patanjali Group and its entity Bharuwa Solutions Pvt. Ltd. I would like to thank IME group for making this seamless customer journey and this gives me immense pleasure to announce that now my Nepalese brothers and Sisters can send money from India through our Patanjali Centers to their loved ones and they can collect the same from our Patanjali Centers in Nepal. There is no burden of visiting the bank branch, no tension of filling out a long application form or any formalities."

FDP on Computational Genomics & Proteomics at JUIT Solan in Collaboration with IIITDM Jabalpur

The faculty development program (FDP) on Computational Genomics & Proteomics got successfully completed on 10.09.22. This event was sponsored by Electronics & ICT Academy, an initiative of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India. The event commenced on 28.08.22 and was jointly organized by ECE departments of Jaypee University of Information Technology (JUIT), Wagnaghat, Solan & IIITDM Jabalpur. During this two-week FDP eminent speakers delivered talks on Fundamentals of Molecular Biology, Genome Sequencing, Signal Processing, Machine learning, Personalized Medicine, MATLAB Programming & Computer aided drug design. Also, Numerous case studies were discussed to highlight the applicability of computational methods in facilitating molecular biology experiments. The learned speakers who delivered the talks in this program include Prof. B.Jayaram (IIT Delhi), Prof. L. Shashidhara (IISER, Pune), Prof. Rajiv Saxena (JUIT Solan), Dr. Pushpendra Singh (Scientist, ICMR), Prof. S.N.Sharma (IIITDM, Jabalpur), Dr. D.K. Shukla (SATI, Vidisha), Dr. S.D. Sharma (JUIT, Wagnaghat) and Yashpal Yadav, Prof. Aparajita Ojha, Coordinator ES/ICT Academy Jabalpur, emphasized the importance of such collaborative programs. In his concluding remarks Prof. R.K. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, JUIT Wagnaghat wished that this program will promote collaborative cross-disciplinary research and participants will contribute towards the nation building by developing novel solutions for the existing molecular biology problems using computational tools. During the program Dr. Rajiv Kumar (Professor & Head, ECE, JUIT Solan) was also present in the closing ceremony. The program concluded with vote of thanks delivered by Prof. S.N. Sharma, IIITDM Jabalpur & Dr. S.D. Sharma JUIT Wagnaghat, Coordinators of this events.

Disha's Latest Release, 'India@75', Reveals Insights into India's Post Independence Journey

India is celebrating 75 years of independence and this is the perfect occasion to commemorate the glorious history and sacrifices of the people involved in liberating India from the clutches of the British Raj. "India has come a long way as it completes 75 years of freedom, overcoming a lot of challenges and obstacles into becoming the nation we are today," explains Deepak Agarwal, Director & Founder of Disha Publication. On this occasion, Disha Publication released a brand new book 'India@75', which is an exhaustive analysis of India from 'Azaadi' till 'Amrit Mahotsav', that is, the book discusses India's struggle during reformation and the journey thereafter in a student-friendly style so that the valuable lessons and insights can be absorbed effortlessly by young minds. This ingenious book serves more than one purpose; first, it was conceived with a student-friendly '3C' approach which means it is Comprehensive, Concise and Contemporary all at once. Second, the book offers factual descriptions of the key historical moments that laid the foundation of India's freedom struggle, the challenges India faced after gaining independence and its achievements as a post-colonial nation. These lessons are as informative as they are inspiring. Third, this book also acts a guiding tool for aspirants who wish to prepare for exams such as UPSC, State PSC, SSC, Banking and other major exams. "The questions that are generally asked in UPSC exams require important details of India's post-independence journey in the various fields and this book will be highly resourceful in their preparation," says Deepak Singh, author of the Book and an outstanding UPSC Educator. The book is comprehensive in nature as it covers all dimensions such as Political, Economic, Social, Diplomatic, Environment and History of India while presenting precise information in a way that is easy to retain and revise which makes it concise. Additionally, the book goes on to cover all other important contemporary developments till 2022. This turns it into a highly resourceful and updated study material for Civil Services Mains exams where students are required to write descriptive answers. Deepak Singh reveals that he exclusively chose to publish this book in collaboration with Disha Publication as he firmly believes and expresses, "They don't just publish books but guide younger minds towards success and that, in turn, can help us reach the 5 Trillion Economy target."

