



on Sunday



India's values only solution to tragedies like 9/11 attacks: Modi  
page 8



U.S. special envoy John Kerry to visit India next week for climate talks  
page 8



300 Afghan women take out rally in support of Taliban  
page 10

Djokovic a win away from calendar Slam and record 21st Major title  
page 15



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### NEARBY

**D. Raja's book released**  
NEW DELHI  
Friends and admirers of CPI general secretary D. Raja came together for the release of his book *D. Raja in the Parliament*, a collection of his select speeches.  
NEWS PAGE 7

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CLASSIFIEDS PAGE 4  
MAGAZINE PAGE 8

## Man held for brutal rape, murder in western Mumbai

Accused identified with the help of CCTV footage

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police on Saturday arrested Mohan Chauhan, a resident of Kurla, for the brutal rape and subsequent death of a 32-year-old mother of two in the early hours of Friday.

According to the police, around 3.20 a.m. on Friday a watchman of a cardboard company on Khairani Road in Saki Naka called the police control room, reporting that a woman was being assaulted by a man inside a



Mumbai Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale addressing the media on Saturday. ■PTI

tempo near the factory. "Personnel from the Saki Naka police station reached the spot within 10 minutes and found the victim. She had serious injuries and was lying in the back of the tem-

po. They obtained the keys of the tempo and went straight to the Rajawadi Hospital in Ghatkopar, where the victim was admitted in an unconscious condition. Treatment was started right away," Hemant Nagrale, Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, told reporters. However, the victim succumbed to injuries on Saturday morning. The police were not able to obtain a statement from her.

Based on CCTV footage from the scene of the crime and nearby areas, the police identified and arrested Chauhan, 45.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Gujarat Chief Minister resigns

Vijay Rupani's successor to be decided at legislature party meeting today

MAHESH LANGA  
AHMEDABAD

In a sudden but not unexpected move, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani resigned on Saturday after completing five years at the helm, paving the way for a change of guard ahead of the Assembly poll next year.

Mr. Rupani, accompanied by Union Ministers Mansukh Mandavia, Parshottam Rupala, Bhupender Yadav and his Cabinet colleagues, met Governor Acharya Devvrat, and submitted his resignation.

"I have resigned as Chief Minister of Gujarat," Mr. Rupani told reporters after meeting the Governor. "I was allowed to serve the



Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani submitting his resignation letter to Governor Acharya Devvrat in Gandhinagar on Saturday. ■PTI

State for five years. I have contributed to the development of the State. I will further do whatever is asked by my party." The party is likely to an-

ounce his replacement on Sunday as BJP general secretary B.L. Santosh, office-bearer V. Satish and Union Minister Bhupender Yadav held a series of meetings at

## Fourth CM to resign this year

Vijay Rupani is the fourth head of a BJP-ruled State to go this year. In Uttarakhand, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat was replaced by Tirath Singh Rawat, who was later replaced by Pushkar Dhama. In Karnataka, B.S. Yediyurappa was replaced. ■PAGE 7

the State party headquarters. All MLAs left for Gandhinagar after the sudden resignation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Wettest Sept. in city in 77 yrs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

With 19 days still left in September, Delhi received the highest rainfall for the month in 77 years, according to the IMD.

The city received 94.7 mm rain in 24 hours from 8.30 a.m. on Friday to the same time on Saturday. From colonies and underpasses to IGI Airport, heavy downpour inundated the Capital.

DETAILS PAGE 2

## Karnal standoff ends as Haryana orders probe

Ex-HC judge to investigate August 28 lathi charge; former SDM to remain on leave

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The standoff between farmers and the Haryana government over the August 28 baton charge during a protest at Bastara in Karnal, leading to severe injuries to several individuals, ended on Saturday after the government announced a probe into the incident.

The State government also agreed to give a job to the kin of a farmer, who died of injuries after the incident.



Farmers protesting outside Karnal's mini secretariat. ■FILE PHOTO

After several rounds of talks between both sides, it was decided that the baton charge would be investigated by a retired judge of the Pun-

jab and Haryana High Court. During the probe, Ayush Sinha, the then SDM of Karnal, will remain on leave. Mr. Sinha is at the centre of the

controversy for his alleged speech, caught on camera, exhorting policemen before the lathi charge to "smash their [farmers] heads".

Additional Chief Secretary Devender Singh said there was a demand from the farmers' organisations that the police baton charge should be investigated and the family of deceased farmer, Sushil Kajal, be given proper compensation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Unity the central lesson from 9/11 attacks, says U.S. President

Biden attends events at sites of 2001 attacks

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON DC

On the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks, U.S. President Joe Biden called for unity in America, saying it was the "central lesson" of September 11.

Mr. Biden released a pre-recorded video message on



President Joe Biden at the September 11 Memorial. ■AP

Friday from the White House, paying tribute to the 2,977 people from 90 countries who were killed in New

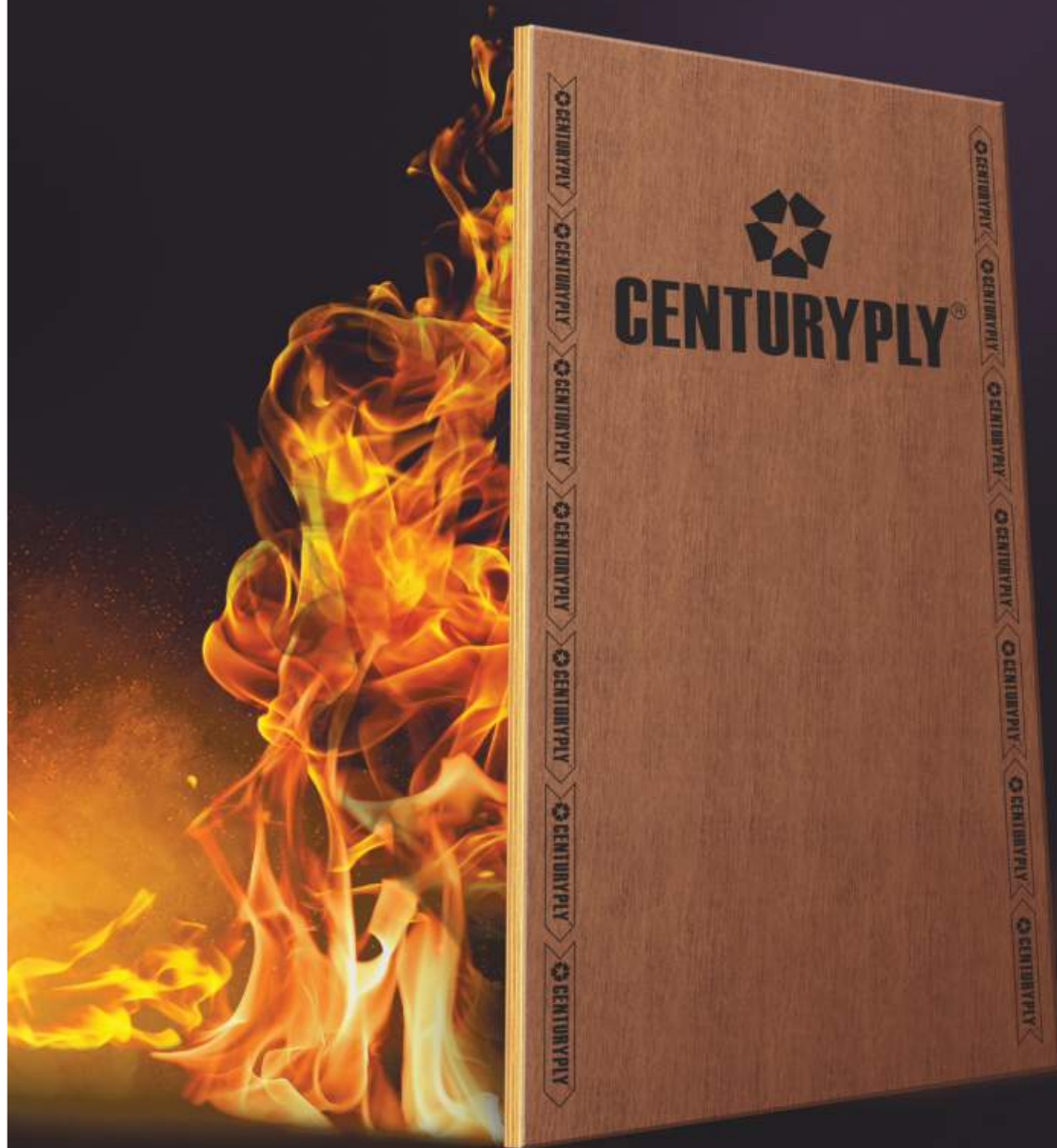
York City, Arlington (Virginia), and Shanksville (Pennsylvania) in the 2001 attacks.

