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AAP team flags 'anomalies' in draft delimitation report

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

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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

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

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



DURGESH PATHAK
AAP in-charge of MCD

The delimitation exercise seems politically motivated... How can there be wards with populations of 30,000 and 90,000 at the same time

tutional bodies.

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

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

30,000 and 90,000 at the same time," he asked.

"We have submitted a comprehensive feedback to the committee. We have also appealed to the SEC to conduct the MCD polls at the earliest. Delhiites want to be free of the corrupt administration of the BJP in MCD," Mr. Pathak said.

Sources familiar with the drafting of the report said besides considering the average population per ward, the delimitation panel also looked at geographical features and contiguity of the areas,

among other factors.

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

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

THE HINDU
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'Pending salaries in MCD mounting post-merger'

Muneef Khan
NEW DELHI

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

According to the MCD, a total of ₹126.43 crore is required to pay the salaries and pensions of its employees up to September. This is a massive rise in the salary gap which stood at ₹752.53 crore in July.

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

The civic body needs ₹126.43 crore to clear the backlog, say officials

employees (various categories) under the erstwhile East corporation are pending for three to four months; employees under the erstwhile North body have not got their salary for one month, while those under the erstwhile South corporation have their salaries up to date.

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

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

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

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

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

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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Shot fired in Holy Family Hospital emergency; one injured

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2022 (OJEE-2022)

No:- OJEE / 444 Date: 29.09.2022

NOTICE FOR NEET (UG) - 2022 QUALIFIED STATE CANDIDATES REGARDING REGISTRATION AND PREPARATION OF STATE MERIT LIST FOR ADMISSION TO MBBS / BDS COURSES IN ACADEMIC SESSION, 2022-23

This is for information of the candidates, who have qualified in NEET(UG) - 2022 and are interested to participate in Odisha State Medical Counselling for the academic session - 2022-23, that the online registration process for preparation of state merit list will start from 30.09.2022.

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

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For queries please contact: AGM (Civil) Ph. 0141-4593212 Raj.Samwad/C/22/8506

Test rape survivors for HIV, DCW tells city hospitals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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

STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND
Government of Jharkhand

e-procurement Notice inviting Request For Proposal for Construction Supervision Consultancy Services (1st Call)

RFP No: SHAJ/Proc/SC/Matkama Chowk-Chuttupalu/2022 Date: 28.09.2022

1. State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi invites Request of Proposal for services of "Construction Supervision Consultancy Services for Widening and Strengthening/ Reconstruction of Matkama Chowk (SH-2) - Pali - Sanki - Chuttupalu (NH-33) (Length-20.760 km) and Kodi Bazar to Chikori via Suddi link road (Length-4.430 km) including bridges, (Total Length - 25.190 km)." on SBD mode in State of Jharkhand. The cost of the work is Rs. 84,67,67,557.00.

2. The interested consultancy firm who have experience in services of similar works and required technical & financial strength may obtain Request of Proposal (RFP) document from e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in from 30.09.2022 (15:00 hrs) to 01.11.2022 (15:00 hrs).

The complete RFP Application shall be submitted online by 01.11.2022 (upto 15:00 hrs) on e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in as per instruction in RFP-Instruction to Bidder for e-tendering. All the details regarding this RFP will be available on the above mentioned website.

No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

3. To participate in the bidding, it is mandatory for the applicants to get registered their firm/Joint Venture with e-tendering portal of <http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in> to have user ID & password.

4. The consultancy firm are required to submit non-refundable document fee of Rs. 30,000/- (Rs. Thirty thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft in favour of "State Highways Authority of Jharkhand Fund" payable at Ranchi and Bid Security of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rs. One lac only) in the form of Bank Guarantee from a Schedule Commercial Bank as per prescribed format. The document fee & Bid Security should be submitted to the office of undersigned latest by 01.11.2022 (upto 15:00 hrs). The undersigned will open the received bid online on 02.11.2022 at 15:30 hrs.

Sd/-
Member (Technical)
State Highways Authority of Jharkhand
Deen Dayal Nagar
(Near Office of Executive Engineer, NH Division, Ranchi)
Booty Road, Ranchi-834008. Ph.: 0651-2361306
E-mail: membertechnical.shaj2@gmail.com

PR.NO.278884 State Highway Authority of Jharkhand(22-23):D

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

NINTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of our beloved Mother

17.06.1951 30.09.2013
Mrs. GEETHA RAMAKRISHNAN
W/o. Late A.R. Ramakrishnan, B.E
City Engineer (Retd) Corporation of Chennai

Tendly Remembered by
Sons: R. Arun Prasad,
R. Surendra Prasad,
R. Goutham Prasaath
Daughters-in-Law:
Mital Surendra & Jayanthi Arun
Grandson: S. Aswin & S. Harshad

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

Date: 30-09-2022 General Manager (RE & IPP)

Request for Proposal (RfP)

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

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

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

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

Sd/- Vice Chairman & Managing Director
Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited
"Parishrama Bhavan", 6th Floor, 5-8/B, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad, PIN-500004, Telangana
Ph: 23237625, Fax: 040-23240205, Email: vcmd@tsic.telangana.gov.in

R.O. No.: 750-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23, Dt. 29.09.2022

Timings

DELHI

FRIDAY, SEP. 30

RISE 06:14 SET 18:09
RISE 10:29 SET 21:07

SATURDAY, OCT. 01

RISE 06:14 SET 18:08
RISE 11:36 SET 21:57

SUNDAY, OCT. 02

RISE 06:15 SET 18:07
RISE 12:42 SET 22:56

Delhi Weather max min

Delhi City 34 23

Safdarjang 34 23

Palam 34 25

Delhi Palam Today
35°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant and misty. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant with mist.

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

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KRATIKA tyagi D/O Sandeep tyagi, born on 5 July 2004, residing at house no.H-2 Aakash 4, near kali mandir, sec3, Rajender Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name and gender to Kian Tyagi, Male, vide affidavit 1st September 2022 at Ghaziabad. I shall, hereafter, sign all records with this name and gender Kian Tyagi, Male.

DEATH

A TRIBUTE

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

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

V. DWARAKNATH REDDY

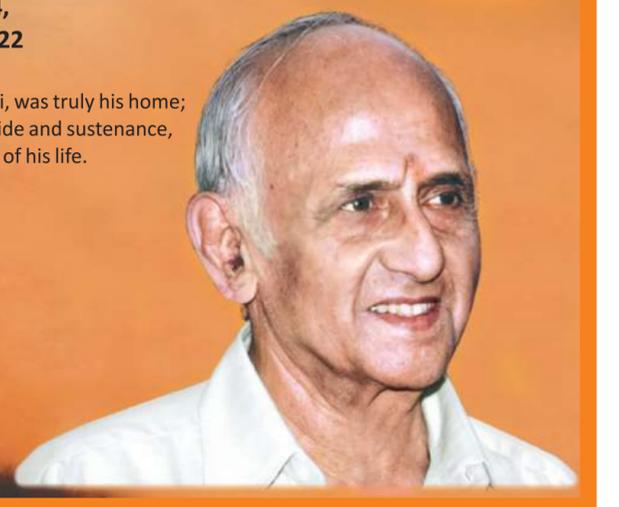
Co-founder and Chairman of Nutrine Confectionery Co, Chittoor, A.P., Founder of Ramanarpanam Trust (DRRT). An industrialist, philanthropist, a spiritual seeker and author.

He came on October 26th 1924, and left on September 28th 2022

Sri Ramanashramam, Tiruvanamalai, was truly his home; Bhagavan Ramana Maharshi, his guide and sustenance, the very meaning, method and goal of his life.

Family, friends, colleagues, co-workers and well-wishers.

To so many of us, he was - and is - 'APPA'.



Akhilesh re-elected SP president for third consecutive term

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

The Samajwadi Party chief asked workers to be



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

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

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

Bharat Jodo Yatra provides a shot in the arm for Congress

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

Biju Govind
KOZHIKODE

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Reeling from the revolt by rebel Shiv Sena leader and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, leaders of the beleaguered Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition (of the Nationalist Congress Party, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and the Congress) have made sensational claims that Mr. Shinde had wanted to defect to the Congress in the recent past.

Former four-time MP and Uddhav camp loyalist Chandrakant Khaire on Thursday claimed that Mr. Shinde and other Sena MLAs had harboured such plans when Congressman Prithviraj Chavan was the CM (2010-14).

Mr. Shinde had been mulling a breakaway faction of the Sena with MLAs to join the Congress, much like his intra-party revolt a

few months ago, Mr. Khaire elaborated.

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

Mr. Khaire's claims come a day after senior Congressman Ashok Chavan said that the Shiv Sena had wished to form an MVA-like alliance when the latter was in alliance with the BJP and Devendra Fadnis was CM in the BJP-Sena government (2014-19).

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location	30-Elect-28-T-R1-22-23-E3 Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of 02 Nos. VVT make lifts Installed (02 Nos.) at PHG side of New Delhi Railway Station and at Baroda House for three years.
Approx. cost of the works in	Rs. 7.98 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Bid Security	Rs. 16000.00
Date & time of submission of tender	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi 2553/22

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Contact : 0651-2446680

CORRIGENDUM-II
NOTICE FOR WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Please find below corrigendum-II on published NOTICE FOR WALK-IN-INTERVIEW for the post of Account Officer:-
8. Applications received after 10:30 AM on the date of Walk-In-Interview dated 12-10-2022 will not be considered/entertained. Document verification will be start from 10:30 AM. INTERESTED AND ELEGIBLE RETIRED GOVT.OFFICERS CAN WALK IN FOR THE PERSONAL INTERVIEW ON 12-10-2022. ALONG WITH DOCUMENTS AS PER S.NO. 7 AT OUR OFFICE: Project Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi.
The advertisement PR No. is- 277922.

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

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(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
e-mail Id-pdt.juidco@gmail.com, juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

CORRIGENDUM-01

PR Ref. No : 277327
NIT No : JUIDCO/NIT/KCTOKTC/RNC-500
Tender ID : 2022_UDD_61344_I
Name of the work : "Widening of existing road to 4 lane road with median from Kutchery Chowk to Kantatoli Chowk via Circular Road in Ranchi Jharkhand Length 2.772 Kms"

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a female namely **Ramawati Devi, W/o Mahendra, R/o K-89, Dakshinpur, New Delhi** has been missing from her house since 12.09.2022 at 05.00 AM. In this regard a **DD No. 52A dt. 14.09.2022** has been registered at PS, Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi. The description of missing female is as under :

Name: Ramawati Devi, **Husband's Name :** Mahendra, **Age:** 52 years, **Height:** 4'10", **Complexion :** Shallow Face : Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Red Color Sari and Cream color sleeper in feet.
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.
Website : http://cbi.nic.in
e-mail : ciccibi@cbi.nic.in
Ph. : 011-23011334
23015218, Extn. 210
DP/1059/SD/2022

SHO
P.S., Ambedkar Nagar,
New Delhi
Ph.: 011-29052304, 29051917
8750870832

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

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Diversifying Growth Consolidating Strengths

Ravinder Singh Dhillon
Chairman & Managing Director

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH at the 36th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 21st September, 2022

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Welcome to the 36th Annual General Meeting of your company. The pandemic had a significant impact on a wide range of businesses and industries in the last two years. Our economy is gradually emerging from its debilitating impact, with the revival of consumption demand and easing of supply chain constraints. Power demand has also surpassed the pre-pandemic highs, with peak demand hitting new lifetime highs in 2022. However, the war in Ukraine and comeback of inflation after almost a decade have posed a new set of hurdles to the global economic recovery. With prices of fuel and other commodities, especially of food items remaining volatile, inflation is likely to remain elevated in the near term. Under these unusual circumstances, your company was able to measure up to the challenges and deliver excellent results.

PFC IS NOW A MAHARATNA COMPANY

During the year, your company was conferred 'Maharatna' status by Government of India, the highest recognition for a public sector company. This is an endorsement of PFC's enhanced stature and an acknowledgement of its sterling role in turning a power deficit country into a power surplus state with universal access to electricity. Maharatna status will give PFC greater operational and financial autonomy and enable diversification of its operations to further accelerate its business growth.

OPERATIONAL & FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

I am pleased to announce that, during FY 2021-22, we have delivered the highest ever net profit of ₹10,022 crore, up 19% from the previous fiscal. On a consolidated basis, the company earned net profit of ₹18,768 crore, a 19% increase from FY 2020-21. At the end of the fiscal year, PFC's loan assets stood at ₹ 3,733 lakh crore on standalone basis and ₹ 7,59 lakh crore on consolidated basis. The Net Worth of your company was ₹ 59,350 crore as on 31.03.2022 and the Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio was at a healthy level of 23.48%, with Tier I capital ratio of 20.00%. To reward our shareholders, PFC has declared a total dividend of 120% i.e. ₹ 12 per share during FY 2021-22, which is the highest pay out in the history of PFC.

PFC is the 1st Maharatna in Financial space. Maharatna status will give PFC greater operational and financial autonomy and enable diversification of its operations to further accelerate its business growth.

On asset quality front, your company continued the steady improvement, with net NPAs at 1.76%, the lowest level in the past 6 years. Stressed assets worth ₹ 2,787 crore were resolved, including Essar Power MP, RS India WinEnergy & GVK Ratle. Two other projects, namely South

East UP Transmission and Jhabua Power are in advanced stages of resolution in NCLT.

