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## IN BRIEF



### CDS, Ministry differ on China moves

**NEW DELHI**  
Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat on Thursday contradicted the official position of the Ministry of External Affairs on Chinese construction activities in the eastern sector in Arunachal Pradesh.

NEWS ► PAGE 8

### Gehlot meets Sonia to discuss Cabinet reshuffle

**NEW DELHI**  
Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot met Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday to discuss the State Cabinet's long-pending reshuffle accommodating supporters of his political adversary Sachin Pilot.

NEWS ► PAGE 9

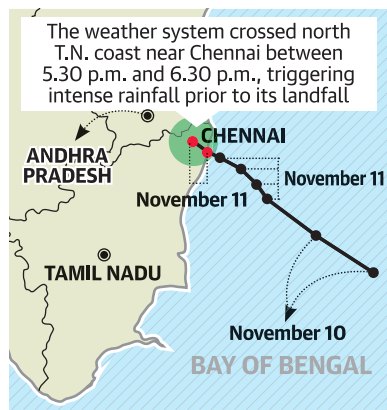
### Punjab passes resolution against Centre's BSF move

**CHANDIGARH**  
The Punjab Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution against the Centre's order extending the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force and demanded its withdrawal.

STATES ► PAGE 4

# Intense showers bring Chennai to its knees, claim 14 lives in T.N.

Red alert in 8 districts ends; strong surface winds and heavy rain may continue



## Battered by rains

■ **Intense spells:** Chennai received 169 mm of rainfall from 7 a.m. of Wednesday to 6 p.m. on Thursday.  
■ **Overall rainfall:** The city received 492 mm rainfall since the onset of NE Monsoon between October 25 to Thursday  
■ **Areas hit:** 513

residential areas in the city were flooded as of Thursday morning  
■ **Relief camps:** 2,240 people were accommodated in 44 relief camps in Greater Chennai Corporation; 12,300 people were staying in a total of 229 camps in 14 districts

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

After a day of steady rainfall, sometimes intense, Chennai finally found relief from the deluge after 5.30 p.m. as the weather system that originated in the Bay of Bengal crossed the coast between north Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh, close to the city.

The weather system maintained a wind speed of 45-55 km per hour gusting up to 65 kmph while making landfall. Deputy Director General of Meteorology, Chennai, S. Balachandran said the system

is expected to weaken into a well-marked low-pressure area by Friday morning. Rainfall would continue until Friday morning, he added.

Fourteen people died in rain-related incidents across the State during this weather system, official estimates said.

The Meteorological Department has withdrawn the red alert for extremely heavy rains for Chennai and neighbouring districts. However, warning for strong surface winds and heavy rain would continue, he said. Over 500 residential areas in Chennai

were reportedly affected by flooding.

According to the department, Nungambakkam and Taramani recorded 6 cm of rainfall and Meenambakkam received 5 cm till 5.30 p.m.

By Thursday, over 12,300 people had been accommodated in 229 relief camps in 15 rain-affected districts across the State, Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran said. This included 2,240 people staying in 44 relief camps in the Greater Chennai Corporation area. Teams from the Nation-

al Disaster Response Force fanned out to assist with relief operations in various districts, including Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Cuddalore, Madurai, Nagapattinam and Tiruvallur. State Disaster Response Force teams assisted in Cuddalore and Thanjavur, according to official sources.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who visited rain-affected areas of the city, urged Ministers on flood duty and officials to expedite rescue and relief operations.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

# India seeks \$1 tn in 'climate finance' to meet its targets

NDCs are subject to availability of this fund, says negotiator

## JACOB KOSHY NEW DELHI

India has demanded a trillion dollars over the next decade from developed countries to adapt to, and mitigate, the challenges arising from global warming, and has kept this as a condition for delivering on climate commitments made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a senior official who is part of ongoing climate agreement negotiations in Glasgow told *The Hindu*.

India's five-fold plan (see box) aims at reducing the carbon intensity of its economy and eventually achieving net zero by 2070.

Net zero is when a country's carbon emissions are offset by taking out equivalent carbon from the atmosphere, so that emissions in balance are zero. However, achieving net zero by a specific date means specifying a year, also called a peak year, following which emissions will begin to fall.

"Our NDCs (Nationally Determined Contribution) are conditional, that is, subject to the availability of this

## Green assurance

India's five-fold plan, as spelt out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 2

- 1 India's non-fossil energy capacity will reach 500 GW by 2030
- 2 The country will meet 50% of its electricity requirements with renewable energy by 2030
- 3 It will reduce its total projected carbon emissions by a billion tonnes by 2030



- 4 India will cut the carbon intensity of its economy to less than 45%
- 5 Country will achieve net zero by 2070

amount [\$1 trillion] in climate finance. NDCs can be submitted with conditions. The decision on when to submit revised NDCs has not yet been taken," Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change, told *The Hindu*. He is among India's key negotiators and is currently in Glasgow.

NDCs are voluntary targets that countries set for themselves, which describe the quantum and kind of emission cuts they will undertake over a fixed period to contribute to preventing

runaway global warming.

India's last NDC was submitted following the 2015 Paris deal. Before COP26 began on November 1, nations were expected to provide updated NDCs. India, however, did not furnish one. He added that developing countries, as a group, had demanded \$1 trillion annually. Mr. Gupta did not, however, clarify the members of this group, or if India had formally communicated these demands, or if they had emerged as part of the negotiations.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

# CPC resolution cements Xi Jinping's key position

Plenum places him among tallest leaders

## ANANTH KRISHNAN HONG KONG

China's Communist Party on Thursday adopted only the third "historical resolution" in its 100-year history, concluding a four-day plenum by enshrining President Xi Jinping's place among the party's tallest leaders and boosting his status ahead of a congress next year that will mark the start of his third term.

A communique adopted after the annual meeting of the Central Committee, called a plenum, said the party had adopted a "Resolution on the Major Achievements and Historical Experience of the Party over the Past Century", which devoted considerable space to praising Mr. Xi's leadership.

It also called for the par-



Xi Jinping

ty to "resolutely uphold his core position".

Announcing the holding of the 20th Party Congress next year, it made several mentions of the need for party members to "resolutely uphold" Mr. Xi's "core position in the party" and to "ensure that all party members act in unison".

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

# More than 12 cr. due for second dose of vaccine

No shortage of vaccines: Minister

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Seventy-nine per cent of the adult population has received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 38% of the eligible population has got the second dose, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has said. More than 12 crore beneficiaries are due for their second dose, the Minister added.

He said there was no shortage of COVID-19 vaccines, and called for collective efforts to ensure that no citizen is left without vaccine protection. "Let us ensure collectively through collaborative and multi-stakeholder efforts that no eligible citizen is left without the *suraksha kawachh* (protective shield) of vaccine in the country. Let us reach each corner and household



Mansukh Mandaviya

across the country and motivate people to take both the doses under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign," he said.

Mr. Mandaviya held a virtual meeting to discuss the strengthening of the campaign with State Health Ministers.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

# SC to hear plea against UAPA FIRS

## LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to fix a date and hear a petition filed by several persons to quash the FIRs registered against them under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for social media posts alleging communal violence in Tripura.

The State police have booked 102 social media users, including journalists and activists, under the UAPA and accused them of criminal conspiracy and forgery. The police sent notices to Twitter, Facebook and YouTube to freeze their accounts. The police also registered a UAPA case against Supreme Court lawyers who were a part of a fact-finding team.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

# U.P. 'custodial death': family seeks answers

## HEMANI BHANDARI KASGANJ (UTTAR PRADESH)

A couple of days after their son died in police custody in Kasganj district of Uttar Pradesh, Altaf's distraught parents Chand Mian and Fatima contested the police version that he suffered

mental health issues and took his own life.

"My son had no problems at all," said Ms. Fatima. Mr. Mian, who had given in writing about not pursuing the matter further, said he was told he would get his son's body only after signing pap-

ers attesting the police version of events.

Kasganj SP Rohan Prasad Botre said the police are open to lodging an FIR if the family submits a complaint.

DETAILS ► PAGE 10

# Big, fat Indian weddings are back with a bang

The pandemic may have shrunk guest lists but the spend remains high on venues, jewellery, packages

## JAGRITI CHANDRA YUTHIKA BHARGAVA NEW DELHI

A Gurugram-based top executive at a leading telecom company had planned a grand wedding for his daughter early this year, but the second wave of the pandemic scuttled his plans. Now, with COVID-19 cases on the wane, the couple will have a Hindu ceremony later this month, following a court marriage in July in the U.S.

With the increased pace of vaccination, an ebb in infections, and State governments relaxing rules for gatherings, the floodgates for weddings have opened up this winter.

The Confederation of All India Traders recently said in a press statement that approximately 1.5 lakh weddings were expected during the auspicious period of No-



**Expensive affair:** About 1.5 lakh weddings are likely to take place between Nov. 14 and Dec. 13 in Delhi. • GETTY IMAGES

vember 14-December 13 in Delhi alone, and as many as 25 lakh weddings could be solemnised across the country.

"Everyone is getting married left, right and centre and most wedding venues are already booked. It is impossible to find a five star venue anywhere in the country for auspicious dates such as

November 27 and 28. We have bookings for November and December, and several queries for January and February," says 34-year-old Ahana Choudhury, who runs Naach Gaana Vyaah, a Gurugram-based wedding planning company.

Through the year, people have been either putting off their wedding plans, or been

forced to conduct small events at home or at a club within their residential colonies. "We have done very small-scale events, involving no more than 20-30 guests, which we never thought we would ever do," said Ms. Choudhury.

## No expense spared

But while brides, grooms and their families still tread with caution on the guest list, the overall spend remains high. Astha Jain, 26, a Delhi-based interior designer, is getting married in January. Her family wanted to have a big-fat Indian wedding with 500-800 guests. But it will now be an intimate affair with just 200 guests. However, no expense will be spared which will run into a few crores.

"The size of the wedding

may be smaller, but the costs haven't come down. We are in fact paying double the usual amount for hotel bookings which are difficult to get. Decor also costs more as vendors say that restrictions on imports from China for lighting have escalated costs," says Ms. Jain, who is getting married at the Marriott's Westin Sohna Resort.

With the size of the weddings shrinking, and only the closest friends and relatives invited, the hosts are now focusing on "detailing and higher customisation, unique offerings and experiential value for those in attendance", says Surinder Singh, Area Director (Haryana) and General Manager, Taj Hotels.

Weddings also mean families spend big on jewellery, which has meant more revenue for jewellery brands.

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HC seeks reply on removal of online articles

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

Adding to the number of people who have knocked the doors of the judiciary to remove online posts, which may contain an embarrassing picture, video or news articles mentioning them, a man has moved the Delhi High Court seeking to take down articles relating to his conviction in a fraud and blackmailing case abroad.

Justice Rekha Palli asked the Centre, Google, Twitter and two media houses to respond to the petition filed by the man, who was deported to India from England after undergoing his sentence.

Advocate Rajesh Rai, representing the man, said his client, even after undergoing the sentence, has been haunted by his past in “the manner where anybody has his background checked online with half-truth”. This discourages the petitioner to live a reformed life peacefully, the plea said.

The man was convicted by Leicester Crown Court in 2015 for fraud and blackmail.

Delhi’s air quality ‘severe’ again, relief unlikely in next two days

Rai urges Centre to call a meeting of Environment Ministers on stubble burning

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The air quality in the city deteriorated to the ‘severe’ category again on Thursday. The air quality index (AQI) of the Capital has been in the ‘severe’ level for five out of seven days after Deepavali, official data show.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai urged Union Environment Minister Bhupinder Yadav to hold a meeting of all Environment Ministers of the neighbouring States on the issue of stubble burning.

‘Why avoiding a meet?’

“Why is it that they are avoiding calling a meeting with the State Governments when all scientific evidence suggests that stubble burning in these States is continuously contributing to the pollution around us? Hence, by calling this meeting as soon as possible, I hope the right measures will be taken to control the increasing pollution,” Mr. Rai said.



A ragpicker collecting items of use at the Bhalswa landfill on a smoggy Thursday morning in Delhi. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The Government also started a campaign against open burning on Thursday.

‘Affects healthy people’

Air pollution of ‘severe’ level “affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing diseases”, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The AQI is likely to stay in the next two days and stay in the ‘very poor’ to ‘severe’ range,

authorities said.

The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to PM2.5, a chief pollutant, in Delhi was 26% on Thursday and the number of active fires reduced to 3,914.

An AQI was 411 on Thursday, up from 372 on Wednesday, as per the CPCB’s 4 p.m. bulletin, which is the average of the past 24 hours. A higher value of AQI indicates more air pollution.

Festive fervour



Morning prayer: Devotees worship the rising sun on the last day of Chhath Puja at Dwarka in Delhi on Thursday. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

BJP seeks all-party meet on cleaning Yamuna

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Terming it a “sacred task”, the BJP on Thursday demanded an all-party meeting to chart the way forward for a time-bound cleaning of the Yamuna.

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said all stakeholders were ready to cooperate in this respect and the

Delhi Government should “immediately start this holy task” by calling an all-party meeting.

“The Centre has given ₹2,419 crore to the Delhi Government for cleaning the Yamuna,” Mr. Bidhuri said.

“It is a matter of shame for all of us that instead of keeping the Yamuna clean, it is being made dirty; 18 big drains are pouring filth into

the Yamuna every day. The Government is making announcements to set up sewage treatment plants, but all its projects are far behind the schedule,” he said.

Instead of blaming each other, a time-bound action plan should be made, the leader said.

“There should be no politics over cleaning the Yamuna,” he said.

Couple fails to get marriage registered even after 40 years

HC issues notices, seeks Delhi Govt’s response to petition

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the city Government to respond to a petition filed by a couple who were married over 40 years ago but are unable to get their marriage registered as the official software is not accepting their application. They were underage at the time of their wedding in 1981.

Justice Rekha Palli also issued notices to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Alipur and District Magistrate of North West Delhi and posted the case for hearing on December 23.

Software didn’t accept

In their plea filed through advocate Jai Singh Mann, the couple said they approached the SDM, Alipur, for register-



The authorities have neither rectified the software nor registered the couple’s marriage so far by any other mode, which is ‘unjust, arbitrary and illegal’

PETITION IN HC

ing their marriage with all relevant documents but it could not be done as the software did not accept their application.

The couple said that the husband was below 21 years and his wife was below the age of 18 at the time of their wedding on May 28, 1981.

Advocate Mann said the couple fulfil all conditions for registration of marriage as prescribed under the law as

‘Stormwater drains to be free of sewage’

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Water Minister Satyendar Jain on Thursday said all sewer lines falling into stormwater drains will be disconnected by March 31, 2022.

Stormwater drains are supposed to carry rainwater and flow into the Yamuna. But currently, untreated sewage from different areas flow into these drains. “All the points where the sewer lines are connected to stormwater drains will be disconnected by March 31, 2022. DJB officials have been instructed to survey and create a list of all the old and new points within 1 month,” the Minister said.

He said that all households under sewered areas will be connected with the sewer network by June 2022 under Mukhyamantri Sewer Connection Yojana.

We are taking all necessary COVID 19 Precautionary Measures

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- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

Foundation laid for largest MCD school

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Hardeep Puri on Thursday laid the foundation stone for the “largest” municipal school at Goshala Park in north Delhi. Mr. Puri thanked Delhi BJP president Aadesh Gupta and civic officials for the 34-room school, being built at a cost of ₹8 crore, and said it was due to their efforts that after removing heaps of garbage, a big school was coming up here.

THE HINDU GROUP

# Here is an opportunity to hear the minds you follow.

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**DAY 1: Friday, November 12**

**5:30 PM**  
**My Life in Full: Work, Family, and our Future.**  
*Indra Nooyi in conversation with Vinay Kamath*

**6:15 PM**  
**Shashi & Sashi.**  
*Shashi Tharoor in conversation with Sashi Kumar on Life, Literature, Language and Politics.*

**7:00 PM**  
**Junglenama: A Story for our Times.**  
*Amitav Ghosh in conversation with Somak Ghoshal*

**8:00 PM**  
**A Viral World: Why Viruses are Necessary.**  
*Pranay Lal in conversation with Ramya Kannan*

THE HINDU

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### HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, Chamba Division, HPPWD, Chamba -176310 on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of Constructors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table:-

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest money	Eligible Class	Time Limit
1.	Construction of Residential accommodation for staff P.S SV & ACB at Chamba Distt, Chamba( 1 Nos. type-IV/3 Nos. type-III and 6 Nos.type-II Quarter (SH:- Building portion, site development WS & SI, rain water harvesting system )	2,99,83,533/-	5,97,700/-	A & B	Twelve Months
2.	Construction of Govt. Senior Secondary School ( Additional accommodation ) at Kohlari (SH:-Construction of Building portion W.S. & S.I. and Rain water Harvesting System)	61,06,633/-	1,22,000/-	C & B	Nine Months

1. Starting Date for downloading Bid 24.11.2021 at 10.00 AM  
2. Deadline for submission of Bid 13.12.2021 at 5.00 PM  
3. Date of Technical bid opening 14-12-2021 at 11.30 AM

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons there-of.

The Bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in)

Executive Engineer,  
Chamba Division, HPPWD Chamba, Pin-176310  
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On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HP / 4771/21-22

### Jal Shakti Vibhag NOTICE INVITING E-PROCUREMENT TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Dharampur Bharari District Mandi (HP) on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invite the item rate/lump sum contract bids from the eligible contractors/Firms. Bidders should be registered with Central Govt. or State Govt. or Central Govt. or State Government under takings. The bidders who have experience in construction of similar work and have established organization for taking up such work and who satisfy the qualification criteria of bid document need only apply. The scope of the work will be as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest money	Time	Cost of form
1.	Source strengthening of Tourkhola & multivillages water supply scheme, LWSS to 8 No. Panchayats of Tehsil Sandhole from natural calamities on left bank of River Beas in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi (HP) (SH:- C/O Gabion structures on left Bank of River Beas RD 0 to 800 and Right Bank of Bakkar khad RD 0 to 250 to protect the 7 Nos percolation wells and 2 No. pump house)	13,01,78,536/-	13,34,285/-	Six Months	2500/-

**1. KEY DATES WILL BE AS UNDER:-**

a	Date of Online publication	10.11.2021 at 5:00 PM
b	Downloading of e-tender Documents	From 10.11.2021 at 5:00 PM to 24.11.2021 at 5:00 PM.
c	Date of submission of e-tender	From 10.11.2021 at 5:00 PM to 24.11.2021 at 5:00 PM.
d	Physical submission of earnest money deposit and cost of tender documents	Upto 11:00 A.M. on 25.11.2021
e	Date of opening of bids:	
	1) Cover-1 Eligibility Criteria	On 25.11.2021 at 11.30 A.M.
	2) Cover-2 Financial Bid	Shall be intimated separately
f	Site Visit	From 10.11.2021 to 16.11.2021 along with the Assistant Engineer/concerned Junior Engineer Jal Shakti Sub Division Sandhole.

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Dharampur Bharari

[www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in)

HP / 4779/21-22

Free Library Festival begins in city tomorrow

Book giveaway, workshops part of event

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

With an aim to make books accessible to all, The Community Library Project (TCLP), a non-profit trust, is hosting its second annual ‘Free Library Festival’ between November 13 and 21.

TCLP runs three libraries across Delhi and the National Capital Region. The festival will see a book giveaway on November 13 and 14. “A mega book giveaway will be held at our library in South Extension, where, for small donations to the free library

movement, visitors will have the opportunity to take home some of the thousands of excellent books donated to our libraries over the years,” TCLP said in a press note.

Apart from this, the festival will witness a series of online workshops on November 20 and 21. “There are workshops on playwriting by Annie Zaidi and on how to get published by Karthika VK of Westland, Jayapriya Vasudevan of Jacaranda literary agency and Samit Basu,” the press note said.

‘85 garbage collection points shut since March’

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) on Thursday said that the civic body has shut 85 of its 302 garbage collection points (dhalaos) and installed 31 fixed compactor transfer stations (FCTS) during the past six months to improve its waste management system.

EDMC chief engineer Rajender Prasad said the civic body aims to install “seven additional FCTS” by the end of November.

“Some of the dhalaos that have been shut will be converted into material recovery facilities for collection of dry waste. Each FCTS can handle the amount of waste accumulated at seven to eight dhalaos. Apart from the FCTS, we have close to 76 movable compactors, which are vehicles capable of processing the waste on the go,” he said.

Close to 50 material recovery had been established in areas under the East Corporation’s jurisdiction, Mr. Prasad said.



Timings DELHI		
FRIDAY, NOV. 12		
RISE	06:41	SET 17:30
RISE	13:49	SET 00:00
SATURDAY, NOV. 13		
RISE	06:42	SET 17:29
RISE	14:24	SET 01:02
SUNDAY, NOV. 14		
RISE	06:43	SET 17:29
RISE	14:55	SET 02:00

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	25	13
Safdarjang	25	13
Palam	25	15

**Delhi Palam Today**  
27°C Severe pollution level with dry weather to prevail. Shallow fog and mist will occur during cool morning. Day will be comfortable.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
27°C The weather will be comfortable with sever pollution level. A cool and misty morning turns comfortable day with mainly clear sky.

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**THE HINDU**  
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# DDA extends public hearings for MPD-2041

Tentative dates for the online hearings are Nov. 15, 17, 22, 24

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Wednesday extended the online public hearings for the Draft Master Plan for Delhi-2041 (MPD-2041), which were earlier scheduled till November 10.