International Conference on Green Ship Recycling & Vehicle Scrapping and Review Meeting of Development of National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) Project, Lothal

An International Conference on Green Ship Recycling and Vehicle Scrapping is organized at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar. The conference has been organized by the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Gujarat Maritime Board in coordination with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gujarat is now moving towards port-led development, Gujarat is India's coastal gateway. The state is home to Alang, the largest ship-breaking yard in the world. Just as Gujarat has been dominant in ship breaking-recycling sector, it will also be in green recycling. Gujarat has the potential and the political will to become a hub for green ship recycling. The Gujarat government is committed to making Gujarat a global centre for green recycling. Alang also has a well-developed ecosystem and capacity for vehicle scrapping and will contribute majorly to the vehicle scrapping policy." Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said. In his address, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said that Gujarat is the business gateway of India and one of the world's preferred maritime destinations. "With a coastline of 1,600 km, Gujarat handles over 40% of India's cargo throughput and contributes 18% of the total cargo transported using coastal shipping. Gujarat was the first state in India to privatise the port sector, and by virtue of its strategic location, proactive policies, and robust infrastructure has emerged as the flag bearer of India's maritime recycling story. India is a leading implementation of 28 projects worth Rs. 22,700 crore are under development," he said. The International Conference on Green Ship Recycling and Vehicle Scrapping is showcasing the current status of ship recycling industry in Gujarat and the adoption of HKC Convention compliances. The conference is also facilitating discussion on how the EU shipping industry can take advantage of ship recycling facilities in Gujarat, and explore partnerships with EU member countries. Highlighting the significance of the conference, MK Das, Additional Chief Secretary of Ports and Transport Department, Government of Gujarat, said, "The conference will put Alang on the global map as a preferred destination for sustainable ship recycling that has safe and environmentally sound ship recycling best practices in place."

EBL launches co-branded Visa contactless credit cards in partnership with Patanjali Nepal

A partnership agreement has been reached between Patanjali Ayurveda and IME India Private Limited (Erstwhile, IME Forex India Private Limited). Millions of Nepalese migrants living in India will now be able to send money to Nepal easily by visiting Patanjali Ayurveda outlets located throughout India. Every year, thousands of Nepalese relocate to various parts of

MARKET WATCH

	13-09-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,571	0.76
US Dollar	79.17	0.45
Gold	50,905	-0.32
Brent oil	92.42	-2.53

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	948.80	10.30
Apollo Hosp	4490.10	8.50
Asian Paints	3422.20	-10.00
Axis Bank	805.55	4.55
Bajaj Auto	3866.50	-3.80
Bajaj Finserv	1784.75	70.95
Bajaj Finance	7403.45	116.55
Bharti Airtel	784.25	15.10
BPCIL	341.05	-1.55
Britannia Ind	3757.70	85.85
Cipla	1058.90	-5.85
Coal India	321.30	-0.20
Davis Lab	3667.60	-10.40
Dr Reddys Lab	4252.90	-8.25
Eicher Motors	3522.00	-16.95
Grasim Ind	1789.65	21.20
HCL Tech	955.40	-0.15
HDFC	2451.50	32.50
HDFC Bank	1513.10	19.55
HDFC Life	587.05	8.50
Hero MotoCorp	2870.00	12.10
Hindalco	436.65	5.50
Hind Unilever	2586.60	6.20
ICI Bank	910.00	2.80
IndusInd Bank	1163.80	26.95
Infosys	1544.95	8.75
ITC	334.40	3.50
JSW Steel	691.05	4.50
Kotak Bank	1923.40	-0.60
L&T	1991.35	29.45
MM	1299.85	2.80
Maruti Suzuki	8926.50	-1.15
Nestle India Ltd.	19063.65	95.45
NTPC	167.40	1.00
ONGC	133.90	-0.10
PowerGrid Corp	226.80	2.85
Reliance Ind	2619.75	21.70
SBI Life	1324.40	18.40
State Bank	558.00	3.10
Shree Cement	23932.30	-202.80
Sun Pharma	890.15	2.45
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	849.00	23.50
Tata Motors	456.80	5.80
Tata Steel	107.75	0.00
TCS	3229.35	-13.60
Tech Mahindra	1147.45	-2.65
Titan	2705.55	44.40
UltraTech Cement	6896.30	26.70
UPL	755.70	-0.65
Wipro	422.65	0.65

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	78.95	79.27
Euro	80.22	80.55
British Pound	92.43	92.81
Japanese Yen (100)	55.51	55.74
Chinese Yuan	11.39	11.44
Swiss Franc	83.12	83.46
Singapore Dollar	56.60	56.84
Canadian Dollar	60.86	61.11
Malaysian Ringgit	17.51	17.59
Australian Dollar	54.47	54.74

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



IOB raises rates for domestic term deposits
CHENNAI
Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has introduced a special maturity period of 1,000 days for domestic/NRO retail term deposits at 6.50% interest rate for senior citizens. For others, the lender would offer 6%. IOB also raised interest rates across all tenors on fixed deposits.