Your company took various measures to reduce the cost of borrowing and as a result, the cost of funds reduced by 18 bps in FY 2021-22 to 7.30%. In September 2021, PFC issued its first ever Euro Green Bonds amounting to EUR 300 million at a coupon of 1.841%. This was the first ever

investors' confidence in the sector.

Your company has been publishing performance report on state power utilities on an annual basis and is also the co-ordinating agency for Integrated Rating exercise carried out as per framework approved by Ministry of Power. The 10th Integrated Rating & Ranking of Power Distribution Utilities marked a new milestone with the inclusion of Private Distribution Utilities and Power Departments covering a total of 71 utilities across India.

These reports are widely used by stakeholders including utilities, policy makers, developers, lenders, equity analysts and regulators, for decision making.

LEADING THE FIGHT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Shift in energy consumption to cleaner and green options will play a significant role in economic growth globally. During the COP 26 summit held in Glasgow in October

capacity addition of 18 GW, which is 16% of the country's installed renewable capacity. During the last fiscal, 44% of the disbursement made by PFC to the generation sector was to non-fossil fuel projects. PFC's renewable energy assets grew at a CAGR of 32% in the last 5 years, compared to 9% growth in total loan assets.

The upward revision in green energy targets would fuel expansion of the green energy financing market, and would demand innovative financing models. According to various estimates, the fund requirement to meet India's net zero target is about US\$ 10 trillion, a large part of which is to be deployed in the energy sector. Your company being a major financier of the sector would play a key role in channelizing this investment.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Good corporate governance is essential to ensure transparency and to boost stakeholder trust and confidence. Being a listed company, PFC complies with all applicable provisions within its ambit, relating to corporate governance as stipulated under the Companies Act, 2013, SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, DPE Guidelines etc. Your company maintains the highest standards of transparency, accountability and adequate disclosures.

Being a socially responsible entity, PFC has put its CSR and sustainability policy into practise with utmost sincerity. I am proud to state that PFC's cumulative CSR spending has surpassed ₹1000 crore to date.

DIVERSIFICATION & WAY FORWARD

In order to sustain the growth momentum, your company has diversified into funding infrastructure projects in irrigation, waste to energy and water treatment sectors and also into new and emerging sectors like e-mobility, utility scale energy storage etc. Taking the initiative forward, PFC has recently sanctioned financial assistance to projects in infrastructure sectors including metro rail, petroleum refining, bio ethanol manufacturing and nuclear energy. With your company's growing balance sheet size, diversification into newer infrastructure areas is expected to gather steam in the coming years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

₹ 59,350 CR
Net worth

₹ 36,701 CR
Interest Income

₹ 10,022 CR
Standalone PAT

₹ 10,022 CR
Highest Ever Standalone PAT

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

In order to address the issue of mounting dues of power distribution companies to generators and transmission companies, Government of India has introduced the Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules, 2022. PFC has extended financial assistance to various distribution companies under the rules, to clear their outstanding dues. PFC shall also act as the nodal agency to monitor implementation of these rules, which have provisions to prevent accumulation of dues in the future. This would ease the financial position of power generation and transmission companies and will improve

Shri R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy releasing the "Ranking & 10th Integrated Rating of State Distribution Utilities" in New Delhi.

Shri R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy congratulating PFC on being accorded the 'Maharatna' Status.

The Ministries of Power and New & Renewable Energy have rolled out a slew of reforms to push mainstreaming of energy from green and sustainable sources and achieve the 500 GW target. Towards this end, thermal power generators have been allowed to set up renewable energy capacities on their own or through dedicated developers and to supply it to the consumers under the existing PPAs. Bundling of thermal and renewable energy sources will also benefit the customers, with power getting cost effective while improving the profitability of energy companies.

Your company is already playing a significant role in India's energy transition effort. PFC has supported renewable energy

Shri R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy congratulating PFC on being accorded the 'Maharatna' Status.

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Your company is already playing a significant role in India's energy transition effort. PFC has supported renewable energy

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

All quiet on the Maoist front

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tightening the noose

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

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

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

Clampdown begins

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



A historic milestone in the internal security of the country has been crossed
AMIT SHAH
Union Home Minister

hardaga district and Gotag in Latehar district. Personnel from the CoBRA, Jharkhand Jaguar, bomb detection and disposal squads, 19 CRPF companies and local police took part in the exercise spread over 1,000 sq. km. One Naxal commander was killed and three security personnel were injured in the offensive that lasted till February 21. The teams blocked the supply routes of Maoists, forcing them to flee after a brief firefight. After the final face-off at Harkatoli in the Pakhar hills, 14 Maoist leaders and their aides were arrested. Thirty firearms, 23 IEDs, and 194 kg of explosives, using which 750 small landmines powerful enough to blow off the lower limbs of security personnel could be made, were seized. “The operation had a debilitating impact on Naxal formations in Lohardaga, Gumla, Latehar, Simdega, Palamu and Garhwa districts. It created conditions for possible large-scale desertions and surrender of Naxals,” said Amol Vinukant Homkar, Inspector General of Jharkhand Police, who heads the Operations and State Intelligence Bureau wings.

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

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

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

The final assault

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

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

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

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

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

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

Road to development

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

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

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

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

CENTRAL FUNDING

₹978 crore released in past three years to step up security in LWE-affected districts

₹371 crore spent on projects to bolster special forces and intelligence wings in States under Special Infrastructure Scheme

₹3,085 crore released so far of the ₹30 crore earmarked per annum to fill critical gaps in public infrastructure and services

PATH TO PROGRESS

8,175 roads built in the past eight years

4,903 banking service centres opened by the Department of Posts in 90 districts

1,253 new bank branches opened by the Department of Financial Services

1,264 ATMs installed in 30 districts since April 2015

Mobile tower project 2,343 signal towers installed in first phase

2,542 towers installed in second phase

4,312 towers approved for aspirational districts

April 2022 Union Cabinet clears upgrade from 2G to 4G service in first phase

61 Skill Development Centres set up of the sanctioned 68

Eklavya Model Residential Schools 234 schools sanctioned 63 schools started

47 districts receiving benefits since 2016

30 Industrial Training Institutes set up of the sanctioned 47



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

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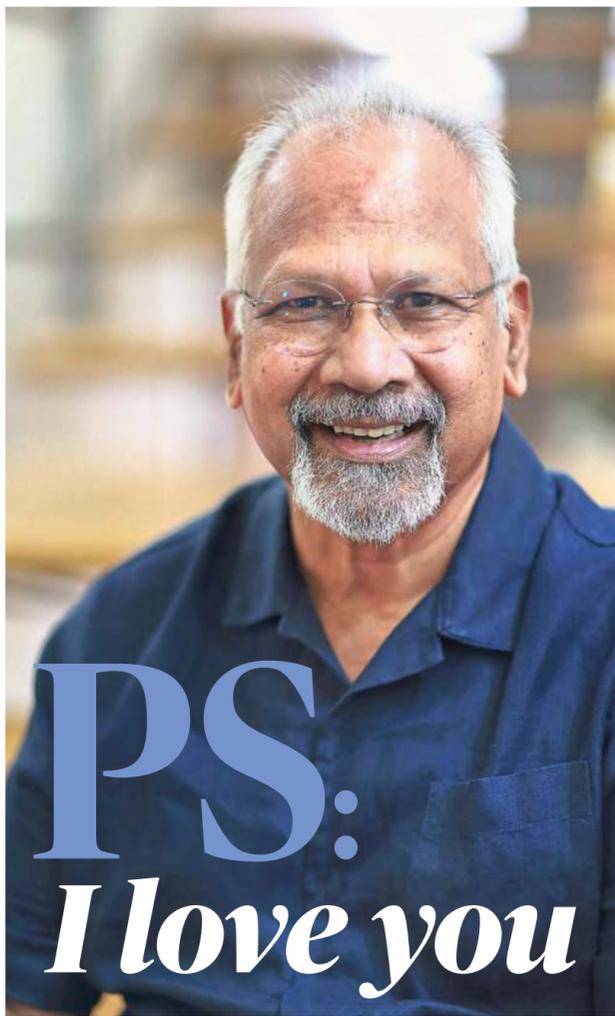
Mani Ratnam doesn't take tags seriously. Mention the tag 'pan Indian', the latest in-phrase in cinema, in the context of his latest magnum opus *Ponniyin Selvan (PS)*, and the filmmaker shrugs. "I have no idea [if it's pan-Indian]," he smiles, adding, "Only the outside world gives such brackets. We've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

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

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

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

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



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



A journey to the past Mani Ratnam; (above) on the sets of his period drama *Ponniyin Selvan* JOHAN SATHYADAS AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

a filmmaker?

A: Well, I am also one amongst the many admirers of the novel. I feel as possessively and strongly about each of the characters as you do.

Q: Your last directorial was *Chekkha Chivantha Vaanam*, also a multi-starrer and a story about power struggle. Did that experience come in handy?

A: In my mind, there's no connection between the two films. *Chekkha Chivantha Vaanam (CCV)* was based on Aurangzeb's story and talks about brothers fighting it out for the throne. *PS* is the opposite; it's about people taking a step back to give it to another person. *PS* is about a golden era, while *CCV* revolved around the decay of a kingdom.

Q: Did translating historical fiction to the big screen involve a lot of research?

A: We had an expert called Kalki Krishnamurthy who had done all the research for his book (*smiles*). When I started working on this film, I realised he had already gathered a lot of material. We extended our research from the base material and for more information about the Chola period. An entire team consisting of writer Jayamohan and researcher Jayakumar helped us with it.

Q: Karthi got the opportunity to ride a horse, while Jayam Ravi got to play a king. What opportunities did this material offer you as a filmmaker?

A: As a filmmaker, it was a dream, getting to do a film with horses and war and all that. The subject is also rich with many characters, who have elements of jealousy, valour and every element to make a film. The background it set in offered me huge scope as a filmmaker. All I wanted to do was to get audiences to feel that they were right there, in the thick of the action.

Q: In a recent seminar, you shared the stage with RRR filmmaker Rajamouli. How much did the success of his *Baahubali* films spur you into making this?

A: *Baahubali* created a road for us... that we can make a film in two parts, and that people will still consume it. We owe it to Rajamouli for that; otherwise, we would have kept trying to make it in one part. We have shot *Ponniyin Selvan* as a single film. The second part will feature the same characters and see their evolution till it reaches a finale.

Q: Most of the starcast are in awe of you. How do you, then, manage to create an atmosphere where you can co-create a character and sequence on set?

A: Don't take what they say on stage seriously (*laughs*). They say all

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



Adil Hussain seeks answers

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

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

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

Edited excerpts:

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

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

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

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

Q: Tell us about your two films that



Versatile Actor Adil Hussain returns to stage SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

will be showcased at the upcoming Busan International Film Festival.

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

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

Q: Tell us about your ambitious project on Krishna.

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

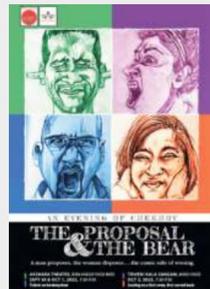
Our friend is talking about the gist of the *Gita*. What does the word intent mean? Is it intention or is it deeper than that? It is about discovering our essential operating energy. It doesn't matter what you say, what's important is what you are, essentially...

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



Broadway Ramlila

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



An evening with Chekov

The Proposal and The Bear, based on two short comedies by the 19th century Russian playwright, Anton Chekov will be staged over the weekend. Directed by Sohaila Kapur, these are costume dramas on the art of courtship. At Akshara Theatre,

Baba Kharak Singh Marg; September 30 and October 1; 7.30 pm; Tickets available on BookMyShow and; At Triveni Amphitheatre, Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House, On October 2, at 7.30 p.m. Seating on first come, first served basis



Kids art festival

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

When rosogollas meet literature

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

and interactive workshops on *mishti*," Lahana states.

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

According to her, it is a struggle to

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

Jugal's oldest outlet sits at the iconic location of 1, Mahatma Gandhi Road in Sealdah; today it has five more across Kolkata. After the founder's death in 1963, his brother-in-law stepped in and looked after the shop and also started training Jugal Kishore's youngest son, Krishna Kali, who was only six at the time. Growing up, the boy would come back from school and head straight to the shop where he would spend the entire evening learning the trade. Lahana is one of his twin daughters.

Lahana plans to launch a dossier, documenting the journey of *mishti* through Bengal's history, literature, cuisine, politics and religion, during the festival. She adds, "The research activity will continue beyond the festival, with a larger goal of geo-mapping each and every *mishti* shop across West Bengal, starting with Kolkata."