According to the tentative schedule released by the DDA, the hearings will take place on November 15, 17, 22 and 24.

A DDA spokesperson said the extended hearings will see the participation of “representatives from Government agencies, professional bodies, Authority members and civic bodies”.

“We are considering inviting participants whose comments have been previously heard on the last day (November 24) of the extended schedule,” the spokesperson said.

Previously, the DDA had divided the online hearings into nine parts – from Oc-



Participants representing RWAs had earlier said the hearings were being held in “a hasty manner”. ■ FILE PHOTO

tober 18 to November 10. However, the participants representing trader bodies, residents welfare associations and market associations had said that the hearings were being held in a “hasty manner”.

“I was told to keep my suggestions brief and that I will be given ample time on November 10. However, I did not receive any invitation for the same. I have lost hope in the online hearings, it seems that they [DDA] are avoiding critical voices,” said Rajiv Kakria, the convener of Save Our City campaign.

### Notification ‘delay’

Responding to questions on a potential delay in the notification of MPD-2041, the DDA spokesperson said, “We are working on a fast pace to complete the required proceedings.”

“There are various factors before revealing the timeline of notifying the Master Plan for 2041. We have to send our findings to the respective authorities and we do not know how they will react. But we can assure you that the work is being executed in a fast-paced manner,” the spokesperson said.

## REGIONAL APPOINTMENT

**ICFAI** Foundation  
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## HC seeks DDA’s reply to hawker federation’s plea

Petition challenges Master Plan 2021

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The High Court on Thursday asked the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to respond to a plea by the National Hawker Federation challenging the Delhi Master Plan 2021. The petition says the Master Plan does not take into account the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh sought the response from DDA and posted the case for hearing on January 12, 2022.

The federation said the overarching objective of the Street Vendors Act, 2014, is

to promote a supportive environment for the urban street vendors to carry out their vocation, while ensuring that vending activities do not lead to overcrowding and unsanitary conditions in public spaces.

The plea, filed through lawyer Kawalpreet Kaur, said the Master Plan 2021 - which was approved in 2007 - “wrongfully retains” provisions that do not reflect the criteria set out for street vendors under the Street Vendors Act. It further stated that the sections for “informal sector” under the Master Plan are “manifestly arbitrary” and make no mention of the Street Vendors Act.

## 2 sets of chargesheet filed, court asks CP to take action

‘It is treachery of the highest order’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has directed the Police Commissioner to register a case against police officers for allegedly committing a fraud by filing two sets of chargesheet in a rape case, calling it a “classic case of abuse of power”.

Additional Sessions Judge Gaurav Rao came down heavily on the police after noting that the chargesheet that has been filed in the court and supplied to the counsel of the accused is different from the one with the prosecutor and the complainant’s counsel.

The judge, in an order dated November 8, said that filing two distinct sets of chargesheet amounts to perjury, cheating, and interference with the justice dispensation process. “It is treachery of the highest order,” he said.

“Let the copy of the order be sent to the Commissioner of Police who is directed to initiate appropriate inquiry/legal action, register an appropriate case under appropriate provision of IPC against IO/SO/ACP for committing fraud upon the court,” the judge said.

## Licence fee: Govt. won’t act against liquor retailers

‘No coercive action for the time being’

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Thursday assured the High Court that no coercive action will be taken against liquor retailers, for the time being, for not paying the licence fee under the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

The HC was hearing pleas of over 16 retail liquor traders, who are successful bidders for licences for the operation of liquor vend, seeking to declare the Government decision to levy licence fee with effect from November 1 illegal.

Justice Rekha Palli posted the case for further hearing on November 15.

On the number of liquor brands where MRP is fixed

and where it is yet to be done under the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, the Delhi Government submitted that of the 30 popular brands, MRP of 10 has been fixed and that of another seven will be decided in the next two days.

The petitioners in this case are successful bidders of L-7Z (zonal licence for retail vend of Indian liquor and foreign liquor) and L-7V (retail vend of Indian liquor, foreign liquor in a zone).

Their plea sought directions to the authorities not to demand licence fee from the successful bidders till the Government fulfils its obligations under the tender terms and conditions and the Delhi Excise policy 2021-2022.



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**Jal Shakti, Public Health Engineering,Department.**

Standard Bidding Document  
For  
Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Shopian district for Execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**e- NIT No:-CE/PHE/KMR/JSD/17 OF 2021-22, Dated: 06-11-2021**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmir invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for “Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Shopian district for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works”, details of which are given below. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Bidding, tender fee, earnest money, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs)	Earnest money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Shopian District for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. These works are broadly consisting of:- a. Construction of water supply schemes by way of filtration plants, pump houses, service reservoir, Overhead tanks, laying of distribution mains. b. Drilling of production tube well. c. SITC of pumping units along with associated electro-mechanical works for harnessing of tube well. Retrofitting of electro-mechanical equipments at various Water Supply Schemes	Work/scheme wise details given in Section II of tender document	1000/-		180 days	
	Group II	15 lacs up to 50 lacs		0.25		45

**Position of funds:** Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)  
The tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Kashmir/ Jal Shakti (PHE) Department. The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

**Note:** - In view of the fact, that this NIT for item rate contract has been framed for the first time in the Department, a helpdesk shall be established at the Direction office level as well as district level for encouraging and facilitating the intending bidders for participation in the instant NIT to ensure wide participation across all the Districts.

**Key/critical Dates:**

i	Publish Date	08-11-2021
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	08-11-2021
iii	Clarification start date	08-11-2021
iv	Bid submission start date	12-11-2021
v	Clarification end date	26-11-2021
vi	Pre-bid Meeting date	22-11-2021
vii	Document Download/sale end Date	26-11-2021
viii	Bid submission end date	26-11-2021
ix	Date and time of Bid opening	29-11-2021

1. Bid documents can be assessed at and downloaded from the websites http://jktenders.gov.in  
2. The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, PHE Department, through virtual/online mode.  
3. The Bids shall be deposited on the websitehttp://jktenders.gov.in  
4. The complete bidding process will be online http://jktenders.gov.in  
5. The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.  
6. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 6 & 7 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.  
a. Bid Security to be pledged in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti PHE Department. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/ FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall have to be valid for at least one year after last date of submission of Bid. The Bid of bidders having bid security less than as specified above will be rejected.  
b. The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of DD /TR/e challan in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.  
7. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 and others after opening of financial cover.  
8. The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.  
9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website http://jktenders.gov.in.  
10. Queries by email if any should be made at kmrphed@gmail.com/phecejm@gmail.com

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer,  
Kashmir, Jal Shakti, PHE Department

**DIPK-12365/21**



**Jal Shakti, Public Health Engineering,Department.**

Standard Bidding Document  
For  
Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Pulwama district for Execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**e-NIT No. CE/PHE/KMR/JSD/24 OF 2021-22, Dated:09.11.2021**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmir invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for “Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Pulwama district for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works”, details of which are given below. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Bidding, tender fee, earnest money, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs)	Earnest money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Pulwama district for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. These works are broadly consisting of:- a. Construction of water supply schemes by way of filtration plants, pump houses, service reservoir, Overhead tanks, laying of distribution mains. b. Drilling of production tube well. c. SITC of pumping units along with associated electro-mechanical works for harnessing of tube well. Retrofitting of electro-mechanical equipments at various Water Supply Schemes	Work/scheme wise details given in Section II of tender document	1000/-		180 days	
	Group IV	Above 100 lacs up to 300 lacs		0.75		120

**Position of funds:** Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)  
The tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Kashmir/ Jal Shakti (PHE) Department. The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

**Note:** - In view of the fact, that this NIT for item rate contract has been framed for the first time in the Department, a helpdesk shall be established at the Direction office level as well as district level for encouraging and facilitating the intending bidders for participation in the instant NIT to ensure wide participation across all the Districts.

**Key/critical Dates:**

i	Publish Date	10.11.2021	9:00 AM
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	10.11.2021	9:00 AM
iii	Clarification start date	10.11.2021	9:00 AM
iv	Bid submission start date	18.11.2021	9:00 AM
v	Clarification end date	30.11.2021	4:30 PM
vi	Pre-bid Meeting date	17.11.2021	2:30 PM
vii	Document Download/sale end Date	03.12.2021	4:30 PM
viii	Bid submission end date	03.12.2021	4:30 PM
ix	Date and time of Bid opening	06.12.2021	11:30 AM

1. Bid documents can be assessed at and downloaded from the websites http://jktenders.gov.in  
2. The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, PHE Department, through virtual/online mode.  
3. The Bids shall be deposited on the websitehttp://jktenders.gov.in  
4. The complete bidding process will be online http://jktenders.gov.in  
5. The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.  
6. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 6 & 7 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.  
a. Bid Security to be pledged in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti PHE Department. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/ FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall have to be valid for at least one year after last date of submission of Bid. The Bid of bidders having bid security less than as specified above will be rejected.  
b. The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of DD /TR/e challan in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.  
7. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 and others after opening of financial cover.  
8. The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.  
9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website http://jktenders.gov.in.  
10. Queries by email if any should be made at kmrphed@gmail.com

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**DIPK-12406/21**



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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**No. 37-101/2021-22/Head/Engineering Cell**

Dated 10-11-2021

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on behalf of Director Forest Research Institute Dehra Dun for the following works from reputed, authorized dealer of repairing and rewinding of ceiling fan and motors set having experience for providing doing similar type & cost of the work in Govt. organizations. Tender will be received up to **2.30 PM 26.11.2021** and will be opened on the same day at 3 P.M. in presence of tenderers or their authorized representative if any.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Earnest Money Rs.	Cost of Tender Form (Rs.)	Period of contract	Estimated cost (Rs.)
1.	Annual Rate Contract for Rewinding of ceiling fan, Exhaust fan, Pedestal fan, AC Motor single phase & Three Phase of various size for day to day maintenance of Residential / Non Residential building at FRI, for the year 2021-22  <b>Note</b> - (1) Fans & Motors will be collected for Rewinding, Servicing and over hauling from the store of electric section, Head Engineering Cell. After rewinding these items will be handed over to store of Head, Engineering Cell at FRI. (2) Scrap of above said works are included in quoted rate.	1800/-	500 + 18% GST	12 Month	90,000.00

For detailed information please visit website [www.fri.res.in](http://www.fri.res.in). All corrigendum, agenda, amendments, clarifications etc. to the tenders will be posted on the website only

Head, Engineering Cell  
Forest Research Institute, Dehradun

# Delhi HC seeks response on plea to label products as vegetarian or non-vegetarian

## Centre asked to 'seriously examine' plea filed by Ram Gaua Raksha Dal

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Central Government to respond to a petition seeking to label all items used by the public, including home appliances and apparel, as “vegetarian” or “non-vegetarian” on the basis of their ingredients and “items used in the manufacturing process”.

A Bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh said everyone has the right to know and follow their belief and asked the Centre to “seriously examine” the plea by Ram Gaua Raksha Dal, a trust working towards the welfare of cows.

“There can’t be no denying the

fact that every person has the right to know which springs from the right to free speech. The issue raised by the petitioner has a bearing on a person’s right to life in as much as the person is entitled to profess and follow their beliefs,” the Bench said.

‘Genuine cause’  
Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma, appearing for the Centre, said the plea is for a “genuine cause” and that the Government will look into it.

The petitioner, represented by advocate Rajat Aneja, highlighted that there are several items and commodities which are used in “everyday lives” without those

professing vegetarianism realising that they are either derived from animals or processed using animal-based products.

Mr. Aneja said bone char or natural carbon is used for polishing or refining white sugar, which is not fit for consumption by people professing vegetarianism. Bone china products and even crayons have ingredients of “animal origin”, he added.

The petition said the information about the use of any “non-vegetarian component” ought to be disclosed and be considered as a factor to declare that product “non-vegetarian”.

The High Court will hear the case again on December 9.

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# Punjab House passes resolution against BSF's extended jurisdiction

## Cong., Akalis trade charges; AAP walks out

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHANDIGARH

Terming Centre's decision on extending jurisdiction of Border Security Force (BSF) in Punjab as an expression of distrust and insult towards the State police, the Punjab Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution against the Centre's notification and demanded its withdrawal.

The House also witnessed noisy scenes and multiple adjournments with members of the ruling Congress party and the Opposition Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) embroiling in heated exchanges over the issues and the farm laws.

The House passed the resolution in absence of the two BJP MLAs, who left the Assembly before it was brought in.

The resolution, which was moved by Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, said the decision of extending the jurisdiction of BSF from 15 kilometres to 50 kilometres by the Union government is an expression of distrust towards the State police and the People of Punjab.

Speaking in the House, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi accused the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) of seeing everything through the narrow prism of politics, especially the issues of utmost importance to Punjab such as devolution of more powers to the States.

“Akali Dal were the gateway through which the RSS, which has always been inimical to the interests of Punjab, managed to make inroads into the State. When the RSS and its political wing



CM Charanjit Singh Channi

the BJP undermined the federal structure of the country by revoking the Article 370 not only did the Akalis took sides with the BJP, but SAD President Sukhbir Singh Badal spoke in favour of the move and even went to the extent of not voting against the undemocratic move,” said Mr. Channi.

**CM accuses Majithia**  
The situation in the House turned tense when Chief Minister accused Akali Dal leader and former Minister Bikram Singh Majithia of supporting the illegal drug trade. Agitated over the remark, members of Akali Dal thronged towards the treasury benches. Congress members including Navjot Singh Sidhu and Mr. Majithia were seen in animated throw of words at each other. The Speaker then adjourned the House.

The Aam Aadmi Party members staged a walkout over the BSF issue, accusing the Chief Minister of selling Punjab's interests by striking a deal with the Centre government. Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema said that Mr. Channi should tell his compulsion of his kneeling before the Centre government.

# 16 mosques to honour 1921 rebellion martyrs

## Protests over move to delete some names

**K.S. SUDHI**  
KOCHI

Granite plaquettes featuring the names of Variamkunathu Kunjahamad Haji, Ali Musliyar, and other martyrs of the 1921 Malabar Rebellion will be put up at the precincts of a few mosques in Ernakulam, even as the Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) is set to consider a proposal to delete these names from the *Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle*.

The plaque with the names of all the 387 martyrs engraved on it will be installed at 16 mosques affiliated to the Vypeen zonal committee of the Ernakulam District Muslim Jamaat Council. The installation is part of a protest against what is described as a distortion of history and proposal to delete the names from the list of martyrs of the freedom struggle.

The first plaque was unveiled at Edavanakkad Juma Masjid the other day. Similar ones will be installed at Badariya Juma Masjid, Edavanakkad, Mahal Juma Masjid, Nayarambalam, and San-ketham Ajeed Juma Masjid, Malippuram, in the coming weeks, says T.A. Ahamad Kabeer, president of the district council.

“No one can obfuscate the history of the freedom struggle and delete the 1921 Rebellion and its leaders from the annals of history. The Malabar Rebellion was part of the freedom movement and all the 387 were killed by the



A plaque featuring the names of the 387 martyrs of the Malabar Rebellion at Edavanakkad Juma Masjid.

■ H. VISHU

British,” says Mr. Kabeer.

The *Hindu* had earlier reported on the ICHR subcommittee recommendations to delete the names, which had triggered a series of political debates in the State.

“Seven mosques in the region will have the plaques installed in the first phase, followed by others. Enquiries are pouring in from different parts of the State about the initiative,” says E.K. Ashraf, general secretary of the council.

**‘Inappropriate move’**  
However, a member on the ICHR subcommittee, says compartmentalising the martyrs on religious basis and displaying their names at places of worship is inappropriate. There cannot be Hindu, Sikh or Muslim martyrs. Places of worship should not be misused for such purposes. The subcommittee member, who preferred not to be named, says the move is an attempt to convert a historical issue into a religious one.



**KUDUMBASHREE NATIONAL RESOURCE ORGANISATION**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Camel Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram 695014

Due to some unavoidable reasons, the Tender called for hiring of Agencies/Firms for Development of Learning Management System (LMS) for programme domains published in Daily Newspapers on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 stands cancelled.

**Fresh proposals have been invited through E-Tender Kerala Portal. Last Date: 15/11/2021**

To download the notification & application form, please visit <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/nicgep/app>  
To know more, visit: <https://www.kudumbashreenro.org/RO/01897/D3/2021/1&PRD>

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Maghavanand Swami, S/o Hariharanand, R/o H.No. 24 Village Pota, Distt. Sambhal, U.P.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 74/2014 U/S 419/420/468/471/120B IPC, P.S. Burari, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Maghavanand Swami** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Maghavanand Swami** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Maghavanand Swami** of **FIR No. 74/2014 U/S 419/420/468/471/120B IPC, P.S. Burari, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **10.12.2021**.

By Order  
**Ms. Neha Gupta Singh,**  
Metropolitan Magistrate-09,  
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/1678/N/21(Court Matter)

**U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED Short Term E-Tender Notice E-Tender No. SD-927**-online e-Bids are invited for “**Repairing of 05nos. Damaged 60MVA, 220/33/11kv power transformer**” E-tender has been uploaded on 9/11/2021 on [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) Estimated Cost of work: 3.86 Crore only. E.M.D. Cost Rs. 1.95 Lacs only. Last date of tender submission 25/11/2021 at 15:30 Hrs. Total Quantum of supply, work, tender specification and other terms & conditions are as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Undersigned reserves the right to cancel the e-Bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time. **Superintending Engineer, ESDC-I, UPPTCL**

A ND-NDE







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Undefined role

India must be clear on how it wants to shape Afghanistan's destiny under the Taliban

By holding the Third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan, chaired by NSA Ajit Doval this week, New Delhi has sent out three strong messages: one, that it wishes to remain an important and engaged player in the future of Afghanistan; second, that with the exit of U.S.-NATO troops, the ideal solution to the situation is through consensus in Afghanistan's extended neighbourhood including Russia; and third, that the Afghan humanitarian crisis should be the region's immediate priority and political differences can be set aside to help. It is the last message that spurred New Delhi to invite the NSAs from China and Pakistan, despite the LAC standoff and deep differences with the Imran Khan government over Kashmir and cross-border terrorism. By declining the invitation, Beijing and Islamabad have made it clear that they do not intend to assist India in its Afghan engagement, further demonstrated by the Khan government's churlishness in refusing India road access to send wheat and medicines to Kabul. To that end, the Delhi Declaration issued by the eight participating nations, including Iran and Russia, is a milestone in keeping India inside the discussion on Afghanistan. The declaration goes farther than the previous such regional discussion of SCO countries in Dushanbe in September, in its strong language on terrorism, terror financing and radicalisation. It also expands on the need for an inclusive government in Kabul that will replace the Interim Taliban regime, and promotes a national reconciliation process.

While the consensus over the Delhi Declaration is a creditable feat, it does not paper over all the differences between India and the other countries over their far stronger engagement with Kabul. For instance, Turkmenistan sent a Ministerial delegation to discuss connectivity with the Taliban, while Uzbekistan accorded the visiting Taliban Deputy PM full protocol and discussed trade, transit and the construction of a railway line. Russia and Iran still maintain their embassies in Kabul, and a "Troika-plus" U.S.-China-Russia-Pakistan engagement is taking place with the Taliban Foreign Minister, in Islamabad this week. With the "normalisation" of ties with the Taliban regime growing, New Delhi must now consider how far it wishes to go in its engagement with Afghanistan. On the one hand, India has publicly held talks with Taliban officials twice and expressed solidarity with Afghans, but on the other has refused practically all visa seekers, made no monetary contribution to the humanitarian crisis there, and has made no bid to continue with plans for trade and connectivity with Afghanistan. India's desire to lead the discussion on Afghanistan's destiny, as demonstrated by the NSA dialogue, is a worthy goal for a regional leader, but can only be fulfilled once the Government defines more clearly what it wants its Afghan role to be, despite all its differences with the regime now in power.

Season of floods

Tamil Nadu's cities need long-term solutions to avoid the monsoon woes

The ongoing spell of heavy rain in Chennai has again exposed the vulnerability of the city, a coastal metropolis with a flat terrain, to floods, and raised more questions than answers about the Government's preparedness to deal with the northeast monsoon. The first spell of heavy rain of 21 cm, mostly in the early hours of Sunday (November 7), caught everyone by surprise. Despite storm water drains and waterways running to about 700 km being cleared in the last four months, no tangible improvement was seen in the problem of inundation. The nightmare of the 2015 December floods haunted Chennai in the backdrop of the authorities monitoring the release of surplus water from the reservoirs on the outskirts. Even as the city was struggling to get back to normality, there was a depression in the Bay of Bengal, which crossed the coast near Chennai on Thursday. This time, the city did not experience very heavy rainfall but several suburbs such as Tambaram and Red Hills recorded over 22 cm of rain. In the last four days, other parts of the State too were at the receiving end of the monsoon. Nagapattinam, one of the backward areas of the Cauvery delta, was battered after 31 cm fell in a day.

The crux of the problem is the issue of drainage, be it in Chennai or in Nagapattinam. In a large urban setting such as Chennai, shrinking open space, the gap between the coverage of the drains and that of sewer lines, ageing drains and sewer networks in core areas of the city, and encroachments or obstructions hampering the free flow of water are responsible for the mess. The city is blessed with a few rivers such as the Cooum and the Adyar, apart from a number of canals including the Buckingham Canal. All these waterbodies, if properly maintained, can be very effective flood carriers, sparing several residential localities from inundation. The State Government, which is executing a couple of integrated storm water drain projects, should look for durable solutions to the city's long-standing woes and executing them in a short span of time. The Government has been swift in providing relief and its seriousness in the matter can be seen from the fact that Chief Minister M.K. Stalin visited flood-hit areas continuously since Sunday for a first-hand account of the problems. Often in the past, the determination shown in finding a long-term solution to waterlogging waned during the non-monsoon periods. Mr. Stalin, who was Chennai Mayor and Local Administration Minister earlier, is well-placed now to put his experience to use and pull the city out of the quagmire. The people too should be responsible enough in ensuring that the waterbodies and drains are not turned into dumps.