Siemens unveils digital transformation platform
MUMBAI
Siemens has introduced a platform 'Siemens Xclerator' in India to accelerate digital transformation and value creation of large enterprises and MSMEs. "Siemens Xclerator will help to create a powerful ecosystem of partners, who can jointly accelerate digital transformation tailored to specific business goals," said MD and CEO Sunil Mathur. "Our aim is to help companies to increase performance and sustainability," he added.

GST Council is a fledgling but vibrant institution, says FM

All Council members equal, no artificial line between Centre, States: Sitharaman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is still a fledgling five-year-old institution that has yet to become well-settled, but acts as a vibrant forum for intense interactions between the Centre and the States, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday.

"GST (Council) is... a five-year-old and I don't know if it has completely accomplished on very many things which are committed. It's happening, rapidly happening and there's a lot of vibrancy in the Council," Ms. Sitharaman said at the Delhi School of Economics.



Evolving compact: Centre-State interactions are 'continuously happening' at the GST Council, says Sitharaman. •PTI

Ms. Sitharaman was reacting to a 'powerful case' made by Fifteenth Finance Commission chief N.K. Singh to set up a Fiscal Council with the Centre and States, and another such body to act as a

bridge between the GST Council and the Finance Commission. She was speaking at a discussion on a book Mr. Singh has co-authored with P.K. Mishra, the principal secretary to the Prime

Minister, titled 'Recalibrate: Changing Paradigms'.

"Interestingly, we have not had the GST Council having a full-fledged, well-developed, 'it is all settled and it's running' kind of a situation yet," she noted, emphasising that Centre-State interactions were 'continuously happening' at the Council.

"The GST Council [meetings] are all intense interactions between the Centre and the States in the capacity of the Council. When we are seated there, we are seated as equal members. There are no artificial lines between the Centre and the States in the Council," Ms. Sitharaman asserted.

Buch sees no role for SEBI in IPO pricing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

SEBI has 'no business' suggesting IPO pricing for new-age tech companies, and it is the investment bankers who should allay any concerns around the issue, Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said.

Ms. Buch said that companies need to be more forthcoming on disclosures on how valuations have changed between a pre-initial public offering (IPO) placement of shares and the price which is being asked for in the issue.

"At what price you choose to do your IPO is your business," she said.

"You are free to price the issue at whatever price you consider appropriate," Ms. Buch added.

FPIs snap up bonds set to be added in global indices

Investors buy about ₹66 bn FAR bonds

REUTERS
MUMBAI

Foreign investors have stepped up purchases in a clutch of Indian government bonds that have no limits on foreign investment ahead of an anticipated inclusion of Indian debt in global bond indices, analysts said.

The RBI removed foreign investment caps for a number of securities under the 'fully accessible route' (FAR) in April 2020 to help meet a key requirement of index providers.

"The bonds under FAR will be a part of the index as there are no restrictions in that segment," Ashish Agarwal, Asia head of foreign exchange and emerging market macro strategy research at Barclays, said.



"If they are the ones that would be included, we can expect a premium to build between the FAR bonds and other Indian government bonds," Mr. Agarwal said.

Foreign investors have bought bonds worth almost ₹66 billion in this category in six weeks to September 9, even as they sold ₹18 billion of other government securities on a net basis.

U.S. inflation remains high despite easing

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Lower gas costs slowed U.S. inflation for a second straight month in August, but most other prices kept rising — evidence that inflation remains a heavy burden for American households.

Consumer prices surged 8.3% last month compared with a year earlier, the government said Tuesday, down from July's 8.5% and a four-decade high of 9.1% in June. On a monthly basis, prices rose 0.1%, after a flat reading in July.

But excluding volatile food and energy, so-called core prices jumped 0.6% from July to August. Rents, medical care services and new cars all grew more expensive last month.

Rupee can take care of itself, says CEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran said India was not defending the rupee and that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was taking necessary steps to ensure that the movement of the rupee was gradual and in line with market trends.

He further said that the rupee was being managed in a manner that reflected the fundamentals of the economy. "India is not defending the rupee... I don't think Indian fundamentals are such that we need to defend the rupee. The rupee can take care of itself," he said at an event here.

In August, the rupee had touched an all-time low of 80.15 against the dollar.