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

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

1.	Name of the work	Construction of S.L.R. Bridge at ch. 1148.350, Escape Channel at ch. 569/575 and C.D. at ch. 644.00 of Punasi Main Canal under Punasi Reservoir Scheme.
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 03,70,38,181.66 (Rupees three crore Seventy lakh Thirty eight thousand one hundred eighty one and paise sixty six) only
3.	Time of Completion	360 days
4.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	01.10.2022 11:00 A.M.
5.	Last date of Bid submission period of Tender on website	10.10.2022 Up to 5:00 P.M.
6.	Last date & Time for receipt of bids	11.10.2022 Up to 5:00 P.M.
7.	Date & Time of opening of technical bid	12.10.2022 11:00 A.M.
8.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer Irrigation Division, Deoghar
9.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	06432-355996
10.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	06432-232477

Note:- Only E-Tender will be accepted
Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
Executive Engineer
PR 278926 Water Resource(22-23)#D Irrigation Division, Deoghar

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

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

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for Submission of Bid
1.	C/o Dharamshala Yol Dadh Palampur Holta Chadiyar Sandhol road at Km 15/00 to 40/500 (SW- C/o Edge wall at RD 33/900 to 33/973 & 36/915 to 36/954.50 & V-Shape drain along with Edge wall at RD 27/200 to 27/316 & R/Wall at RD 27/620 to 27/281 (Improvement of Black Spot) (SCSP)	Rs. 19,76,822/-	13.10.2022	Rs. 39,600/-	22.10.2022
2.	C/o Dharamshala Yol Dadh Palampur Holta Chadiyar Sandhol road at Km 15/00 to 40/500 (SW- Extended Width of R.C.C slab culvert at RD 17/060, 21/450, 22/830 & 22/375 and R/Wall at RD 23/850 to 23/860, RD 25/010 to 25/023 Edge wall at RD 24/00 to 24/015, Crash barrier along with R/Wall at RD 16/200 to 16/230, RD 16/960 to 16/972 and improvement of side berms at various RDs between 15/00 to 27/00 (Improvement of Black Spot) (SCSP)	Rs. 40,55,749/-	13.10.2022	Rs. 81,200/-	22.10.2022

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

Executive Engineer,
HPPWD, Division,
Palampur,
PIN-176061,
Tel. 01894-230561,
e-mail:-ee-pal-hp@nic.in
On behalf of Governor of H.P.

HP / 4562/22-23
HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

NORTHERN RAILWAY
'One Station One Product'

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

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

2550/2022
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar,
Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id: crmd@cityunionbank.in,
Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

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

Immovable Property mortgaged to our Bank (Property Owned by Mr. Mohd Ali, S/o. Intiaz Ahmed)

Entire Second Floor, with its roof having area measuring 59 Sq.yds, part of property bearing 3115/A, Sita Ram Bazar, Gali Shankar, Kaili Masjid, Delhi - 110006. Bounded as under:- East: Gali, West: Others Property, North: Others Property, South: Property No.311.

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

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

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

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

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

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 28-09-2022 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : www.cityunionbank.com

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
DRM'S OFFICE,
STATE ENTRY ROAD, NEW DELHI

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

2554/22
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

2555/2022
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr. P. C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Tasleem S/o Abdul Salam R/o H.No.696, Gali No. 9 Kachchi Khajuri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 462/2016 dated. 26.08.16 U/s 356/379/34 IPC, has been registered at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Tasleem** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Tasleem** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, **Tasleem of FIR 462/2016 dated.26.08.2016 U/s 356/379/34 IPC, registered at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **02.11.2022**.

By Order
Ms. Meena Chouhan, MM-08
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/1330/N/2022- Court matter

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सत्यमेव जयते

Government of Rajasthan



I M Shakti

*Confidence & Pride
of every Women*



UDAAAN

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

**Resolution of Free
Distribution of Sanitary Napkins**



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

Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

Why sanitary napkins are important



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

Sudhir Bhandari
Dr. Sudhir Bhandari
Vice Chancellor, Rajasthan University of Health Sciences, Jaipur



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

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

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

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

Department of Information & Public Relations, Rajasthan



Sledgehammer style

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

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

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

Evolving chair

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

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

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

After the floods, Bengaluru needs to clean up its act

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

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

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

The 'grease' of the system

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

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



T.R. Raghunandan

is former Secretary, Panchayati Raj, Government of Karnataka, former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, and Senior Policy Adviser, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi

Everybody has a favourite villain to blame, yet the herd of restive elephants in the room is led by a particularly malevolent matriarch – corruption



K. MURALI KUMAR

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

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

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

The loopholes

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

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

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

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

Kick-start these strategies

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

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

Second, a genuine regime of whistle-blower protection assures honest citizens, politicians, bureaucrats and judges of protection, as they otherwise fear the adverse repercussions for uncovering illegal activities. Whistle-blowers today are exposed to danger. They draw attention to themselves and are vulnerable to attacks, ranging from character assassination, to counter accusations, to physical harm. Confidence-assuring whistle-blower protection measures can lead to exposure of more corruption, particularly at higher levels. Swift punishment of the guilty, could instil a sense of fear and reduce the feeling of impunity that the corrupt enjoy.

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

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

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

India lacks a complete paediatric cardio-care service

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

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

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

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

A distressing perception, ground realities

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

There are 22 hospitals and less than 50 centres



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A dearth of specialists and infrastructure in India, in the government and private sectors, is hampering the future of children with congenital heart disease

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

It taxes the vulnerable and the marginalised

For 600 districts with a 1.4 billion population, there are only 250 paediatric cardiologists available. The doctor to patient ratio is an abysmal one for half-a-crore population. According to the *Annals of Pediatric Cardiology* journal, the United States had 2,966 paediatric cardiologists in 2019 – a ratio of one per 29,196 population. Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab, Odisha (besides U.P. and Bihar) have a higher CHD burden but do not have paediatric cardiologists in the government sector. There are four paediatric cardiologists for 38 Delhi government hospitals. Now, Jaipur (Rajasthan), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Madurai (Tamil Nadu), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Palwal (Haryana), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), are on the map of paediatric cardiac care, but largely in the private sector.

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

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

Antenatal checks are crucial

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ban On PFI

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

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

The ban on the PFI and its

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

Elusive unity

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

Congress needs to reshape itself drastically if it wants to be a Opposition force.

H.N. Ramakrishna, Bengaluru

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



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How much should India prop up the rupee?



Dharmakirti Joshi

is Chief Economist, CRISIL Ltd



Lekha Chakraborty

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

PARLEY

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

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

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

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

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

Lekha Chakraborty: There is a limit to the



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

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

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

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



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

LEKHA CHAKRABORTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



To listen to the full interview Scan the code or go to the link www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The case for serial listening

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

P.J. George

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

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



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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The *Hindu*

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 30, 1972

Marcos asks half a million civil servants to resign

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

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 30, 1922

Anglo-Indian fears

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

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Refugee students from Myanmar admitted into Mizoram schools

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

Millions of children to miss school in Pakistan due to floods

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

Government defers proposal to make six airbags mandatory

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

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

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

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

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

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The draft Telecommunication Bill, 2022

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

EXPLAINER

Trishee Goyal

The story so far:

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

What is the draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022?

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

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

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

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

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



ISTOCKPHOTO

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

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

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

How does the draft Bill impact the position of the TRAI? The TRAI was set up in 1997 as an independent and specialised regulator for the telecom sector. Given that the government is a

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

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

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

For the first time in the Indian legal framework, a specific provision enabling the government to order suspension of internet power has been introduced through the draft Bill. Civil society has however, raised concerns that the proposed provision gives the government power to or-

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

How does the Bill facilitate TSPs?

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

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

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

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

THE GIST

The Ministry of Communications released a draft of the Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022 last week for public comments. The draft is an attempt by the government to update the extant regulatory framework in keeping with the advancements and challenges in the sector.

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

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



IN THE LIMELIGHT

Ponniyin Selvan 1: how Maniratnam's interpretation of Kalki's novel could illuminate the books vs movies debate

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

Ramya Kannan

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

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

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

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

An epic project

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

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

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

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

The potential of the screen

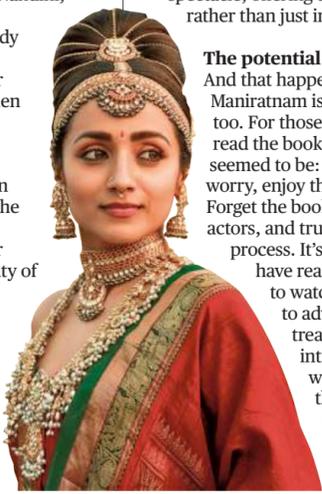
And that happens to be just what Maniratnam is recommending too. For those who have not read the books, his message seemed to be: 'You don't need to worry, enjoy the movie anyway.' Forget the book, he even told his actors, and trust the film-making process. It's not important to have read Ponniyin Selvan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

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

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

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

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



THE DAILY QUIZ

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

QUESTION 1
The theme for this year's translation day is 'A World Without Barriers'. What was it in 2021?

QUESTION 2
While Agatha Christie holds the Guinness World Record for the most translated author, this writer earned it for the most translated book. Who is the author and what is the title of the book?

QUESTION 3
In 2009, a global bank rebranding campaign failed due to the mistranslation of a tagline. The bank was later forced to scrap the campaign and shell out \$10 million to repair the damage done. Name the bank and the tagline.

QUESTION 4
Dogri, Mizo, Assamese, Konkani, Maithili,

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

QUESTION 5
This hilarious segment in a late night TV show featured a singer singing a translated version of a hit 2019 song. The translated lyrics included the line — "I am an evil boy, ghosts!". Name the song.

QUESTION 6
This translator won the JCB Prize for Literature for her debut translation of a novel which was nominated along with *Poonachi* by Perumal Murugan (translated from Tamil by N. Kalyan Raman). Name the translator and the book.

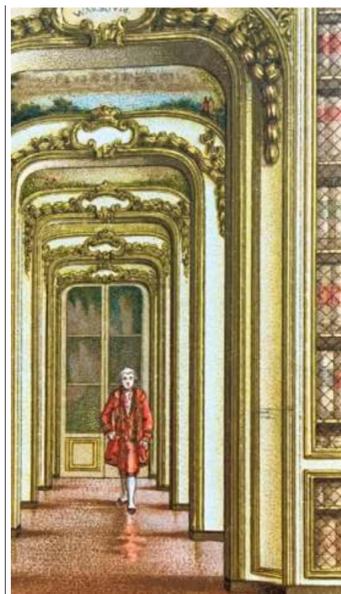
QUESTION 7
This film features a translator given the task of communicating with aliens. The movie talks about how language shapes our reality. Name the film.



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

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

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



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

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

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

He is a poet of promise.

He is a young man of promise.

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

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

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

I wish he had come.

I wish they had studied English.

She never has time for reading and wishes she had.

I wish he had not married.

I wish you had done it.

I wish you had not bored him.

I hope you understand the meaning now."

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

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

He is an elderly person.

'Aged' can be used of persons and things.

He is an aged man.

It is an aged elephant.

He is an old banyan tree.

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

He was born old.

He is an old fool.

He is a venerable old man.

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

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

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

Word of the day

Insouciant:
marked by blithe unconcern

Synonyms:
casual, nonchalant, carefree

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

Pronunciation: bit.ly/insouciantpro

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

From Page One

Single women get equal abortion rights

The single woman may have been abandoned or without a job or been a victim of violence during her pregnancy. Her life could be in danger due to foetal abnormalities. She may have been a victim of sexual exploitation leading to the pregnancy. There would be cases in which she could have got pregnant due to contraceptive failure, leaving her in a state of mental anguish.

"The law should not decide the beneficiaries of a statute based on narrow patriarchal principles about what constitutes permissible sex. This would create invidious classifications," Justice Chandrachud said in the judgment. The court said eight women die every day in India due to unsafe abortions. 67% of the abortions carried out between 2007 and 2011 were classified unsafe. Illegal abortion is a "continuing crisis", especially among unmarried women. The MTP (Amendment) Act in 2021 included the term 'partner' to show that the law was not just concerned about women within marriage. The court said the artificial distinction between married and unmarried women was not constitutionally sustainable. The state would be stripping single women of their autonomy over their bodies and lives by forcing them to carry unwanted pregnancy to full term. Reproductive autonomy included the right to choose whether or not to have an abortion. A woman does not need the permission of a third party to abort.

'Sexual assault of wife can take form of rape'

The court also dealt with how married women, like single women, were exposed to sexual assault within the family and suffer forced pregnancies.

"A woman may become pregnant as a result of non-consensual sexual intercourse performed upon her by her husband. We would be remiss in not recognising that intimate partner violence is a reality and can take the form of rape. The misconception that strangers are exclusively or almost exclusively responsible for sex and gender-based violence is a deeply regrettable one. Sex and gender based violence within the context of the family has long formed a part of the lived experiences of scores of women," a Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud held.

"It is not inconceivable that married women become pregnant as a result of their husbands having 'raped' them. The institution of marriage does not influence the answer to the question of whether a woman has consented to sexual relations," Justice Chandrachud observed.

Marital rape is not recognised as an offence under the IPC. Exception 2 to Section 375 of the IPC removes marital rape from the ambit of rape. Another Bench of the court is currently hearing appeals to remove the Exception.

Justice Chandrachud said Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act recognises a husband's act of sexual assault or forced intercourse committed on his wife as 'rape'. It said the Exception to Section 375 (rape) was only a "legal fiction". However, the court stopped short there, saying understanding 'rape' under the MTP Act would not have the effect of striking down Exception 2 to Section 375.

Russia set to annex four Ukraine regions today

Ukraine troops are edging nearer the Donetsk region city of Lyman that Moscow's forces battered for weeks to fully capture.

President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the annexation would be formalised at a ceremony in the Kremlin on September 30. "Tomorrow in Saint George's Hall at the Grand Kremlin Palace, a signing ceremony will take place on the incorporation of the new territories into Russia," Mr. Peskov said.

The four territories – Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south; Donetsk and Lugansk in the east – create a crucial land corridor between Russia and the Crimean peninsula, annexed by Moscow in 2014. All five make up around 20% of Ukraine.

Gehlot out of race, Digvijaya Singh in fray

Shashi Tharoor is the other contender who has picked up a form. With a Friday deadline of 3 p.m. for nominations to close, Mr. Tharoor and Mr. Singh announced that they would file their papers by the afternoon.