The lowdown on India's Glasgow announcement

The newly unveiled commitments at COP26 deserve examination as they came amidst very contradictory official signals



D. RAGHUNANDAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise declaration on November 2, 2021 at the COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow, Scotland, of striking enhancements in India's emissions reduction targets did not, for several reasons, get the rave reviews the Government may have expected. Except for a few specialists, international commentators expressed disappointment that India was promising net zero emissions only by 2070 instead of 2050. In India, several analysts praised the new targets as indicating a new climate-oriented development policy.

Persisting trend

The Government's raised ambition represents a welcome continuity of the cross-partisan consensus prevailing since the 2015 Paris Agreement. The new policy paradigm, initiated at the Copenhagen Summit in 2009, had departed from the earlier long-held stance that India, as a developing country, was not obliged to cut emissions, and asserted that although India was not a part of the problem, it was now willing and able to contribute to reduction efforts in global emissions. India's pledge at Glasgow, not yet formally submitted as an updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) as required, adheres to the Paris Agreement decision to increase emission cuts to tackle the rapidly escalating climate crisis.

India's newly unveiled commitments deserve close examination, since they came amidst sharply contradictory signals from the Government over several months. Many interactions took place with high-ranking emissaries visiting

India and at the G20 meeting before COP26, with India giving no indication of revising its current NDC. Right up to the Prime Minister's speech, senior Indian officials were loudly proclaiming the unacceptability of net-zero and the unlikelihood of higher targets by India. People in India are familiar with the penchant for dramatic announcements by this Government, but the value of such secrecy in the climate negotiations is questionable. India insufficiently communicated the significance of its enhanced commitments, especially in contrast to the weak pledges of developed countries, and little effort was made to leverage India's updated pledge to extract deeper emission cuts from them.

At the time of writing, India has further muddled the waters and taken some sheen off its Glasgow announcement, with senior officials stating that the new pledges are contingent upon substantial financial assistance from developed countries, with figures such as \$1 trillion being mentioned in press interviews. Ramifications of such post-facto conditions would unfold gradually, and further speculation here is pointless.

The substance

India's new targets, details perhaps varying in an updated NDC, comprise five elements: reducing Emissions Intensity (EI), or emissions per unit of GDP, by 45% in 2030 relative to 2005 levels; cutting absolute emissions by one billion tonnes, presumably from projected business-as-usual (BAU) 2030 levels; 500 GW (1 Giga watt = 1,000 Megawatts) of non-fossil fuel installed power generation capacity by 2030; 50% electricity generation from renewable sources by 2030; and net-zero emissions by 2070.

India's existing NDC and subsequent submissions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) con-



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firm a steady decline in EI of over 2% p.a. from 2005 onwards. Both the 33%-35% decline promised at Paris, and the updated 45% reduction by 2030, are quite achievable and par for an emerging economy.

Emissions reduction by one billion tonnes by 2030, the first time India has put an absolute number to this, can be read in different ways. India's current annual emissions are around 2.8 billion tonnes and projected to reach about 4.5 billion tonnes in 2030 on a BAU basis, so the pledged reduction would be a substantial 20%, comparing favourably with several developed country targets. However, the Prime Minister's speech in Glasgow mentioned the Railways' net-zero 2030 target cutting 60 million tonnes annually, and LED bulbs cutting another 40 million tonnes a year, yielding one billion tonnes over 10 years from just these two measures, making the pledged reduction seem easy, which it probably is not.

On installed power generation capacity, India's extant NDC had incorporated the Government's declared goal of 175 GW from renewable energy (RE) sources by 2022, even though the NDC stretched to 2030, raising an anomaly. Even so, India has reached only around 101 GW of solar and wind due to numerous constraints. If one adds large hydro and nuclear, both now considered renewable, current RE installed capacity is about 150 GW or just under 40% of total, almost achieving the NDC target for 2030 showing under-projection. The Central

Electricity Authority (CEA) in its 2020 Report on Energy Mix for 2029-30 has projected around 525 GW or 64.3% non-fossil fuel installed capacity including 280 GW Solar and 140 GW wind. Only 267 GW is projected to come from coal and lignite, compared to 203 GW in 2019, so almost all of India's future growth of capacity is to come from RE. Without actually saying so, India at Glasgow therefore seems to have pledged virtually no additional coal-based power! Even accounting for some confusion about whether the Prime Minister meant installed capacity or electricity produced, India's Glasgow pledge of 50% electricity from RE by 2030 is just a tad more than the CEA projection of 44.7%. These commitments may prove difficult as currently witnessed, combined with the need for storage and grid stability.

Address the deep inequities

The Glasgow pledges come from a few sectors mostly related to electricity generation. However, a truly transformational low-carbon future must embrace many more aspects, as indeed emphasised at Glasgow by the Prime Minister as "Lifestyle for Environment (LIFE)". It is also time that India, hitherto vociferous about equity between nations, now seriously addresses the deep inequity in access to energy and other essentials within India. Climate change is multi-dimensional, not confined to mitigation alone and, as all studies tell us, should be tackled cross-sectorally.

Accelerated deployment of electric or fuel-cell vehicles must go alongside a rapid reduction in personal vehicle use and a major push for mass transportation. Carbon lock-ins and energy use need to be minimised through mandatory "green" construction codes for the huge housing and other buildings stock, highways and infrastructure yet to be built. A leap in employment-intensive recycling

of waste goods and materials, including in solid and liquid waste management linked to methane recovery, would deliver substantial co-benefits across sectors.

Where New Delhi slipped

Two big disappointments with India's stance at Glasgow deserve mention. First, India refused to join over 110 countries in a declaration to end deforestation by 2030. India's pledges also do not mention the NDC target for forests and tree cover, in which India is known to be slipping, with deleterious impacts on both the environment and livelihoods of tribals and other forest dwellers. Read together, these may confirm the worst fears of many regarding efforts to dilute environmental regulations in favour of corporate interests. Second, India also did not join the Global Methane Pledge by over 100 nations to reduce emissions of the short-lived but potent greenhouse gas by 30% by 2030 from 2020 levels, when methane is among the fastest growing emissions in India.

On the other hand, Glasgow saw India launch another international climate initiative called Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS), aimed at providing technical, knowledge and financial assistance to small island nations with the help of developed countries. One wishes such an initiative was undertaken in India too, where coastal erosion, sea-level rise, and urban flooding due to extreme rainfall exacerbated by haphazard urbanisation are acquiring threatening dimensions.

It would be ideal too if the ongoing updating of the NDC was done through a cross-partisan multi-stakeholder consultative process that would make it truly "nationally determined" and implemented.

D. Raghunandan is with the Delhi Science Forum, a constituent of the All India Peoples Science Network

A tax burden that attacks the federal rights of States

The Centre's levy of fuel surcharges is way beyond basic taxes and an abject misuse of provisions of the Constitution



K.N. BALAGOPAL

The Narendra Modi Government reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel on the eve of Deepavali. While the reduction for petrol was ₹5, duty on diesel came down by ₹10. The Finance Ministry "dedicated" the reduction to farmers for keeping "the economic growth momentum going even during the [COVID-19] lockdown phase" and said the reduction "will come as a boost to the farmers during the upcoming Rabi season". Not only this, soon after announcing the decision, Bharatiya Janata Party workers in Opposition-ruled States held protests demanding that these Governments decrease Value Added Tax on petrol and diesel.

What else can be more hypocritical than this? The Centre has been levying around ₹31 and ₹33 as additional cess on petrol and diesel, respectively, till the beginning of November. We, the Left parties, had stridently voiced our concern when the Centre began this practice of imposing special additional excise and cess on petrol and diesel.

The Constitution does permit the Centre to levy cess and surcharges beyond the basic taxes and duties in extraordinary situations. But making it manifold higher than the basic taxes is nothing

but a misuse of such provisions of the Constitution. These additional taxes do not go to a divisible pool and such a high burden of taxes is an attack on the people and the federal rights of States.

Surcharge is defined as a small amount of tax levied over and above the existing tax. How can it be seven or eight times higher than the basic tax? What is the justification for this? Now the basic excise duty is ₹1.40 and the rest of the tax is made up of special additional excise duty and cess which would not go to divisible pool and to the States. Article 271 says: "Notwithstanding anything in articles 269 and 270, Parliament may at any time increase any of the duties or taxes referred to in those articles except the goods and services tax under 246A by a surcharge for purposes of the Union and the whole proceeds of any such surcharge shall form part of the Consolidated Fund of India." This is a saving clause, which is being misused by the Centre to curtail the rights of all States.

Revenue data

To make this point clear, let us look at the following estimates. The Union government has collected around ₹3.72-lakh crore in 2020-21 as revenue from petroleum products as per the data published by the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC). Of this, only around ₹18,000 crore is collected as Basic Excise Duty. Around ₹2.3-lakh crore is collected as cess and the rest ₹1.2-lakh crore is collected as special additional excise duty. Here, three important points emerge to be noted: 1. The basic tax component of the entire ₹3.72-lakh crore is merely ₹18,000 crore, which is as low as 4.8% of the total revenue from petroleum products; The divisible pool is only 41% of this ₹18,000 crore; Most importantly, cess and additional excise duty on petro-



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leum products constitute around 95% of the total revenue from petroleum, which are not to be shared with the States at all. This is a classic example of undermining federalism prevailing in the country. This has to be subjected to intense discussions including dimensions of constitutional provisions under which the aforementioned duties and cess have been imposed.

After the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST), States have the right to decide the taxes on just three goods – petrol, diesel and liquor. By unilaterally taking away the bulk of the tax revenues on petrol and diesel, the Centre has done injustice to the States. This is obtuse use of fiscal federalism. All States must oppose this in a united manner.

Relevant questions

The Centre has made lakhs of crores of rupees from these additional taxes and cess. The Centre might have amassed lakhs of crores of rupees from these taxes even amid a pandemic. But where has this money gone? Who has received the benefits of this money? Answering these questions will unravel the real crisis of States and the Centre.

The country is going through an unprecedented crisis. The novel coronavirus pandemic has worsened it. States have to earmark funds to assist the people. In a State such as Kerala, we have done

our best to protect the people by providing a food kit, monthly financial assistance to Below Poverty Line families who lost their bread-winners due to COVID-19 and other necessary arrangements.

Relevance of RNR

The promise was that the revenue neutral rate (RNR) will be implemented, which means States would get revenues similar to what they were getting before the implementation of GST. The average taxes on goods was 16% during the initial GST period. The average rate of taxes in goods at present is 11.3%. But has any consumer benefited from it? Instead, inflation has also been rising. All essential items are more expensive than the pre-GST price. Neither Governments nor the people have benefited from this.

On an average, the country collects ₹1-lakh crore a month as GST – ₹12-lakh crore in a year; ₹6-lakh crore each for the States and the Centre. Had RNR been maintained, the total amount would have been ₹18-lakh crore at the rate of 16%. States would have received at least ₹3-lakh crore additionally. Kerala would have got ₹12,000 crore as SGST and at least ₹2,500 crore as the State's share from the divisible pool. So when the Centre lost ₹1,80,000 crore just because RNR was not maintained, Kerala lost ₹14,500 crore from its revenues annually. This has to be corrected. Democratically decided taxes are essential for any State or the country to survive. The promise at the time of implementing the GST was to maintain RNR. But the facts are different. A detailed analysis must be done on why States are losing revenue. GST has to be streamlined to ensure RNR, but without hurting the common people.

After fleeing the States, the Centre has now proposed the Na-

tional Monetisation Pipeline which will impact even the sovereignty of the Republic of India. To meet even daily expenses such as the salary of employees, the Centre is resorting to massive sale of the wealth of the country. The real reason for such a crisis is the neoliberal policies followed by governments at the Centre since 1991. As a result, even profitable Navratna companies, national highways and railway stations are up for sale.

Entities that gain

And who are the beneficiaries of all these steps? A handful of corporate houses. The Centre, which has calculated ₹6-lakh crore as the value of the public wealth that will be monetised, waved off corporate loans worth ₹8.75-lakh crore. Now, a bad bank will take care of the non-performing assets created by these corporate houses at the cost of public money deposited primarily in public sector banks. On the one hand, public wealth is being handed over on a platter to corporate houses while on the other hand the debt of these houses is being taken care of by the Centre using people's money. Strange, indeed. About ₹1-lakh crore worth of corporate taxes were also foregone in the last financial year. The sops given to corporate houses resulted in huge revenue losses for the Centre, and in turn for the States from a divisible pool. To compensate for this, the Centre is exploiting people during a pandemic by levying taxes on petrol and diesel to the maximum possible extent. Revenues which would have helped the people during a pandemic are flowing towards a group of corporate companies. This has to stop. Collective action by all Opposition parties is needed against these policies at this time.

K.N. Balagopal is the Finance Minister of Kerala

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Demonetisation

That the fifth anniversary of demonetisation was conveniently ignored by the ruling party is proof enough of its failure and the untold miseries it inflicted. The article (Editorial page, November 11) brought back the harrowing memories of the year 2016. It is still impacting the informal

sector. The ills of demonetisation must be highlighted in a scientific manner and countrymen made to understand its long-term implications.

G.B. SIVANANDAM,  
Coimbatore

Water level and wildlife

Every year when the water level in the Mullaperiyar

dam rises above 140 feet, tensions between Kerala and Tamil Nadu begin to simmer. Lost in this battle is the impact of rising water levels on wildlife. The meadows bordering the lake and the low-lying marshy grasslands (called Vayals) are under water during this period denying food for herbivores which

are the lifeline for carnivores. Animals are forced to move to higher ground and in doing so, some of them have to cross the swollen river and eventually die. Inundation for a prolonged period will also affect some tree species. The high water levels may also impact the nesting success of the great

cormorant, as the deep and fast flowing river will affect their fish finding ability for their growing chicks. Storing water at high levels even during the summer will severely impact ground nesting birds such as pipits, wagtails, terns and pratincoles which used the islands (called Thuruthus in Malayalam) that appear

when the water level recedes. So when raising the water level or constructing a new dam, the State Forest Departments must be consulted when taking such critical decisions.

J. PATRICK DAVID,  
Madurai

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# Is the economy still reeling from demonetisation?

**PARLEY** The ill-prepared move left India with all the damages and very few of the benefits

On November 8, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that from midnight, ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes would no longer be considered legal tender in India. The government's stated aim was to curb corruption and the pervasion of black money in the economy, as well as the proliferation of fake currency which was also being used in terror funding. Pronab Sen discusses with Vikas Dhoot the after-effects of the demonetisation gamble and whether the intended outcomes have been achieved. Edited excerpts:

**What has been the assessment of the extent of black money in the Indian economy?**

**PS:** Black money and the black economy are not the same. Black money is transitory and there's not a whole lot of it. The black economy, particularly black assets, is large. Various studies to quantify it have yielded a wide range of estimates (20%-60% of GDP). Black money, or cash which has not been shown, is a very small component of this larger black economy because nobody who has made black income hangs on to that cash for long. They invest it in some asset. So, most of the black economy is in the form of assets. And when you look at any asset, there is always some person or entity holding it. Whether that name is benami or not is impossible for a researcher to find out and the statistical system to capture.

**What was your first reaction when you heard the decision to scrap what constituted about 86% of the currency in circulation at the time?**

**PS:** Horror. The reason is that every economy in the world depends on transactions. I produce something, I sell it to you, and the transaction creates value. In a country where cash is the most common means of transaction, this was horrifying because what it said was that until we bring that cash back into circulation, transactions are going to be severely hit. This is bad news to begin with and becomes worse when you think about who was transacting in cash. Large corporates have a very

small proportion of their transactions in cash. It is the unorganised sector and the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector which have a large proportion. It was clear that these sectors would be the ones severely hit. And these sectors included 90%-93% of our population then. So, we were talking about a very broad-brush damage to the Indian economy.

**Despite several rule changes, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) eventually found most of the cash returned to the system. Could implementation have been better?**

**PS:** If I was shocked by the move, the RBI was even more horrified, because it would be its job to contain the damage. And from what I gather, the RBI didn't have a clue that this was about to happen. It was not prepared. The net result was that the remonetisation process to replace the cash took almost a year when it should have been over within a month.

**The cash in circulation is now higher than it was five years ago. Have we come a full circle, at least in terms of being a less-cash economy?**

**PS:** Let us thank God for that. Because if it had not happened, our economy would be in deep trouble. There is a sequence in which the various targets were announced and the less-cash economy was the last in that sequence. It was an afterthought and has not happened. We now have about ₹28.5 trillion in cash floating around, compared to about ₹18 trillion at that time. Non-cash transactions have gone up but the real question is whether that was an organic process or was accelerated by demonetisation.

**The ₹2,000 note is no longer being printed...**

**PS:** Other than the sheer physical inconvenience of carrying a stack of notes, nothing inherently demands cash to be in high denomination notes. I have no problems with high-value notes being phased out, pro-



vided there is a sufficient supply of low denomination notes to substitute them. The problem is that we again have a situation where the ₹2,000 and ₹500 notes are dominant and the low-value notes continue to be about 15% of the total cash. If you are bent on making it more difficult for people doing high value transactions with cash, moving to lower denomination currency makes a lot of sense. The non-printing of ₹2,000 notes is a good idea but the real question is whether these should be replaced by more ₹500 notes or whether we should re-invent the ₹1,000 notes.

**The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced about nine months after the note ban. Has this sequencing, aimed at increasing formalisation and the tax to GDP ratio, worked?**

**PS:** I am glad you asked this because it's not a question of whether the GST should have come but of the sequencing. Had the GST come six months before demonetisation, things would have been a lot better. Because GST encouraged, not forced, formalisation. So, the effect of demonetisation would have been less draconian if that had happened. The fact that GST came later added to a problem that demonetisation had already caused – parts of the economy dependent on cash transactions were already in the doldrums. The GST brought the rest of the MSME sector, which is less-cash dependent, into trouble as well.

**A State Bank of India (SBI) research report says the informal sector shrank to 15%-20% of formal GDP in 2020-21, from 52% in 2017-18.**

**PS:** The informal sector is of critical

**importance as it generates livelihoods for the vast majority. Now, if there has been a shift in the segments of the economy that used to be dominated by the informal sector to the formal sector, the question is, who is going to provide employment? For people who are not part of the formal sector, the future looks very bleak. And this effect will persist for a while, because the question that then arises is whether or not the informal sector will be able to bounce back and make inroads into the market share that the formal sector has already captured – not because the formal sector is any more efficient or anything, but because policy decisions changed the goalposts in its favour.**

**So, this is a phenomenon of the big getting bigger with each subsequent shock? Where does that leave India's inherent strength of a huge captive market with opportunities at the bottom of the pyramid, if incomes don't grow there?**

**PS:** Yes, each of the shocks has had that effect. At the end of the day, the vast majority of the huge Indian market is at the bottom of the pyramid. The top of the pyramid is very thin. Unless incomes at the bottom of the pyramid rise consistently, the market will stagnate. We saw this happen post-demonetisation. The corporates will make a killing in the initial stages but then the lack of growth of demand starts biting.

**When the pandemic hit, we were already seeing several quarters of dipping growth. Now, we are again seeing corporates getting more dominant...**

**PS:** Yes. The pandemic effect is an add-on to what was there before it. The informal sector had clearly not recovered and the pandemic added to that problem. So, if you think of the chain of causation in the post-demonetisation pre-pandemic period, the negative effect on the informal sector was the lack of cash in order to carry out transactions in business. Post-pandemic, the cause was different – the lockdown led to all businesses, formal and informal, being shut. Now, since the informal sector doesn't have a lot of reserves to be able to last out two months of lockdown, a lot of businesses closed down. The formal sector, particularly the large players who build up reserves or contingencies, not only survived but thrived after the lockdown was lifted. So, the sharp bounce-back that we are seeing in the economy is entirely driven by corporates. The informal sector has had three sequential shocks and is in dire straits, which is what the SBI report is suggesting.

**So, who gained from the demonetisation, GST and COVID-19 shocks?**

**PS:** Unquestionably, Corporate India, which has grabbed market share which it wouldn't even have dreamed of before demonetisation happened. And now it has to pay lower taxes.

**But there's a limit to investment opportunities, if demand doesn't pick up to create a virtuous cycle.**

**PS:** This is the problem. I think we have got stuck in a low-level equilibrium trap. The informal sector will find it very difficult to bounce back. So, the dynamism of the Indian economy, which is the bottom of the pyramid moving from poverty-stricken to merely poor and then to lower middle class – that has stopped.

**What about demonetisation's other goals like curbing terror financing and counterfeit notes?**

**PS:** An RBI study suggested that the total fake currency was ₹3,500 crore, which was borne out later. That is a laughable amount. On terror financing, it is about whether terrorists hang on to the cash paid to them. I suspect not. The fact that almost the entire amount of currency that was demonetised came back is an attestation of that. If terrorists had currency they couldn't transact with, they managed to exchange it.