He spent the day attending commemorative events at the sites of the attacks. "In the days that followed September 11, 2001, we saw heroism everywhere... We also saw something all too rare — a true sense of national unity," the President said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7  
MORE REPORTS PAGE 10

# Aag Se Bachaye

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# City drowns in heavy downpour

In addition to usual waterlogging points, colonies also flooded

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

From colonies and underpasses to the Indira Gandhi International Airport and the vicinity of the Supreme Court, heavy rainfall inundated Delhi on Saturday.

The Public Works Department received around 350 waterlogging complaints, many of which originated from residential colonies, which fall under the jurisdiction of the civic bodies.

Delhi Traffic Police said the WHO building on Ring Road, NH-48 near Dhaura Kuan, Palam flyover, Azadpur to Mukarba Chowk, Khajuri Khas to Brijpuri and multiple locations in Dwarka witnessed severe waterlogging that affected vehicular movement.

Minto Bridge, Sawan Park underpass, Tilak Bridge, Shakti Nagar underpass, Roshanara underpass, Azad Bhawan pump house, Pul Prahladpur underpass, Bhe-ro enclave underpass, Azadpur underpass, and the Zak-

## BJP leader goes 'rafting' on submerged road

NEW DELHI

Taking a dig at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over the extensive waterlogging in Delhi on Saturday, BJP leader Tajinder Bagga went "rafting" on an inundated road and thanked him for making it possible in "every nook and corner" of the city. In a video posted on Twitter, the national secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha is seen sitting in a boat on a submerged road in Bhajanpura as cars, motorcycles and buses wade past him.

hira RUB were inundated. Waterlogging receded at these spots after the rain stopped and pumps were deployed to expel water towards the end of the day.

IGIA's Terminal-3 also witnessed waterlogging, but Delhi International Airport Limited spokesperson said the situation was brought under control "within a few minutes".

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP

president Adesh Gupta blamed the waterlogging situation on the "negligence and corruption" in the cleaning and maintenance of sewers by the Delhi government departments, including flood control, the PWD and the Delhi Jal Board. "The city government had shown people the dream of making Delhi a world-class city, but due to rampant corruption, Delhi has now become the dirtiest capital in the world," Mr. Gupta said.

## 'Mute spectator'

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri criticised the AAP government for "remaining a mute spectator" as commuters suffered due to flooding of roads and colonies. "The waterlogging is due to choking of uncleaned drains. It is shameful that no one in the AAP government is coming forward to take responsibility for this inefficiency," he said.



Pedestrians struggling to keep their balance on a submerged road; many major streets in Delhi were severely waterlogged on Saturday.



PTI, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

# Delhi's wettest September in 77 years

IMD issues orange alert for today

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

With 19 days still left in September, Delhi received the highest rainfall for the month in 77 years, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

This is also the second highest rainfall for the month of September in 121 years. The city has till now received 380.2 mm rainfall in September this year, and the highest was 417.3 mm in 1944, according to the IMD.

Rain hit record levels as the city received 117.9 mm of rainfall from 5.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on Saturday. More rain is expected on Sunday.

This is already - with over a week still left to go - the wettest monsoon season in Delhi in 46 years. The monsoon usually withdraws from Delhi by September 25.

Till 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, the city had received a total of 1,136.6 mm of rainfall this monsoon season.

In 1975, 1,150.6 mm of rainfall was received during the whole monsoon, and the highest rainfall of 1,420.3 mm was received in 1933, according to the IMD. Normally, Delhi records 653.6 mm of



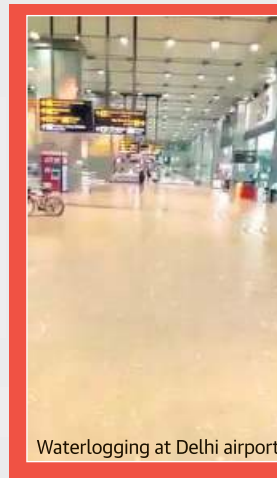
Traffic jam at Dhaura Kuan; a flooded DDA flat in north Delhi's Jahangirpuri on Saturday.



PTI, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## RECORD-BREAKING RAIN

- The city has gauged 1,136.6 mm of rainfall, from onset of monsoon on July 13 till Saturday evening, the highest in 46 years
- 383.4 mm of rainfall recorded this month till Saturday evening - highest in 77 years
- 117.9 mm of rainfall recorded from 5.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on Saturday
- Delhi recorded over 100 mm of rainfall on two consecutive days at the start of the month - 112.1 mm on September 1 and 117.7 mm on September 2
- Normally, Delhi records 653.6 mm of rainfall during the monsoon season
- The city recorded 1,150 mm of rainfall in the 1975 monsoon season
- The monsoon usually withdraws from Delhi by September 25



Waterlogging at Delhi airport

## IGIA under water

Forecourt of the Delhi airport was waterlogged

- 3 flights cancelled
- 5 flights diverted to Jaipur and Ahmedabad
- Aerocity, which houses multiple luxury hotels, was also waterlogged in the morning
- Operations resumed normally around 9 a.m., said the Delhi International Airport Limited

rainfall during the monsoon season.

## Rainy week ahead

The IMD has issued an orange alert for the capital for Sunday, when cloudy skies and moderate rainfall are predicted.

Light rains and cloudy skies are predicted for the following week, too.

The maximum temperature on Saturday was 26.8 degree Celsius, which is seven notches lower than the normal for this time of the year, and the minimum temperature was 24 degree Celsius, which is one degree below the expected level.

**OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**

**DEATH**

**SHRI S.G. KRISHNASWAMY (KITCHA)**  
Age: 76 Years Peacefully left for his heavenly abode on 06.09.2021 But he still lives in our hearts.  
Wife: K. Saraswathy, Son: Govind Krishnaswamy, Grand Daughter: Thanya S. Govindh Mob: 7358326164

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**IN BRIEF**

**40 rescued from bus in waterlogged road**

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Fire Services (DFS) on Saturday rescued around 40 people from a bus trapped at the waterlogged underpass of Palam flyover. DFS chief Atul Garg said two fire tenders were dispatched around 11.30 a.m and all the passengers were rescued. Later in the day, fire service officials rescued a young woman who was trapped in her car due to waterlogging near Mayapuri metro station in west Delhi.

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- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

**Office Of The Superintending Engineer**  
**9th Circle Public Work Department Dehradun**  
Office of the Superintending Engineer, 9th Circle PWD, Dehradun, Uttarakhand  
Website- <http://pwd.uk.gov.in> E-mail: [sepwdddun@rediffmail.com](mailto:sepwdddun@rediffmail.com)  
Letter No. 7295/1C-9/21 Dated: 10/09/2021

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**  
**e-tender Notice**

The Superintending Engineer 9th Circle, Public Works Department, Dehradun on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" invites item rate tender in two bids system for the following work. Information regarding tender shall be available on <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> from date 15.09.2021

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Validity of Tender (In days)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (In Month)	Contractor Category of Registration
1	Construction of internal roads, drains & Walls of Ward No.-1 Malsi, Ward No.-7 Jakhan and Ward No.-9 Arya Nagar in Mussoorie Constituency, Distt. Dehradun under State Sector.	4.14	120	5000.00 + 18% G.S.T.	12	Registered in 'A' & above category in Road works in Central Govt. / State Govt. / any Govt. Undertaking
2	Construction of internal roads, drains & Walls of Ward No.-4 Rajpur and Ward No.-12 Kishan Nagar in Mussoorie Constituency, Distt. Dehradun under State Sector.	4.15	120	5000.00 + 18% G.S.T.	12	
3	Construction of internal roads & drains of Ward No.-5 Dhorankhas and Mithi Behri in Mussoorie Constituency, Distt. Dehradun under State Sector.	3.40	120	5000.00 + 18% G.S.T.	12	
4	Under CM Declaration No.-323/2009 in Distt. Dehradun Constituency Sahaspur under New Construction work, Hill Side Cutting, Construction of Scupper & Walls, parapets & drain etc. of Kotda-Kalyanpur-Badwa-Langha motor road (Km 1 to 4) X.S. 0/0 to 3/40)	5.10	120	5000.00 + 18% G.S.T.	09	
5	Under CM Declaration No. 323/2009 in Distt. Dehradun Constituency Sahaspur under New Construction work, Hill Side Cutting, Construction of Scupper & Walls, Parapets & drain etc. of Kotda-Kalyanpur-Badwa-Langha motor road (Km 4 to 6.750 X.S. 3/40 to 6/30)	3.02	120	5000.00 + 18% G.S.T.	09	