Sources, however, told *The Hindu* that a surprise third candidate, who has the Gandhi family's endorsement, could not be ruled out as party treasurer Pawan Bansal had already collected two nomination forms on Tuesday. Mukul Wasnik, a member of the G-23 that pushed for internal reforms, has emerged as a serious contender. Kumari Selja and Mallikarjun Kharge are also said to be in contention.

"I have apologised to Sonia ji because a simple resolution, which is our tradition and which we always pass, could not be passed. Whatever be the reasons, as a CLP leader, I could not get the resolution passed and it is my moral responsibility...Under these circumstances, I have decided not to contest the [presidential] polls," he had earlier told reporters after his meeting with Ms. Gandhi.

Bihar CM promises to take action on IAS officer

As Kumar said that he is monitoring the situation, Bamhrah expressed regret for hurting the sentiment of girl student. Meanwhile, the NCW has asked the officer to respond within seven days

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

A day after senior IAS officer Harjot Kaur Bamhrah courted controversy with her remarks against a girl student of a government school in Bihar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday said that he is 'monitoring the situation' and action would be taken if anyone found guilty.

After an official engagement at an investors' meet, Mr. Kumar told presspersons, "We are helping women for empowerment in the State. I came to know about it when I was coming here as some Delhi-based newspapers too have carried this. I'm monitoring each and everything and if anyone will be found guilty, action would be taken."

Meanwhile, Ms. Bamhrah has expressed regret over the incident. In a letter to presspersons, she said, "I express regret if



Nitish Kumar

some girl or participant's sentiment was hurt with some of my words but, the intent was not to humiliate someone or hurt someone's sentiment but to encourage them for progress in future."

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has also taken the cognisance of Ms. Bamhrah's remarks. The NCW has asked the officer to reply within seven days.

Ms. Bamhrah was seen rebuking the student in a video of the programme that went viral on social media platforms on Wednesday.



Harjot Kaur Bamhrah

"When the government is providing us school uniform, scholarship and so many things, why can't it provide Whisper [a brand of sanitary pads] ₹20-30," the student had asked Ms. Bamhrah at a "Sashakt Beti, Samridh Bihar (empowered daughters, prosperous Bihar): Towards enhancing the value of girls" workshop. The official is seen responding, "There is need to change the mindset. Why [should] the government provide you everything free? Tomorrow, you'll say government can provide jeans and why not some beautiful shoes thereafter? And eventually, at the time of family planning, you will expect government to provide Nirodh [a brand of condoms] too."

Ms. Bamhrah, an IAS officer of the 1992 batch, is Principal Secretary in the Women and Child Welfare Department, and heads the State Women and Child Development Corporation.

The programme was organised by the State Women and Child Development Corporation, UNICEF and other international organisations in Patna on Tuesday.

When presspersons had sought her reaction to the video, Ms. Bamhrah had said, "It's all false, malicious and wrong reporting of an event. I'm known as one of the most vociferous champions of women's rights and empowerment. Some mischievous elements might have resorted to such low attempts to malign my reputation."

Centre gives approval to 22nd tranche of poll bonds

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, the government on Thursday approved issuance of the 22nd tranche of electoral bonds that will open for sale on October 1.

Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding. State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through its 29 authorised branches from October 1-10, the Finance Ministry said.

The authorised SBI branches include those in Lucknow, Shimla, Dehradun, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Patna, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Raipur, and Mumbai.

The 21st tranche of sales took place from July 1-10.

Ahead of Shah's visit, twin blasts on buses leave 2 injured in Udhampur

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

Two civilians were injured in coordinated detonation of two improvised explosive devices (IEDs), planted on two parked buses, within eight hours on Thursday in Udhampur district, just four days ahead of Union Home minister Amit Shah's three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

The first blast took place inside an empty bus parked outside a petrol pump at Domail area around 10.30 p.m. on Wednesday. Two civilians, who were sleeping on a nearby bus, were injured due to the impact of the explosion, which shattered the windowpanes of several parked vehicles. Officials said both the injured were hospitalised and "out of danger".

Another blast took place in an empty bus parked inside the Udhampur bus stand around 6 a.m. on Thursday, around 4 km away from the first blast



Terrorist attack: The Army's bomb disposal squad members inspecting the bus on Thursday. PTI

site, officials said.

"The buses have originated from the same location. On examination, it was found that the nature of explosions is same. These were high-intensity blasts. Use of sticky bombs and timers cannot be ruled out," Mukesh Singh, Additional Director-General of Police (ADGP) said.

The Army's bomb disposal squad and the police joined hands to investigate the nature of blasts. Officials said these blasts could have inflicted major damage if detonated during the day. "We are investigating different aspects of the blasts. It seems the handiwork of modules busted in the recent past. When

Petition on process to activate 'living will' to be heard on Nov. 23

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Constitution Bench on Thursday asked if a lone committee of doctors, judicial officers and government officers along with the next of kin of a terminally ill person can sit together and decide the "genuineness and authenticity" of his living will.

The Bench led by Justice K.M. Joseph is considering a plea to modify a March 2018 judgment which had upheld passive euthanasia and 'living will', but gave the job of ascertaining the genuineness of the document to multiple committees of doctors, magistrates and the District Collector, virtually making the judgment itself redundant and unworkable.

When presspersons had sought her reaction to the video, Ms. Bamhrah had said, "It's all false, malicious and wrong reporting of an event. I'm known as one of the most vociferous champions of women's rights and empowerment. Some mischievous elements might have resorted to such low attempts to malign my reputation."



One committee can be formed to take a decision

JUSTICE AJAY RASTOGI

taken to avoid any "forced departures" of persons. The court agreed to hear the case on November 23.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, was sceptical about trusting the next of kin of a dying person with the latter's life.

He said there were cases in which relatives refuse to put a patient on ventilator but the person survives after having been done so.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, for the petitioner, said the 2018 judgment has laid down a cumbersome procedure to check the veracity of a Living Will.

The court had placed a huge onus on the treating hospital and physicians to take the initiative to form a committee and activate the Living Will or advanced directive.

Circle Officer missing after boat capsized in Dhubri

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A Circle Officer was reported missing after a mechanised boat with 28 people on board sank in a channel of the Brahmaputra in western Assam's Dhubri district on Thursday morning. Officials in the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said the accident happened when the boat hit a submerged pillar under construction for the Dhubri-Phulbari bridge, to be India's longest.

Dhubri Circle Officer Sanju Das was returning with a revenue official and an ASDMA field officer after inspecting an erosion-affected area. The other passengers were locals, including women and schoolchildren.

"We shall be arresting more people from the firm and the owner of the boat," Anbamuthan M.P., Dhubri Deputy Commissioner, told *The Hindu*.

'More foreign terrorists in J&K after Afghan situation'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

There has been an increase in number of foreign terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir after Afghanistan situation, Kuldiep Singh, Director-General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), said on Thursday. The Taliban took over the reins of Afghanistan in August 2021.

Mr. Singh said the challenges for security agencies have increased "after the Afghanistan" episode, but the overall number of terrorists in J&K, which includes local and foreign terrorists, was under 200.

The outgoing D-G, who is set to hang up his boots on September 30, said the CRPF, which has the largest component in J&K, has its own intelligence wing to monitor the terror-related activities. After August 5, 2019, when Article



Kuldiep Singh

370 that gave special status to J&K was read down by Parliament, the number of stone throwing incidents had reduced, he said.

He, however, mentioned that there was an imminent threat of delivery of explosives by drones from Pakistan.

"We are moving towards peace; however, some incidents do take place like the killing of Bihari migrant workers but overall, there has been a reduction in number of incidents in J&K," Mr. Singh said. In the Left Wing Extre-

mism (LWE) corridor, Chattisgarh remains the formidable challenge, he pointed out. "We have moved a proposal to set up a 30-bed hospital in Jagdalpur in Chattisgarh, the approval from Ministry should come soon," Mr. Singh said.

Jagdalpur is around 300 km from Raipur. The hospital will be beneficial for CRPF jawans injured in encounters with Maoists or in Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blasts.

Mr. Singh shared that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted a committee to examine the causes of stress among Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel. The CRPF has also taken several measures such as yoga, sessions with Brahmakumaris and Art of Living classes to curb stress among the personnel, he added.

Kappan's bail plea hearing deferred till October 10

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

A Lucknow court on Thursday postponed the hearing in the bail application of Kerala-based journalist Siddique Kappan, in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), till October 10. The District and Sessions Court of Additional District Judge 1, which was supposed to hear the bail plea moved by Mr. Kappan, was not available and hence the matter was postponed.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Mohamad Dhanish K.S., Mr. Kappan's lawyer in Lucknow, said, "...We requested for the earliest date, but due to holidays the court postponed it to October 10 in the regular district session court."

Govt. blocks 67 porn sites after court order

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government has ordered Internet service providers to block access to 67 pornographic websites following court orders and for violation of the Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2021. The Department of Telecom has asked Internet service providers to block 63 websites based on a Pune court's order,

and four based on the Uttarakhand High Court order. It has cited rule 3(2)(b) of the Rules, which empower any individual to seek take-down of content on an intermediary that is "in the nature of any material which exposes the private area of such individual".

The order directed to "block the access to these Websites/URLs" and that "the compliance be submitted immediately".

APPEAL

Name of Patient: **SUREKHA SATISHRAO SABALE**, 26 years.
Hospital Name: Jeevan Amrut Hospital, Aurangabad.
Diagnosis: Myelodysplastic Syndrome (Blood Cancer). She needs bone marrow transplantation as treatment at our hospital period of treatment is 1 year following is the estimate of expenses for bone marrow transplantation at our hospital is **Rs. 8,00,000/-**.

We request Kind Hearted Philanthropists to save her. Kindly send donation by Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** and on the back of Cheque write **A/c Surekha Satishrao Sabale**. Our Account Details: S/F Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaipuram Branch and IFSC CODE: SBIN001855, You Can Donate through Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI ID: **savepoorlives@oksbil**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

Contact: **SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST**, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600 028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848**, Mobile: **9884607377**, E-mail: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

Decriminalising adultery: Centre seeks clarification

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Adultery is a cause of deep pain in the family. Families are torn asunder by adultery, Justice K.M. Joseph said while heading a Constitution Bench on Wednesday.

“Everybody is ultimately dependent on the family as a unit. The integrity of the family is based on the faithfulness each spouse expects of the other,” Justice Joseph observed.

A five-judge Bench, headed by Justice K.M. Joseph, is hearing an application filed by the government seeking a clarification as to whether the 2018 judgment of the Supreme Court decriminalising adultery in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) would affect action taken against officers who indulge in adultery with their colleagues' wives.

The Centre approached the Supreme Court after

Govt. approaches SC after Armed Forces Tribunal dismissed cases of misconduct against officers

the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) started dismissing cases of misconduct against officers after the Joseph Shine judgment in 2018.

Additional Solicitor General Madhavi Divan said unlike the IPC offence of adultery under Section 497, which is based on patriarchal notions, the Armed Forces take action for misconduct even against women officers. “The Armed Forces law is completely gender-neutral,” Ms. Divan said.

The Bench asked the government whether it would want to withdraw the application and challenge a particular case rejected by the AFT.

The court listed the case on December 6.

SC ruling on abortion comes as a ‘ray of hope’: activists

The judgment is hailed as progressive as it entitles all women a right to safe and legal abortion along with an emphasis on their right to bodily autonomy without authorisation from third party

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The historic judgment of the Supreme Court Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud that unmarried women in a consensual relationship are also entitled to safe and legal abortion along with its strong emphasis on women's right to bodily autonomy without the need for authorisation from a third party to access abortion was welcomed as “progressive” and a “ray of hope” at a time sexual and reproductive rights have come under threat globally.

“This ruling interprets the provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 in a progressive manner and questions the unreasonable classification made by this law. This interpretation is the law of the land and will ensure that single women seeking abortion beyond 20 weeks cannot be refused on the ground of the narrowness of the



law,” said Anubha Rastogi, independent lawyer and CAG member, Pratigya Campaign.

The judgment followed a petition seeking inclusion of unmarried women within the ambit of Rule 3 B of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules, 2003 amended in October 2021 for abortion between 20-24 weeks of gestation period.

Activists and advocates often rue that abortion right is not an unqualified one in India, but conditional, and women have no agency as they have to seek the permission of a medical practitioner. The top court

on Thursday recognised this gap, calling it a “provider-centric” law, and asserted that reproductive autonomy “requires that every pregnant woman has the intrinsic right to choose to undergo or not to undergo abortion without any consent or authorisation from a third party”.

“At a time when sexual and reproductive health and rights are under threat globally, this progressive judgment stands out as a ray of hope,” V.S. Chandrashekar, Campaign Advisory Group Member, Pratigya Campaign.

“We hope that this judgment could be a step towards making our abortion regime more liberal and pro-women. The law must recognise abortion as a woman's choice, as is the practice in over 70 countries,” Poonam Muttreja, the Executive Director of Population Foundation of India, said. “We need to ensure our laws don't reflect any moral judgment on women who choose to abort.”



This interpretation is the law of the land and will ensure that single women seeking abortion beyond 20 weeks cannot be refused on the ground of the narrowness of the law

ANUBHA RASTOGI
Lawyer



We hope that this judgment could be a step towards making our abortion regime more liberal and pro-women. The law must recognise abortion as a woman's choice, as is the practice in over 70 countries,

POONAM MUTTREJA
Executive Director of Population Foundation of India

PM kicks off two-day State visit to Gujarat in pre-poll outreach

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD



Narendra Modi arrives in Surat to hold a roadshow.