**On the hope that people depositing cash and being forced to disclose incomes will invite income tax action, we didn't see any big numbers.**

**PS:** I don't know where to put the blame for that. Is it that the Income Tax department simply didn't take the opportunity? As far as I am aware, banks were meticulously keeping records on this, but then somebody would have to aggregate those records, identify the people, and then proceed. If anything, that would have been the one big thing, but it shows up nowhere in the income tax data.

**Is there any evidence that corruption has gone down?**

**PS:** There's a lot of anecdotal information that petty corruption has not gone down, but has, in fact, gone up. Because the associated risks have risen and the risk-adjusted return to the bribe-taker has gone down, so they have raised their price. The real question is large-scale corruption but is that transacted through cash? Probably not. Those are probably done through transfers abroad. Moreover, now we have cryptocurrencies through which a huge amount of corruption can take place and we won't even know about it.

**What are the lessons we learn from such policy shocks?**

**PS:** When you take a measure of this magnitude, somebody should be doing the homework on which agencies have a critical role to play in making it a success. In this case, there were at least two – the RBI and the Income Tax department. Neither of them was geared up to take advantage of the situation. So, we got all the damages and very few of the benefits.



**Pronab Sen** is the Country Director for the India Programme of the International Growth Centre and was previously India's Chief Statistician



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

## STATE OF PLAY

### A row over education

In launching the 'Illam Thedi Kalvi', the DMK government has attracted criticism from its allies

D. SURESH KUMAR

Education policies have often been mired in controversies in Tamil Nadu. The attempted Hindi imposition in 1937 and the 1960s, the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education in 1953 and the three-language formula mooted in the 2020 National Education Policy (NEP) generated intense political heat. The Dravidian parties were at the forefront of these agitations. The DMK and AIADMK have carefully handled education policies and devised a social justice model that has paid quantifiable dividends.

#### Various concerns

Against this backdrop, when the DMK government recently launched the 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' (ITK), a scheme to take education to the doorsteps of schoolchildren, it came as a surprise that its parent outfit, the Dravidar Kazhagam (DK); its ally, the Communist Party of India (CPI); and left-leaning activists opposed it. The stated objective of the six-month project with a budgetary allocation of ₹200 crore is to bridge the learning gap of students of Classes 1 to 8 who have not attended physical classes since March 2020 due to the pandemic. It involves enrolling 18- to 60-year-old volunteers or "ambassadors", as Chief Minister M.K. Stalin put it. These volunteers will teach an estimated 34.05 lakh children in 93,000 neighbourhoods for 60 to 90 minutes between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The opposition to the ITK, though not intense, is the first that the DMK government has faced from its allies. The primary objection is that the ITK could turn out to be a 'soft launch' of the BJP-led Union government's NEP, which provides for engagement with children through volunteers. The DK and CPI were apprehensive that Sangh Parivar members would enrol themselves as volunteers and further their "sectarian" agenda. A day before the ITK's roll-out in 12 districts, DK leader K. Veeramani

dubbed the scheme a "sweet coated poisonous (RSS) ball" and called upon the government to reconsider its decision.

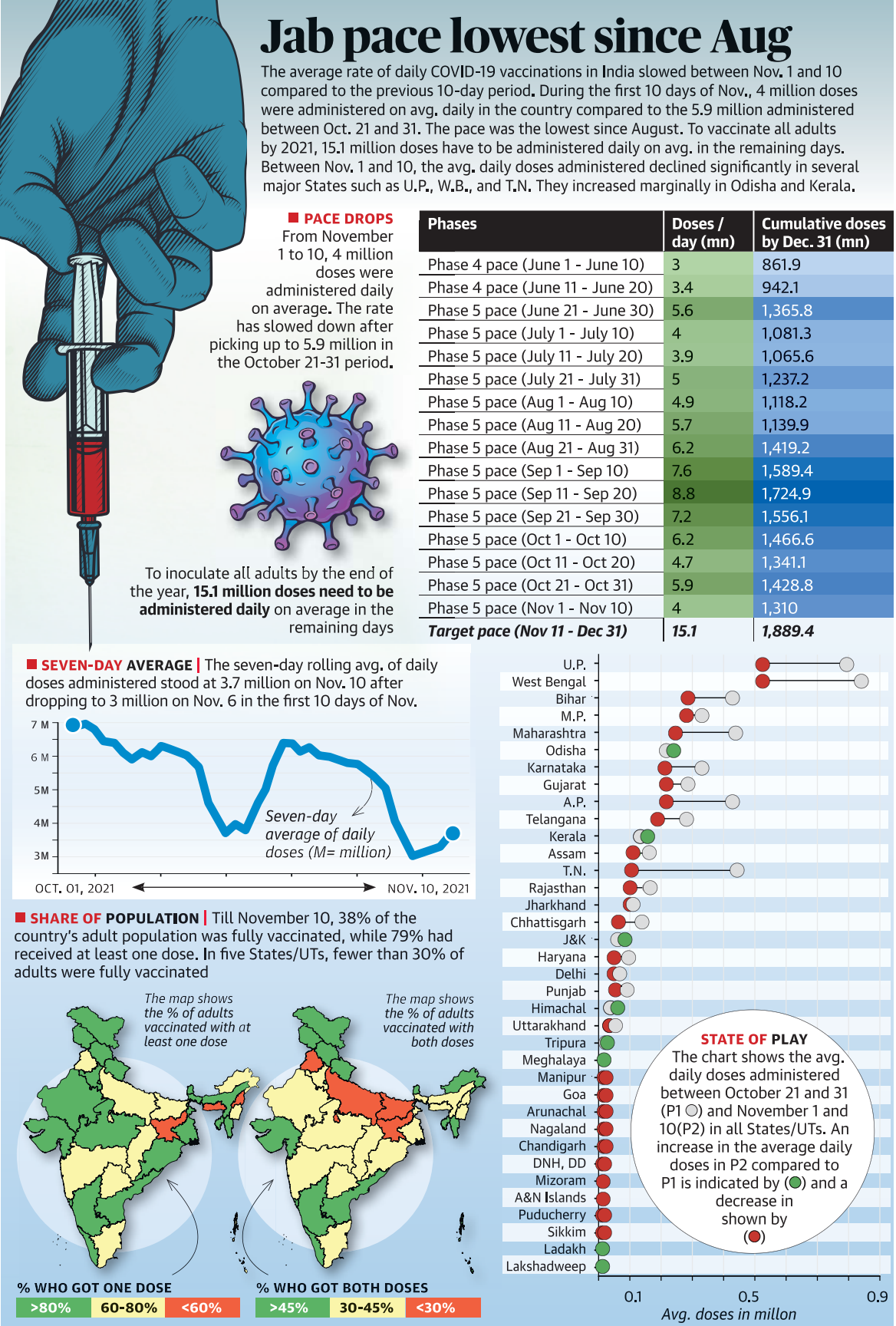
Mr. Stalin and School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi have sought to counter such apprehensions by insisting that they remain opposed to the NEP. Launching the scheme, Mr. Stalin said the ITK was the foundation for a renaissance in education and is in the spirit of Dravidianism. He equated it with the flagship noon-meal scheme. Accepting the argument that under the NEP, volunteers "could even interfere in the management of schools", Mr. Poyyamozhi said no such scope would be provided in the ITK. Mr. Veeramani's "apprehensions will help us be doubly careful, and we will pay attention to the selection of volunteers," he told *The Hindu*.

The DK and CPI have since softened their views. However, opposition from activists continues. State Platform for Common School System-Tamil Nadu general secretary P.B. Prince Gajendra Babu fears that parents may stop sending girls to school if education is offered at their doorstep. Stating that the scheme is not a substitute for regular schooling, Mr. Poyyamozhi responded that there is awareness on the importance of educating girl children, and volunteers will play a pivotal role in encouraging parents to send them to school.

Mr. Babu also said that it should be the responsibility of teachers, and not volunteers, to help students acquire reading and writing skills. Besides, the scheme could plant the idea that non-formal education is better and convenient. While Mr. Stalin has said the "ambassadors" will be a bridge between schools and society, the ITK handbook seeks to give them a larger role of teaching literacy and numeracy. The ITK will be extended to the whole of Tamil Nadu from November 14. Only a holistic review at the end of the six-month period will help assess its impact.

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## DATA POINT



## The Hindu.

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 12, 1971

#### The 'Vatapi' fixation

Madras, Nov. 11: By some strange process of reasoning, quite a host of artistes seem to think that the Vinayaka sthuthi piece has invariably to be the same selection if the performance is to proceed smoothly and the chosen kriti has always been Dikshithar's "Vatapi Ganapatim Bajee". This has resulted in the kriti being repeated ad nauseam in the concert halls creating the impression that it is perhaps the only invocatory piece offering the customary homage to the Lord who is the remover of obstacles and ensuring that the concert is a success. It is not so at all for there are any number of other excellent kriti in praise of Vinayaka for the artiste to choose from if only he would free himself from the "Vatapi" fixation. If one does not want to look beyond Dikshithar for the purpose, in fact, there are other excellent compositions including the Malahari piece, "Panchamatangamuka Ganapati", which would serve just as well for the invocatory purpose. However, unlike "Vatapi", the Malahari kriti is a very sedate piece and offers absolutely no scope for any type of gimmickry.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 12, 1921

#### The Joint Family System

A meeting of the Madras Economic Association was held at the Senate room last evening when Mr. S. Jagadesa Aiyar, High Court Vakil, read a paper on the economies of the joint family system with Mr. S. Srinivasan Aiyangar in the chair. The Lecturer at the outset described the three types of joint family – the Mitakshara, the Dayabaga and the Malabar system and said that joint ownership of property, right by birth, indefiniteness of share, restricted alienability, non-accountability and enjoyment according to needs and wants of individual members were the chief characteristics of the joint family system. The importance of such family groups in the field of economics was very great but sufficient attention had not been paid hitherto to the study of the effects of collective ownership of property upon the productive capacity of a nation or the distribution of national wealth. The joint family economy could not be considered to be in an elementary or primitive stage in the development of economic progress. The revival of the corporate spirit which was seen in the modern partnerships, joint stock companies and other voluntary associations shewed the living features of the joint family system.



FROM PAGE ONE

## Intense showers bring Chennai to its knees

During the day, Mr. Stalin visited a few rain-affected areas in the city, supervising removal of trees and distribution of food to affected residents. On Friday, Coimbatore, Nilgiris and Kanniyakumari may receive isolated heavy rainfall, the department said.

The Tiruvallur district administration has stepped up

water release from the Poondi reservoir to 9,000 cusecs at 4 p.m. as the it received an inflow of 11,000 cusecs. The combined storage in the city's reservoirs was being maintained at 80% to maintain space for sufficient inflows. Governor discussed the relief operations with Mr. Stalin on the phone on Thursday.

## India seeks \$1 trillion in 'climate finance'

Delivering on climate finance is among the stickiest points of contention between developed and developing countries because developed countries, as a group, have failed to pro-

vide \$100 billion annually by 2020, as promised from a decade ago. With the conference scheduled to draw to an end on Friday, nearly 200 countries are yet to finalise an agreement.

## SC to hear plea against UAPA FIRs in Tripura

The police had registered a case under the UAPA against Supreme Court lawyers who were a part of a fact-finding team reported on the alleged instances of communal violence in Tripura.

"These lawyers were part of the fact-finding team which investigated these incidents. Social media users

who posted messages like 'Tripura is burning' have also been charged under UAPA," advocate Prashant Bhusan addressed a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana for urgent hearing.

The CJI urged the petitioners could approach the High Court first.

## More than 12 crore due for vaccine second dose

He said children could be the best ambassadors of behaviour change. He urged the States to rope in children for taking forward the message of full vaccination.

Vaccination centres could be set up at bus stations, railway stations etc., espe-

cially in large metros, as these were the primary points for entry of a large number of people.

"While vaccination is our 'Suraksha Kawachh', we must not forget COVID-19 appropriate behaviour," he noted.

## CPC resolution cements Xi Jinping's position

Observers said this will ensure Mr. Xi's dominance – and further squeeze the already narrowed space for dissent within and outside the party – ahead of next year's congress, when he is expected to begin a third five-year term, having abolished term limits.

This was the third resolution on history passed by the party, and the previous two marked significant changes in its political direction. In 1945, Mao Zedong passed a resolution that heralded a turn away from Stalin's influence.

That established what the party calls "Mao Zedong Thought" as its leading political ideology. In 1981, Deng Xiaoping passed a resolution that marked another turn – away from the excesses of Maoism and a one-man personality cult to the reform era that launched China's growth and propelled it towards becoming the world's second-largest economy.

Unlike Deng's resolution which acknowledged past mistakes under Mao such as the Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution that led to millions of deaths, Thursday's communique painted an entirely rosy picture of the party's 100-year history, saying that under its leadership "the Chinese people had stood up and the time in which the Chinese nation could be bullied and abused by others was gone".

The communique called on all party members to "adopt a rational outlook on the party's history" and said that "looking back on the party's endeavours over the past century, we can see why we were successful in the past and how we can continue to succeed in the future."

It hailed the legacies of

Mao and Deng and their ideological contributions, with the two former leaders receiving seven and five mentions respectively in the more than 5,000-word-long English version of the communique. Mr. Xi's two predecessors Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao received cursory single mentions. Mr. Xi's name was mentioned 17 times. It referred to "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era", his ideology, as "embodying the best of the Chinese culture and ethos in our times and representing a new breakthrough in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context."

The significance of the communique goes beyond the past and is not merely about burnishing the legacies of party leaders. It establishes Mr. Xi as among the party's tallest leaders since Mao and Deng. Moreover, its references to history, and airbrushing of past mistakes, will likely herald a change in how history is taught in Chinese schools and colleges, for instance by emphasising only the party's successes and by highlighting Mr. Xi's contributions.

The many references to his "core" status and the need for "unified centralised leadership" will also mean a continuation of the centralisation of power seen during Mr. Xi's two terms at the helm.

The communique hailed his leadership in responding to the pandemic, in tackling corruption, ensuring "more balanced" economic growth, and in restructuring the military, saying that the military had "taken concrete actions to safeguard national sovereignty and security".

# 'Wide Himalayan roads must for defence'

Centre says armed forces cannot surrender the nation's defence to threats of landslips in the hills

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The armed forces cannot surrender the nation's defence to threats of landslips caused by widening of Himalayan roads for quickly moving military hardware to the "very vulnerable" Indo-China border, the Union Government said in the Supreme Court on Thursday.

Appearing before a three-judge Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal said that crucial defence equipment such as the BrahMos or Vajra missile launchers and the Smerch rocket carriers needed room to manoeuvre the tough terrain and reach the border.

"There is a Chinese build-up in the Tibetan region... Today we are facing a situation that the country has to be defended. All three wings of the armed forces have to combine to defend the na-



**Battle ready:** A landslide site in Chamoli. The Centre says the readiness to defend the borders was paramount. •PTI

tion. We have to ensure that every physical, technological and financial facility is made available to the armed forces. The Army has a stupendous task to reach the passes. The defence forces cannot fold their hands and say 'oh, landslide may happen, we will give up this road

to the border'. If it is a landslide threat, we will have to deal with it," Mr. Venugopal submitted.

Landslips have "not spared anybody". They had occurred recently across the country from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa to Uttarakhand. "Come what may", landslide

or heavy rainfall, the readiness to defend the borders, to fight, was necessary, he said.

Mr. Venugopal specified that the defence requirement was a two-lane road of seven metres width.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, for petitioner NGO Citizens of Green Doon, countered that the "best defence for our country is the mountains". "Will the Himalayas tolerate a double lane with paved shoulder [DLPS] system of roads which would act as sources of heat and disruptor of ecology in the fragile area? The strength of the Himalayas is already half undone, it should not be allowed to be fully undone now," he observed. He argued that the width of the roads should be restricted to 5.5 m in width.

"We may want to take a missile up, but the real issue is whether the Himalayas

will be able to tolerate the DLPS system."

Mr. Venugopal said the Union was open to alternative suggestions. There had been a detailed probe into critical geo-hazard areas in the Himalayas, sinking of roads, research into sustainable mitigation methods and dangers of muck-dumping. The court reserved the case for judgment.

### Centre's application

The hearing was based on an application filed by the Centre to modify the court's September 8, 2020 order that roads of the Char Dham Highway project should be 5.5 m in width in compliance with a 2018 circular of the Roads and Highways Ministry.

The court has been lately maintaining the need to strike a balance between defence and environmental concerns.

### IN BRIEF



#### ED arrests former MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira

**NEW DELHI** The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday arrested former Punjab MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira in connection with a money laundering case pertaining to drug smuggling. After he was taken into custody in Chandigarh, Mr. Khaira said that it was an act of political vendetta by the BJP as he had been standing firmly with the farmers and raising voice against the farm laws and other issues. He had joined the Congress party in June.

#### 63 Bengali Hindu families to be rehabilitated in U.P.

**LUCKNOW** The Uttar Pradesh Government has passed a proposal to rehabilitate 63 Hindu Bengali families who migrated to India from Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) in 1970. The State Cabinet late on Wednesday gave its nod to a rehabilitation scheme to allot 121.41 hectares in Kanpur Dehat district for the displaced families. Each family will be allotted ₹1.20 lakhs to construct a house.

#### Jharkhand police flayed for flouting arrest norms

**PATNA** The Jharkhand High Court recently pulled up police officials of Bihar and Jharkhand for "not following the norms for arresting a person". The High Court was hearing a *habeas corpus* petition seeking to know the whereabouts of Additional Public Prosecutor Rajneesh Vardhan, who was allegedly arrested by the Patna police, in assistance with their Jharkhand counterparts on November 7.

#### New probe into Jheeram Ghati massacre likely

**RAIPUR** As the judicial commission set up to probe the May 2013 Jheeram Ghati naxalite massacre of 29 persons, including senior Congress leaders, submitted its report after several extensions, the Chhattisgarh Government is planning to set up a new judicial commission into the incident. "Definitely a decision will be taken after considering it and I think it will be decided very soon," Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said.

## CDS, Ministry differ on China moves

India never accepted 'illegal occupation' of its territories, says MEA

KALLOL BHATTACHARJEE  
DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

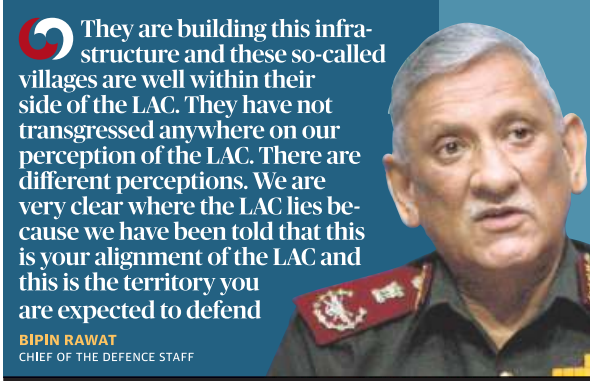
The Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat, on Thursday contradicted the official position of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) regarding Chinese construction activities in the eastern sector in Arunachal Pradesh.

India never accepted China's "illegal occupation" of its territories, the Ministry's official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a weekly press briefing.

### No transgressions

But, soon after this, speaking at a television channel event, Gen. Rawat said that the Chinese constructions were "well within their side of the LAC [Line of Actual Control]".

"They are building this infrastructure and these so-called villages are well within their side of the LAC. They have not transgressed anywhere on our perception of the LAC. There are different perceptions. We are very clear where the LAC lies because we have been told that this is your alignment of



the LAC and this is the territory you are expected to defend. Chinese have a perception which in some areas we know and in some areas we don't know, because they have never really explained where the LAC lies according to their perception," he noted at an event organised by Times Now.

"As far as we are concerned, there is no such village development that has taken place on our side of the LAC."

Gen. Rawat acknowledged that China was building villages along the Line of Actual Control, but he also asserted that the "present controversy that has erupted that Chi-

nese have come across into our territory and have built a new village is not true."

### U.S. report

His comment contradicted a statement from the MEA regarding the recent report from the United States Department of Defence that pointed out that sometime in 2020, China "built a 100-home civilian village inside disputed territory between PRC's Tibet Autonomous Region and India's Arunachal Pradesh state..."

Mr. Bagchi said, "China has undertaken construction activities in the past several years along the border areas including in the areas

## Two militants killed in Valley encounters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Security forces killed two militants in separate operations in the Kashmir Valley on Thursday.

In the first operation, security forces encircled a group of militants in Kulgam district of south Kashmir on Thursday morning and killed an unidentified militant during the encounter.

In a late evening operation, security forces cordoned off an area in Srinagar's Bemina and engaged the hiding militants in a gunfight.

"One unidentified terrorist was killed. One A-K rifle along with ammunition recovered," the police said.

## Sikh pilgrim group to visit gurdwaras in Pak. next week

They will not use the Kartarpur Corridor for the visit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A group of pilgrims from India will visit several Sikh religious shrines in Pakistan next week, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday. The pilgrims, however, will not be using the Kartarpur Corridor for the visit, it has been learned.

"In view of the significance of Gurupurab and sentiments associated with it, it has been decided that a Jatha of around 1,500 pilgrims will visit Pakistan from November 17-26, 2021 via the Attari-Wagah ICP," said Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi. The pilgrims



**Holy visit:** A file photo of Sikh pilgrims visiting Gurdwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan. •AP

are scheduled to visit Gurdwara Shri Darbar Sahib, Gurdwara Shri Panja Sahib, Gurdwara Shri Dehra Sahib, Gurdwara Shri Nankana Sahib, Gurdwara Shri Kartar-

pur Sahib and Gurdwara Shri Sachha Sauda. He said Pakistan had earlier denied permission for visit of Sikh pilgrims from India twice in June this year.