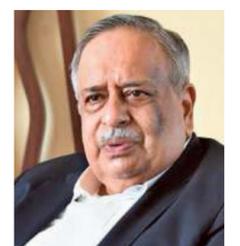
Damodaran to lead panel on PE, VC investments

Group to help ease regulatory hurdles

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday constituted an expert committee under the chairmanship of former SEBI chairman Meleveetil Damodaran with a view to identify measures to unravel regulatory hurdles for venture capital and private equity investors.

The committee — announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in this year's Budget — has been tasked with undertaking a comprehensive systemic study of the 'end-to-end frictions' and 'potential accelerators' from regulatory policy and taxation to facilitate 'ease of investing' as well as encourage investments into India.



Poonam Gupta, D-G, National Council for Applied Economic Research and former RBI executive director and SEBI member G. Mahalingam have been drafted in as panel members, along with former GST member of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs D.P. Nagendra Kumar.

Nifty rallies to 5-month high as FIIs turn buyers

Rupee strengthens to one-month high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Equities rallied for the fourth straight session on Tuesday with the Sensex jumping 455 points and the Nifty closing above the key 18,000-mark for the first time since April as foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained bullish on the domestic market.

The rupee climbed 36 paise to a more than one-month high of 79.17 against the dollar on Tuesday, tracking the dollar's decline versus its major peers and lifted by foreign fund inflows.

The Sensex surged 455.95 points, or 0.76%, to a five-month high of 60,571.08 points, with 24 constituents of the 30-share index ending in the green. The Nifty

rose 0.75% to 18,070.05. Analysts said the market rally was driven by FIIs who had turned net buyers.

'Sudden reversal'

"The ongoing market rally is primarily driven by the sudden reversal of FII strategy: from relentless sellers to relentless buyers," said V.K. Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services. FIIs pumped in ₹2,049.65 crore into equities on Monday, BSE data showed.

"As long as oil prices remain low and equity markets higher, rupee can remain well supported," said Anindya Banerjee, VP, Currency Derivatives & Interest Rate Derivatives at Kotak Securities.

Vedanta JV to invest \$19.5 bn in chip project

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

Vedanta Ltd. and Taiwan's Foxconn will invest \$19.5 billion (₹1.54 trillion) under a pact signed on Tuesday to set up a semiconductor project in Gujarat, PM Narendra Modi's home State.

Reuters was first to report the joint venture obtained subsidies, including on capital expenditure and electricity, from Gujarat.

They plan to build separate units for semiconductor and display production near the western State's largest city, Ahmedabad.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the venture would create more than 100,000 jobs, and the State was prepared to extend any support to the project.

Russia's Rosatom eyes EV battery, carbon-fibre ventures with India

Russian entity building Europe's largest lithium battery unit

P. SUDHAKAR
SOSNOVY BOR (RUSSIA)

Russia's Rosatom State Nuclear Energy Corporation, a global nuclear energy solutions provider, is ready to cooperate with India in various fields, including lithium batteries, carbon fibre, nuclear medicine, modern radiation technology and wind energy, a top official said.

"We are ready to join hands with our Indian partners for setting up lithium battery production units," said Vadim Titov, president, Rosatom - International Network, an arm of Rosatom. The entity is set to estab-



lish Europe's largest lithium battery production facility in its homeland in the wake of the rapidly increasing demand for electric vehicles across the globe.

During an informal chat with three select Indian journalists, who were recently

taken to the Leningrad Nuclear Power Station, Russia's largest nuclear complex, Mr. Titov said Rosatom was establishing very huge lithium battery plant in Russia, probably the largest in Europe as it believed that energy-storage approach would be a part of the future.

He also said Rosatom, was open to cooperation with India in other emerging areas such as carbon fibre and wind energy.

Rosatom is developing the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu.

(This correspondent visited Russia recently on invitation from Rosatom.)

Auto dealers seek protection from exit losses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Auto dealers on Tuesday sought protection from loss in case of sudden exits of foreign automakers from the country besides equitable say in running of business through the model dealer agreement (MDA).

"There have been dealer agreements between OEMs and the dealers and primarily, it is a one-sided agreement," said FADA president Manish Raj Singhania.

He said through the MDA unveiled on Tuesday, the dealership community had tried to create a level-playing field between OEM (original equipment manufacturer) and dealerships.

Sanctions-hit Russia woos Indian travellers

Moscow, St. Petersburg see potential

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Sanctions-hit Russia is making an aggressive bid to woo Indian travellers to visit its key cities.