With the Gujarat Assembly polls on his mind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held roadshows in Surat and Bhavnagar, launched new projects and development works, and reiterated his government's commitment to serving the people of the country.

Slamming past governments for neglect and listing the works of his governments in Gujarat as well as at the national level since 2014, the Prime Minister in his address in Surat and Bhavnagar reminded the people of the State of the benefits of “double engine” governments.

After arriving in Surat on Thursday, Mr. Modi led a 2.5-km roadshow before addressing a huge gathering of people in the city, calling it a “mini India” since it attracts large number of migrants from across the country.

He talked about the rapid development of the city, which is a hub of diamond cutting and polishing, and textiles, and launched projects worth ₹3,400 crore, including the inauguration of the main entrance gate and phase-I works of the DREAM City, an ambitious project coming up on 700 hectares of land near Khajod village on

the outer ring road of the sprawling city.

He mentioned the “attitude” of past governments at the Centre in denying a metro rail project and an international airport for the city, and added how his government at the Centre approved both and as a result, Surat is now connected globally.

After Surat, Mr. Modi flew to Bhavnagar in Saurashtra to launch new projects worth ₹6,000 crore, including a new port and a CNG terminal.

Taking a veiled dig at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is gaining traction in his home State, Mr. Modi said that, for the BJP, power was meant to serve poor people, and the BJP government carried out development without spending huge money on publicity.

Doctors need not report identity of minors seeking abortion, says SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Registered medical doctors are exempt from disclosing to the police the identity of minors who have come in for abortion, the Supreme Court directed in a judgment on Wednesday.

A registered medical practitioner (RMP) is obliged under Section 19(1) of the POCSO Act to report to the police when a minor approaches him or her for an abortion. A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said in many cases

The court said it was necessary to harmonise the provisions of the MTP and POCSO laws

minors and their guardians opt to go to an unqualified doctor for abortion rather than risk being involved in criminal proceedings following a report under Section 19(1) of the POCSO Act. “If there is an insistence on the disclosure of the name of the minor in the report under Section 19(1) of POC-

SO, minors may be less likely to seek out RMPs for safe termination of their pregnancies under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act,” Justice Chandrachud said.

Reporting of offence
The court said it was necessary to harmonise the provisions of the MTP and POCSO laws to enable minors to approach an RMP for abortion without the fear of getting exposed. It would also protect the statutory obligation of the RMP to report the offence

under the POCSO Act and the rights of privacy and reproductive autonomy of the minor under Article 21 of the Constitution.

“For the limited purposes of providing medical treatment of pregnancy in terms of the MTP Act, we clarify that the RMP, only on request of the minor and the guardian of the minor, need not disclose the identity and other personal details of the minor in the information provided under Section 19(1) of the POCSO Act,” the court ordered.

SC allows activist Gautam Navlakha to take treatment at hospital of his choice

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered activist Gautam Navlakha, who was arrested in 2018 in the Bhima Koregaon case, to be taken immediately for a thorough medical check-up.

A Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy ordered the Superintendent, Talaja Central Prison, Navi Mumbai, to take Mr. Navlakha immediately to the Jaslok Hospital in Mumbai (Mr. Navlakha's choice of hospital).

However, Mr. Navlakha, the court said, would continue to remain in police custody during his stay at the Jaslok Hospital.

WATCO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan,
H.B.Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Telefax:- +91-674-2391444; E-mail – mail@watcoodisha.in; md@watcoodisha.in

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
Bid Identification No. WATCO(W)-26/2022-23, Dtd.28.09.2022
WATCO No.4479, Date: 28.09.2022

- Name of the work: (1) Procurement of Programme logic controller (PLC) panel, Flow Meter, Control Valve, Alltime valve, Chlorine Analyser etc. for with 24x7 water supply to different DFT Zones under WATCO-I, BBSR (2) 20 DFT zones under WATCO-II, BBSR (3) 08 nos of DFT zones under WATCO-III, BBSR, (4) 13 nos of DFT zones under WATCO Division, Cuttack, (5) 10 nos of DFT zones under WATCO Division, Cuttack (6) 10 nos of DFT zones under WATCO Division, Cuttack
- Estimated Cost: (1) Rs.378.58 Lakh, (2) Rs.426.77 lakh, (3) Rs.308.96 lakh, (4) Rs.421.94 lakh, (5) Rs.386.18 lakh, (6) Rs.389.70 lakh.
- Period of completion: 45 Days
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: From 11.00 AM of Dt.01.10.2022 to 5.00 PM of 11.10.2022
- Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal: 5.00 PM of 11.10.2022
- Date & Time of opening of technical bids: 12.30 PM of 12.10.2022
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid: CEO, WATCO, Telefax:- 0674-2391444, E-Mail : mail@watcoodisha.in; md@watcoodisha.in; mail to : eephibs@orl.nic.in
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in
CEO, WATCO
C-1319
OIPR-13194/11/0053/2223

TAMIL NADU CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR FEDERATION LTD.,
“Aavin Bhar”, 1st Floor, 3A, Prabhupada Maharajalingapur Saba, Nandanam, Chennai-600 033, Phone: 044-433000, 2344177
E-Mail: tamilnaducosugarfederation@gmail.com | GST No.33AAAT0668R128

e-Tender (on-line) Notice and Open Auction (off-line) for the sale of surplus bagasse of 2022-23 season

On line bids are invited through e-tender portal <https://tenders.gov.in> from the bulk consumers for sale of expected surplus bagasse for an approximate quantity of 56,320 MT from Co-operative Sugar Mills in Tamil Nadu. The upshot price for sale of surplus bagasse of 2022-23 season is Rs.2,470/- per MT (Basic Price) and GST, Transportation etc are additional. The last date for submission of bids is 28.10.2022 at 11.00 A.M. Bids will be opened on 31.10.2022 at 11.30 A.M. Bids in physical form not accepted.

Place : Chennai - 35.
Date : 28.09.2022 OIPR/4349/Tender/2022 Managing Director
தமிழகக் கூட்டுறவுச் சர்க்கரையியக்கட்சி, தஞ்சை, தமிழ்நாடு

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Cheppak, Chennai 600 005.
Phone No. 29662016, 2851972.

NOTICE INVITING e - TENDER WITH FORWARD BIDDING

Description	Sale of dimensional granite blocks from certain quarries of TAMILNADU
1. Tender No. & date	1048/EX-1/2022, Dated 27.09.2022
2. Tender No.	2022 TMIN 253868 - 1
3. Bid submission end date	27.10.2022 upto 1600 hrs
4. Technical bid opening date	28.10.2022 at 1600 hrs
5. Tender form fee & EMD	Rs.2,000/- or equivalent USD 25 (Non-refundable) Rs.1,18,000/- or equivalent USD 1485 per quarry

Note: For further details please visit Tamil Nadu e-tendering portal: <https://tenders.gov.in> or www.taminminerals.com
OIPR/4349/TENDER/2022
“சென்னைக் கூட்டுறவுச் சர்க்கரையியக்கட்சி, தஞ்சை, தமிழ்நாடு”
General Manager (Finance)

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
KMMML (An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara, Kollam-691 583, Kerala, India
Ph: +91 476 2651218 to 2561217 CN/41409K/19/25020208
Fax: 91 0476 2680101, 2686721 E-mail: contact@kmmml.com, URL www.kmmml.com
Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-tendering Portal, <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmmml.com

Sl.No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2022_KMML_509683	For the supply of Sodium Hexa Meta Phosphate-68 MT
2.	2022_KMML_511043	For fabrication and supply of Pre-Treatment Sump Scrubbing System
3.	2022_KMML_508545	For the supply of FRP Pipe
4.	2022_KMML_509095	For the supply of Gear Box for Digester with Fabricated Casing-1 No

Chavara 29.09.2022 Sd/- DGM (Mtls) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd
Our products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Silimanite

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project South,
South Zone Office Complex, 9th Main, 9th Cross,
Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011

No.: EEP(S)/E-Proc/13/2022-23 Date: 29.09.2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP, invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Amount Put to tender (in Rupees)	EMD Amount in Rupees
TWO COVER SYSTEM			
1	Supply of Data Entry Operator to Offices under the Joint Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike South Zone (to be deployed to the BBMP offices spread across the South Zone)	2,80,60,800/-	4,20,912/-

Calendar of events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka. (2) Pre-bid meeting will be held at the Office of the Executive Engineer Project (South) **06.10.2022 at 3:00 p.m.** (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m. on 15.10.2022** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. (4) Technical bid opening date: **17.10.2022 at 4:30 p.m.** (5) Financial bid opening date: **19.10.2022 at 4:00 p.m.** or after Technical bid approval. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP
“Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru”



Gyanvapi case: Court reserves order on carbon-dating plea

In the ongoing Gyanvapi mosque-Kashi Vishwanath Temple dispute, the Varanasi district court on Thursday reserved its orders on an application filed by Hindu plaintiffs seeking a scientific investigation of the disputed structure found inside the mosque premises, which the plaintiffs claim is a *shivling*. The application was filed by four Hindu plaintiffs in the suit, who are represented by Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain and his team. It sought the scientific examination of the disputed structure by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and carbon-dating of the structure to determine its age and nature.

SC to hear EC appointment petitions on November 17

A Constitution Bench on Thursday fixed for November 17 the hearing of petitions seeking an “independent mechanism for appointment of Election Commissioners (ECs)” outside the exclusive power of the government. Appearing before the five-judge Bench led by Justice K.M. Joseph, advocate Prashant Bhushan said the selection process should be done by a committee of the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India. The petitions were referred to the Constitution Bench despite objections raised by the Centre that the appointment of ECs was “consciously” a part of the executive function of the state.

PSBs to hold drive to fill SC vacancies by year-end: NCSC

All Public Sector Banks in the country have now been instructed to run a special drive from October 2 to December 31, in a bid to fill the backlog in the recruitment to positions reserved for members of Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) chairperson Vijay Sampla said on Thursday. Mr. Sampla said that after the commission had conducted a cursory review of six of the 12 PSBs in the country, it had found that the backlog in recruitment for these positions was a major issue and had shared these concerns with the Finance Ministry along with others related to the disbursement of government schemes and benefits meant for SCs. When asked which banks were reviewed and the exact extent of the backlog in recruitment, Mr. Sampla said the commission is not currently able to put an exact number to it.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका नैनॉ जिला बून्डी (राज.)
क्रमांक: न.पा.ने./निर्माण शाखा/2022-23/4386 दिनांक: 22.09.2022

ई-निविदा सूचना-11/2022-23

सक्षम श्रेणी में विभिन्न विभागों में सिविल श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से ई-निविदा पद्धति से निम्नानुसार ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
उक्त निविदा दिनांक 23.09.2022 से वेबसाइट <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> & <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदा का NIB Code: DLB2223AS150 है। कार्य का UBN No.: DLB2223WSOB16752 है:-
भेम बार्ड, अय्यक्ष राज.संवाद.सी/8415/2022-23 मुकेश नगर, अधिशासी अधिकारी

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Website: www.rf.indianrailways.gov.in
No.RWF/EW-52/879 Date : 29-09-2022

PENSION ADALAT

Pension Adalat with Pensioners and Family pensioners of Rail Wheel Factory will be held on 15-12-2022 (Thursday), at Conference Hall, Administration Building, Rail Wheel Factory to redress the grievances of Pensioners/Family Pensioners pertaining to “PENSIONARY BENEFITS” only.
Pensioners, Family Pensioners may send their grievances with full details addressed to Senior Personnel Officer, Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560 064 to reach on or before **31-10-2022** in an envelope duly superscribed as “PENSION ADALAT – 2022” or they can also e-mail their grievances to C.vijayachintamani@gov.in
Cases involving purely legal or policy matters will not be entertained in the Pension Adalat.
PRINCIPAL CHIEF PERSONNEL OFFICER

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION)
E-Tender Notice No.T-SG-36-I-15-2022-23 Dt. 27.09.2022
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchirappalli invites online tender for the following works upto 14.00 hrs on 19.10.2022.

Item No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of the Work
1	T-SG-36-I-15-2022-2023	Improvement to power supply arrangements by provision of Mini IPS at 6 Lcs in VM-TPJ (CL), VM-PDY section and Augmentation of S&T assets by extension of power supply arrangements from nearby stations/interlocked LC gates over TPJ Division.

Item No.	Cash Value in Lakhs of Rupees	Earnest Money Deposit Amount	Validity Offer	Closing Date and Time	Period of completion in months
1	252.73 Lakhs	Rs.2,76,400/-	60 Days	19.10.2022 @ 14.00 hrs	Six Months

If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time.
The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through <https://www.treps.gov.in/> GST will apply as per extant norms of GOI.
Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, DRM Office Complex, Southern Railway, Tiruchirappalli - 620 001.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

IN BRIEF



NEET-PG counselling process begins after long delay

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

L. Adimoolam of Dinamalar made director of PTI Board

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



175 alleged drug smugglers held in Operation Garuda

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

Rape case FIR against politician's son quashed

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

Ensure equal Net privacy for Indians and others: Centre

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

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

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

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

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



Many legal directions under the statutory regime are flouted."

He said the government is in the process of making a law to protect social media users.

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

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

If the government was keen to bring legislation, it would have done so. This case is pending for nearly five years

JUSTICE K.M. JOSEPH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

States to up vigil on communally charged posts on social media

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

A couple of days after the nationwide raids on the premises of Popular Front of India (PFI) functionaries and the subsequent ban on the organisation and its associates, affiliates, and fronts, the Union government has sent out an advisory that there has been a significant increase in the posting of communally provocative content on social media platforms.