## Cong. is weaving a web against Hindus, says BJP

Remarks in Khurshid's book irk party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday slammed the Congress over its leader Salman Khurshid reportedly comparing Hindutva with the jihadist Islam of terrorist groups such as the IS and Boko Haram in his latest book.

Party spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia, addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, said the Opposition party was "weaving a web like a spider" against Hindus.

A Delhi-based lawyer has filed a complaint with the Delhi police seeking registration of a first information report (FIR) against Mr. Khurshid in the matter. Ac-

cording to lawyer Vivek Garg, Mr. Khurshid, in his book *Sunrise Over Ayodhya: Nationhood in Our Times*, wrote: "Sanatan Dharma and classical Hinduism known to sages and saints were being pushed aside by a robust version of Hindutva, by all standards a political version similar to the jihadist Islam of groups like IS and Boko Haram of recent years."

Demanding Mr. Khurshid's removal from the Congress, Mr. Bhatia said, "Earlier, the term 'Hindu terrorism' was invented when the Congress was in power." The book on the Ayodhya verdict was released on Wednesday.

## A budding champion snuffed out, Nisha's feats now painful memory

### Shattered father recounts medals she had won

ARNABJIT SUR  
SONIPAT, HARYANA

Awards for the first position in a relay race, second position in a 200-metre race, and third positions in both long and high jump at a school-level competition, were placed neatly by a bed. On it laid Nisha Dahiya's father, shattered over the death of two of his children.

Nisha, 20, an upcoming



**Tragic death:** Dayanand Dahiya with family members after his daughter and son were shot dead. •SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

trainee wrestler, and her brother were shot dead on Wednesday by coach Pawan inside a wrestling academy.

Their mother, Dhanpati, is fighting for her life at the Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of

Medical Sciences in Rohtak, after sustaining gunshot injuries to her spine and arms. Nisha and Suraj were the youngest of four siblings.

At his modest two-room house in a bylane of Sonipat's Halalpur village, Dayanand Dahiya struggles with his grief.

"My daughter won second place at the All India Inter-University competition in Aurangabad in the 52 kg category. Had she been given proper guidance and training, she would have done the country proud and won an

Olympic medal," Mr. Dahiya told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Dahiya said Nisha been complaining about molestation and harassment by Mr. Pawan to her mother. "I always had my doubts about the coach. He used to brainwash Nisha and several others in his academy and extort money from them on the pretext of helping them win international medals. He was a bad character and I even warned him but gave in due to my daughter's career," he said.

Nisha was studying at a

college in Delhi's Kanjawala.

Her brother Suraj, who was about to turn 19 on November 30, was enrolled in a computer skills course at a Delhi-based institute and had recently completed his Class 12. "We were of the same age and even Suraj's birthday was this month (November). We frequently talked over phone," his cousin Deepak said.

Nisha's mother's statement to the police said that the coach had threatened painful consequences if the harassment was revealed.







# Another ‘custodial death’ in U.P., family seeks answers from police

‘I could hear Altaf’s voice. It sounded like he was being tortured and was asking for help,’ says father of 22-year-old deceased; Kasganj SP promises impartial probe

**HEMANI BHANDARI**  
KASGANJ (UTTAR PRADESH)

Altaf (22) was laid to rest on Wednesday, and his parents, Chand Mian and Fatima, are yet to come to terms with the reality that their son is dead. “I want justice,” Mr. Mian keeps saying. He says he was pressured by the police into writing that the son was depressed and that he had no complaints against the police.

“I don’t even know what depression means,” Mr. Mian, a labourer, said lying on his bed covered in a red blanket at his residence at Ahrauli Nagla Syed on Thursday. His younger son Sharik tries to comfort him, while groups of policemen guard the streets leading to the house.

Mr. Mian said their local milkman, known as “Panditji”, came with two policemen and two civilians and told them that his daughter,

16, had been missing and he suspected Altaf’s involvement in it.

“Altaf was playing a game on his phone outside the house. The police checked our whole house and took Altaf, saying they will release him after questioning,” the father said. However, when they reached the police station, the family was shoed away. “I could hear Altaf’s voice. It sounded like he was being tortured and was asking for help,” he said.

Altaf’s mother, Fatima, said “Panditji” had threatened them when the police took Altaf, saying their son’s throat would be slit if he did not tell the truth. The next morning (November 10), Mr. Mian said, one of their relatives went to the police station around 10 a.m. and saw Altaf from a distance as the police did not allow the family to meet them. He seemed all right, they said.



**In mourning:** Fatima, mother of Altaf (in file photo on right), and relatives at their house in Ahrauli Nagla Syed of Kasganj district, Uttar Pradesh. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR



which it was written that Altaf had taken his life “in depression”, that he has no complaints against the police and that he did not wish to pursue the matter.

**‘Made to sign papers’**  
Mr. Mian said he was made to sign the documents around 1 a.m. and a video was also recorded by the police in which he said he was satisfied with the investigation.

“My son was mentally fit. He had no problems at all,” Ms. Fatima said.

Sagir, Altaf’s uncle, who wrote the statement on Mr. Mian’s behalf, recalled that the police officials took Altaf’s parents to a nearby police *chowki* after they saw the body. “There were senior and junior officers. I was standing outside. That is where the police convinced them to let the matter go. I was then called inside. They told me to write this state-

ment. A lower rank officer narrated it and I wrote,” Mr. Sagir said.

Mr. Mian said the police had given him ₹5 lakh which he accepted on Thursday, but was willing to give it back.

The family has questions: How can one end one’s life from a 2.5-foot tap holder? Why was the magistrate not called inside the police station when this happened? If the police have nothing to hide, why do they want to bury the matter?

According to police sources, Altaf used his jacket’s nylon tightening ring and lay down inside the toilet. However, the photographs that went viral make it look like Altaf was standing. Responding to the second question, an officer said Altaf was alive when officials found him and was taken to the hospital where he died because of which the magistrate was not

called to the police station but to the hospital.

The officer said lapses have been made by police officers, and five, including the Station House Officer, had been suspended. “The daily diary entry was not made when Altaf was brought in. Three senior officers including the SHO, the senior SI and the SI left the station leaving Altaf unattended,” he said on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Mian said Altaf, who was also a labourer, worked at “Panditji’s” house for a few days a month ago.

Police sources said “Panditji” was absconding and the girl was yet to be traced.

“An impartial investigation is being conducted and a magisterial inquiry is ongoing. If the family submits a complaint, we will register an FIR,” said Kasganj Superintendent of Police Rohan Botre.



## 18th century idol returned to U.P. Govt.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

An idol of Goddess Annapurna that was stolen from the Kashi Vishwanath temple and smuggled to Canada over 100 years ago was on Thursday handed over to the Uttar Pradesh Government, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) said in a statement.

Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy handed over the 18th century stone idol to the U.P. Government at a ceremony held at the National Gallery of Modern Art here. He said more than 40 antiquities had been retrieved from abroad since 2014. The Centre would hand over two retrieved idols to Tamil Nadu and one each to Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, he said.

“The stone idol measuring 17x9x4 cm had been stolen from Kashi and smuggled to Canada over a century ago,” the ASI said. It had been in the University of Regina’s collection and was handed over to India’s High Commissioner to Canada last year.

# Children below five exempt from COVID test on international arrival

Health Ministry issues revised guidelines for those coming to India

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Children below five years are exempted from both pre- and post-arrival testing for COVID-19, according to the revised guidelines for international arrivals released on Thursday by the Health Ministry.

The guidelines, however, state that in case they are found symptomatic for coronavirus infections on arrival or during the home quarantine period, they shall undergo testing and be treated according to protocol. This standard operating procedure (SOP) shall be valid from November 12 till further orders, the Ministry stated.

In its guidelines, the Ministry said the global trajectory of the COVID-19



Pre-arrival and post-arrival testing are not needed for those below five years.

The revised guidelines also state that 15 days must have gone by since the completion of the COVID-19 vaccination schedule. According to the existing guidelines, if travellers are fully vaccinated and coming from a country with which India has reciprocal arrangements for mutual acceptance of World Health Organization-approved COVID-19 vaccines, they shall be allowed to leave the airport and need not undergo home quarantine. They shall self-monitor their health for 14 days post arrival.

If partially or not vaccinated, the travellers need to undertake measures, which include submission of sample for post-arrival testing at the point of arrival, after which

they will be allowed to leave the airport, home quarantine for seven days, re-test on the eighth day of arrival in India and, if negative, further self-monitor their health for the next seven days.

If travellers under home quarantine or self-health monitoring develop symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, or test positive for COVID-19 on re-testing, they must immediately self-isolate and report to their nearest health facility, or call the national helpline number (1075) or relevant State helpline number.

Passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated and taken to a medical facility, according to the health protocol.

# No fresh virus variants of concern in India: INSACOG

Bulk of cases in India are Delta variant: weekly bulletin

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Despite an uptick in new cases this week, the India SARS-CoV-2 Genome Consortium (INSACOG) has said there are no new virus variants of concern on the horizon in India.

The bulk of cases in India were the Delta variant and its related sub-variants, mirroring what was happening in the rest of the world, the INSACOG said in its weekly bulletin on Thursday.

“Delta (B.1.617.2 and AY.x) continues to be the main VOC in India. No new VOI (Variants of Interest) or VOC (Variants of Concern) are noted and other VOC and VOI other than Delta are now negligible in sequencing data from India,” the bulletin noted. AY.x refers to a family of sublineages that can range from 1-25. They



have a common set of core mutations but large variation in others.

According to the latest update from the World Health Organisation (WHO), Delta has outcompeted other variants in most countries and there was now “declining prevalence” of other variants among SARS-CoV-2 sequences submitted to publicly available datasets or reported to WHO, the bulletin added.

As of Thursday, the INSACOG has analysed 92,800 genome sequence samples of those who have tested positive for the virus to determine what variants they harbour.

In October, following a spike in cases in Europe and the United Kingdom, Public Health England stated that AY4.2, a Delta variant sublineage, was responsible for a “slowly increasing” proportion of cases in the U.K. It is also present in multiple other countries and is seen in travellers to the U.K. from a large number of countries. The INSACOG, however, said the presence of the lineage was “very infrequent” in India.

# Nepal Army to set up its own defence university

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Nepali Army is on course to establish its own national defence university, said Nepal Army chief General Prabhu Ram Sharma on Thursday.

Gen. Sharma, who has been given the honorary rank of General of the Indian Army, unveiled his portrait on the “Wall of Honour”, and was presented with a Scroll of Honour on Thursday at the National De-

fence College (NDC) in New Delhi, a Defence Ministry statement said.

“Prominent alumni of the NDC, who have risen to the highest ranks in their respective countries, are honoured with the special recognition,” it stated.

Earlier, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar inaugurated the NDC alumni web portal and released the inaugural issue of the NDC alumni newsletter at the institution.

# Governors should play role of friend, guide: President

‘They play key role in achieving national goals’

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday called upon Governors to play the role of a “friend, philosopher and guide” in their States. He was speaking at the 51st conference of Governors, Lieutenant-Governors and Administrators at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Mr. Kovind said Governors



Ram Nath Kovind, right, and Venkaiah Naidu at the Conference of Governors and Lt. Governors in Delhi. ■ PTI

played an important role in creating awareness of national goals and ensuring participation of the public.

According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan statement, he referred to India’s goals for climate action, including net

zero emissions by 2070, as national goals that the Governors could motivate people to reach for.

The one-day conference, being held in-person after two years due to COVID-19, was also attended by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and included presentations by States on their best practices.

**‘Critical link’**  
Mr. Modi said the institution of the Governor was a “critical connect between the

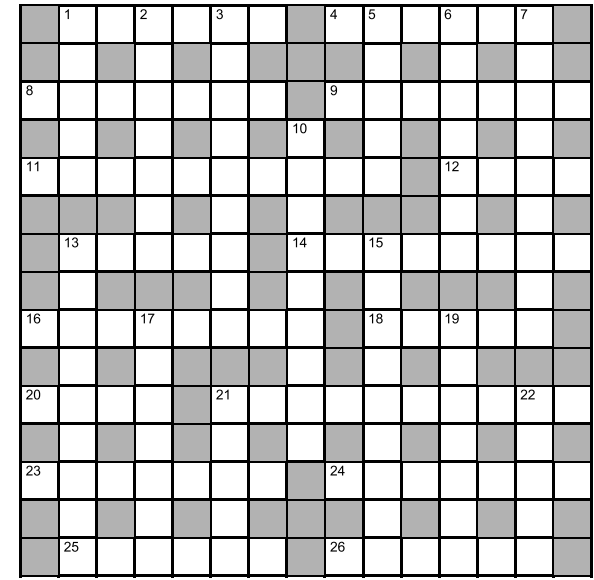
Centre and the State”. The Governor’s office should be “lively and active” and they should travel to remote villages, particularly in border States, to spend time with residents, he said.

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu urged Governors to proactively “monitor and guide” State Governments in the implementation of Central programmes. Governance and public life should be marked by strict adherence to the philosophy and provisions of the Constitution, he added.

THCROSSWORD+13400

Display keystrokes of genius.  
Type your answers in our online grids:  
@ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjpTn>

SCAN TO PLAY



- ACROSS
- 1 Belittle study about mechanical engineering advancements, at first (6)
  - 4 Player needs casual pants (6)
  - 8 Heard boy made rotating instrument that indicates time of day (7)
  - 9 A set of books having information about onset of illness and substance that causes an immune response (7)
  - 11 Band’s program ma viewed without hesitation (6,4)

- 12 Unrest in spot around Ohio (2-2)
  - 13 Find time to be with family (5)
  - 14 Shop for food and liquor around lunchtime in a state of uncontrolled excitement (8)
  - 16 Like Spring comes back around March, mostly? (8)
  - 18 Flag Day parade starting late (5)
  - 20 Worker quietly making a warning sound (4)
  - 21 Kelvin desires to elaborate a method involved in swimming (10)
  - 23 New driver in vehicle is primarily operating a trumpet (7)
  - 24 It helps to unearth and supply coal near hill (7)
  - 25 Widow again left India around end of August (6)
  - 26 Comprehend unknown article for African national (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Reason second daughter dropped a playing card? (5)
  - 2 Wine manufactured by Irish army, originally (7)
  - 3 Absent left wing students receiving last warning (5,4)
  - 5 Essentially looked for weapon? (5)
  - 6 Catholic fellow left some food for domestic animal (7)
  - 7 Sleeping policeman from Sweden urinated behind park (5,4)
  - 10 Son, I’d end all struggles with an overwhelming electoral victory (9)
  - 13 Salesman’s unending rant bored bank employee (9)
  - 15 Long poem by Old Bob has quality that attracts (9)
  - 17 Pages are wearing extremely awful clothes (7)
  - 19 Mary made a loud cry to get rid of Charlie (3,4)
  - 21 Small issue disheartened patient (5)
  - 22 Famous king oddly hides currently (5)

## SUDOKU

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	8			7				
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6			5				9	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13399									
W	B	E	A	J	G	M			
Z	E	B	U	M	O	V	I	E	A
A	L	B	O	T	T	O			
I	R	U	L	A	R	C	A	T	C
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P	N	T	G	S	R	S			

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

## FAITH

## The mystery of avatars

The avatara rahasya, as explained in the Bhagavad Gita, shows that the main purposes of the Lord’s incarnations are to protect the good people from the atrocities of the evil and powerful, and to establish righteousness when it gets weakened in the course of time. The Devi Bhagavata Purana also features an interesting section on the avatars of the Lord in various yugas in general and on Krishna avatara in particular, during the interaction between Vyasa and Janamejaya, pointed out Sri K. Srinivasan in a discourse. What emerges is the understanding that none can truly fathom the infinite depth and magnitude of the Supreme Lord who leaves His divine abode and chooses to be born as human being and undergo the travails of ‘garba’ vasa.

Is He not the sole cause of Srishti, Titi, Samhara, Tirodana and Anugraha? If Srishti is marvellous in all respects, Titi, the way He works tirelessly to keep the Srishti running all the while with precision, is still more astonishing. At the time of Pralaya, the entire creation is kept within the Lord to be released with the same status in the next kalpa. Tirodana is His power to hide His Paratva which He exercises at His will, and Anugraha is His grace revealed and felt in subtle ways. His grace is born of His compassionate swabhava.

Krishna avatara is replete with the frequent interplay of all aspects of His Supreme nature. Yasodha, Nandagada, the Pandavas, and many others know Him to be the Lord incarnate, but this awareness is not continuous in them. He mingles with simple folk in Gokula with extraordinary Saulabhya. He expounds the highest philosophy in the battlefield. Duryodhana is shown to be confident about his massive army and is not worried about fighting against Krishna, for he does not know that he has to confront the highest power.



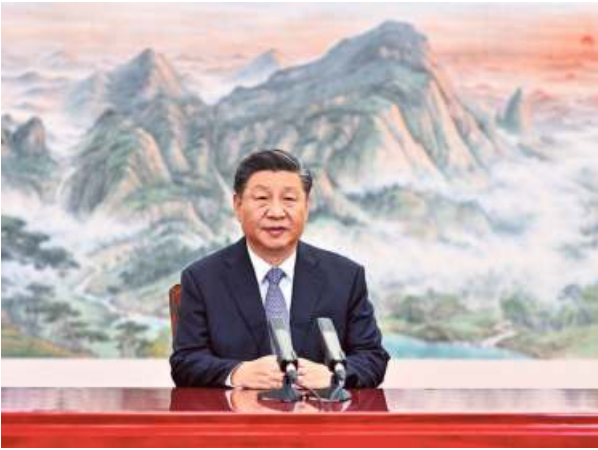
Xi warns against Cold War in Asia-Pacific

‘The region cannot and should not relapse into the confrontation and division of the Cold War era’

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WELLINGTON

Chinese President Xi Jinping warned on Thursday against letting tensions in the Asia-Pacific region cause a relapse into a Cold War mentality. His remarks on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum came weeks after the U.S., Britain and Australia announced a new security alliance in the region which would see Australia build nuclear submarines. China has harshly criticised the deal. And in a separate illustration of strains within APEC, one Southeast Asian delegate said the group had so far failed to reach agreement on a U.S. bid to host the 2023 summit due to unmet demands from Russia.

Online meeting
Mr. Xi spoke in a pre-recorded video to a CEO Summit at APEC, which is being hosted by New Zealand in a virtual format. Mr. Xi is scheduled to participate in an online meeting with other Pacific



Note of caution: Chinese President Xi Jinping delivering a speech for the APEC CEO Summit via video on Thursday. ■ AP

Rim leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden on Saturday. In his speech, Mr. Xi said attempts to draw boundaries in the region along ideological or geopolitical lines would fail. His reference to the Cold War echoes Beijing's oft-stated position that the U.S. should abandon that way of thinking in dealing with China. “The Asia-Pacific region cannot and should not re-

lapse into the confrontation and division of the Cold War era,” Mr. Xi said. He added the region should make sure to keep supply lines functioning and to continue liberalising trade and investment. “China will remain firm in advancing reform and opening up so as to add impetus to economic development.” The most pressing task in the region is to make an all-out effort to fight the pandemic and to emerge

from its shadow as soon as possible, he said. Meanwhile, the Southeast Asian delegate, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorised to publicly discuss the issue, said Russia had refused to support the U.S. bid unless some of its diplomats were removed from a U.S. blacklist or allowed to enter the U.S. to participate in the APEC meetings.

Russia's demands
The delegate said the U.S. is unlikely to agree to Russia's demands because issues involving America's security are considered “non-negotiable”. The delegate added that China had stayed silent on the U.S. offer. If the 21 APEC leaders fail to reach a consensus on the U.S. bid by Friday, the delegate said, a paragraph in a draft of the summit communique welcoming the U.S. offer would have to be deleted. New Zealand's Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta said earlier this week that APEC was founded on consensus

and that there was not yet a confirmed host for 2023. Human rights lawyer Amal Clooney also spoke at the CEO summit, saying she believed that liberal democracies could improve global human rights by pressuring autocratic nations. She said businesses also needed to play a role. “If you can't battle evil, you can at least try to tackle apathy,” Ms. Clooney said. In all, APEC members account for nearly 3 billion people and about 60% of the world's GDP. But deep tensions run through the unlikely group of 21 nations and territories that include the U.S., China, Taiwan, Russia, and Australia. Many of the countries in Asia endeavour to balance Chinese and U.S. influences on the economic and geopolitical fronts. China claims vast parts of the South China Sea and other areas and has moved to establish a military presence, building islands in some disputed areas as it asserts its historic claims.

S. Africa's last apartheid President De Klerk dies

He shared Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 with Nelson Mandela

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JOHANNESBURG

F.W. de Klerk, South Africa's last white President, who freed anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela from jail, died on Thursday aged 85, his foundation announced. De Klerk and South Africa's first black President Mandela shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for leading the “miracle” transition from white rule over the country.