Its top two cities, namely Moscow and St. Petersburg, have sent tourism delegations to an ongoing trade event called OTM to onboard a large number of travel agents to sell tour packages and woo Indians.

"During the pandemic the tourist flow had dropped significantly," said Julia Kuzenskaya, Deputy Chair, Committee for Tourism Development, St. Petersburg. "For St. Petersburg, it dropped 72%. In



that period, internal tourism witnessed a significant growth. Now, we can see the urge of Indians to visit our destinations," she added.

"Now, more Indians are traveling to Moscow and there is no problem in payments," said Alina Arutyunova, Deputy Chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee.

'Sunflower oil imports rose 90% in August'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

After the Ukraine crisis, Russia and Argentina have emerged as major suppliers of sunflower oil to India as imports of the cooking oil jumped 89.6% to 1.35 lakh tonnes in August, according to the Solvent Extractors Association.

India, the world's leading vegetable oil buyer, is dependent on imports of sunflower oil, which constitutes 16% of the total edible oil imports.

"Russia and Argentina turn to be major suppliers of sunflower oil to India," industry body Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) said in a statement.

SPORT

Two wicketkeepers who can make the difference in front of the stumps

Karthik's presence in the final stages is a nerves-calmer; Pant needs some leeway if he is to be a consistent match-winner



BETWEEN WICKETS
SURESH MENON

Of the two wicket-keepers in the Indian team for the World T20 in Australia next month, one has his role clear-cut while the other is still working it out.

Dinesh Karthik, 37, is the finisher, as crucial in the final five or six overs as batsmen in the first six. With his strike rate just a shade under 140, his presence in the final stages is as much of a nerves-calmer as Rohit Sharma's is at the top.

Rishabh Pant, 24, one of the most exciting Test batsmen in the world, has the talent and the

chutzpah but is yet to translate that into success in the T20. The next couple of home series, against Australia and South Africa (six T20 matches in all), should determine his slot and style.

Play as opener

Perhaps he needs to open, perhaps bat at number three (if Virat Kohli opens) so he can better use the margin of irresponsibility in a team whose top three have been solid rather than spectacular.

Pant averages 43 in Tests, with a strike rate of 73. In T20, he has a strike rate of 126 from 58 internationals. Comparisons with Virender Sehwag, a great Test opener but disappointing in T20 (he played only 19 matches, though) focus on the ability of both batsmen to create boundaries off good deliveries.

Pant has been more outrageous in his shot-making, but a sta-

tistician has worked out that his Test runs were made with 83% conventional shots. Sehwag had said that opening in Tests was easier because there were more open spaces in the field and the bowling was more attacking.

Orthodoxy is not working

Pant is struggling in T20 not because he is unorthodox but because his orthodoxy is not working when there are fewer open spaces and the bowling to him has been wide outside the off stump. This has frustrated him and his batting has been pushed to the more extreme edge of the outlandish. The lower down he bats, the greater will be the pressure.

But a player of such skills (his wicket-keeping is good enough to find him a place in any format) needs to be allowed some leeway if he is to be a consistent match-



Karthik and Pant... impact players. •AFP

winner. In T20 cricket, a quickfire 30 can be more valuable than a studied 80, but there are few batters in India's top half capable of throwing the opposition bowling into disarray.

India handled Kohli's dip in

form well, allowing him time and space to work it out, and now the focus will be on Pant. In T20, he is like a piece of classical music being played at the wrong speed. An adjustment is needed.

Karthik, India's finest television commentator in recent years, once carried his kit to England 'just in case' even as he was garnering a new set of fans on Sky Sports for his measured, analytical, anecdotal style of commentary. Karthik's not-so-subtle hint to the Indian selectors amused both viewers and his fellow-commentators, but he has fought his way in, and it is not difficult to tell who's laughing now!

Karthik, called the 'Giorgio Armani of the commentary box' by Michael Atherton for his fashion style, is the lone survivor of India's first-ever T20 International, against South Africa in 2006. He played for India before Mahendra

Singh Dhoni did, and is still there after Dhoni has retired. Their competition explains why he has played only 170 of the 808 internationals India have played in that period.

Bringing forth the skills

Karthik, who has opened in Tests, re-invented himself in the IPL as a batsman of rare acumen and creativity, surprising many with his quickness and ability to find the boundary consistently. With advancing age and experience most batsmen tend to prefer the reliable over the risky, but Karthik travelled in the opposite direction, discovering skills that lay untapped for long.