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

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

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

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

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

Adequate security arrangements were in place to protect prominent personalities and important establishments of the Central and State governments, the DGP said.

PFI's alleged links in Turkey and Qatar under scrutiny

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The enforcement agencies are probing the alleged links of the now-banned Popular Front of India (PFI) with the extremist elements in Turkey, and the others who extended financial support to the outfit from Qatar to carry out its activities in India.

"In search of funding for their organisation, some PFI members had earlier travelled to Qatar and met certain Turkish nationals... there are also reports that its national executive council members E.M. Rahiman and P. Koya were allegedly hosted in Istanbul by an al-Qaeda linked charity organisation," said an agency official.

The official said several persons linked to the PFI had also joined the IS in the past. In a case later taken over by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Delhi Police Special Cell had arrested Mohammed Ismail Mohideen, a resident of Kannur in Kerala, along with another person, after he was de-

ported by the Turkish authorities in July 2017.

The accused identified himself as Shahjahan V.K. and disclosed that he had issued a passport in the name of Ismail Mohideen after he was deported from Turkey for the first time in February the same year. Shahjahan had allegedly joined the National Democratic Front (predecessor of the PFI) in 2006. He then came in contact with the local PFI leaders and attended its meetings in 2008.

It is alleged that the then PFI divisional president of Valapattanam, Shameer, introduced Shahjahan to the IS ideology and motivated him to go to Turkey/Syria after the declaration of Caliphate by Abu Bakar Bagdadi of IS.

"Most of the accused were linked to the PFI. Hamza, a Gulf returnee, was the mastermind behind recruiting youth from Kerala for the IS. He befriended some PFI supporters, while Sameer provided the action plan to travel to Syria via different countries," the official said.

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

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

India has objected at various levels to the U.S. providing Pakistan assistance for its F-16s, and asked whether this \$450 million sustainment package for the fighter jets came up during his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar indicated that it did.

"I think a number of issues pertaining to our neighbourhood came up... you can guess the obvious, but I would not like to characterise the discussion in detail because it's a discussion within a closed group," Mr. Jaishankar told the Indian press at a briefing in Washington DC on Wednesday afternoon, as he concluded his approximately 10-day visit to the U.S.

Speaking to a diaspora group on Sunday, Mr. Jaishankar had said, "You're not fooling anybody by saying these things," about the F-16 assistance package being given to Pakistan osten-



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

sibly for counter-terrorism reasons."

At Wednesday's briefing, Mr. Jaishankar said the energy fallout of the Ukraine conflict also featured widely in his talks.

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

vanced economies.

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

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

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

No updates in 'risk levels' in Canadian travel advisory

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

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

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

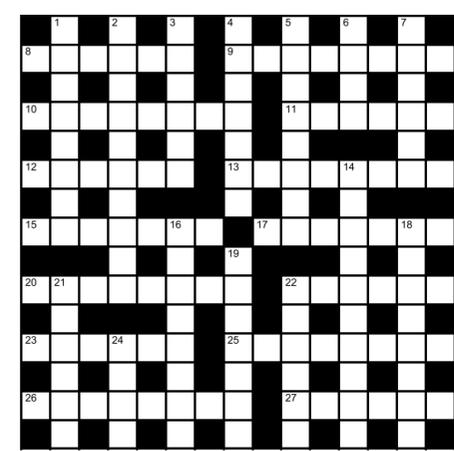
"The information in the 'risk level' and 'safety and security' sections of the travel advisory has not been recently updated and has been in place for a long period of time, and publicly available," said a High Commission of Canada Spokesperson on Thursday.

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

THE CROSSWORD + 13674
(set by WrdPlougher)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



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

- 13 Reminder to order a small laptop (8)
 - 15 Hints of colour beginning to show all around Michigan by end of season (7)
 - 17 Parks deposit (7)
 - 20 Exposing affair full of hot sex appeal, repulsed (8)
 - 22 Quiet ragas near the end of concert (6)
 - 23 Bugs, perhaps, essentially irritates religious leader up front (6)
 - 25 Inside joke abruptly inserted into rambling intro and tale's conclusion (8)
 - 26 Sketches made by Neanderthal, curve shifting left to right (8)
 - 27 Set Millie Bobby Brown's digital avatar? (6)
- Down**
- 1 Virtue of person waiting to see a busy doctor, it is said? (8)
 - 2 Orders two gates, one broken into scattered pieces — place cleared out (10)
 - 3 Fair to be tackled by sportspersons from both sides of rugby game? (6)
 - 4 First hole (7)
 - 5 Passenger, male, ejected by Chief of Police and PC (8)
 - 6 Approach in stealth — clandestine arrival (4)
 - 7 Plant dust scattered on moon (6)
 - 14 Fours and sixes — runs all over park essentially, that is (10)
 - 16 Like a car in bank? Break in, dash (8)
 - 18 Learn, record again (8)
 - 19 Stand in violent gust, most violent (7)
 - 21 Class tournament (6)
 - 22 Measures of time in simple rhythms ultimately (6)
 - 24 Order a beast (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13673

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

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



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

YANGON
Suu Kyi jailed for another three years by Myanmar junta court



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

HELSINKI
Finland closing border to Russians with EU tourist visas



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

PARIS
Iran arrests reporter who covered Amini funeral, says lawyer



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

'India wants a relationship of mutual sensitivity with China'

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

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

'Wait and See': Jaishankar on India's position on Russian 'referendums' in Ukraine

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was non-committal on where India stood with regard to so-called 'referendums' Russia has organised in four occupied regions in Ukraine. When asked whether the so-called referenda aid the cause of peace and conform to the UN Charter principles that India stood by as per his address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) last week, Mr. Jaishankar did not answer the question but said the issue would come up for discussion at the U.N.

"I think it is an issue that will be coming up for consideration. My understanding is in the United Nations. So I would urge you to wait and see what our Ambassador [Ruchira



Ukrainian soldiers fire a mortar launcher at a position near the Donetsk region. AFP

Kamboj] has to say," he said at a press briefing to the Indian press at the conclusion of his U.S. visit.

UN resolution
The U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Linda Thomas Greenfield, had said on Tuesday that the U.S. and Albania would introduce a resolution on these 'referendums' at the U.N. Security Council.

They would ask countries not to accept alterations in the status of Ukraine and require Russia to withdraw its troops from Ukrainian territory. Ms. Thomas Greenfield had also said the resolutions would be put to the General Assembly if Russia, which has a veto at the UNSC, blocks its passage by the body, as it is expected to do. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, India has abstained on resolutions censuring Moscow at the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Russia has conducted what it refers to as referendums between September 23 and 27 in Ukrainian provinces of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhya and Kherson, with Russian administrations in these provinces, on Wednesday, asking to join Russia.

'Deliberate' sabotage in Nord Stream leaks: NATO

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

NATO on Thursday said leaks from the Nord Stream gas pipelines appeared to be sabotage and vowed a "determined response" to any attacks on their critical infrastructure.

"All currently available information indicates that this is the result of deliberate, reckless and irresponsible acts of sabotage," the Western military alliance said. The statement said that the alliance was "committed to prepare for, deter and defend against the coercive use of energy and other hybrid tactics. Any deliberate attack against Allies' critical infrastructure would be met with a united response."

Sweden's Coast Guard on Thursday said a fourth leak had been detected in the pipelines running from Russia to Europe.

U.S. confirms American citizen killed in Kurdistan

Reuters
WASHINGTON

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

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

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

European Union grapples with runaway energy prices

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

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

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

Europe has found itself

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

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

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

gravated the situation.

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

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

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

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

Ian the terrible



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

Amid crisis, Lebanon fails to elect new President

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

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

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

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



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

tional deadlines are routinely missed.

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

Christian politician Michel Moawad, the son of former president Rene

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

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

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

Mr. Biden later on Thursday will address the

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

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

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

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

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

IN BRIEF



Mercedes-Benz targets more than 30% growth in sales

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

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

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

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

Senior citizens, families to see small gains in small savings

Government raises interest rates on 5 schemes by 0.1% to 0.3% for Dec. quarter, increases are the first change after a nine-quarter pause

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday announced increases of 0.1-0.3 percentage points in interest rates payable on five small savings instruments (SSIs) including the Kisan Vikas Patra, Senior Citizens' Savings scheme and time deposits for 2 and 3 years, for the quarter beginning October 1, marking the first increase in small savings rates since January 2019.

The rate for Kisan Vikas Patra has been raised to 7% from 6.9% for the coming quarter, and senior citizens' savings will earn 7.6%, instead of the 7.4% payable till September 30. Rates were left unchanged for seven other designated small savings schemes, including the Public Provident Fund (PPF) at 7.1%, and the Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme at 7.6%.

The last time small savings rates were raised was for the January to March



Inching up: Senior citizens' savings will earn 7.6% from October 1, instead of the 7.4% payable till September 30. PTI

quarter of 2019, just ahead of the last Lok Sabha elections. The rates had been kept unchanged for nine successive quarters since the April to June quarter of 2020, when they were slashed across schemes.

'Negative spread'

In August, the RBI had observed that the rise in yields on government securities (G-secs) had turned 'the spread between the existing interest rates' and formula-based

rates 'negative for most small saving schemes'.

Returns on SSIs are linked to market yields on G-secs with a lag and are fixed on a quarterly basis at a spread of 0-100 basis points over and above G-sec yields of comparable maturities. The decision to raise rates on just five SSIs, will mean that returns for some of the schemes, such as the PPF, will be negative in the coming quarter in relation to the formula, an economist said.

Current account deficit widened to 2.8% of GDP in Q1

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's current account deficit (CAD) widened to \$23.9 billion, or 2.8% of GDP, in the April-June period, from \$13.4 billion or 1.5% in the preceding quarter, and compared with a surplus of \$6.6 billion (0.9%) a year earlier, Reserve Bank of India data released on Thursday show.

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

"India can attract more capital inflows if and only if it shows an improvement in growth prospects. Going by the underlying trends, India's CAD may be 3.5-3.7%... in FY23," she noted. While debits were to the tune of \$254.9 billion, credits totalled \$231 billion.

'Trade deficit widens'

The CAD widened mainly on account of the merchandise trade deficit broadening to \$68.6 billion, from \$30.7 billion, as well as an increase in net outflow of investment income payments.

Net services receipts increased, both sequentially



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

RUPA REGE NITSURE
Chief Economist at L&T Financial Holdings

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

Services exports grew 35.4% from a year earlier, led by broad-based growth in computer, business, transportation, and travel services, the RBI said.

Private transfer receipts, mainly remittances by Indians employed overseas, grew 22.6% year-on-year to \$25.6 billion. Net outflow on the income account, primarily reflecting payments of investment income, increased to \$9.3 billion, from \$7.5 billion.

In the financial account, net foreign direct investment (FDI) rose to \$13.6 billion, from \$11.6 billion a year earlier.

Net foreign portfolio investment saw outflows of \$14.6 billion, versus inflows of \$0.4 billion in Q1 FY22. (With Reuters inputs)

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	%CHANGE
Sensex	56,410	-0.33
US Dollar	81.73	0.24
Gold	49,960	1.37
Brent oil	88.78	0.66

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	816.40	-10.70
Apollo Hosp.	4391.70	122.75
Asian Paints	3384.80	-185.85
Axis Bank	719.00	2.55
Bajaj Auto	3476.70	-69.20
Bajaj Finserv	1635.90	-16.30
Bajaj Finance	7104.75	-97.75
Bharti Airtel	764.65	3.20
BPCL	303.25	-2.75
Britannia Ind.	3864.50	11.30
Cipla	1115.85	18.70
Coal India	213.90	3.10
Divis Lab	3693.65	-9.70
Dr. Reddy's Lab.	4360.70	91.00
Eicher Motors	3624.10	-4.20
Grasim Ind.	1655.80	-13.35
HCL Tech	928.05	2.25
HDFC	2237.50	-6.55
HDFC Bank	1382.35	-7.20
HDFC Life	528.00	13.55
Hero MotoCorp	2536.30	-55.05
Hindalco	371.20	10.45
Hind Unilever	2700.55	-1.55
ICICI Bank	843.90	-5.60
IndusInd Bank	1142.25	1.35
Infosys	1398.65	3.95
ITC	333.05	8.10
JSW Steel	618.25	-1.75
Kotak Bank	1765.30	-27.30
L&T	1815.50	-19.95
M&S	1258.35	15.95
Maruti Suzuki	8624.85	-101.90
NestleIndia	18979.15	138.20
NTPC	159.55	1.60
ONGC	126.65	-4.10
PowerGrid Corp	208.00	-0.10
Reliance Ind.	2325.30	-7.15
SBI Life	1239.80	1.00
State Bank	521.75	-3.10
Shree Cement	21287.05	442.55
Sun Pharma	930.70	12.85
TataConsumer		
Product	792.60	-1.05
Tata Motors	402.25	3.15
Tata Steel	96.85	1.65
TCS	3997.30	-38.35
Tech Mahindra	1007.10	-22.60
Titan	2531.50	-45.45
UltraTech Cement	6175.90	2.95
UPL	656.80	-6.90
Wipro	392.80	-5.25

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

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The government had in Budget for 2022-23 project-



ed a gross market borrowing of ₹14.31 lakh crore.

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

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

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

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

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Govt. defers rule on six airbags in cars by one year

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government has deferred its decision on mandatory six airbags in passenger vehicles by a year until October 1, 2023 following industry pushback.