He died after a battle with cancer, his foundation said in a statement. De Klerk had announced his diagnosis on his 85th birthday, on March 18 this year. “It is with the deepest sadness that the F.W. de Klerk Foundation must announce that former president F.W. de Klerk died peacefully at his home in Fresnaye earlier this morning following his struggle against mesothelioma cancer,” it said. He is survived by wife Eli-



Breaking barriers: F.W. de Klerk, right, and Nelson Mandela show ing their Nobel Peace Prize on December 10, 1993. ■ AP

ta, children Jan and Susan, and grandchildren. “The family will, in due course, make an announcement regarding funeral arrangements,” it added. He is most remembered for his famous speech delivered on February 2, 1990, announcing the lifting of a ban on the African National Congress (ANC) and other liberation movements. In the same speech he ordered Mandela's release from prison after 27 years in jail. But in recent years, he came under harsh criticism for his failure to account for the violence that underpinned apartheid. Several current court cases seeking answers have sought his testimony.

China, U.S. to increase climate cooperation

The two countries pledge to work together to accelerate the emissions reductions

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GLASGOW

The world's top carbon polluters, China and the United States, agreed on Wednesday to increase their cooperation and speed up action to rein in climate-damaging emissions, signalling a mutual effort on global warming at a time of tension over their other disputes. In back-to-back news conferences at UN climate talks in Glasgow, Chinese climate envoy Xie Zhenhua and U.S. counterpart John Kerry said

the two countries would work together to accelerate the emissions reductions required to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. “It's beneficial not only to our two countries but the world as a whole that two major powers in the world, China and the U.S., shoulder special international responsibilities and obligations,” Mr. Xie told reporters. “We need to think big and be responsible.” “The steps we're taking ...

can answer questions people have about the pace at which China is going, and help China and us to be able to accelerate our efforts,” Mr. Kerry said. China also agreed for the first time to crack down on methane leaks, following the lead of the Biden administration's efforts to curb the potent greenhouse gas. Beijing and Washington agreed to share technology to reduce emissions. Governments agreed in Paris to jointly cut greenhouse gas emissions

enough to keep the global temperature rise “well below” 2 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times, with a more stringent target of trying to keep warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius preferred. Both sides recognise that there is a gap between efforts taken globally to reduce climate pollution and the goals of the Paris deal, Mr. Xie said. “So we will jointly strengthen climate action and cooperation with respect to our respective national situations,” he said.

Belarus threatens to cut gas to Europe

President Lukashenko warns against any new sanctions over the migrant crisis

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SOKOLKA

Belarus's strongman leader Alexander Lukashenko vowed on Thursday to respond to any new sanctions imposed over the migrant crisis on the country's border with Poland, including by potentially cutting off the transit of natural gas to Europe. “If they impose additional sanctions on us... we must respond,” Mr. Lukashenko said in comments to officials released by the presidency.

“We are warming Europe, and they are threatening us,” he said, pointing out that Russia's Yamal-Europe gas pipeline transits through Belarus to Poland. “And what if we halt natural gas supplies?” Pressure is building to address the plight of hundreds of migrants, mainly Kurds from West Asia, who are stuck at the Belarus-Poland border in freezing weather. The West accuses Mr. Lukashenko of luring the migrants to Belarus to send

them across the border, in revenge for sanctions imposed last year after a heavy crackdown on the opposition. EU officials say they expect to approve new sanctions over the migrant crisis next week. “We are in a situation in which the proper consequences (for Minsk) are overdue. This is what we want, together with our European partners,” German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Thursday. Belarusian Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei said

Minsk wanted the crisis “resolved as quickly as possible” and was ready to talk to the EU, but the bloc was refusing dialogue. Poland has deployed 15,000 troops along the border, put up a fence topped with barbed wire and approved construction of a wall on the frontier with Belarus. Meanwhile, Ukraine said it would deploy thousands of border guards and security personnel to its border with Belarus “to counter a potential crisis with migrants”.

Afghanistan on brink of economic collapse, warns Pak.

‘International community must urgently resume funding and provide humanitarian assistance’

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

Afghanistan is on the brink of economic collapse, and the international community must urgently resume funding and provide humanitarian assistance, Pakistan's Foreign Minister warned on Thursday. The statement came as U.S., Chinese, Russian and Tali-

ban diplomats met in Islamabad. Shah Mehmood Qureshi spoke at the opening of the so-called “troika plus” meeting, which included Thomas West, the new U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan. The delegates also met Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi. “Today, Afghanistan

stands at the brink of an economic collapse,” Mr. Qureshi said, adding that any further downward slide would “severely limit” the new Taliban government's ability to run the country. After the meeting, a joint statement said the four nations had agreed to continue “practical engagement with the Taliban to encour-

age the implementation of moderate and prudent policies that can help achieve a stable and prosperous Afghanistan as soon as possible”. But it also urged the Taliban to do more to create an inclusive government that provided equal rights and opportunities for women and girls to participate in all

aspects of society. Mr. Qureshi said it was “imperative for the international community to buttress provision of humanitarian assistance on an urgent basis”. That included enabling Afghanistan to access funds frozen by Western donors since the Taliban took control of the country, he added.

केनरा बँक Canara Bank
RFP FOR INSURANCE BROKERS
CANARA BANK intends to avail the services of Insurance Brokers for its insurance cover needs on Traditional and Non - Traditional Insurance Policies. In this regard Bank invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from IRDAI accredited Insurance Brokers.

Taliban replace Hazara statue with Koran

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

The Taliban have replaced the statue of a Hazara leader declared a national martyr by the former government with a replica of the Koran, Bamiyan residents said on Thursday – a move they warned could trigger violence. The original statue depicted Abdul Ali Mazari, a leader of the mostly Shia minority killed while he was a prisoner of the Taliban during their first stint in power. The statue was decapitated by a rocket-propelled grenade soon after the Taliban returned to power in August, in an incident residents blamed on the hard-line Islamists. The Taliban's strict interpretation of Islam forbids the human form to be depicted in paintings and sculpture – and printed photographs in extreme cases. Many businesses have removed or covered up billboards and posters featuring people since the group's takeover. “Yesterday, they completely removed the statue and replaced it with a replica of the Koran,” said Abdul Danishyar, a civil society activist in Bamiyan. “They are trying to wipe out the history from Bamiyan, the people are going to react violently to this.”



Fast and furious: The astronauts on their way to the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the Crew Dragon spacecraft. ■ AFP

600 space travellers and counting in 60 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAPE CANAVERAL

A SpaceX rocket carried four astronauts into orbit on Wednesday night, including the 600th person to reach space in 60 years. The repeatedly delayed flight occurred just two days after SpaceX brought four other astronauts home from the International Space Station. They should have been up there to welcome the newcomers, but NASA and SpaceX decided to switch the order based on Monday's ideal recovery weather in the Gulf of Mexico and pulled it off. ‘Great ride’ “It was a great ride, better than we imagined,” mission commander Raja Chari said shortly after the spacecraft reached orbit. The launch was just as riveting for spectators at NA-

SA's Kennedy Space Center, as well as along the East Coast, as the Falcon rocket thundered through clouds on its way to space, turning night into day. Germany's Matthias Maurer claimed the No. 600 position, according to NASA, based on his mission assignment. He and his three NASA crewmates should arrive at the space station in under 24 hours. The list of 600 travellers ranges from those who have barely scratched space – like actor William Shatner last month – to U.S. and Russian astronauts who have spent a year or more in orbit. This year's surge in space tourists helped push the tally over the 600 mark. That averages out to 10 people per year since Yuri Gagarin's pioneering flight in 1961, Mr. Maurer noted.

Gulf states hold naval exercise with Israel: U.S.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANAMA

The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain are holding their first joint naval exercise with Israel, a year after normalising ties with the Jewish state, the U.S. Navy said on Thursday. The five-day manoeuvres in the Red Sea, which is linked to the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal, are intended to “enhance interoperability between participating forces”, a statement said. “It is exciting to see U.S. forces training with regional partners to enhance our collective maritime security capabilities,” said Vice Admiral Brad Cooper, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, or NAVCENT. “Maritime collaboration helps safeguard freedom of navigation and the free flow of trade, which are essential to regional security and stability.” The exercises, which began on Wednesday, include boarding, search and seizure training on the USS Portland, an amphibious transport dock ship. It is the first publicly announced military cooperation by the UAE and Bahrain with Israel since they opened diplomatic relations in September last year.

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING / OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY
BRBNMPL invites bids from eligible bidders for following tenders:
1. Tender No. 056/MYS/VARNIKA-26/2021-22 – Supply of MS Tins of capacity 20 kg for Varnika at BRBNMPL, Mysuru
2. Tender No. 055/MYS/CIVIL/2021-22 – Internal re-painting of Township Quarters at BRBNMPL, Mysuru
3. Tender No. 057/MYS/MMD/2021-22 – Appointment of Travel Agency at BRBNMPL, Mysuru
4. Tender No. 058/MYS/VARNIKA-27/2021-22– Supply of 26 Nos. of Ink Mixing Vessels for Varnika at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
5. Tender No. 059/MYS/MMD/2021-22 - Catering and Hospitality Management Services at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.

राजस्थान सरकार
सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग
राजस्थान सरकार
सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग
राजस्थान सरकार
सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSE CORPORATION
Short term 'e'-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited through online e-procurement portal from the licensed manufacturer, supplier for supply of 350 Nos. of Multilayer Cross laminated Covers, 100 Nos. of Multilayer Cross laminated Sheet & Low density black polythene film-20000Kgs, to the Regional Managers offices located at Mysuru, Bengaluru, Shivamogga, Davanagere, Hubballi, Kalburgi & Raichur.
Managing Director, KSWC.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Two Cover (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, (Shanthinagara Division), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for the Construction of works detailed in the table below. (STD-KW 3)
Sl. No. Name of the Works Approx. value of Work (₹. in Lakhs)
1 Improvements to damaged BWSSB road cutting roads at Motappanapalya in Ward No-89. 85.65
2 Improvements to damaged BWSSB road cutting roads at Appareddypalya in Ward No-89. 90.00
3 Providing Asphaltting to bad roads and Improvements to Drain at G Street Surrounding Area in Ward No-89. 100.00
4 Development works in LR Nagara and Ambedkarnagara in Neelasandra in Ward No-116. 90.00
5 Development works in Vinayaka-nagara 1st Main and 4th Cross Shanthinagara in Ward No-117. 60.00
EMD (in ₹.) EMD Declaration
Calendar of Events : (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of GOK from 18.11.2021. (2) Last Date for uploading the filled tender document is 08.12.2021 upto 4:00 pm. (3) Date of Opening of Tenders is on 10.12.2021 if possible or Next Working day. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer Shanthinagara Division



MARKET WATCH		
	11-11-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,920	-0.72
US Dollar	74.52	-0.24
Gold	48,218	1.91
Brent oil	82.98	-2.26

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	735.10	-2.80
Asian Paints	3063.50	-44.80
Axis Bank	738.05	-11.30
Bajaj Auto	3749.95	-21.75
Bajaj Finserv	17871.35	-454.80
Bajaj Finance	7452.70	-128.75
Bharti Airtel	728.60	-6.85
BPLCL	425.30	-5.95
Britannia Ind	3643.40	-55.10
Cipla	904.90	-7.55
Coal India	167.00	0.30
Divis Lab	4833.25	-72.50
Dr Reddys Lab	4814.95	-14.40
Eicher Motors	2704.35	-42.40
Grasim Ind	1844.35	-30.10
HCL Tech	1160.70	-8.45
HDFC	2908.85	-36.75
HDFC Bank	1548.30	-6.95
HDFC Life	702.60	-3.90
Hero MotoCorp	2700.90	-17.90
Hindalco	453.95	4.20
Hind Unilever	2376.20	-23.95
ICICI Bank	771.45	-9.45
IndusInd Bank	1033.30	1.10
Infosys	1733.30	-6.85
Indian OilCorp	133.30	-6.15
ITC	230.00	-0.85
JSW Steel	667.40	5.00
Kotak Bank	2054.10	-21.95
L&T	1931.70	-18.45
M&M	924.75	5.10
Maruti Suzuki	7453.45	-58.20
Nestle India Ltd.	18854.00	-98.90
NTPC	136.65	-0.75
ONGC	153.50	-4.20
PowerGrid Corp	182.15	-2.25
Reliance Ind	2554.55	4.65
SBI Life	1153.20	-30.55
State Bank	509.60	-14.80
Shree Cement	29010.55	-345.25
Sun Pharma	794.85	-16.25
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	837.65	-4.75
Tata Motors	503.45	-7.30
Tata Steel	1299.60	1.05
TCS	3488.20	3.90
Tech Mahindra	1521.95	-44.65
Titan	2528.10	43.50
UltraTech Cement	8050.65	-56.15
WIPRO	764.70	-6.60
Wipro	641.80	-10.80

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 11		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.32	74.64
Euro	85.15	85.54
British Pound	99.48	99.91
Japanese Yen (100)	65.19	65.48
Chinese Yuan	11.62	11.67
Swiss Franc	80.74	81.09
Singapore Dollar	54.85	55.09
Canadian Dollar	59.15	59.41
Malaysian Ringgit	17.82	17.92

Source: Indian Bank



**Tesla shares rise after Musk's \$5-bn stock sale**  
Tesla shares rose in U.S. pre-market trading on Thursday, even after overnight filings showed chief executive and top holder Elon Musk had sold about \$5 billion of the stock over recent days. The electric-car maker's shares climbed 3.6% to \$1,106.48, recouping some of the heavy losses suffered earlier in the week, during the period when Mr. Musk had sold. REUTERS

**Sapphire Foods IPO subscribed 6.62 times**  
NEW DELHI  
The initial public offer of Sapphire Foods India Ltd., which operates KFC and Pizza Hut outlets, was subscribed 6.62 times on the last day of subscription on Thursday. The portion for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) was subscribed 7.50 times, while that for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) was subscribed 8.7 times and non-institutional investors, 3.46 times. PTI

**IPPB to offer Bajaj Allianz Life products**  
MUMBAI  
India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), Department of Posts and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company have entered into a partnership to offer term and annuity products to customers through the bank's network of 650 branches and more than 1,36,000 access points. The tie-up will enable customers living in unbanked and underserved areas, to become financially secure and empowered, they said.

**Sun to sell COVID pill molnupiravir as Molxvir**  
MUMBAI  
Sun Pharmaceutical Industries said it was gearing up to introduce Merck Sharpe Dohme (MSD) and Ridgeback's molnupiravir under the brand name Molxvir in India. The Drugs Controller General of India is reviewing clinical data of molnupiravir for treatment of COVID-19 in adults in India, the drugmaker said. Molxvir will be manufactured at one of Sun's Indian plants.

# Vaishnaw sees 5G spectrum auction likely by April-May

Minister says TRAI holding consultations, more telecom reforms in the pipeline

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI  
The auction for the 5G spectrum is likely to take place around April-May, Minister for Communications Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday, signalling a slight delay. While relief measures announced in September for telecom operators marked the first set of reforms, the government would bring out a series of further reforms and "telecom regulatory structure should change in the coming 2-3 years", Mr. Vaishnaw said. On the timeline for 5G auctions, he noted that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India was conducting consultations on the matter. "I think they will submit their report by February-



**One for all:** The government is keen to ensure that the auctions are technology-neutral, says the Minister. ■ FILE PHOTO

mid, maybe February-end, maximum March. Immediately after that, we will have the auctions," he said. The comment assumes significance since the Department of Telecommunications was earlier hopeful of holding the 5G auctions by the end of the current fiscal. "Today, our estimate is by April-May. I was earlier estimating March. But, I think it will take [time]... because consultations are complex, diverse opinions are coming," Mr. Vaishnaw said. The government was keen to ensure that the auctions were technology-neutral,

and wanted to give spectrum that was consistent for many years to come. "So, 4G can be used in that, 5G can be used. So, that's the thinking based on not just short term but more like thinking at least 5-10 years ahead," he said. The DoT had approached TRAI seeking its recommendations on pricing, quantum and other modalities pertaining to radiowaves in multiple bands, as it prepares the groundwork for holding the 5G spectrum auction. Mr. Vaishnaw said that with reforms for telcos outlined in September, government expects the industry to focus on stepping up investments by 2-4 times, reaching out to the unconnected and improving service quality.

## CAD seen at 1.4% by March as crude soars

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
MUMBAI  
India's widening current account deficit (CAD), driven by the massive spike in commodity prices led by crude oil, is set to put pressure on the fragile recovery, Barclays warned after revising upwards its CAD forecast to \$45 billion, or 1.4% of GDP, by March. According to Barclays, the worries arise from the fact that the trade deficit has been jumping continuously since July. From an average monthly trade deficit of \$12 billion till June, it jumped to \$16.8 billion in July-October, with September showing the highest-ever deficit at \$22.6 billion, the brokerage said. The brokerage added that the widening trade deficit could prove more sustained than initially assumed.

## Suzuki expects 6% dip in its India auto sales

Carmaker cuts global sales forecast

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI  
Japan's Suzuki Motor Corporation on Thursday said it expected its automobile sales in India to decline 6% year-on-year and has cut its overall global sales forecast for the ongoing fiscal by 2.25 lakh units on account of the semiconductor shortage. In a financial presentation, the company – whose unit Maruti Suzuki India is the largest carmaker in the country – forecast its total global sales for the ongoing fiscal at 24.86 lakh units, 2.25 lakh units lower from the previous forecast. **Impact from India** In the last financial year, Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC) had total sales of 25.71 lakh units. "Full-year sales in India are expected to decrease by 6% year-on-year,"



SMC added. In the pandemic-hit FY21, Maruti Suzuki India sold 14,57,861 units and so far in the first half of the ongoing fiscal ended September 30, the Indian carmaker had sold a total of 7,33,155 units. SMC said it had also revised downwards its annual production plan for the ongoing fiscal to 25.79 lakh units, which is 2.99 lakh units less than initially planned. In the previous fiscal, the company had total production of 26.51 lakh units.

## Pricol says in JV talks for connected vehicles

Focus is on domestic market, says MD

**M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA**  
COIMBATORE  
Pricol is expected to announce joint ventures (JVs) in a couple of segments by the end of this fiscal year.

Vikram Mohan, MD, said the company, which hopes to be debt-free by March 2023, was in talks for JVs in areas such as sensors and connected vehicle solutions. "We are investing time in Internet of Things and connected vehicle solutions. We have also decided, to have a heavier play in sensors. Some joint ventures we are planning are in these segments. We will announce the joint ventures by the end of March 2022," he said. Pricol plans to start investing in phases in these ventures from September 2022 and the plants are expected to become fully operational by October 2023.

**Pricol is setting up a technology centre that would also house testing and prototype development**

The JVs would be mainly for the domestic market as the next 10-15 years would be a "great time" for India, he said. With higher demand for driver information systems, there is a need for more integration of software, hardware and different technologies. A technology centre that would also house testing and prototype development would become operational here in a year-and-a-half. Mr. Mohan added though the firm had not recently focused on exports, it was looking at 20% revenue from exports and deemed exports by 2025.

## TVS Srichakra profit dips 37% on input costs

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI  
TVS Srichakra Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the second quarter ended September contracted 37% to ₹24.85 crore due to a rise in raw material costs. Revenue from operations rose 25% to ₹668 crore, while cost of materials climbed 56% to ₹411 crore. Total expenditure rose 31% to ₹635 crore, it said in a regulatory filing. The tyre maker said depreciation costs dipped by ₹12.27 crore due to the revision in the useful life of certain plant and machinery items. Effective April 2021, the firm extended the estimated useful life of such items to 20 years on a three-shift basis instead of a single-shift basis, based on technical evaluation, TVS Srichakra said in a note.

## SFL eyes 50% revenue from non-auto business

Firm to incur ₹1,000 cr. in capex: MD

**N. ANAND**  
CHENNAI  
Auto-components maker Sundram Fasteners Ltd. (SFL), has drawn up a five-year plan to raise its non-auto business revenue to 50% over the next three to five years and will be investing ₹1,000 crore in capital expenditure till FY24, said a top official. "The year 2025 will be the watershed year for us," said Arathi Krishna, MD told *The Hindu*. "Right now, revenue from auto-component business accounts for 68%, and we are planning to bring it down to 50% over the next two to three years due to its cyclical nature. "The balance 50% revenue will come from electric vehicles (EVs), tractor implements, windmills, aerospace and defence sectors



and industrial, infra and construction fasteners, over the next three to five years." SFL posted 23% rise in its standalone net profit for the second quarter ended September to ₹120 crore. Revenue from operations rose to ₹1,063 crore from ₹767 crore despite operating in a challenging environment, CFO S. Meenakshi-sundaram said.

## NMDC Q2 net profit surges to ₹2,326 cr.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD  
Consolidated net profit of India's largest iron-ore producer NMDC Ltd. surged to ₹2,326.14 crore for the quarter ended September, from the ₹752.37 crore of the year-earlier period, on the back of higher demand for iron and steel. A manifold increase, it came as total income rose sharply to ₹6,882.44 crore (₹2,318.67 crore). "Demand for iron and steel has witnessed a boom in emerging markets," CMD Sumit Deb said. "As a key player, we responded with proactive production-enhancement initiatives and are now reaping benefits of agile response to the demand with an exceptional quarter," he added. Sales increased 36% to 8.99 million tonnes.

## 'Toys in PLI scheme will make sector competitive'

Can create thousands of jobs: Melligeri

**MINI TEJASWI**  
BENGALURU  
The toy industry in India should be brought under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme to make it competitive and get it on a fast-growth mode, said Aravind Melligeri, chairman and CEO, Aequs' toy business.

"Toy sector can be a force multiplier for the socio-economic development of tier-2 and tier 3 cities in the country given its potential to generate jobs at scale," said Mr. Melligeri. For every \$10 million generated in revenue, the toy industry has the potential to create 1,000 direct and several thousand downstream jobs in the country.