**Note:- Submission of following documents in original is essential in office of undersigned upto/ before the last date and schedule time of uploading tender by the bidders.**

- Cost of tender document Rs. 5000.00+ 18% G.S.T. as applicable only in the form of demand draft in the name of Executive Engineer, Provincial Division Public Work Department, Dehradun, Bank Draft for Rs. 5000.00 & GST Rs. 900.00 to be submitted separately.
- Rs. 100.00 Non Judicial stamp affixed with duly signed Rs. 1.00 Revenue stamp for the validity of the Tender including certificate for validity up to 120 days.
- Earnest Money to be pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, Provincial Division Public Work Department, Dehradun.
- Attach Copy of Uttaranchal PWD Registration ( According to Uttaranchal Finance Deptt. G.O. No. 47/ XXVII(7)/32/2017 Dt. 02 April 2018)

**Superintending Engineer**  
9th Circle, PWD,  
Dehradun.

# DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

(DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT)

4th FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006  
Visit us at: <http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>

## PUBLIC NOTICE - E-WASTE MANAGEMENT

E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 came into force w.e.f 1st October 2016. These Rules mandates various responsibilities on manufacturers, producers, collection centres, dealers, refurbishers, consumers, bulk consumers, dismantlers, and recyclers. Major responsibilities of each of these stakeholders are listed as under. For more details, these stakeholders may visit <https://www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in/uploads/pdf/E-Waste-guidelines-2016.pdf> and <https://www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in/uploads/pdf/EWMRulespdf-fdab6f4b3b8088efb1c981b6ba97705f.pdf>, for compliance.

**MANUFACTURERS**

- Apply for authorisation in **Form 1** (a) to Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).
- Maintain record of e-waste generated, handled and disposed in **Form-2** and make such records available for scrutiny by DPCC.
- File annual returns in **Form-3**, to DPCC on or before 30th June following the financial year to which that return relates.

**PRODUCERS**

- Every producer of electrical and electronic equipment listed in Schedule I, shall apply application for Extended Producer Responsibility Authorisation to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in **Form 1**.
- Maintain records in **Form-2** of the e-waste handled and make such records available for scrutiny by the CPCB and DPCC.
- File annual returns in **Form-3**, to CPCB on or before 30th June following the financial year to which that return relates.
- Create awareness through media, publications, advertisements, posters, or by any other means of communication and product user documentation accompanying the equipment.

**COLLECTION CENTRES**

- Ensure that the facilities are in accordance with the standards or guidelines issued by CPCB time to time and store the e-waste collected by them in a secured manner till it is sent to authorised dismantler or recycler as the case may be.

Maintain records in **Form-2** of the e-waste handled as per the guidelines of the CPCB and make such records available for scrutiny by the CPCB and DPCC.

**DEALERS**

- Shall collect the e-waste by providing the consumer a box, bin or a demarcated area to deposit e-waste, or through take back system and send the e-waste so collected to collection centre or dismantler or recycler as designated by producer.
- Shall ensure that no damage is



caused to the environment during storage and transportation of e-waste to authorised dismantlers or recyclers.

**REFURBISHERS**

- Apply for authorization by submitting an online application in **Form-1** (a) to DPCC.
- Shall ensure compliance with the guidelines issued by CPCB available as shown above.
- Maintain records of e-waste handled in **Form-2** and make such records available for scrutiny by the DPCC.
- File annual returns in **Form-3**, to DPCC on or before 30th June following the financial year to which that return relates.

**DISMANTLER AND RECYCLERS**

- Obtain authorization by submitting

online application in **Form-4** to DPCC.

- Maintain record of e-waste collected, dismantled, recycled and sent to authorised recyclers in **Form-2** and make such records available for scrutiny by the CPCB and DPCC.
- File annual returns in **Form-3** to DPCC on or before 30th June following the financial year to which that return relates.

**CONSUMERS/BULK CONSUMERS**

- Shall ensure that e-waste generated by them is channelised through collection centre or dealer of authorised producer or

dismantler or recycler or through the designated take back service provider of the producer to authorised dismantler or recycler.

- Maintain records of e-waste generated by them in **Form-2** and make such records available for scrutiny by DPCC.
- File annual returns in **Form-3**, to DPCC on or before 30th June following the financial year to which that return relates.

Any violation of the provisions of the Rules and notified guidelines will attract penal action as per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Please visit website of Delhi Pollution Control Committee (<http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>) for more details.

**Member Secretary**

**Timings DELHI**

<b>SUNDAY, SEP. 12</b>	RISE 06:05	SET 18:30
	RISE 11:26	SET 22:16
<b>MONDAY, SEP. 13</b>	RISE 06:05	SET 18:29
	RISE 12:33	SET 23:06
<b>TUESDAY, SEP. 14</b>	RISE 06:06	SET 18:28
	RISE 13:40	SET 00:00

**Delhi Weather**

max	min
Delhi City 27	24
Safdarjang 27	24
Palam 27	24

**Delhi Palam Today**  
30°C Warm and humid day would prevail with cloudy sky. Light to moderate rain and thunderstorm may occur at some areas.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
32°C Light rain and thunderstorm would occur with cloudy sky at some places. Day would remain warm and humid.

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# 'Be ready to sacrifice everything for country'

Kejriwal tells AAP workers not to be driven by posts, tickets

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday told party volunteers not to desire any post, and work for the people and the country.

"Bhagat Singh and Baba Saheb Ambedkar are our chief ideologists and we walk the path shown by them. Bhagat Singh, at a young age, did make the supreme sacrifice for the country... Like Bhagat Singh, each of our volunteers should be ready to make the supreme sacrifice," Mr. Kejriwal said in a video address. Mr. Kejriwal said that a new national council had been elected and welcomed the members.

He said the AAP was formed to serve the people and make sacrifices. "To all new members of the National Council, I want to say that one thought should be there in your mind: 'How can I



Arvind Kejriwal

serve the community and the country, and if needed, be ready to sacrifice everything for the country," he said.

"Don't desire any post in the AAP. Your happiness should come from work... Work in such a way that Arvindji will come to you and say: 'I have seen your work or heard about your work and please take this post or fight election on this ticket'," he added. He said the party workers should give up any

greed or desire for posts. "I don't want a time to come when people will look at us and say, 'They have become like the BJP or the Congress,'" the AAP chief said.

He claimed that after seeing the AAP run a successful government in Delhi, people look at their work and say that AAP is the only hope. He said that the AAP has come to change the politics of 'Satta Se Paisa aur Paise se Satta'.

"When plasma therapy came, the world's first plasma bank was opened in Delhi in ILBS Hospital and the second one was opened in Lok Nayak Hospital. Delhi gave home isolation technique to the whole world," Mr. Kejriwal claimed.

"In Delhi, we honoured the sacrifice of all the COVID-19 warriors by giving their families a 'Sahayta Raashi' of ₹1 crore," he added.

# 19 colleges approved under 'Vidya Vistar'

Deliberation on NEP under way

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

At the 99th Foundation Day of Delhi University (DU) held on Saturday, Vice-Chancellor P.C. Joshi said that as part of the varsity's outreach programme, 19 colleges and five departments had been approved under the Vidya Vistar scheme to establish academic linkages with 33 colleges in remote areas across the country.

The foundation day which falls on May 1, could not be held earlier due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, officials said.

**Global standards**  
Stating that the university had sustained "the highest global standards and best practices in higher education," Mr. Joshi added that "active deliberations" were currently under way to prepare a detailed framework for the implementation of the National Education Policy from the next academic session.

"The university is considering engaging International Adjunct Faculty in its various departments. This proposal is with the view to tap external talent and their specialised knowledge, expertise and experience to add significant value to the teaching-learning process, research activities as well as in the overall development of the university and contri-



Under the scheme, colleges will establish academic linkages with 33 colleges in remote areas.

bute to its internationalisation," Mr. Joshi said.