"Considering the global supply-chain constraints faced by the auto industry and its impact on the macroeconomic scenario, it has been decided to implement the proposal mandating a minimum of six airbags in passenger cars with effect from 1st October 2023," Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari tweeted. In January, his Ministry issued a draft notification requiring all new cars sold in India to have six airbags from October 1 this year.

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

Yuthika Bhargava
NEW DELHI

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

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



Rajeev Chandrasekhar

these investments and the State governments that do this effectively will attract the investments, create the jobs and create economic expansion," he said.

Giving an example of "political failure" with the closing down of Nokia's manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu, the Minister added that States need to value these investments and

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

'Alternative to China'

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

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

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

The Pegatron unit is expected to add about 30,000 jobs over the next few years and is being set up under the Centre's Production Linked Incentive scheme. Mr. Chandrasekhar added that the facility is important because it is a follow-on investment which is a sign that firms that had invested in India want to continue to invest here and expand.

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
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No. DMG- 17012/5/2021
C. No. 558708
Date: 29.09.2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The GST at the rate of 18% on the purchase of tender document shall be applicable. The GST applicable is to be paid by the prospective bidder itself. The prospective bidder shall be solely responsible for remitting the GST as per applicable law and statutory liability in this regard will be responsibility of prospective bidder and no liability whatsoever shall be borne by the DMG Karnataka/MSTC.

The sale of tender document shall commence from **30 September 2022**. Last date for sale of tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd is **18 November 2022**. Last date for submission of Technical Bids plus the Initial Price Offers at the website of MSTC Ltd is **30 November 2022 (up to 17:00 hours IST)**. Physical copies of the Technical Bids must reach the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka by **17:00 hours IST on 30 November 2022**.

Sd/-
Director
Department of Mines & Geology

DIPRI/CP/2421/Zenkar/2022-23

CRICKET

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



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

FOOTBALL

PM congratulates Chhetri on release of 'Captain Fantastic'



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday congratulated legendary Indian footballer Sunil Chhetri after FIFA announced the release of a series on his life and career. "Well done Sunil Chhetri! This will certainly boost football's popularity in India. @chhetrisunil11," tweeted PM Modi.

GENERAL

Federer appreciates Kohli's video message



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

GOLF

Rory McIlroy laments that 'Golf is ripping itself apart'



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

Spectacular show of light and sound marks the inauguration

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

NATIONAL GAMES

Y.B. Sarangi
AHMEDABAD

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

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

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



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

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

The PM highlighted his

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

While applauding the Gujarat Government for the prompt hosting of the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Y.B. Sarangi
GANDHINAGAR

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

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

The superstar lifter, who claimed her second Commonwealth Games gold this year, will be the favourite to win the women's



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

49kg crown this time despite the presence of Sanjita, who went through a difficult phase to revive her career after being a victim of a poorly handled doping

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

Prominent archers to be seen in action at the Games

Sports Bureau
AHMEDABAD

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

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

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

But fans will miss the experienced Deepika Kuma-

ri, who has chosen to take a break.

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

Non-shooting stars get a feel of the range



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

Santadeep Dev
AHMEDABAD

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

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

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

art of 10m air rifle shooting, tried to hit the perfect score, but faltered as well, ending up with a high-8.

"Oh, so what now?" Sindhu joked post Gagan's shot.

After what seemed like an enjoyable session of outdoor shooting, the trio – followed relentlessly by range officials, members of the events team, media and a few star-struck athletes – finally reached the 10m air rifle range, where the shooters gave them a warm welcome. Sindhu and Co. also took some time out for a few selfies with the athletes and other dignitaries.

The best moment of the visit, however, had to be that of Sindhu's father P.V. Ramana asking Narang, "So where are our medals? We didn't get them," after a brief felicitation ceremony by the members of the Rifle Club. The remark saw everyone present break into joyous laughter.

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

Sports Bureau
GANDHINAGAR

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

dir here on Friday.

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

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

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

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



Divya Kakran. FILE PHOTO

Bumrah set to miss T20 World Cup with back injury



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

Amol Karhadkar
RAJKOT

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

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

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

chances with the fitness of one of their key players.

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

Shami in the mix

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

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

Chance for many track and field athletes to showcase their prowess



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

Sports Bureau
GANDHINAGAR

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

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

portant events in the annual calendar, and other events.

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

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

IN BRIEF



Injured Mo Farah pulls out of Sunday's London marathon

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

Shagun gets past Ridhima to enter the final

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

The results: Boys: Semifinals: Aditya Mor bt Daksh Kapoor 6-4, 6-2; Aradhya Kshitij bt Aashravya Mehra 6-1, 6-3; **Doubles:** Final: Aditya & Praneel Sharma bt Pranav Mishra & Namish Sharma 6-3, 6-1. **Girls: Semifinals:** Jaya Kapoor bt Arzan Khorakiwala 6-3, 6-2; Shagun Kumari bt Ridhima Singh 5-7, 6-2, 6-1; **Doubles:** Final: Jaya & Shagun bt Sidhak Kaur & Ridhima Singh 6-3, 6-1.

Vivaan Kapoor, Shreyasi Singh finish 15th in mixed trap

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



Pakistan pacer Naseem Shah tests positive for COVID-19

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

Delhi Bulls signs Harbhajan Singh for Abu Dhabi T10

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

Former FIFA referee Sumanta Ghosh passes away

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

LIVE TELECAST

Pakistan vs England: 6th T20, Sony Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)
La Liga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Verstappen on the cusp of tasting glory again

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

SINGAPORE GP

S. Dipak Ragav
SINGAPORE

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

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

Handy lead

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

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



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

While the second title is an almost foregone conclusion – barring an unusual set of jeopardies over the next six races – to seal it this weekend Verstappen needs to outscore his main rival Leclerc by 22 points, by 13 over teammate Sergio Perez and six points over George Russell.

Winning streak

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

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

Winning streak

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

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

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

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

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

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

Radjabov beats Arjun in Armageddon game

CHESS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agence France-Presse
DOHA

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

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

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

Varun Parikh catches up with Kartik Sharma in the lead

GOLF

RAKESH RAO
GURUGRAM

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

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

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

S. Dipak Ragav
SINGAPORE

Championship leader Max Verstappen has played down the chances of him sealing the title this weekend.

Though he has a mathematical chance to win the crown, the reigning champion said he is not too focused on it, calling it a long shot. "I don't think about it and I just want to enjoy the week and of course win it. But I need a lot of luck and I don't count on it," said Verstappen.

Even if he wins and takes a point for the fastest lap, whether he seals the title or not will depend on where his rivals finish and

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

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

Akbar re-elected FMSCI president

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

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

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

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

Stage set for final round of National motorcycle racing

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

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

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

"It has been an exciting season thus far with India's top riders and two-wheeler manufacturers battling for honours. Our sponsors, MRF Tyres, have been providing invaluable support. The final weekend should see a continuation of the trend of close races that



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

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

Veteran Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power1), in sight of his 11th National career title, has 161 points in the kitty going into the Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open double-header that offers a maximum of 50 points. Placed behind him on the leaderboard are Petronas TVS Racing's K.Y.

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

Three-way battle

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

Milka Surin, Sunita Rajput hammer 18 goals

Sports Bureau

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

The results (league): **Pool-A:** Naharkatia New HS, Assam, (Milka Surin 10, Sunita Rajput 8, Priyanka Panika 3, Reshma Jagat 2) bt Government Excellence School, Deoni, 23-0. **Pool-B:** SNBP Institute, Pune, (Isha Rajurkar, Shaina Mulani, Tanishqa Jada, Dyaneshwari Narawde) bt SN Trust HSS, Kollam (D Lekshmi) 4-1. **Pool-C:** Rose Bud School, Devgadhi, Baria (Kodarvi Tinkal) drew with Rachna Public School, Ghumanhera (Priya, Nisha, Ritika) 3-3. **Pool-D:** St. Anthony's HS, Goa, (Jiya Murgod 3, Saloni Shinde) bt Punjab Public School, Nabha, 4-0.

Bopanna & Middelkoop enter semifinals

INDIANS ABROAD

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rohan Bopanna, seeded No.1 with Matwe Middelkoop, scored a 4-6, 7-6(5), [10-5] victory over Denys Molchanov and Franko Skugor in the doubles quarterfinals of the \$1,019,855 ATP tennis tournament in Tel Aviv on Thursday.

In the \$1,237,570 ATP event in Seoul, Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni beat third seeds Diego Hidalgo and Cristian Rodriguez 6-3, 6-4. They will face top seeds Raven Klaasen & Nathaniel Lammons in the semifinals.

The results: **\$1,237,570 ATP, Seoul, Korea:** Quarterfinals: Yuki Bhambri & Saketh Myneni bt Diego Hidalgo (Ecu) & Cristian Rodriguez (Col) 6-3, 6-4. **\$1,019,855 ATP, Tel Aviv, Israel:** Quarterfinals: Matwe Middelkoop (Ned) & Rohan Bopanna bt Denys Molchanov

(Ukr) & Franko Skugor (Cro) 4-6, 7-6(5), [10-5].

€45,730 Challenger, Lisbon, Portugal: Quarterfinals: Christopher Rungkat (Ina) & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Pedro Araujo & Duarte Vale (Por) 6-4, 6-1.

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

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

\$15,000 ITF, Monastir, Tunisia: Men: First round: Bruno Kuzuhara (USA) & Aziz Ouakaa (Tun) bt Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta & Parikshit Somani 6-3, 6-3. **Women: Quarterfinals:** Dong Na (Chn) & Jennifer Luikham bt Angelina Graovac & Shanella Iaconi (Aus) 6-4, 6-1.

\$25,000 ITF women, Santa Margherita Di Pula, Italy: First round: Sappo Sakellaridi (Gre) & Chiara Scholl (USA) bt Anna Baranovskii (USA) & Jagmeet Kaur 6-0, 6-1. **\$15,000 ITF women, Guayaquil, Ecuador: First round:** Tania Sabando & Valleska Ramirez (Ecu) bt Shria Atturu (USA) & Smriti Bhasin 6-2, 7-6(5).

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

TENDER NOTICE No.-GBPNHE/NMSHE-TF-3(IIInd Phase)/2022-23/08
E-tenders are invited on behalf of the Director, GBPNHE, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora from eligible reputed and registered firms/suppliers /manufacturers for supply of Portable Solar Panel With Battery under NMSHE-TF-3(IIInd Phase) project. The last date of submission of online tender is 17.10.2022 at 3.00 P.M.
The documents shall be submitted online at website <https://moefcc.euniwizarde.com>.
The full details of equipments and documents are available in the Institute Website <http://gbpihed.gov.in>.

Office Superintendent
Email: store@gbpihed.nic.in

Government of Jharkhand
Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs
4th Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi -834002
DIRECTORATE OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND, RANCHI

Reverse E- Auction Procurement Notice
Tender Ref No:-Kha.up.Ni-01
Chi.Vi.Yo 3/2022- 1625 Dated – 28/09/2022
Empanelment of suppliers for supply of Sugar under Public Distribution System Scheme of Government of Jharkhand for the Second Half (October'22-March'23) of Financial year 2022-23 under Reverse E-Auction Mode

Bid Details	
NIT/Bid Document No	Kha.up.Ni-01 Chi.Vi.Yo 3/2022.1625 Dated – 28/09/2022
Bidding Document Cost	Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) (Non-Refundable & not-Adjustable) as a Demand Draft in favour of " Director, Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand Ranchi " in the office of Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand, Ranchi, 4 th Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi – 834002 before last date of submission of bid documents.
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/Bid Security	Rs. 20,00,000/- (Twenty Lakh) as EMD (margin money) in the form of Demand Draft in the name of " Director, Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand Ranchi " in the office of Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand, Ranchi, 4 th Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi – 834002 before last date of submission of bid documents.
Document Sale Date & Timing i.e. Last Date & time for downloading RFP from website	From 29/09/2022 to 20-10-2022 till 18:00 http://jharkhand.gov.in/food&htcps://jhtenders.eproc.in
Online Bid Submission Period	From 29/09/2022 to 20-10-2022 On 21/10/2022
Pre-Bid Meeting	On 17/10/2022 at 16:00 IST through Google meet (meet.google.com/opd-fkm-pri) Will be published after technical evaluation.
Date of Auction	On 20/10/2022 at 11:00 AM
Name and concerned person for Correspondence	Mrs Abhishek Tiwari Mobile no.- 9795046772 email- jhsupport@ctindia.com

- All eligible Individuals or partnership firm, Registered Company or Co-operative society or any legal organization should mandatorily register with C1 India Pvt Ltd for participation in Reverse Auction Registration Fee Rs. 5,000/- (Five Thousand).
- Any changes/modification in the Tender documents in the tender documents will be posted on website <http://jharkhand.gov.in/food&https://jhtenders.eproc.in>.

Sd/-
Director
(Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs)
PR 278924 (Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs)22-23*D

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

General public is hereby informed that this boy
Name: Babu, S/o: Shri Sunder Lal, R/o: Village Alwar, Rajasthan, Age: about 16-17 years, Height: 5'6",
Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, **Built:** Normal, **Identification Mark:** A mole on left side of cheek, **Wearing:** Chocolate colour t-shirt & jeans pant and brown colour of plastic chappale in feet, has been found Near CB water pump, Ring Road, Naraina, New Delhi since 12.07.2022 at 17:30 hrs area of P.S. Naraina, West District, Delhi. The Child Babu Kept In Don Bosco Ashalayam, Palam, New Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 79-A**, dated **12.07.2022** has been lodged at P.S. Naraina, West District, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about the family/parents of this person but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information or clue about family/parents of this person kindly inform to the following.