The Toy Association of India (TAI) also said getting the industry under the PLI was critical for its growth. "It will usher in quantum growth for the industry and make it globally competitive," said TAI general secretary Sharad Kapoor. The global toy market is now estimated to be about \$80-100 billion and India accounts for a minuscule share of about \$1.5 billion.

## Natco Pharma profit slumps 68% to ₹65 cr.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD  
Drugmaker Natco Pharma reported consolidated net profit declined more than 68% to ₹65.1 crore for the September quarter. The lower profit, compared with ₹203.90 crore in the year-earlier period, came on the back of total revenue declining nearly 50% to ₹415.2 crore (₹827.90 crore). The decline, in revenue and profit, is primarily due to a one-off contribution in prior period earnings, the company said in a release on Thursday. The drugmaker has announced a second interim dividend of ₹0.5 per equity share of ₹2 each for FY21-22.

## Purple expects to close FY22 with ₹700-crore revenue: CEO


Beauty care firm grew rapidly during COVID; IPO in 3-4 years

**YUTHIKA BHARGAVA**  
NEW DELHI  
Beauty and personal care e-commerce platform Purple expects to close the current financial year with a revenue of ₹700 crore, a 90% growth from last year, driven by new customer acquisition amid the pandemic, said co-founder and CEO Manish Taneja. The company was also planning to go for an initial public offering (IPO) in the next 3-4 years, he said. "Like for most online businesses, we've grown quite rapidly during COVID and for us, all of this growth is organic," he said. "This year, we should do close to ₹700 crore of revenue and about



₹1,000-1,100 crore of GMV, and this is a growth of 90% from last year," he added. Mr. Taneja said while last year skincare and haircare segments took off as people were at home and wanted to take care of themselves

more, this year, there had been a big resurgence in the makeup segment, especially in the last 2-3 months. According to a report by Avendus, the beauty and personal care market is projected to reach \$27 billion by 2025. On the company's IPO plans, Mr. Taneja said from a capital point of view, Purple was well-covered and most of their investors were "very long-term investors." "But I think going for an IPO will be a good thing at some point in time," he said. The preparation will take us 6-12 months... we'll have to time the IPO, maybe, after 3-4 years we can look at it," the CEO said.



**GRIDCO**  
Empowering Odisha

**ଗ୍ରିଡକୋ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍**  
**GRIDCO LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)  
Regd. Office : Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751022, ODISHA  
Phone : 0674-2540098/2540877, Fax : 2541904/2543031 ; Web : www.gridco.co.in  
CIN : L40109OR1995SGC003960

(Rupees in Crore)

**STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS  
FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

Sl No.	Particulars	Half year ended 30.09.2021 (Un-audited / Reviewed)	Half year ended 30.09.2020 (Un-audited / Reviewed)	Year ended 31.03.2021 (Audited/ Reviewed)
1	Total income from Operations	5,190.78	4,130.20	8,602.86
2	Net profit / (Loss) for the period ( before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	(157.04)	(715.37)	(1,512.83)
3	Net profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	(100.83)	(715.37)	(1,382.35)
4	Net profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	(100.83)	(715.37)	(1,382.35)
5	Total comprehensive income for the period (comprising profit / (loss) for the period after Tax and comprehensive income (after Tax))	-	-	-
6	<b>Paid-up Equity Share Capital</b> (57,67,114 nos. fully paid Equity Shares of ₹1,000/- each issued at Par)	576.71	576.71	576.71
7	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserve as per Balance Sheet of Previous year	(7,546.83)	(6,779.02)	(7,446.00)
8	Net Worth	(6,970.12)	(6,202.31)	(6,869.29)
9	Paid-up Debt Capital / Outstanding debt	9,325.92	8,217.93	9,073.81
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference share	-	-	-
11	Debt-Equity Ratio	16.17	14.25	15.73
12	Earnings Per Share (of ₹1,000/- each) for continuing and discontinued Operations - 1.Basic : 2.Diluted:	(174.83) (174.83)	(1,240.43) (1,240.43)	(2,396.96) (2,396.96)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
14	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.05	(0.10)	(0.20)
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	0.67	(1.55)	(1.30)

- The above financial results of the company were reviewed by the Audit committee and taken on record & approved by the Board of Directors of the company in its meeting held on **10th November 2021** and have been subjected to "Limited review" by the Statutory Auditor of the company.
- The above results have been prepared in accordance with the Companies ( Indian Accounting Standard ) Rules 2015 (IND-AS) and amendments thereto.
- Credit Rating "BWRA-(CE)( Stable) Reaffirmed" by Brickworks Rating & "INDA-(CE)/Stable" by India Ratings & Research.
- Asset cover** : Redeemable non convertible Bonds issued by the Company during FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14 are guaranteed by the Govt. of Odisha.
- (a) Dates of Interest payment (previous due dates)

Particulars	Tranche-I	Whether Paid	Tranche-II	Whether Paid
Previous Due date	NA	NA	15.06.2021	Yes

- (b) Details of Interest Payment (Next due date)

Particulars	Tranche-I	Tranche-II
Next Due Date	NA	15.12.2021
Amount of Interest (₹)	NA	3,38,52,033

- Outstanding Redeemable preference shares : **NIL**
- Formula used for computation of coverage ratios, (a) DSCR= Earning before Interest, Tax & Depreciation / Interest debited to P&L account & principal repayment (b) ISCR= Earnings before interest and tax / Interest.
- The Number of investor's complaints pending at the end of the half year : **NIL**
- Received** : **NIL**, **Disposed**: **NIL** and lying unresolved: **NIL**
- Figures of previous year have been regrouped / re-arranged wherever necessary.

**By order of GRIDCO Board  
For Gridco Ltd.**

Place : Bhubaneswar  
Date : 10.11.2021

CAD-1812

OIPR-14069/11/0008/2122

**Sd/-  
Managing Director**



# Stoinis and Wade pull off a heist, propel Australia into the final

With their team in dire straits at 96 for five, the two put on an unbeaten 81-run stand off just 6.4 overs; Rizwan, Fakhar and Shadab's efforts in vain for Pakistan

## ICC T20 WC

AMOL KARHADKAR DUBAI

Marcus Stoinis and Matthew Wade launched a spectacular attack in the final overs as Australia shocked Pakistan in the second semifinal of the ICC T20 World Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

Chasing a daunting target of 177, Aaron Finch's men looked down and out when they slid to 96 for five in the 13th over. Stoinis (40 n.o., 31b, 2x4, 2x6) and Wade (41 n.o., 17b, 2x4, 4x6) scripted a dramatic turnaround, putting on 81 for the unbeaten sixth wicket off just 6.4 overs. The highest successful chase of this edition saw Australia enter the World T20 final for the first time since 2010.

With 50 needed in four overs, Stoinis took 13 runs with a six and a four off pacer Harris Rauf. In the next over, Wade went after Hasan Ali, smashing a six and a four as 15 came off it. Shaheen Afridi, one of the stars of Pakistan's campaign in the World Cup, bowled his final over with 22 required off 12.

The left-arm pacer started off with a dot ball before Wade, making full use of the dropped catch by Hasan at



Leading the charge: While Stoinis provided the launchpad, Wade sealed the contest with an audacious scooped six off Afridi. ■ GETTY IMAGES



deep midwicket off the third delivery, hit three consecutive sixes. Wade started with an audacious scoop over short fine-leg, anticipating a yorker, before whipping the ball over the midwicket

fence. He sealed it in style with another scoop that sailed over the wicketkeeper and into the stands, triggering celebrations in the Aussie camp. At the top of the order, David Warner (49, 30b, 3x4,

3x6) had provided the impetus before leg-spinner Shadab Khan seemed to have turned it Pakistan's way with a wicket in each of his four overs (4-0-26-4). Earlier, Mohammad Riz-

wan (67, 52b, 3x4, 4x6) and skipper Babar Azam (39, 34b, 5x4) continued their dream run at the top, forging an alliance of 71 in 10 overs. Fakhar Zaman (55 n.o., 32b, 3x4, 4x6) was at his explosive best

as Pakistan made 176 for four after being invited to bat.

If Babar called the shots in PowerPlay, Rizwan came to the party in the middle overs after being tied down by the spinners. Fakhar then

## SCOREBOARD

<b>PAKISTAN</b> Mohammad Rizwan c Smith b Starc 67 (52b, 3x4, 4x6), Babar Azam c Warner b Zampa 39 (34b, 5x4), Fakhar Zaman (not out) 55 (32b, 3x4, 4x6), Asif Ali c Smith b Cummins 0 (1b), Shoaib Malik b Starc 1 (2b), Mohammad Hafeez (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (b-5, lb-1, w-5, nb-2): 13; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 176.	40 (31b, 2x4, 2x6), Matthew Wade (not out) 41 (17b, 2x4, 4x6); Extras (lb-2, w-2, nb-3): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 19 overs): 177.
<b>FALL OF WICKETS</b> 1-71 (Finch, 0.3), 2-52 (Marsh, 6.2), 3-77 (Smith, 8.3), 4-89 (Warner, 10.1), 5-96 (Maxwell, 12.2).	<b>FALL OF WICKETS</b> 1-1 (Finch, 0.3), 2-52 (Marsh, 6.2), 3-77 (Smith, 8.3), 4-89 (Warner, 10.1), 5-96 (Maxwell, 12.2).
<b>PAKISTAN BOWLING</b> Afridi 4-0-35-1, Imad 3-0-25-0, Rauf 3-0-32-0, Hasan 4-0-44-0, Shadab 4-0-26-4, Hafeez 1-0-13-0.	<b>PAKISTAN BOWLING</b> Afridi 4-0-35-1, Imad 3-0-25-0, Rauf 3-0-32-0, Hasan 4-0-44-0, Shadab 4-0-26-4, Hafeez 1-0-13-0.
<b>AUSTRALIA BOWLING</b> Starc 4-0-38-2, Hazlewood 4-0-49-0, Maxwell 3-0-20-0, Cummins 4-0-30-1, Zampa 4-0-22-1, Marsh 1-0-11-0.	<b>AUSTRALIA BOWLING</b> Starc 4-0-38-2, Hazlewood 4-0-49-0, Maxwell 3-0-20-0, Cummins 4-0-30-1, Zampa 4-0-22-1, Marsh 1-0-11-0.
<b>AUSTRALIA</b> David Warner c Rizwan b Shadab 49 (30b, 3x4, 3x6), Aaron Finch lbw b Afridi 0 (1b), Mitchell Marsh c Asif b Shadab 28 (22b, 3x4, 1x6), Steve Smith c Fakhar b Shadab 5 (6b, 1x4), Glenn Maxwell c Rauf b Shadab 7 (10b), Marcus Stoinis (not out)	<b>AUSTRALIA</b> David Warner c Rizwan b Shadab 49 (30b, 3x4, 3x6), Aaron Finch lbw b Afridi 0 (1b), Mitchell Marsh c Asif b Shadab 28 (22b, 3x4, 1x6), Steve Smith c Fakhar b Shadab 5 (6b, 1x4), Glenn Maxwell c Rauf b Shadab 7 (10b), Marcus Stoinis (not out)

showed his power-hitting prowess, sending the Australian pacers into the stands to ensure that the innings finished with a flourish despite a quiet 19th over (three runs).

Fakhar, after getting hit on the helmet by Mitchell Starc, waded into the left-arm pac-

er with two successive sixes in the final over. However, it wasn't enough once Stoinis and Wade got into the act.

**Trans-Tasman final**  
It will be a tantalising trans-Tasman final between Australia and New Zealand on Sunday.

# Adept Mitchell played anchor and finisher in the same innings

Still a rookie, he showed he was level-headed as well as tactically sound

AMOL KARHADKAR DUBAI

New Zealand required 34 runs off 18 balls. Adil Rashid started his last over, also the final over of spin during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup semifinal in Abu Dhabi. James Neesham, having tonked Chris Jordan all over the park in the previous over, punched one into the ground, the ball trundled to long-off and Daryl Mitchell turned down the run on offer.

In real-time, it was thought that the mini-collision between the leggie and Mitchell resulted in him displaying spirit of cricket, which has in the 21st century become a hallmark of Black Caps' cricket.

But replays displayed that Mitchell hadn't really impeded the bowler but it may have been a tactical move, to let Neesham have a go at Rashid. The next ball was sent packing over midwicket boundary.



Cool customer: Mitchell was unperturbed by a collision with Rashid and stamped his mettle at the business end. ■ REUTERS

That moment underlined Mitchell, still a rookie at international stage, was not only a level-headed batter but also a tactically sound player.

And once Neesham's blitzkrieg got over five balls later, Mitchell took over the mantle and finished the job without any fuss to end England's campaign and book New Zealand's berth in the third successive ICC tournament

final, across formats. Mitchell's innings was a perfect exhibition of a T20 batter at the top of the innings. With the two most renowned batters falling early, Mitchell didn't take risks in the PowerPlay, kept the scoreboard moving in the middle and went berserk at the death. For a middle-order bat who was asked to open the

innings days ahead of the T20 World Cup, Mitchell displayed in the biggest match of his career his qualities of being the anchor and the finisher in the same innings.

Son of former All Blacks rugby coach John, Mitchell Jr., was as calm as he would be during a scrum in his childhood before shifting focus to cricket.

## Nice to get it done

"For us we were very lucky that we sort of held our platform. We didn't lose too many wickets in the middle there and it allowed us to take some risks at certain times to try and catch up. For me it was nice to sort of give it out in the middle the last few (overs). It was a struggle there throughout the middle, but it was nice to get it done," he said while addressing a media conference.

New Zealand will be hoping Mitchell continues in the same vein in Dubai on Sunday.

# Conway ruled out of final

Will miss India tour too after a bizarre injury during the World Cup semifinal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBAI

New Zealand wicketkeeper-batter Devon Conway was on Thursday ruled out of the T20 World Cup final and the tour of India after injuring his right-hand in frustration after getting out in the semifinal against England on Wednesday.

Head coach Gary Stead said Conway was understandably devastated.

## Gutted

"He's absolutely gutted to be ruled out like this. Devon is hugely passionate about playing for the Black Caps and no one is more disappointed than he is at the moment.

"It looked a pretty innocuous reactionary incident on the field, but the blow obviously caught the bat between the glove padding.

"While it was not the smartest thing he's done,



Conway. ■ AP

there was certainly an element of ill luck in the injury."

## Fans in attendance

The India tour begins with the opening T20I in Jaipur on November 17. It could be played in front of a sizeable crowd with the host association putting no restrictions on entry of spectators. The Saiwai Mansingh Stadium which has a capacity of 25,000 is hosting an international game after eight years.

# Root wants 'change and actions' from Yorkshire

ASSOCIATED PRESS LEEDS

England captain Joe Root called for "change and actions" from his county team, Yorkshire, in response to a crisis over its handling of a former player's racism allegations.

"These events have fractured our game and torn lives apart," Root said in a statement issued on Thursday in his first public comments since Yorkshire settled an employment tribunal case with Azeem Rafiq, who had reported a culture of racism and bullying at English cricket's most successful team.

Yorkshire has already lost sponsors and the right to host England international matches at its Headingley home in the wake of an escalating scandal that has set in motion additional investigations and led to boardroom changes at the county club.

Root has played for Yorkshire his entire career and has been a teammate of Rafiq, who was the team's youngest ever captain at the



Joe Root. ■ FILE PHOTO

county. "I want to see change and actions that will see YCCC (Yorkshire County Cricket Club) rise from this with a culture that harnesses a diverse environment with trust across all communities that support cricket in the county," Root said, adding that he will "offer support however I'm able" to the team's leadership.

Rafiq said in interviews last year that as a Muslim he was made to feel like an "outsider" during two stints at Yorkshire from 2008-18 and was close to taking his own life.

# Stokes trains with rest of the England squad



Stokes. ■ FILE PHOTO

ASSOCIATED PRESS GOLD COAST

Ben Stokes joined the England squad for a training session for the first time after his six-month lay off from cricket at the Metrocity stadium on Thursday.

Stokes joined captain Joe Root and seniors like Stuart Broad in one of the first full training session for the players who have arrived early in Australia.

Stokes was a late addition to the Ashes squad after the all-rounder had taken time off to recover from mental-health issues as well as an injury to his finger. England's Ashes preparations will start with two matches against England Lions, which is also in Australia.

# Pieter Malan to lead South Africa-A

Team picked for India-A series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA JOHANNESBURG

Cricketer South Africa (CSA) on Thursday named a 14-member South Africa-A squad for the upcoming three-match four-day contests against India-A in Bloemfontein.

The home team will be led by 32-year-old opening batter Pieter Malan.

The series, an opportunity for the players to vie for places in the senior squad before India's upcoming tour of the country, will be held from Nov. 23 to Dec. 9

at Mangaung Oval.

All-rounder George Linde and fast bowler Lutho Sipamla are in the squad with Warriors pacer Marco Jansen and Knights batter Raynard van Tonder also included.

## The squad:

Pieter Malan (Capt.), Sarel Erwee, Dominic Hendricks, Raynard van Tonder, Sinethemba Qeshile, Senuran Muthusamy, Marco Jansen, Migaél Pretorius, Beuran Hendricks, Lutho Sipamla, Glenton Stuurman, George Linde, Jason Smith and Tony de Zorzi.

# Nethra clinches gold



Making a splash: Nethra took the honours in laser radial at the Gran Canaria sailing championships. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

India's Nethra Kumanan won gold in the laser radial section of the Gran Canaria sailing championships, one of the European regional open events, held in Gran

Canaria (Spain) recently.

The 24-year-old finished first in three of the six races, garnering a total of 10 nett points. Beneyto Lancho of Spain came second while Martina Reino Cacho (Spain) emerged third.

# Vivek Sagar Prasad to lead India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Vivek Sagar Prasad will lead an 18-member Indian hockey team in the men's Junior World Cup, to be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar from November 24 to December 5.

Dinachandra Singh Moirangthem and Bobby Singh Dhami have been chosen as alternate players who will be allowed to play only if there is an injury or someone in the 18-member squad is ruled out of the tournament due to COVID-19, said a Hockey India release on Thursday.

Chief coach Graham Reid said the defending champion had a well-balanced and flexible side. "The key to these guys performing on the big stage will be to trust in each other and trust in their preparation," he said.

India will begin its campaign against France on November 24.

**The squad:** Shardanand Tiwari, Prashant Chauhan (GK), Sanjay (Vice-captain), Sudeep Chirmako, Rahul Kumar Rajbhar, Maninder Singh, Pawan (GK), Vishnukant Singh, Ankita Pal, Uttam Singh, Sunil Jojo, Manjeet, Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem, Vivek Sagar Prasad (captain), Abhishek Lakra, Yashdeep Siwach, Gurmukh Singh and Arajjeet Singh Hundal.



Vivek Sagar Prasad.

# Sunil Kumar and Naveen retain titles

## WRESTLING

SPORTS BUREAU NANDINI NAGAR (UTTAR PRADESH)

Former Asian champion Sunil Kumar retained his title in Greco-Roman 87kg category on the opening day of the National wrestling championships here on Thursday.

Sunil, representing Railways, defeated his Services rival Ravinder in the final to win the crown.

Naveen was another wres-

tlar who defended his title in the 130kg category and contributed in Services taking the Greco-Roman team title, followed by Railways.

World under-23 medallist Nisha, who went through mental turmoil after she was mistakenly linked to a murder on Wednesday, retained her crown in the women's 65kg class.

**The medallists: Men: Greco Roman: 55kg:** Gold: Sandeep (SSCB), Silver: Sarvan (Chd), Bronze: Anup (UP), Shrikant

(RSPB); **60kg:** Gold: Gyanendra (SSCB), Silver: Vikas (Har), Bronze: Vikram (RSPB), & Praveesh (Del); **63kg:** Gold: Sagar (SSCB), Silver: Moirang (Man), Bronze: Nitin (RSPB), Neeraj (Del); **67kg:** Gold: Ashu (Har), Silver: Sachin (SSCB), Parveen (SSCB), Pritam (RSPB); **72kg:** Gold: Vikas (Har), Silver: Lovepreet (Pun), Bronze: Kuldeep (RSPB), Satender (Chd); **77kg:** Gold: Sajan (RSPB), Silver: Sachin (Chd); Bronze: Gokul (Mah), M. Rafiq (SSCB); **82kg:** Gold: Hardeep Singh (Pun), Silver: Neeraj (Del), Bronze: Rohit

(Har), Sandeep (SSCB); **87kg:** Gold: Sunil Kumar (RSPB), Silver: Ravinder (SSCB), Bronze: Amit Kumar (RSPB), Sushant (SSCB); **97kg:** Gold: Hardeep (RSPB), Silver: Ravi (RSPB), Bronze: Virender (Pun), Deepak (SSCB); **130kg:** Gold: Naveen (SSCB), Silver: Satish (Har), Bronze: Gursewak (Pun), Ravi (RSPB).

**Women: 65kg:** Gold: Nisha (RSPB), Silver: Jaspreet Kaur (Pun), Bronze: Shafali (Har), Priyanka (Har); **76kg:** Gold: Gursharanpreet Kaur (Pun), Silver: Pooja (Har), Bronze: Bipasha (Del), Kiran (RSPB).



Nisha. ■ TWITTER/WRESTLINGTVND

# Sharath advances

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

India's top paddler Sharath Kamal stormed into the men's singles pre-quarterfinals with a 11-4, 11-4, 11-6 victory over Takuya Jin of Japan in the World Table Tennis Contender, which commenced in Novo Mesto, Slovenia on Thursday.