**Revived giving grants**  
Stressing on the importance of research at the university, Mr. Joshi said, "In order to provide impetus to research, the university has revived giving grants to teachers. As many as 250 applications were received for the Institute of Eminence research grants and about 165 research proposals have been sanctioned for a total grant of about ₹5.5 crore."

At the event, 29 teaching and non-teaching, retired and in-service staff were conferred awards under various categories.

Union Minister Kiren Rijju, Secretary Higher Education Amit Khare, former Pudu-cherry L-G Kiran Bedi and film-maker Imtiaz Ali were some of the distinguished alumni who were honoured at the event.

# 'Need to spread, promote Mahatma Gandhi's work'

It shouldn't be limited to seminars: Goel

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

The teachings of Mahatma Gandhi "should not remain limited to some seminars and workshops", rather should be spread through programmes of "mass participation", recently appointed vice-chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) Vijay Goel said on Saturday.

Mr. Goel, who assumed office on Friday after being named to the post on September 2, said the GSDS had carried out 162 programmes last year, ranging from theatre workshops for the underprivileged, "co-existence" programmes for schoolchildren and health-related activities during the pandemic. However, he said there was a "need to reach more people" through the activities of Gandhi Smriti,

which is the house where Gandhi spent his last few months and where he was assassinated on January 30, 1948. The second campus at Gandhi Darshan, at Rajghat, also hosts exhibitions.

"There is a need to propagate Mahatma Gandhi's work. Gandhi Smriti should be a place of inspiration through people's participation. The number of people who visit Gandhi Smriti and the museum there, needs to be increased," Mr. Goel, a former Union Minister.

He said Gandhi's teachings of truth and non-violence remained important today and needed to reach the new generation.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken inspiration from Gandhi's teachings while launching programmes like Swachh Bharat.

# No COVID deaths for 4th day

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The city reported no new COVID-19 death in 24 hours for the fourth consecutive day and the total number of deaths stood at 25,083, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government on Saturday.

Also, 35 new cases were reported, taking the total

cases to 14,38,211. A total of 74,540 tests were done in a day and that test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.05%.

Of the total cases, 14,12,716 people have recovered and there are only 412 active cases.

The COVID-19 vaccine stock in the city on Saturday would last for five days, as per another bulletin.

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Examination: Jan. 23, 2022 (Sunday) 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

For more information **Website:** [www.uceed.iitb.ac.in](http://www.uceed.iitb.ac.in)

**CEED 2022**

Applications are invited for Common Entrance Exam for Design (CEED) for MDes at IISc Bangalore, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Kanpur, IIT Roorkee and IITDM Jabalpur; and for PhD at several IITs and Design schools.

**Eligibility:** Candidates who have completed a degree or diploma programme of minimum 3 years (after 10+2), or appearing for final examination of such a programme by July 2022 (refer to the CEED 2022 Information Brochure for details).

**IMPORTANT DATES**  
Online Registration: Sept. 9 - Oct. 10, 2021  
Examination: Jan. 23, 2022 (Sunday) 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

For more information **Website:** [www.ceed.iitb.ac.in](http://www.ceed.iitb.ac.in)

# CM to inaugurate revamped Chandni Chowk today

Delhi BJP to stage silent protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will inaugurate the redeveloped Chandni Chowk on Sunday evening.

Initially scheduled to be dedicated to the people by August 15, a government source said the programme

got "slightly delayed" due to heavy rainfall which the city has witnessed this monsoon.

According to a senior government official, Mr. Kejriwal, Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Satyendar Jain, Ballimaran MLA Imran Hussain and Chandni Chowk MLA Prah-lad Singh Sawhney will be part of the ceremony, which is scheduled for 4 p.m.

In the coming days, an

agency will be appointed to provide last-mile connectivity on the 1.3-km-long stretch through vintage golf carts.

A design for new model cycle rickshaws for the same purpose, designed by IIT-Delhi, and installation of CCTV cameras will also be finalised. At a meeting of the Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation in June, directions were issued to ensure that as many as 107 cy-

cle rickshaws, which will be allowed to ply on the pedestrianised stretch soon, be on the road by September 30.

Ajay Bhardwaj, BJP general secretary of Chandni Chowk district, said they would stage a silent protest prior to the inauguration.

Mr. Bhardwaj said residents and traders were facing issues because of water-logging due to the alleged design flaws in the project.

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Meeting at Christian prayer hall disrupted by Hindutva activists

Hindu Jagaran Vedike members barge into hall alleging attempted conversion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MANGALURU

Members of the Hindu Jagaran Vedike (HJV) allegedly barged into a Christian prayer hall at Kukundoor, near Karkala in Udupi district of Karnataka, on Friday and disrupted a meeting being held there, alleging attempts at religious conversion.



A stand-off: The HJV activists were accused of creating a ruckus at Kukundoor village.

The Christian group, in turn, accused the activists of criminal intimidation and attempting to harass a woman who had come to the prayer hall.

The activists, who stormed the hall of Pragati Centre in Nakre of Kukundoor village, accused Benedict, the meeting organiser, of

trying to convert people. The protesting group shot videos of those assembled at the hall, hurled abuses and created a commotion, according to a complaint filed with Karkala Town police. The police then arrived

and dispersed the HJV members. Later, the Vedike members filed a complaint against Mr. Benedict. Sunil, a resident of Kuntappady, who attended the prayer meet, also filed a complaint, accusing him of hurting religious

sentiments. Complaints were registered for alleged offences under Section 295A and 298 of the IPC (outraging, wounding religious feelings). Mr. Benedict filed a complaint against the HJV members, alleging offences under IPC Sections 354 (intention to outrage a woman's modesty), 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

Mr. Benedict told presspersons that the centre was run by a congregation from Mangaluru, and denied any religious conversion. At the prayer sessions, people from different communities took part. He accused HJV activists of abusing women.

French woman found dead in Hyderabad

STAFF REPORTER HYDERABAD

The body of a 68-year-old French national, who went missing two days ago, was found in the bushes near the Himayat Sagar reservoir in Hyderabad, Telangana, on Saturday morning.

The victim, Marie Christene De Roche-monteix, a resident of Rangareddy district, was the founder and chairman of Marica Group of Schools. An official said Marie was murdered by her adopted daughter Roma, her live-in partner Vikram Sriramula from Konadapur and his friend Rahul Gowtham, alias Sai, from Jagadgirigutta. "They conspired and killed Ms. Marie for her property," he said. The victim along with her family members and fellow French nationals migrated to India and had been living in the city for over 30 years. She had two biological daughters and adopted two girls - Roma and Priyanka. Recently, Marie decided to perform Roma's marriage and created a profile on the Christian Matrimony website. In May, Roma developed acquaintance with Vikram, but Marie refused to perform their marriage. As a result, the couple conspired to eliminate her and get her property.

'Air India pilot's non-adherence to SOP probable cause'

Report on Kozhikode plane crash out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The pilot's non-adherence to the standard operating procedure (SOP) is the probable cause of the Air India Express plane crash at the Kozhikode airport in August 2020, but the role of the systemic failures as a contributory factor cannot be overlooked in the accident,

according to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau probe report.

The crash, involving a Boeing 737-800 aircraft, killed 21 persons, including the two pilots, and injured several others. While trying to land at the airport amid rain, the aircraft overshot the runway and later broke into pieces. There were 190 persons onboard when the crash happened on August 7, 2020. The AAI released the report on Saturday.

The report, released a lit-

tle over a year after the deadly crash, said the "probable cause of the accident was the non adherence to SOP by the PF [Pilot Flying]".

The PF continued an un-stabilised approach and landed beyond the touchdown zone, "half way down the runway, in spite of 'Go Around' call by PM [Pilot Monitoring]", it noted. According to the report, the investigation team is of the opinion that the role of systemic failures as a contributory factor cannot be overlooked.

Pala Bishop's 'narcotic jihad' sermon roils politics in Kerala

IUML, CPI(M) and Cong. warn against speech

G ANAND THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Pala Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangattu's "cautionary" sermon on radical Islamists "using narcotic drugs" to corrupt Catholic and non-Muslim youths has roiled Kerala politics.

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), the Congress, the CPI(M) and the CPI have warned that the Bishop's speech about "narcotic jihad" against non-Muslims by Islamists could lethally polarise Kerala's largely secular society into competing religious groups acutely mistrustful of each other.