He didn't have a particularly distinguished series in England earlier this year, but showed in the IPL that he had two qualities vital for success in the format — a healthy disregard for personal

statistics, and a willingness to experiment with the essential aim of batsmanship which is to get the ball across the boundary. Ironically, it is the oldest member of the side who seems to have assimilated best the philosophy of the shortest format.

There can be no holy cows in T20, which is an important aspect of the format India are beginning to understand. Experience is good, but sometimes inexperience can win you the day. Solidity is good, but sometimes recklessness matters. Batting orders, bowling changes keep altering. The coach in the dugout might have a bigger role than in the longer formats.

It is possible that both wicketkeepers were borderline selections, their experience trumping others' potential. It will be ironic (but not surprising) if they return as heroes of the World Cup.

LIVE TELECAST

WTA Chennai Open: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 p.m. onwards
Durand Cup: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 6 p.m.
RSWS 2022: Colors Cineplex, Colors Cineplex Superhits, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Ten 2, Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.15 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Thursday).

IN BRIEF



Siraj scalps five on Warwickshire debut

BIRMINGHAM
 India pacer Mohammad Siraj on Tuesday took a five-wicket haul on his county debut. Playing for Warwickshire, Siraj took five for 82 in 24 overs to help his team bowl out Somerset for 219 on day two of the division one fixture. Siraj's scalps included Pakistan opener Imam-ul-Haq, George Bartlett, James Rev, Lewis Gregory and Josh Davey. Jayant Yadav, also representing Warwickshire, ended with figures of 1 for 42. PTI



Zverev out of Davis Cup with 'extreme pain'

MUNICH
 Alexander Zverev will not feature for Germany in this week's Davis Cup group stage in Hamburg after experiencing "extreme pain" and is unlikely to play again this year. Zverev has been sidelined since tearing ankle ligaments during his semifinal against Rafael Nadal at the French Open in June. He left the court at Roland Garros in a wheelchair and underwent surgery. AFP

Haaland threat looms large over Dortmund

The German giant would be wary of the striker's ability to destroy defences

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
 MANCHESTER

Borussia Dortmund know only too well of Erling Haaland's ability to destroy defences in the Champions League, but the German giant may die by the sword it previously lived by when it visits Manchester City on Wednesday.

Haaland blossomed into one of the world's most feared strikers during two-and-a-half years in Germany, scoring 86 goals in 89 games for Dortmund.

Eight games into his City career, the giant Norway striker with a devastating turn of speed has already scored 12 times for the English champions.

"His numbers in all his career, not just here but when he was in previous teams, is quite similar," said City boss Pep Guardiola after Haaland struck twice in a 4-0 win at Sevilla to kick off City's latest quest to break its Champions League duck.



Extra spring in the step: Haaland would want to show his former club what it has lost. *AFP

"He has an incredible sense of goal."

Dortmund may provide the perfect breeding ground for Europe's top talents to develop in the early years of their career, but it cannot compete financially with the

continent's wealthiest clubs, nor satisfy the ambitions of the world's best players in the long term.

Losing Haaland may prove the biggest loss of all with the 22-year-old threatening to rewrite records set

by Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi that many believed would remain intact for generations.

Haaland's double against Sevilla took his tally in the Champions League to 25 goals in 20 games.

Haaland's haul in the Champions League was also why City was so desperate to sign him as the successor to the club's all-time top goalscorer Sergio Aguero.

Under Guardiola, City has won four Premier League titles in the past five years and six in total stretching back over the past decade.

The past two seasons it has come agonisingly close, losing its first ever final to Chelsea in 2021 before blowing a two-goal lead in stoppage time of its semifinal against eventual winner Real Madrid in May. Any doubts that the recruitment of a superstar could destabilise the collective effort that has characterised City's success under Guardiola have been blown away within weeks.

Wednesday's schedule: AC Milan vs Dinamo Zagreb; Shakhtar Donetsk vs Celtic; Rangers vs Napoli; Chelsea vs Salzburg; Real Madrid vs Leipzig; Copenhagen vs Sevilla; Juventus vs Benfica; Maccabi Haifa vs PSG; Manchester City vs Dortmund.

India U-17 boys to take on Nepal in final

We have identified, and worked on our weaknesses: coach

SAFF U-17

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 COLOMBO

Focused on learning from its mistakes, the Indian football team will take on Nepal in the SAFF U-17 Championship final here on Wednesday.

The Indian camp sounded confident on the eve of the match.

"We started the tournament well. But it was a nervy start nonetheless. This is the first tournament that the boys are playing for the country, and that can always give you a few jitters," said

head coach Bibiano Fernandes.