In a women's singles first-round match, Diya Parag Chitale lost to Fu Yu of Portugal 11-7, 5-11, 6-11, 10-12.

Earlier, two Indian men's pairs – Sharath Kamal and

Manav Thakkar, the top seeds, and the duo of Jeet Chandra and S. Snehit – bowed out in the first round (round of 16).

**Indian results: Men: Singles (round of 32):** Sharath Kamal bt Takuya Jin (Jpn) 11-4, 11-4, 11-6; **Doubles (round of 16):** Hiroto Shinozuka & Yuma Tanigaki (Jpn) bt Sharath Kamal & Manav Thakkar 11-7, 11-4, 10-12, 11-4; Kristian Karlsson & Mattias Falck (Swe) bt Jeet Chandra and S. Snehit 11-5, 11-2, 11-6.

**Women: Singles (round of 32):** Fu Yu (Por) bt Diya Parag Chitale 7-11, 11-5, 11-6, 12-10.



**European WC 2022 Qualifiers:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.; Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)  
**F1:** Qualifying (Brazilian GP): SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

## A basketball player in a blue and yellow Golden State Warriors jersey is dribbling a basketball. The jersey features the team's logo and the name "WARRIORS" at the bottom. The player is in motion, looking towards the right. The background is blurred, showing a crowd of spectators in a stadium setting.

**Warriors' Wiggins stars in win over Wolves**

SAN FRANCISCO

Andrew Wiggins scorched his old team for a season-high 35 points on Wednesday as the Golden State Warriors overcame a career-best 48-point performance by the Minnesota Timberwolves' Anthony Edwards for a 123-110 victory in the NBA at home.

**The results:** Washington 97 bt Cleveland 94; Brooklyn 123 bt Orlando 90; Boston 104 bt Toronto 88; Detroit 112 bt Houston 104; Milwaukee 112 bt New York 100; Chicago 117 bt Dallas 107; Charlotte 118 bt Memphis 108; Oklahoma City 108 bt New Orleans 100; San Antonio 136 bt Sacramento 117; Denver 101 bt Indiana 98; Phoenix 119 bt Portland 109; Golden State 123 bt Minnesota 110; LA Lakers 120 bt Miami 117 (OT). **REUTERS**

**BENGALURU**  
The Stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club have decided to postpone the fifth day of the Bangalore Winter Meeting scheduled to be held on Friday, Nov. 12, to Tuesday, Nov. 16, due to consistent heavy rainfall and inclement weather rendering the underfoot conditions of the race track not conducive for racing.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Sriram Balaji and Divij Sharan beat the third seeds David Pel and Sem Verbeek 6-3, 6-4 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €66,640 Challenger tennis tournament in Slovakia.

**The results: €66,640 Challenger, Bratislava, Slovakia:**

**Singles (first round):** Alex Moman (Svk) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-3, 7-(6/7).

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):**

Sriram Balaji & Divij Sharan bt David Pel & Sem Verbeek (Ned) 6-3, 6-4.

**\$52,080 Challenger, Knoxville, USA: Singles (pre-quarterfinals):** Jack Sock (USA) bt Prajnesh Gunneswaran 6-3, 7-6(1). **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Malek Jaziri (Tun) & Blaz Rola (Slo) bt Ruan Roelofs (RSA) & Arjun Kadhe 6-3, 4-6, [10-6].

**\$60,000 ITF women, Santiago, Chile: Singles (pre-quarterfinals):** Veronica Cepede Royg (Par) bt Riya Bhatia 6-2, 6-2. **Doubles (quarterfinals):** Irina Bara (Rou) & Ekaterina Gordozhe (Geo) bt Maria Fernanda Herazo Gonzalez (Col) & Riya Bhatia 6-4, 6-3.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**INDORE**

Dev Javia knocked out to seed Sidharth Rawat 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 in the second round of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament on Thursday.

It was a welcome run for 19-year-old Javia, who had won two matches in all from eight tournaments earlier in the men's circuit.

He will face Nicolas Tepmahc of France who got past Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam in straight sets.

National junior champion

## Kontaveit gets past second seed Krejcikova



**On a roll:** Anett Kontaveit's win over Barbora Krejčíková helped extend her streak to 11 consecutive victories. ■ [AFP](#)

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
**GUADALAJARA**

Karolina Pliskova overcame a slow start before beating Garbine Muguruza 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(6) in her opening match at the WTA Finals.

In a contest between two former No. 1-ranked players, the third-seeded Pliskova struggled early adjusting to the nearly 5,000-foot altitude of Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city, on Wednesday.

"The first set was not the best from me. The serve was amazing in the second set, many free points on the first serve," Pliskova said.

"Then it was a fighting third set. I thought I just had too many chances, didn't make it really, but happy it went my way in the end." Pliskova is playing the WTA Finals for the fifth time, having reached the semifinals in 2018 and 19. The 2020 tournament was cancelled.

She didn't win any titles

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

With the International Boxing Association (AIBA) postponing the women's world championship in Istanbul till March 2022, the Indian federation will, in all likelihood, hold trials to pick the team that was to comprise national champions and Olympic bronze-winner Lovlina Borgohain earlier.

**Marquee event**

The marquee global showpiece was scheduled from Dec. 4 to 18 in the Turkish city. In a letter to the national federations, AIBA said that the "COVID-19 situation is too difficult at present" and it cannot take the risk to proceed with the event.

India was to be represented by the reigning national champions in all weight categories except for the 70kg division in which Borgohain, a two-time bronze-medallist at the world event, was given direct selection for her show in the Tokyo Games.

"The national camp is set

## National junior champion Karan Singh bows out

Karan Singh, who had beaten Niki Poonacha in the first round, failed to capitalise on 10 of 11 breakpoints and lost 6-4, 6-4 to Bharath Kumaran.

Bharath will face former national champion Dalwinder Singh in the quarterfinals.

Rishab Agarwal survived a match point to beat lucky loser 5-7, 7-6(7), 6-2 in just over three hours. He will next meet second seed Manish Sureshkumar.

**The results:**

**Second round:** Dev Javia bt Sidharth Rawat 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; Nicolas Pietrangeli (Fra) bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shamugam 6-4,

in 2021 but kept a high ranking by reaching the finals at Wimbledon and Montreal, and the semifinals at Cincinnati.

Pliskova now has a 9-2 record against former Wimbledon and French Open champion Muguruza, who won the Chicago and Dubai titles this year and is making her fourth appearance at the season-ending event.

"That was a very tough match for both of us. It was a one-point difference - I saved many match points and is a tough loss I fought as hard as I could," Muguruza said.

"I'm happy with my fighting spirit even though I lost." Muguruza dropped serve before winning four straight games to take a 4-2 lead and eventually clinched the first set in 38 minutes.

Pliskova settled down in the second and got service breaks in the second and eighth games to level the match.

The third set lasted more than an hour, with Muguru-

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
**CHENNAI**

The Nazir Hoosein memorial drive by Team Firefox was flagged off at the beginning of the week in Greater Noida by the Chief of Army Staff, General M.M. Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC.

The first car to be flagged off was a retro-fitted Mahindra Thar driven by Col (retd.) S.S. Sekhon.

The drive, a tribute to the legendary motorsport pioneer and former FMSCI president Nazir Hoosein, has over 100 participants trace the original route of the 1981 Himalayan Rally.

Interlagos g  
Organisers expect

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SAO PAULO

Organisers at Interlagos are aiming for a triumphant return to the Formula One circuit this weekend, with almost 170,000 tickets sold for the three days of action.

Formula One cut Brazil from its 2020 calendar because of restrictions in place for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Race organisers and local authorities on Wednesday said the 2021 edition will be the biggest total attendance for an event in Brazil since the virus hit the nation.

The Sao Paulo Grand Prix, renamed for this year after a company tried to take the race back to Rio de Janeiro, was allowed to open for full capacity only weeks ago when the state government eased restrictions for November.

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
BIRMINGHAM  
Former Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard took his first coaching role in the Premier League when he was hired as Aston Villa manager on Thursday.

Villa moved quickly to appoint Gerrard after firing Dean Smith on Sunday, with the club having lost five straight games in the league to drop to 16th place in the 20-team top flight.

"We are excited he has agreed to lead us in the next phase of our ambitious plans," Villa chief executive Christian Purslow said of Gerrard, who is widely seen as a future Liverpool manager.

Villa finished in 11th place

in the Premier League last season, but has been inconsistent since selling captain and star player Jack Grealish for £100 million – a British record fee – in the off-season.

From relying largely on one player, Villa has tried to implement a new, more expansive approach, but it has left the team more open – it has conceded the third-most goals this season – and many of the players brought in with the money earned from Grealish's transfer have been injured.

Gerrard's first game as Villa manager will be against Brighton on Nov. 20. He will return to Liverpool when Villa plays the Reds at Anfield on Dec. 11.



**Taking charge:** Gerrard's first game as Villa manager will be against Brighton on Nov. 20. ■ AP

## Loses to Iranian side Shahrdari Sirjan; goalkeeper Aditi red-carded

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
AQABA (JORDAN)

Gokulam Kerala FC suffered a 0-1 defeat to Iranian side Shahr-dari Sirjan to bow out of the AFC Women's Club Championship in a match that saw goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan being sent off for bringing down and injuring an opposition player.

After a goalless first half, Shahrdari Sirjan broke the deadlock just after the hour mark through Afsaneh Charenoor's superb free-kick to seal the three points late on Wednesday, with the goal coming minutes after Gokulam and India goalkeeper Aditi was sent off.

The Indian Women's League (IWL) champion team is now out of the race for the title.

It had lost to Amman Club of Jordan in its opening match.

It next plays Uzbekistan's FC Bunyodkor FC on Saturday to avoid finishing at the bottom.

Four clubs from four countries are competing in this edition of the tournament, also known as 2021 FIFA-AFC Pilot Women's Club Championship.

**Final on Saturday**

The result puts Shahrdari Sirjan, which defeated Uzbekistan's FC Bunyodkor FC 2-1 in their opener, on six points and in for a title chance going into their final match against Jordan's Amman Club.

The result puts Shahrdari Sirjan, which defeated Uzbekistan's FC Bunyodkor 2-1 in their opener, on six points and in for a title chance going into their final match against Jordan's Am-

## Feels star player Marta would be a threat to India



**Take away:** Sweetie Devi says she and her teammates have learnt a lot from exposure tours. ■ [TWITTER](#)

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

The Indian women's football team defender Ngamam Sweetey Devi feels the squad needs to be strong mentally and play as a unit against stronger opponents like Brazil, Chile and Venezuela in the coming days.

"We need to be strong mentally. Playing Brazil won't be easy. Our coaches are looking after the tactical aspect.

"The most important thing for us is that we need to play together as a team. The team bonding is quite strong, and we will play together. We respect them, but we will play hard," she told the AIFF.

When asked what went through her head when she first heard that the team will be playing three matches in Brazil, Sweetey had one word - "Marta!"

"It will be a huge challenge to play against her. We will try to stop her, and are working on our plans. If possible, maybe we can

“I’ll speak a few words with her  
too after the game,” she said.

As part of preparation for the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup, the players are looking to lap up as many opportunities of playing against quality teams from all around the world.

"It's a challenge to play against superior teams. It's a good opportunity and challenge. We are developing ourselves, and it's a good opportunity for us to play them, so we want to take this opportunity," she stated.

"We learned a lot from the exposure tours that we recently had. We had never played these opponents – UAE, Bahrain, Chinese Taipei, and then Sweden.

The good thing was that the level of intensity of the matches slowly increased so that we could also match up to the opposition. At the end, the matches were of really high intensity," felt Sweety.

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

India's Tokyo Paralympics gold winner Pramod Bhagat was on Thursday named among six shuttlers for the Male Para Badminton Player of the Year by the sport's world body.

Reigning world champion Bhagat, who had won a historic gold medal in the men's singles SL3 class in the Tokyo Olympics in September, was also named along with Manoj Sarkar for the newly introduced Para Badminton Pair of the Year, with five other nominees. Sarkar had bagged a bronze in the men's singles SL3 class in the Tokyo Olympics.

There was no Indian in the list of nominees in the able-bodied categories.









Work in progress: A bus shelter under construction under the MP Local Area Development scheme at Sriperumbudur in Kancheepuram district, Tamil Nadu, back in 2011. ■ JOTHI RAMALINGAM B.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

# MPLADS, its suspension, and why it must go

The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme is undesirable and unconstitutional

## THE GIST

■ The Government suspended the MPLADS to use the funds "to strengthen the Government's efforts in managing the challenges and adverse impact of COVID-19 in the country".

■ The scheme violates one of the cardinal principles, which permeates the entire Constitution: separation of powers.

■ Reports of underutilisation and misutilisation of MPLADS funds continue to surface at regular intervals but there seems to have been no serious attempt to do anything about it till now.

JAGDEEP S. CHHOKAR

On Wednesday, the Union Cabinet brought back the MPLADS scheme that was suspended in April 2020, with MPs getting ₹2 crore annually instead of the previously approved ₹5 crore. In this article in May 2020, Jagdeep Chhokar, a co-founder of the Association for Democratic Reforms, argued why the scheme militates against the separation of powers, has been underutilised and in some cases, even misused, leading to the conclusion that it must be scrapped. Edited excerpts:

All Opposition parties have been unanimous in their criticism of the Government's recent move to suspend the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for two years, approved by the Cabinet. The Government's reason is to use these funds "to strengthen the Government's efforts in managing the challenges and adverse impact of COVID-19 in the country".

Such political unanimity is not very common, but does happen whenever self-interest is involved. Under the scheme, each Member of Parliament "has the choice to suggest to the District Collector for works to the tune of ₹5 crore per annum to be taken up in his/her constituency".

It must be said upfront that notwithstanding the fact that unilateral decision-making is inappropriate in a democracy, the decision to suspend MPLADS for two years is a good first step. In fact, the MPLADS scheme should be completely abolished, and for the following reasons.

First, the scheme violates one of the cardinal principles, which permeates the entire Constitution: separation of powers. Simply put, this scheme gives an executive function to legislators. The argument that MPs only recommend projects, but the final choice and implementation rests with the district authorities is strange; there are hardly any authorities in the district who have the courage to defy the wishes of an MP.

Second, implementation of the scheme has always left much to be desired. The details below,

which are some of the observations made by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, in a report make it clear: expenditure incurred by the executing agencies being less than amount booked. Utilisation of funds between 49 to 90% of the booked amount; Though the scheme envisages that works under the scheme should be limited to asset creation, 549 of the 707 works were for improvement of existing assets; Use of lesser quantities of material than specified by contractors resulting in excess payments and sub-standard works; "no accountability for the

**The constitutional validity of MPLADS was challenged in the Supreme Court of India in 1999, followed by petitions in 2000, 2003, 2004, and 2005.**

expenditure in terms of the quality and quantities executed against specifications"; Delays in issuing work orders ranging from 5 to 387 days in 57% of the works against the requirement of issuing the work order within 45 days ; Extensions of time granted to contractors without following the correct procedure; Register of assets created, as required under the scheme, not maintained, therefore location and existence of assets could not be verified; "The implementation of the scheme was marked by various shortcomings and lapses... These were indicative of the failure of internal control mechanisms in the department in terms of non-maintenance of records".

### Gaps in utilisation

Third, there are wide variations in the utilisation of the MPLAD amount in various constituencies. A report published in *IndiaSpend* has insights based on data made available to it by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Some of these are: "A year after they took office, 298 of 542 members of the 16th Lok Sabha have not spent a rupee from the ₹5 crore that is set aside annually for them to develop their

constituencies"; 508 MPs (93.55%) did not, or could not, utilise the entire MPLADS amount from May 4, 2014 till December 10, 2018, in 4 years and 7 months. Only 35 MPs of the Lok Sabha utilised the entire amount of MPLADS during this period; Since the MPLADS began in 1993, ₹5,000 crore was lying unspent with various district authorities by May 15, 2015.

It is clear from the details above that most MPs use money under MPLADS quite haphazardly, and a significant portion of it is left unspent.

Fourth, added to the data above is fairly widespread talk of money under MPLADS being used to appease or oblige two sets of people: opinion-makers or opinion-influencers, and favourite contractors. An often-heard tale is that of the contractor being a relative, close friend, or a confidant of the MP, and the contractor and the MP being financially linked with each other.

Finally, we come back to the legality or constitutionality issue which was mentioned earlier. The constitutional validity of MPLADS was challenged in the Supreme Court of India in 1999, followed by petitions in 2000, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

The combined judgment for all these petitions was delivered on May 6, 2010, with the scheme being held to be constitutional.

### Cases of misuse

Reports of underutilisation and misutilisation of MPLADS funds continue to surface at regular intervals, but there seems to have been no serious attempt to do anything about it till now. There are innumerable instances of misuse of these funds; one prominent example is the construction of a fountain in the open space of an unauthorised settlement, or a *jhuggi jhopdi* colony, which did not have provision of drinking water. The general belief in the settlement was that the contractor who bagged the contract to build the fountain was related to the local MP.

Therefore, it would be in order to convert the two-year suspension into the complete abolition of this undesirable and unconstitutional scheme.



## IN THE LIMELIGHT

# A pebble in the sky

An Oscar might be a long shot, but *Koozhangal* has a fighting chance

SRIVATSAN S.

Every year, during the interval preceding the Academy Awards, the discourse you will find on social media, especially among film writers and filmmakers, paints a pretty grim picture about the urgency to be appropriated by the West. It is a testament to an empty gab-fest, since most of these are pointless with seldom positive outcomes.

The discourse is equally tiring, for it invariably begins with divided opinions on how the Oscars are just a PR machinery and not an ultimate test of standard for international cinema. But somehow, these eloquent ramblings end with infighting over India's submissions.

The Tamil indie feature *Koozhangal* (Pebbles) was unanimously picked by the jury members as India's submission for the 2022 Oscars. Shaji N. Karun, who chaired the jury, stated that they chose *Koozhangal* for its "cinematic achievement". In contrast, at the Rotterdam Film Festival 2021, where the film had its world premiere and bagged the coveted Tiger Award, the jury members explained it better, calling it "pure cinema".

"Creating a maximum impact with a minimum in means, the filmmaker reaches his goal with the same conviction and determination as his main characters. The result is a lesson in pure cinema, captivating us with its beauty and humour, in spite of its grim subject," they said.

What is this "pure" cinema that comes up when describing *Koozhangal*? For starters, it is a simple story told in a supreme filmmaking language that is universal – something you would not associate with the recent spate of Indian films submitted to the Oscars, including Vetri Maaran's *Visaranai*. Directed by self-taught filmmaker P.S. Vinodraj, who hails from a village called Arittapatti in Madurai, the dramatic portions of *Koozhangal* are mined from the director's own life.

With a runtime just under 90 minutes, *Koozhangal* is about a man teeming with rage when he finds out that his wife has left the house. He picks up his son from school and they embark on a journey on foot, to bring her back. Almost three-fourths of the film is about them walking through the desolate hamlet, in the scorching heat. But the manner in which this seemingly ordinary story unfolds and the cinematic possibilities Vinodraj and his technical team achieve through it are, simply put, stunning.

Expecting *Koozhangal* to win the Oscar might be a vain hope, even though its film-making language is world-class. Let us admit, the Oscars are not about celebrating the spirit of cinema – not always, but about campaigning and betting on the winning horse. It is "all about wine and dine", as Vetri Maaran was quoted as saying in an interview, talking about the time when he spent nearly three months at Los Angeles in the U.S., hosting parties and meeting agents to catch the attention of voters for *Visaranai*, India's official selection in 2016. Despite being an independent film, *Koozhangal* has the backing of Rowdy Pictures, the production started by Tamil filmmaker Vignesh Shivan and actor Nayanthara. But how much money they can pool in to get their hands on what appears to be an expensive ticket remains to be seen.

*Koozhangal* has other things running in its favour as the voters of the Academy Awards warm up to films that have some sort of familiarity, following their run at international film festivals. Vinodraj's feature already has a reasonable impetus from the festival circuit. Influential film critic Richard Brody wrote a glowing review in *The New Yorker*, calling it the "best dramatic feature" he has seen this year, in addition to the positive reviews from Indian critics.

## THE DAILY QUIZ

The President of India is to present the National Sports Awards on Saturday (November 13). A quiz on the Khel Ratna, the nation's highest sporting honour, named after the hockey wizard Dhyan Chand.

1 Which Indian sporting icon was the first to be conferred the Khel Ratna for the year 1991-92?

2 Including the 2021 winners, there have been 57 recipients since inception. Which sport has seen the most awardees and how many?

3 Cricket may be the most popular sport, but there have been only five winners from it. Apart from Sachin Tendulkar and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who else has been given the award?

4 Over the years, only one star from football, gymnastics, and table tennis have been given

the coveted honour (billiards and snooker have been considered as cue-sports). Name the three.

5 What is the cash award a recipient gets along with a citation and medallion?

6 Apart from P.V. Sindhu, who is the other multiple Olympic medalist to get the Khel Ratna?



◀ Identify the sailing duo, the first joint-winners of the Khel Ratna (for 1993-94).

Please send in your answers to the [dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in](mailto:dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in)

Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. A. Rangaswami Iyengar 2. K.M. Panikkar 3. Martin Baron 4. *Bombay Samachar* 5. Alan Rusbridger, *The Guardian* 6. Indian Opinion

Respondents who got all the answers correctly: Pragya Dwivedi | Nupur Tripathi



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