However, the LDFseemed caught off guard when Kerala Congress(M) leader and Kottayam district pan-chayat president Nirmala Jimmy publicly backed the Bishop's view. Her statement contradicted CM Pinarayi Vijayan's rejection of the spectre of "narcotic jihad". In Thiruvananthapuram, Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraliedharan threw the Union government's weight behind the Bishop. He said Indian politics had shifted since 2010 when the jihadist attack on Newman College teacher T.J. Joseph for blasphemy had elicited a muted response.

REGIONAL APPOINTMENTS

CPI leaders slam Annie Raja's remark

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala and central leadership of the CPI seems to be at odds over party leader Annie Raja's statement that a patently misogynist "RSS gang", with a dismal track record in handling crimes against women, helmed the Kerala police.

The CPI State executive and council, which met here recently, reportedly took strong exception to Ms. Raja's statement. The CPI State executive reportedly said party general secretary D. Raja had lost no time supporting Ms. Raja. He should have cross-checked facts with the State unit.

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The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Government of West Bengal Enterprise) Employment Notification No. WBPDC/Recruitment/2021/03 WALK-IN INTERVIEW The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC), a Government of West Bengal Enterprise, engaged in the business of generation of electricity in the State of West Bengal, intends to engage experienced mining personnel on contractual basis for its Mining activities spread across West Bengal & Jharkhand, as per details given below:

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'Ready to conduct Class XI exams'

STAFF REPORTER THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court putting forward its case for conducting the Class XI higher secondary examinations in the offline mode despite the recent stay by the court. The case will be taken up for hearing

again on Monday. The affidavit lays out the arrangements on the part of the State government for conducting the exams by strictly adhering to the COVID-19 protocols. It pointed out that the Secondary School Leaving Certificate and the Class XII exams had been conducted in April by observing all possible safety measures.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT, DIVISION,AWANTIPORA E-mail : pheidivisionawantipora@gmail.com TENDER DOCUMENT (Technical Bid-Volume-I) TOP SHEET E-NIT S, No 4th attempt : 82/PHA of 2021-22 Reference :- 3rd attempt -61 of 2021-22 (No Response) 2nd attempt -47 of 2021-22 (No Response) for item 01 2nd attempt -45 of 2021-22 (No Response) for item 02 1st attempt - (No Response) for item 01 & 02

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U.S. honours 9/11 victims on anniversary

Dignitaries, including President Biden and former Presidents Obama and Clinton, join ceremonies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE NEW YORK

America marked the 20th anniversary of 9/11 on Saturday with solemn ceremonies given added poignancy by the recent chaotic withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan...



Tribute to heroes: People attending a 9/11 commemoration ceremony in New York on Saturday. AFP

At the 9/11 memorial in New York, relatives wiped away tears, their voices breaking as they read out the names of the almost 3,000 people killed in the al-Qaeda attacks.

“We love you and we miss you,” many of them said as somber violin music played at the official ceremony, attended by dignitaries including President Joe Biden and former Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton.

At the Ground Zero site where 2,753 people died —

some of whom jumped to their deaths from the collapsing towers — the service started shortly after 8:30 a.m. under tight security, with Lower Manhattan effectively locked down.

Mourners clutched photos

of their loved ones, their pain still raw despite a whole generation having grown up since September 11. Bruce Springsteen sang his song I’ll See You in My Dreams, and after nightfall twin light beams will be projected into

9/11 altered U.S. engagement with the world, says Blinken

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken released a message of remembrance for the nearly 3,000 individuals killed in the terror attacks of September 11, 2001.

— regardless of whether we lost someone we knew or where we were on 9/11 — the attack felt personal. It still does,” Mr. Blinken said.

“As much as any other event in our lifetimes, 9/11 shaped the trajectory of our nation and how we engage in the world,” he said.

the New York sky.

Smaller ceremonies took place across the country, including outside fire stations throughout New York in remembrance of the 343 firefighters who lost their lives to save others, while a brief

moment of contemplation took place in Times Square. Commemorations also took place at the Pentagon and Shanksville.

World leaders struck a cordial tone, sending messages of solidarity to the U.S.

Afghan withdrawal Biden's incompetence: Trump

‘His administration surrendered in defeat’

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

Former U.S. President Donald Trump used the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks to slam the “inept administration” of Joe Biden for its “incompetence” over the Afghan withdrawal in a video message on Saturday.

“This is a very sad day,” Mr. Trump said in the message.

“It is also a sad time for the way our war on those that did such harm to our country ended last week,” he continued.

“The leader of our country was made to look like a fool,” he said.

He blamed “bad planning, incredible weakness and leaders who truly didn’t understand what was happening.”

Mr. Trump also lamented the deaths of 13 U.S. troops in a bomb blast in Kabul last month, and the billions of dollars in U.S. military equipment that was left behind and seized by the Taliban “without a shot being fired.”

“We will struggle to recover from the embarrassment this incompetence has caused.”

George W. Bush, who was President during 9/11, said on Saturday at a service that disunity today made him “worried” about the future of the U.S. “So much of our politics has become a naked appeal to anger, fear, and resentment. That leaves us worried about our nation.”

Taliban kill former V-P Saleh's brother

ASSOCIATED PRESS KABUL

The Taliban shot dead the brother of Amrullah Saleh, the former Vice-President of Afghanistan, and his driver in northern Panjshir province, Mr. Saleh's nephew said on Saturday.

Shuresh Saleh said his uncle Rohullah Azizi was going somewhere in a car on Thursday when Taliban fighters stopped him at a checkpoint.

Shuresh Saleh said it was unclear where his uncle, an anti-Taliban fighter, was headed when the Taliban caught him. He said phones were not working in the area. Mr. Saleh led forces resisting the Taliban in Panjshir.

ELSEWHERE



Prince Andrew faces sexual assault lawsuit

Britain's Prince Andrew has been served legal papers in a U.S. lawsuit brought by a woman who says he sexually abused her when she was a teenager, a court filing showed on Friday.

Crisis-hit Lebanon gets govt. after 13 months

Lebanon ended a 13-month wait for a new government on Friday with the unveiling of a lineup that faces the daunting task of rescuing the country from economic meltdown.

Israel captures four of six Palestinian jail breakers

Israeli forces on Saturday captured two more of the six Palestinian militants who made a dramatic escape from a maximum security Israeli jail this week.

‘Competition should not lead to conflict’

U.S. President Biden spoke to his Chinese counterpart Xi for the first time since February

ANANTH KRISHNAN



Xi Jinping

U.S. President Joe Biden told his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Friday that both countries needed “to ensure competition does not veer into conflict” as they grapple with a growing list of differences.

The phone call was only the second between the two leaders, and the first time they have spoken since February, not long after Mr. Biden's inauguration. The months since have seen both sides clash on a number of issues, starting with a war-of-words that played out in public when senior officials from the two countries met in Alaska in March in what was the first significant engagement with Beijing by the new administration.

The rancorous U.S-China relationship under former President Donald Trump has broadly carried over into the new administration, which has said it would compete with China when it needed to, but also wanted to cooperate on some issues such as climate change.

In Friday's call (made on

September 9 night Washington time), both sides “had a broad, strategic discussion, in which they discussed areas where our interests converge, and areas where our interests, values, and perspectives diverge”, the White House said in a brief statement.

A more detailed readout from the Chinese Foreign Ministry said Mr. Xi had “pointed out that for some time, due to the U.S. policy on China, the China-U.S. relationship has run into serious difficulty”.

two countries and the world will suffer.” He added: “Getting the relationship right is not an option, but something we must do and must do well.”

He said engagement on climate change, COVID-19 response and economic recovery could continue “on the basis of respecting each other's core concerns and properly managing differences”.

Amid the differences, the prospect of cooperation does, however, appear dim for now on issues, including climate change and Afghanistan. Mr. Wang, the Foreign Minister, in an August 29 phone call with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, slammed “the hasty withdrawal” of U.S. forces and told Mr. Blinken that the U.S. “on the premise of respecting Afghanistan's sovereignty and independence, should take concrete actions to help Afghanistan combat terrorism and violence, rather than practicing double standards or selectively fighting terrorism.”

“Stop attacking China” — “If the U.S. side also hopes to bring bilateral relations back on the right track, it should stop blindly smearing and attacking China, and stop undermining China's sovereignty, security and development interests,” Mr.