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

Office of the Nagar Parishad, Lohardaga
Notice Inviting Tender
e-Tender Reference No. 07/2022-23 Date- 29-09-2022

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

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

Sl. No.	Procurement Officer	date of tender publish on website	Last date for submission of tender fee and earnest money.	Availability of tender on line for bidding	Place, Date & time of opening bid.
1.	Executive officer Nagar Parishad, Lohardaga	06-10-2022 Time 10:30 AM	N.P. Lohardaga 28-10-2022 up to 3:00 P.M.	Bid downloading Date- 06-10-2022 Time 11:30 AM To Date 27-10-2022 Time 5:00 P.M.	N.P. Lohardaga Date 29-10-2022 Time 03:30 P.M.

Further details can be seen on website <http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
Executive Officer
Nagar Parishad, Lohardaga
PR 278969 (Lohardaga) 22-23 (D)

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
राष्ट्रीय उच्च प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग
पौन्डीन्सी ग्राउण्ड के दक्षिण, हजारीबाग - 825301 फ़ैक्स / फ़ोन - 06546-222474
E-mail :- nhdvisionhazaribagh@gmail.com / eenhazari-jhr@nic.in

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

इस कार्यालय की निविदा **Tender Reference Number – NH/HAZARIBAGH/2022-23/02 (Construction of bypass around Chatra town on NH-22 Old NH-99 in the state of Jharkhand under EPC Mode), Tender ID – 2022_MoRTH_699473_1** से **website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>** पर प्रकाशित निविदा के Online availability एवं Date of opening को बढ़ाया जाता है एवं उसके लिए NIT एवं RFP को निम्न रूप से संशोधित किया जाता है:-

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

अन्ध सभी सूचनाएँ एवं शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
राजन्ध पथ प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग
PR 278952 (Road) 22-23 (D)

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT

Tender No: 70695
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

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

1. Cost of RFP documents	INR 590,000.00 Inclusive of GST 18% (to be paid through RTGS)
2. Bid Security	INR 27,00,00,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Seven Crores) In the form of Bank Guarantee as per RFP.
3. Bank Details	Account Holder's Name: Drawing and Disbursing Officer Account No.: 34584469746 Account Type: Current Account IFSC Code: SBIN0009000 Bank: State Bank of India Branch: 00900-Pondicherry
4. GST Details	GST No.: (34AAA00342Q1Z7)
5. Sale of RFP	Start Date: 30.09.2022 End Date: 25.11.2022
6. Last date for submission of Queries	14.10.2022
7. Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	21.10.2022
8. Last Date of Bid Submission	25.11.2022 4.00 p.m.

For full details please refer the web link pudutenders.gov.in
Secretary to Government(Power)
Government of Puducherry
Goubert Avenue, Puducherry-605 001
Email: secyind.pon@nic.in Phone : 0413-2334144
No.296/DIP/AD(Press)/2022-23

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhawan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

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

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

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for work of (1) Formation of 18m & 30m wide Roads including asphaltting, construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, HDPE Water Supply pipeline at Sub Layout of Plot No.1 at Gowribidnur 2nd Phase Industrial Area, Chikkaballapura District. (2) Formation of Balance Length of 45m wide road no.1 & 32m wide road no.5 Junction, Construction of RCC Side Drains, Laying of HDPE Water Supply pipeline and providing road height guage/barrier at Hi-Tech Defence & Aerospace Park (IT Sector) Near KIAL, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
Last date for submission of bids is: **13.10.2022 upto 04:00 pm**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB, Bengaluru
DIPRC/2433/Zenkar/2022-23

DR. HARISINGH GOUR VISHWAVIDYALAYA, SAGAR (M.P.) INDIA
(A Central University) Website: www.dhsgsu.edu.in

Recruitment Notice
Advt. No.: DoFA/DAC-DACE/2022/02 Dated: / / 2022

(I) AMBEDKAR CHAIR
The University invites Online application from eligible Indian Nationals for the following posts under Dr. Ambedkar Chair sanctioned by the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, New Delhi on deputation/contract basis.

No	Post	No. of Positions	Pay Scale	Specialization
1.	Chair Professor* (Full Time)	01 (UR)	Level 14 (Acad.)	Dr. Ambedkar's Thought & Philosophy/ Education, Social Justice/ Inclusion/ Harmony
2.	Assistant Professor	01 (UR)	Level 10 (Acad.)	Justice/ Inclusion/ Harmony

Note: (a) *Superannuated Person will not be eligible for the post of Chair Professor. (b) Above posts shall be filled subject to extension of Tenure of Dr. Ambedkar Chair, which is under consideration.

(II) CONTRACTUAL APPOINTMENT OF TEACHERS UNDER DACE UPSC-COACHING

Post	No. of Positions	Fixed Salary per Month	Specialization
Contractual Teachers	03	₹ 1,15,000/-	Maths, History & Geography

The Last Date of submission of Online Application for Dr. Ambedkar Chair and Online on Prescribed Formed (in hard copy) for the post of Contractual Teachers (DACE) will be 45 days from the date of publication of this Advertisement in Employment News/Rozgar Samachar. For more details please visit the University website: www.dhsgsu.edu.in
Registrar (Offg.)

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2011SGC033813
website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 9646123323)

Tender Enquiry No. PPR-25/2022 **Dated: 24.09.2022**

Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No.D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three part bid system for supply of Renewable Energy (Non-Solar) from interstate/intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 16th October 2022 to 31st March 2023. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com). For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to www.mstcecommerce.com from 24.09.2022 onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at www.mstcecommerce.com
C-369/22 PSPCL-76155/12/1138/2021/17389

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Tender notification No: 07/ 2022-23 Dated: 26-09-2022
(Through e-procurement portal, two cover system)

On behalf of Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore, Executive Engineer Kabini Reservoir Division Kabini Colony, H.D. Kote Taluk, Mysore District, KARNATAKA now invites online Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction of works detailed below. Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address given below during office hours. Bidders are advised to note the clauses on eligibility (Section I Clause 4) and minimum qualification criteria (Section III-Evaluation and Qualification Criteria to qualify for the award of the contract.

Package 02: "Providing Roads, Fencing and Construction of security room and other infrastructure works at Taraka Dam in Mysore District of Karnataka state under DRIP-II (World Bank Aided)-Call-2" of estimate cost Rs. 625.70 lakhs has been invited for bids.

Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications is **13-10-2022 up to 17:00 hrs.** Date, & time of Pre bid meeting is on **17-10-2022 at 11:00 hrs.** Last date and time for receipt of completed tender **03-11-2022 up to 16:00 hrs.** Date and time of opening of technical bid **05-11-2022 at 16:00 hrs** and the date and time of opening financial bid **14-11-2022 at 11:00 hrs** or will be notified after the approval of technical bids. Further Interested bidders can avail the information regarding EMD and Tender processing fee from the website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in for more details.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kabini Reservoir Division, Kabini Colony, H. D. Kote, Mysore District.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001.
E-Mail id: crmd@cityunionbank.in, Phone: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
The following properties mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public-Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of the undementioned security debts due to the Bank, together with further interest and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors mentioned herein below:

PART - 1

Description of the Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank	Reserve Price	Date & Time of Auction
Property - 1: (Property Owned by Mrs. Sarita, W/o. Rajinder Prashad) MIG Flat No.G-1, Admeasuring 500 Sq.ft. on Plot No.B-1/141 and Plot No.B-1/141 A, DLF Dilshad Ext.II Village Brahmapura Urf Bhopura, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & District Gaziabad UP - 201005 Bounded as Under East - Road 30 ft. wide, West - Property No.B-1/142, North - Portion of Same Plot, South - Others Property.	₹ 16,00,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Only)	27-10-2022 at 02.00 p.m.

PART - 2

Description of the Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank	Reserve Price	Date & Time of Auction
Property - 1: (Property Owned by Mr. Amit Rao, S/o. Balaji Rao) Flat No.G-11,LIG, Ground Floor, without Roof Rights, Backside, on Plot No.B-1/73, DLF Dilshad Extension - 2, Village - Bhopura Gaziabad U.P. - 201005. East - Plot No. B-1/74, West - Plot No.B-1/72, North - Plot No. B-1/53, South - 30 ft. wide Road.	₹ 13,50,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)	27-10-2022 at 03.00 p.m.

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

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi -Laxmi Nagar Branch, No.F-120, Main Bazar, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi - 110092.** (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.**, together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before **01.00 p.m. for PART - 1** and on or before **02.00 p.m. and for PART - 2.** (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.011-22501110, Cell No.9312620592** (5) The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. (6) The sealed Tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **02.00 p.m. for PART - 1** and **03.00 p.m. for PART - 2** properties. (7) The date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the Sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an open auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed Tender process, and in such an event, the Sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of **City Union Bank Limited.** (8) The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. (9) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (10) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (11) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (12) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam
Date : 28-09-2022

Authorised Officer
City Union Bank Ltd.
Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612001. CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No.0435-2402322, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: www.cityunionbank.com

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CORREGENDUM

The e-procurement Notice of the tender was called for the work Construction of Primary Health Centre building (Level -II) with residential unit at Bharma (SH-C/o building i/c water supply & Sanitary installation and septic tank) vide this office letter No. PWJ/CB/ TA/Tender/2022-15148 dated 14.9.2022 is to be opened on 11.10.2022 has been published in Newspaper GURU RAJ Weekly dated 13/09/2022 vide advertisement No. 3686/2022-23 is hereby postponed due to Technical reasons. Now the revised starting date for download Bid 10.11.2022 at 12:00 AM and deadline for submission of Bid 16.11.2022 at 4:00 PM and Technical Bid will be opened on 28.11.2022 at 11:30 AM.
The other term and condition shall remain un-changed.
SD/
Executive Engineer
Jawalji Division HPPWD
Jawalji.
HP / 4524/22-23 For on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh)

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION
Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India
REGIONAL OFFICE, KARNATAKA
No.10, BINNY FIELDS, TANK BUND ROAD, (NEAR BINNY MILLS, NEXT TO ETA MALL),
BINNYPET, BENGALURU - 560 023. Ph: 080-26742485 | E-mail: esicbng@nic.in

No.53.Z.17.20.02.2021/RO/Med (Adm) Date: 28.09.2022

ADMISSION NOTICE
ADMISSIONS TO DIPLOMA IN PARAMEDICAL COURSES UNDER "INSURED PERSONS (IP) QUOTA - PARAMEDICAL (PM)" AT ESIC PARAMEDICAL INSTITUTION, GULBARGA, KARNATAKA FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23.

- Applications are invited from eligible and interested candidates for admission to Diploma in Paramedical Courses Under "Insured Persons (IPs) Quota - Paramedical (PM)" at ESIC Paramedical Institution, Gulbarga, Karnataka for the Academic Year 2022-23.
- The Eligibility of Insured Person for availing benefit under the "Insured Persons Quota" for his/her child/children would be 31.03.2022.
- The age of the dependent male 'Ward of IP' for eligibility under the 'Insured Persons Quota' should not be more than 21 years as on 22nd July, 2022 (22/07/2022). The said date would not apply to dependent unmarried female ward of IP as per provisions of the ESI Act, 1948.
- Reservation policy as per Central Government will be followed.
- For detailed information and instructions, kindly visit the following website: <https://www.esic.nic.in/admissions> (Console No.379/2022, dated: 29/09/2022).
- Applications to be submitted through E-mail : rectt-karnataka@esic.nic.in .
- Last date for receipt of applications over E-mail will be **09.10.2022 by 23:59 hours.**
- Date of Counselling for shortlisted Applicants will be notified later on the website.
- Place of Counselling: ESIC Medical College and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences and Research & Model Hospital, Rajajinagar, Bangalore, Karnataka.

NB: The candidates should continuously visit the website for the updates as separate communication may not be possible.

Sd/-
Additional Commissioner & Regional Director

भारत सरकार टकसात, मुंबई
INDIA GOVERNMENT MINT, MUMBAI

आईएसओ 9001:2015, आईएसओ 14001:2015 एवं
एनएसआई/आईएसओ 17025:2017 प्रमाणित इकाई
भारत प्रतिष्ठित मुद्रण तथा निर्माण निगम की इकाई
सीआईएन : U22213DL2006GO144763
मिनी-रत्न श्रेणी सीपीएसई (भारत सरकार के पूर्ण स्वामित्वधीन)
शहीद भगत सिंह मार्ग, फोर्ट, मुंबई - 400 001
Tel: 022-22663694 Fax: 022 - 22661450 Email: igm.mumbai@spmcil.com Web: igmumbai.spmcil.com

BOOKING NOTICE
BOOKING OF "Gold & SILVER SOUVNEIR COINS"

India Government Mint, Mumbai (A unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd.) is pleased to notify booking of Gold & Silver Souvenir Coins varieties of following themes.

Sr.Nos.	Theme	Amount (in Rs.)
1	Maa Durga 40 grams Silver (999 purity)	Price as per
2	Peacock Theme 5 grams & 10 grams Gold Coins (999 purity)	prevailing market rate of Gold &
3	Lakshmi and Ganesh Silver Coin 40 grams (999 purity)	Silver

Bookings open from **30.09.2022**. The coin sets can be booked online on our website igmmumbai.spmcil.com.
For other detailed terms and conditions and online booking please visit customer corner section of our web site: igmmumbai.spmcil.com
-Sd-
Dy. General Manager (Marketing)
For Chief General Manager

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*T&C Apply