"The result against Nepal was a wake-up call for us. The boys reacted extremely well after the setback. We have identified, and worked on our weaknesses. I need to credit the boys for taking up this challenge," he added.

The blue colts had started their campaign with a victory against Bhutan, but suffered a 1-3 loss at the hands of Nepal in their second group stage game before turning their fortunes around against Bangladesh with a 2-1 victory in the semifinal.

While the coach spoke about eliminating mistakes, the players are looking forward to redeeming themselves after the last defeat against Nepal.

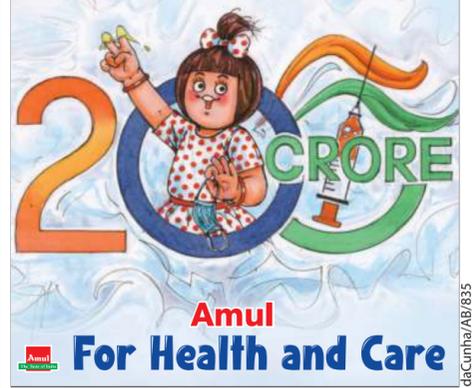
"We were terribly upset after the loss to Nepal. We wanted a rematch, and it is our chance to prove ourselves in the final," said captain Vanlalpeka Guite.

"We are completely focused." One major change for the boys, the coach noted, has been the change in the mindset. "There is always a lot to learn from any defeat, and I need to appreciate the mindset of the boys."



Revenge time: The Indians will look to settle scores with Nepal. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A jab dastaan hai yeh



Digvijay advances

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Digvijay Pratap Singh beat Lautaro Pane of Argentina 6-2, 6-2 in the first round of the \$25,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Madrid on Tuesday.

In the \$15,000 event in Tunisia, Karan Singh pipped Boris Butulija of Serbia 6-1, 2-6, 7-6(6), by converting his third match point, in the first round.

The results (first round): \$25,000 ITF men, Madrid: Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Lautaro Pane (Arg) 6-2, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF, Monastir, Tunisia: Men: Karan Singh bt Boris Butulija (Srb) 6-1, 2-6, 7-6(6); Mu

Tao (Chn) bt Niki Poonacha 6-3, 6-3.

Women: Jennifer Luikham bt Angelina Groavac (Aus) 6-2, 6-3; Yao Xinxin (Chn) bt Kaniska Sreenath 6-1, 6-0. **Doubles:** Milana Zhabrailova & Jennifer Luikham bt Angelina Groavac (Aus) & Liu Yanni (Chn) 6-2, 6-3; Shanelle Iaconi (Aus) & Annika Kannan bt Kristina Milenkovic (Sui) & Sarah Mueller (Ger) 7-5, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: Men: **Doubles:** S.D. Prajwal Dev & Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam bt Saba Purtseladze (Geo) & Lorenzo Rottoli (Ita) 7-6(0), 6-3. **Women:** Sravya Shivani bt Sandhy Sharaf (Egy) 6-0, 6-2. **Doubles:** Pei Hsuan Chen & Fang An Lin (Tpe) bt Tania Munteanu (Rou) & Anjani Maheshkumar 6-4, 6-0.

Prannoy climbs to 16th

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 NEW DELHI

India's H.S. Prannoy climbed two places to the 16th spot in the latest BWF World rankings, released on Tuesday. Prannoy now has 64,330 points.

K. Srikanth also jumped two places to 12th, while Lakshya Sen continued to be the best-placed Indian man at World No. 9.

P.V. Sindhu also gained a position to climb to the seventh spot while Saina Nehwal regained her place inside the top-30 after improving three spots.

In men's doubles, Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy remained static at eighth while Ashwini Ponnapa and N. Sikki Reddy slipped a rung to the 28th place in women's doubles.

Indian women lose to Bangladesh

Shopna nets a brace and Srimoti scores the other in the 3-0 win

SAFF C'SHIPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 KATHMANDU

The Indian women's team suffered a 0-3 loss at the hands of Bangladesh in its third and final group match of the SAFF Women's Championship here on Tuesday.

M.S. Jahan Shopna netted a brace for Bangladesh, while Srimoti Sarkar got one to her name, to hand the defeat to India.

However, the loss had no

impact on India's semifinal qualification, as the Blue Tigresses had already booked their spot in the last four, where they are set to take on Nepal on Saturday at the same venue.

Going into the lead

Bangladesh had the early impetus, and took the lead in the 12th minute, when Srimoti threaded a ball through to Shopna, who slotted in between two defenders, and sent it past the keeper, to put her side in the lead.