Wang said.

In late July, Chinese officials presented visiting U.S. officials with “two lists” of demands in talks in Tianjin, named a “List of U.S. Wrongdoings that Must Stop” and a “List of Key Individual Cases that China Has Concerns With.”

A U.S. effort to engage China on climate change earlier this month did not appear to make much headway, after Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry travelled to Tianjin for talks with Chinese officials.

(With inputs from Sriram Lakshman)

Afghan women stage rally in support of Taliban's policies

About 300 gather at a university in Kabul, slam the West

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KABUL

Afghan women wearing full face veils sat in rows at a Kabul University lecture theatre on Saturday, pledging commitment to the Taliban's headline policies on gender segregation.

About 300 women — covered head-to-toe in accordance with strict new dress policies for education — waved Taliban flags as speakers railed against the West and expressed support for the Islamists' policies.

A handful wore blue burqas, but most wore black niqabs covering most of the face apart from the eyes.

Since returning to power last month, the Taliban have claimed they will implement a less extreme rule. This time, women will be allowed to attend university as long as classes are segregated by sex or at least divided by a curtain.

The women, who organis-

ers said were students, listened to a series of speeches at Shaheed Rabbani Education University in Kabul.

“We are against those women who are protesting on the streets, claiming they are representative of women,” said the first speaker, covered head to toe.

“Those not wearing the hijab are harming all of us,” Shabana Omari, another attendee, said, referring to the headscarves worn by many Muslim women. “The hijab is not an individual thing.”

15 killed in Myanmar fighting

ASSOCIATED PRESS BANGKOK

Fifteen to 20 villagers, including several teenagers, have been killed in fighting in Magway region, a villager and reports by a section of the media said on Friday.

The fighting near Gangaw township started on Thursday, two days after a call for a nationwide uprising by the National Unity Government.

Members of a lightly armed village self-defence militia fired warning shots but could not stop the soldiers from entering the area and clashes ensued after that, said the resident.

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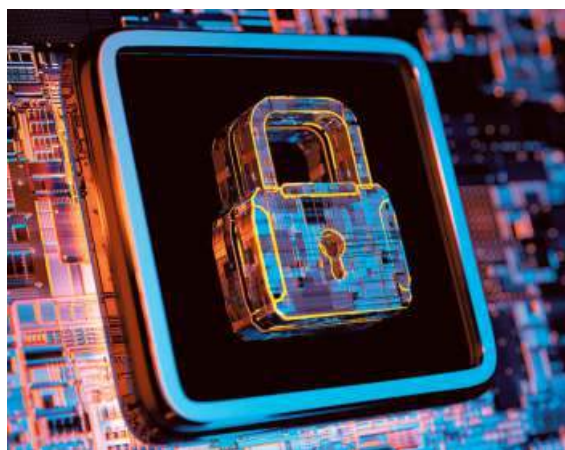
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**Bounds set:** The regulations will make using the digital space safer for children, especially while accessing online services. • GETTY IMAGES

## E-safety for kids

How will the U.K.'s tech privacy code impact digital space norms worldwide?

RAMYA KANNAN

**The story so far:** Last week the U.K. government brought into effect the Age Appropriate Design Code or the Children's Code, as an amendment to the Data Protection Act, 2018, operationalising a set of regulations that will make using the digital space safer for children. While the Code is officially in place only in the U.K., tech majors such as TikTok, Instagram and YouTube have tightened safety rules for children, and campaigners hope this will become the norm globally.

**What is the Children's Code?**

■ The Children's Code is a data protection code of practice for online services likely to be accessed by children. As 5Rights Foundation, which spearheaded the movement, said, "It has the potential to completely transform the way that companies collect, share and use children's data, requiring them to offer children a high level of privacy protection by default." It sets out 15 standards for online services, including in apps, games, toy and devices and even news services. Unless the service provider is able to prove that children do not access the service at all, it is required to consider making changes as per the Code.

**What are the threats to children online?**

■ Research conducted by 5Rights and Revealing Reality pointed out that within 24 hours of a social media profile being created, children were being targeted with graphic content. It established the pathways between the design of digital services and the risks children face online. According to 5Rights, "It shows that services such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok are allowing children, some as young as 13 years old, to be directly targeted within 24 hours of creating an account with a stream of harmful content. Despite knowing the children's age, the companies are enabling unsolicited contact from adult strangers and are recommending damaging content, including material related to eating disorders, extreme diets, self-harm and suicide as well as sexualised imagery and distorted body images." Further, they concluded that even if the

Research shows that within 24 hours of a social media profile being created, children are targeted with graphic content. If tech firms universalise safety architecture, children will gain from the Code

services were not conceived with the intent of putting children at risk, they are by no means 'bugs' or mistakes in the code that allow such errors to creep up on children, unbeknownst to the service providers. "These are not 'bugs' but features. Revealing Reality interviewed engineers and designers who explained they design to maximise engagement, activity and followers – the three drivers of revenue, not to keep children safe."

U.K.'s Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham said, "Data sits at the heart of the digital services children use every day. From the moment a young person opens an app, plays a game or loads a website, data begins to be gathered. Who's using the service? How are they using it? How frequently? Where from? On what device? That information may then inform techniques used to persuade young people to spend more time using services, to shape the content they are encouraged to engage with, and to tailor the advertisements they see. For all the benefits the digital economy can offer children, we are not currently creating a safe space for them to learn, explore and play."

**Who does the Code apply to?**

■ The Code, according to 5Rights, applies to "information society services likely to be accessed by children". The definition of an ISS is "any service normally provided for remuneration, at a distance, by electronic means and at the individual request of a recipient of services". This includes apps; programs; search engines; social media platforms; online messaging or internet-based voice telephony services; online marketplaces; content streaming services (like video, music or gaming services); online games; news or educational websites; and any websites offering other goods or services to users on the internet. Electronic services for controlling connected toys and other connected devices are also ISS. The code applies to the U.K. based companies and non-U.K. companies that use data of children in the country. However, as has been seen with the example set out by some tech giants, it makes sense to make the entire architecture child-friendly, and not region-specific alone.

**Will children in India benefit from the Code?**

■ As Ms. Denham says, "It is rooted in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that recognises the special safeguards children need in all aspects of their life." John Carr, online safety expert based in the U.K., says on his blog that the UNCRC put in an addition, General Comment 25, which looked at child rights in the context of a digital environment. If tech giants universalise their safety architecture, children across the world will benefit from the Code. However, child rights activists say it is high time that the Indian government incorporated child safety into its social media agenda.

# Will the new scheme help textile industry?

What has the government announced for the sector and will it help manufacturers to catch up with the global players?

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA

**The story so far:** Ten months after it first approved a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the textile sector, the Union Cabinet cleared it on September 8, after the Ministry of Textiles incorporated suggestions from the industry. With a total budgeted outlay of ₹10,683 crore, the government has designed the scheme with a view to providing a big fillip to the man-made fibres and technical textiles segments of the industry.

**What are the details of the scheme?**

■ The scheme is aimed at promoting industries that invest in the production of 64 select products. The product lines include 40 in man-made fibre apparel, 14 in man-made fibre fabrics, and 10 technical textile segments/products. The investment period is two years, and the incentive will be paid for five years after the first year of post-investment operation. The scheme is for two types of investments. The first entails a minimum of ₹300 crore in plant, machinery, equipment and civil works in a unit that must register a minimum turnover of ₹600 crore once it commences operation. The second is for a minimum of ₹100 crore, where the business achieves a minimum turnover of ₹200 crore. Thus, the incentive is based on a combination of investment and turnover. While details of the 64 specific products are expected to be announced once the scheme is notified – officials expect it by the end of this month – the government has indicated that the incentive for the higher investment scheme would start at 15% of the turnover for the first year, and 11% in the case of the lower turnover plan, decreasing gradually by 1% each subsequent year over the next four years for both schemes. Priority will also be given to investment in aspirational districts, Tier-3, Tier-4 towns, and rural areas.

**Why the stress on man-made fibre?**

■ The scheme focuses on the man-made fibre segment to enable the Indian textile and clothing sector to regain its dominant status in the global textiles trade. Currently, Indian production and export of textile and clothing products are largely cotton-based. In 2018-19, while



**Much-needed boost:** Industries that invest in the production of select products will be helped. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Indian textile and clothing exports amounted to about \$36 billion, less than one-third was man-made fibre-based. In contrast, of the total textile and clothing exports by China, it is estimated that almost 80% are man-made fibre-based. Similarly, of the total global fibre manufacturing and consumption, 70% is man-made fibre-related, while in India it is just about 35%. Annual textile and clothing exports have remained largely stagnant over the last seven years, and stuck in the range of \$30 billion-\$35 billion. India is ranked sixth in the global trade in this sector. Added to this, in recent years, countries including Bangladesh and Vietnam have gained a sizeable share in the man-made fibre segment of the global textile trade, making it all the more vital for India to provide policy support to ensure the country remains competitive internationally. Though the final list of products eligible for the scheme is yet to be notified, it is expected that most of the top globally traded man-made fibre product lines in which India's share is less than 5% will be covered.

**How will it impact traditional textiles such as jute?**

■ The scheme will not impact traditional textile segments such as jute or cotton. It has minimum investment thresholds and select product lines and hence targets a limited number of players. The traditional segments have a large number of industries spread across micro, small and medium enterprises and large-scale

operations. They will continue to invest and grow in the fields they are strong in.

**Will the scheme help lower dependence on imports?**

During 2018-19, the import of man-made fibre garments jumped 39% from the previous year, while the import of the man-made fibre yarn, fabrics, and made-ups rose 16%. With the government recently removing the anti-dumping duty on viscose staple fibre and Purified Terephthalic Acid, most man-made fibre is now available in India at internationally competitive prices. With an incentive to invest in production too, Indian manufacturing of man-made fibre value-added products is expected to increase and thus bring down imports, especially of man-made fibre apparel and fabrics, from countries such as China and Bangladesh.

**What lies ahead?**

■ The government has said the scheme will help attract ₹19,000 crore of fresh investments and generate 7.5 lakh jobs. The expectation is that it will motivate industries to make fresh investments in the select product lines and scale up capacities. Global retail brands, which are present in India and sourcing man-made fibre-based apparel from other countries, are likely to start sourcing from India once the garments become available at internationally competitive prices.

# What is the new framework to share financial data?

Why has RBI launched the account aggregator? Will the easier availability of information benefit the economy?

PRASHANTH PERUMAL J.

**The story so far:** On September 2, the Reserve Bank of India launched the account aggregator framework aimed at making financial data more easily accessible. Under it, a number of fin-tech entities have been granted the licence to operate as account aggregators. Eight large banks have also agreed to share various financial data about their customers with account aggregators.

**How will an account aggregator work?**

■ The framework will allow financial data to be exchanged between the holders of data and its users. The RBI has allowed a number of companies like PhonePe to act as account aggregators to facilitate this process. Account aggregators will act as intermediaries who will collect data from one financial entity and exchange it with another. For example, a bank which is processing a loan application from a potential borrower may want to access a variety of financial data about the borrower. The lending bank can access details of the borrower's savings, past loan repayment record, mutual fund holdings and insurance holdings through an account aggregator. The borrower, however, will have to grant consent for the sharing of his data with the lending bank.

**What are its benefits?**

■ At the moment, the various financial data of an individual is scattered across the databases of several financial institutions. So a person's savings and loans data may be



**Collected and sorted:** Now the various financial data of an individual is scattered across the databases of several financial institutions. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

with a bank, his investments data may be with a mutual fund, while his insurance data may be with another financial entity. Under the account aggregator framework, all this data can be easily collated and shared through account aggregators with the consent of the individual. Proponents of the framework believe that the easier availability of data will have significant benefits for the economy. They believe the framework will help financial institutions make better assessment of the creditworthiness of individuals, and thus make better loan decisions. Even though mechanisms such as CIBIL already exist to assess the creditworthiness of individual borrowers, their scope is limited. An individual's PAN number, for instance, captures only a limited number of transactions which are of value

higher than a certain minimum threshold amount. It is said the framework will offer a wider array of data to financial firms, making them more willing to serve creditworthy populations that they earlier ignored. Account aggregators can also make life easier for creditworthy customers by allowing them to share their financial data digitally with ease, it is believed. The availability of wider financial data may also help financial institutions offer better products tailored to the needs of individual customers.

**What happens next?**

■ The issue of the security of the financial data of individuals will be a looming concern going forward, given the risk of data theft. To protect the privacy of individuals, account aggregators are supposed to receive and share financial data in an encrypted form. The RBI has also said the data ownership will reside with individuals. More financial firms are expected to get on board the framework as offering access to their financial databases will help them gain access to the databases of other firms. Over time, financial institutions may also mandate access to data available through account aggregators as a condition for individuals to receive loans and other services. The eventual success of the framework, however, will depend on multiple factors. Some believe an individual's PAN number may be a better way to access his financial data as it serves as a common link between multiple accounts maintained by an individual. Further, the extent to which financial firms desire extensive, micro-level financial data from their customers and the enthusiasm among customers to share their data will also play a crucial role.

# Why is Nipah's return in Kerala a cause for concern?

How does it spread? Is there a cure for this 'emerging zoonotic disease'?

JACOB KOSHY

**The story so far:** Kerala has reported a fatality from a case of infection by the Nipah virus in the northern district of Kozhikode. In May-June 2018, the district had reported 18 confirmed cases and 17 laboratory-confirmed deaths. This time, of the 274 people identified as being among the primary contacts of the 12-year-old boy who died, 68 have tested negative. Close to 15,000 people who live within a three-kilometre radius of the boy's family, too, are being surveyed for symptoms.

**Have outbreaks been frequent?**

■ The Nipah virus is classified as an 'emerging zoonotic disease', meaning that it is caused by germs that spread between animals and people. It was first recognised in a large outbreak of 276 cases in Malaysia and Singapore from September 1998 to 1999. Prior to the Kerala outbreak of 2018, there have been several outbreaks in Bangladesh with spillovers into India, particularly in 2001 and 2007 at Siliguri and Nadia in West Bengal. During the outbreak in Siliguri, 33 health workers and hospital visitors became ill after exposure to patients hospitalised with the virus. At least 50 people died (there were 71 cases) in the outbreaks in these two districts. In the 2018 outbreak in Kerala, four from the family of the first person confirmed with the infection succumbed to the disease.

**Where does the virus originate?**

■ The Nipah virus (NiV) is classified as a "highly pathogenic paramyxovirus", and handling it requires the highest grade of facilities called BS-4. The natural



**The source:** The natural reservoir for the virus is large fruit bats of the Pteropus genus. • GETTY IMAGES

reservoir for the virus is large fruit bats of the Pteropus genus. From here the virus may pass on to pigs which may be infected after eating fruits that are bitten on by infected bats. It's also possible for the virus to have jumped to humans from bats without pigs being involved, as in previous outbreaks in Bangladesh, via direct contact or through fruits contaminated by bats. Kerala has several fruit plantations that host several species of bats. While investigations are on to determine if there are infected bats in the districts, so far no evidence has emerged. In 2018 too, the animal source of the virus wasn't established. The virus takes 6-21 days to incubate and manifest as disease. Unlike in the case of the coronavirus which is airborne and can spread across great distances, Nipah does not transmit efficiently. Contact with body fluids and an infected person's respiratory droplets are the most common ways to catch an infection which explains why those who share a house or hospital facilities harbouring the infected patients are at the greatest risk.

**What are the symptoms and how is it diagnosed?**

■ Fever, delirium, severe weakness, headache, respiratory distress, cough, vomiting, muscle pain, convulsion and diarrhoea are the main symptoms. Inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) or respiratory diseases are common too, hence the 40%-75% fatality rate. Because of the lethality of the virus, very few Indian laboratories like the Pune-based National Institute of Virology are equipped to isolate the virus using cell culture methods. However, the virus's presence in blood or saliva samples can be determined – like coronavirus tests – in commercial antibody tests that detect the presence of antibodies in the serum. Tests like RT-PCR, undertaken by commercial laboratories, can also be used to detect the virus.

**What is the treatment protocol?**

■ Currently, there is no known treatment or vaccine for either people or animals. Ribavirin, an antiviral, may have a role in reducing mortality among patients with encephalitis caused by the Nipah virus disease, according to a fact-sheet by the National Centre for Disease Control. The thrust of treatment relies on managing symptoms. There are, however, immunotherapeutic treatments (monoclonal antibody therapies) that are under development and evaluation. One such monoclonal antibody, m102.4, has completed Phase I clinical trials, and has been used on a compassionate use basis. In addition, the antiviral treatment Remdesivir has been effective in non-human primates when given as post-exposure prophylaxis, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There are no approved vaccines but recent studies have shown that a Covishield-like vaccine fully protected a small group of primates (Green African monkeys). Another vaccine candidate has been in preliminary human trials, with the results expected later this year.