India had its first chance of the game in the 19th minute, when Anju Tamang earned a free-kick 22 yards from goal.

Youngster Priyanka Devi stepped up to the dead ball, but curled it just wide of the woodwork.

Minutes later, Srimoti doubled Bangladesh's lead, as she darted into the Indian box from the left flank to put it past the goalkeeper.

India tried several long diagonals to catch the Bangladeshi high-line off guard,

but to no avail as the first half soon came to an end with the latter taking a two-goal lead into the tunnel.

The Blue Tigresses started off well in the second half, and soon earned a free-kick on the right flank, that was sent in by Priyanka, towards Renu, who had broken free of her marker.

However, the ball took an awkward bounce off the turn, ricocheted off Renu's stomach and was safely collected by Bangladesh custodian Rupna Chakma.

Heirot HSS takes on Berwa HS in final

SUBROTO CUP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

Heirot Higher Secondary School, Imphal, set up a title clash with Berwa High School, Gumla, in the 61st Subroto Cup Under-14 boys' tournament with easy victories in their respective semifinals on Tuesday.

While the Imphal boys beat Greenwood School, Di-

mapur, 2-0 in a North-Eastern face in the first semifinal, Berwa HS got past Government Model High School, Chandigarh, 3-1 to make the final, to be played on Thursday.

The results: Semifinals: Heirot Higher Secondary School, Imphal 2 (A. Devo, T. Likson) bt Greenwood School, Dimapur 0; Berwa HS, Gumla 3 (Amash Mandi, Mohit Maru, Sameer Soren) bt Govt. Model HS, Chandigarh 1 (Hijoyti Moran).

Boucher to quit as South Africa head coach

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
 JOHANNESBURG

South Africa head coach Mark Boucher will quit his job after the T20 World Cup in October-November, Cricket South Africa announced on Monday.

Boucher, appointed in controversial circumstances in 2019, was due to be in charge until the end of the 2023 World Cup in India.

His shock decision means that South Africa has to ap-

point a new head coach before a challenging Test tour of Australia in December, which could be crucial to the country's chances of qualifying for the World Test Championship final at Lord's in June 2023.

Boucher has decided to resign "in order to pursue other opportunities."

Boucher will take the team on a white-ball tour of India later this month, followed by T20 World Cup.

Rubani in second round

SPORTS BUREAU

Rubani Kaur Sidhu beat fourth seed Tanisha Roy 6-4, 6-3 in the girls' first round of the Asian under-16 tennis tournament at the State tennis complex, Agartala.

Rain intervened and washed out play.

Clarification

Meanwhile, referee Prabin Kumar Nayak clarified that it was Sarah Gomes who had beaten Rivaa Mehta in the first round and not as published, owing to an error by the chair umpire.

GGSSC enters the summit clash

MPHA gets the better of NTHA in tie-breaker

NEHRU HOCKEY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

Guru Gobind Singh Sports College (GGSSC), Lucknow booked a spot in the final of the 50th Nehru Junior hockey tournament with a comprehensive 5-1 win against Odisha Naval Tata High Performance Centre, Bhubaneswar in the semifinal here on Tuesday.

It will now take on Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy (MPHA) for the title after the Bhopal team won in contrasting style in the other

semifinal, defeating Naval Tata Hockey Academy (NTHA), Jamshedpur 2-1 in the shootout after the teams were tied 3-3 at the end of regulation time at the Shivaji Stadium.

The Lucknow boys took an early lead through Ajit Yadav in the 10th minute and kept complete control on the game to keep scoring at regular intervals. Arbin Toppo pulled one back for the Odisha side in the 55th minute but it wasn't enough.

In the other semifinal, MPHA took lead thrice only for the Jamshedpur team to

fight back and level scores, the final goal coming in the 58th minute to take the game into shootout. Vishvesh Singh Thakur and Sohail Ali were on target for MPHA while Asim Ekka was the lone converter for Naval Tata Academy.

The results (semifinals): Guru Gobind Singh Sports College, Lucknow 5 (Ajit Yadav 2, Manoj Yadav 2, Mohd. Zaid) bt Odisha Naval Tata HPC, Bhubaneswar 1 (Arbin Toppo).

MPHA, Bhopal 3 (Aley Rasool, Vivek Pal, Sairam Pahlad) bt Naval Tata HA, Jamshedpur 3 (Kunal Yadav, Satyam Pandey, Jolen Topno) on penalties.

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FACULTY SCIENTIST POSITIONS

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Date: 07.09.2022

General Manager (RP&PM)