THE TALIBAN REGIME

# Return of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

Almost all key portfolios of the new Taliban government are allocated to the militant group's core leadership, including globally designated terrorists, and the Haqqani Network, which has deep ties with al-Qaeda and ISI

STANLY JOHNY

Three weeks after they captured Kabul, the Taliban, on September 7, announced their interim government, ending all speculations on whether the new administration would be different from the previous Islamic Emirate. Despite the Taliban's promises that they would form an 'inclusive government', the 33-member Cabinet that would replace the fallen Islamic Republic government of Ashraf Ghani signalled a continuation of the old Taliban regime. Among the 33 members, all but three are ethnic Pashtun, while two are from the Tajik minority and one an Uzbek. The Hazara Shias were totally excluded and so were women.

Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, the Taliban's emir since 2016 (whom *The Hindu* profiled on August 22) will be the new 'Emir al Momeineen' (commander of the faithful) of Afghanistan, a title Mullah Omar, head of the old Taliban regime, had assumed. While Akhundzada, who was the judicial chief of the previous regime, will have a final say in all matters related to governance, Mullah Hassan Akhund will run the day-to-day affairs of the government as acting Prime Minister. He will be joined by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar as Deputy Prime Minister, Sirajuddin Haqqani as Interior Minister, Mullah Muhammad Yaqoob as Defence Minister, Amir

Khan Muttaqi as Foreign Minister and Khalil Haqqani as Refugee Minister. Here are details about some of the key leaders of the new Islamic Emirate.

### Hassan Akhund

When the UN issued an ultimatum to the Taliban regime in November 1999 to hand over Osama bin Laden, who was held responsible for the August 1998 bombing of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 244 people, to the U.S. for trial, Hassan Akhund was the Foreign Minister. The UN had threatened to impose sanctions on the Taliban regime unless Bin Laden was handed over. Akhund dismissed the UN demand, saying: "We will never give up Osama at any price." Akhund said a Taliban inquiry had exonerated Bin Laden. Besides his role as the Foreign Minister, Akhund, a co-founder of the Taliban and a close associate of Mullah Omar, had also served as Deputy Prime Minister. According to the UN, Akhund was born in Pashmul village in Kandahar Province some time between 1945 and 1958. He was a governor of Kandahar and the political adviser of Mullah Omar. The UN placed Akhund on its blacklist of terrorists in 2001.

When the Taliban lost power, Akhund, with other top leaders, retreated from Kabul. By 2009-10, he had emerged as a top commander of the Taliban, which were trying to strike back



ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

From the left: Hassan Akhund, Muhammad Yaqoob, Hibatullah Akhundzada, Sirajuddin Haqqani and Mullah Ghani Baradar.

and capture territories in Afghanistan. He also became a member of the Rahbari Shura, the Taliban's supreme council, which was based in Quetta, Pakistan. By naming him the head of the government, the Taliban have stressed more on continuity from the previous Islamic Emirate than on change as many world leaders and analysts had hoped for.

### Abdul Ghani Baradar

Baradar has been the public face of the Taliban ever since the militant group started direct negotiations with the U.S. Born in 1968 in Uruzgan, Baradar had fought the communists along with Mullah Omar during the 1980s. In 1994, he co-founded the Taliban with Omar and had played a key role in the old regime as Deputy Defence Minister. When the Taliban government was toppled in 2001, Baradar fled to Pakistan, where he, along with other peers, rebuilt the militia as an insurgency.

When he was captured by American and Pakistani commandos in January 2010 in Karachi, Baradar was the operational commander of the Taliban. Back then, both Pakistan and the U.S. hailed his arrest as a breakthrough in the fight against terrorism. Later, Pakistani officials told

the media that they detained Baradar, with help from the CIA, to shut down the secret talks he had initiated with the Afghan government of President Hamid Karzai.

Later, when the Trump administration was seeking a negotiated withdrawal agreement with the Taliban, it pressed Pakistani authorities to release Baradar, apparently because of his earlier willingness for talks. He was freed in 2018 and then became the head of the Taliban's Doha political office. He led the negotiations with the U.S. that led to the February 2020 withdrawal agreement. Baradar will serve as the Deputy Prime Minister of the new Taliban regime.

### Sirajuddin Haqqani

In June this year, when the Taliban were making rapid inroads into Afghanistan's countryside in the wake of the U.S. withdrawal, the UN's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team released a report claiming that there were deep ties between al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Sirajuddin Haqqani, leader of the Haqqani Network and one of the deputy emirs of the Taliban, is also "assessed to be a member of the wider al-Qaeda leadership, but not of the al-Qaeda core leadership (the Hattin

Shura)," it said. The Haqqanis' ties with al-Qaeda were hardly a secret. Sirajuddin's father Jalaluddin Haqqani, the founder of the Network, was the top Taliban commander in 2001 when Bin Laden escaped the U.S.-led manhunt after the 9/11 attacks. Jalaluddin was one of the top commanders of the U.S.-backed anti-communist mujahideen in the 1980s. After his death, Sirajuddin rose to the leadership of the Network.

### A UN report earlier this year claimed that Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is the new Interior Minister of Afghanistan, was 'assessed to be a member of al-Qaeda's wider leadership'

The Haqqanis, who enjoy close ties with Pakistan's ISI, are blamed for several terror attacks, including the July 2008 Indian Embassy bombing in Kabul in which 58 people were killed. According to the FBI, Sirajuddin is a "specially designated global terrorist", and the State Department has offered a reward of up to \$10 million for informa-

tion leading to his arrest. He is now the Interior Minister of Afghanistan, who will handle national intelligence as well as the police force. Khalil Haqqani, another senior member from the Network, who is also a designated terrorist, is the Minister of Refugees, which means international organisations and NGOs wanting to deal with the refugee issue will have to deal with Khalil.

### Muhammad Yaqoob

The oldest son of Mullah Omar, Yaqoob will be the acting Defence Minister of the new regime. Thought to be in his early 30s, Yaqoob's name came to public attention after the Taliban confirmed the death of his father in 2015. The Taliban chose Mullah Mansour as their emir after Omar's death and when Mansour was killed in an American air strike in 2016, Akhundzada became the new leader. Yaqoob, who was reportedly feuding with Mansour, rose steadily in the Taliban's rank under Akhundzada's leadership. He became the head of the military commission in 15 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces where he oversaw the war. He was also a member of the Rehbari Shura, and became one of the two deputies of Akhundzada. After the Taliban captured Kabul on Au-

gust 15, they released an audio clip of Yaqoob in which he praised the Taliban's "martyrdom-seeking force" (suicide bombers). "All the people of Afghanistan must carry out the duty of jihadi training as much as possible, every citizen must be [a] capable military mujahid and must be ready at any moment to defend independence, land and the Islamic system," he said.

Most others in the Cabinet also come from the Taliban's core leadership. Seventeen of the 33 members are designated terrorists. Afghanistan, whose economy is almost entirely dependent on donations, is going through a severe crisis and the Taliban would need some international legitimacy to get funds. There are also civil society protests, mostly driven by women, across the country. Fighting in Panjshir is not over even though the Taliban have claimed control over the province. When the Taliban move to governance from fighting, a host of challenges are awaiting them.

The question, however, is whether the Taliban would be able to consolidate power and offer stability with a team of globally designated terrorists and a regime that resembles the brutal totalitarianism of the past.

### In Focus

■ Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, the Taliban's emir since 2016, is the new 'Emir al Momeineen', a title Mullah Omar had assumed in the 1990s. He will have the last word in matters of governance

■ Mullah Hassan Akhund, who served as Foreign Minister in the old regime, will run the day-to-day affairs of the government as acting Prime Minister

■ While Mullah Baradar, the public face of the Taliban, is the Deputy Prime Minister, Muhammad Yaqoob, Mullah Omar's son, has been named the Defence Minister

MUKHTAR ANSARI

# The 'Bahubali' politician

BSP says it won't field the controversial MLA, who faces several cases, in poll

OMAR RASHID

In the long list of criminal-tainted politicians in Uttar Pradesh, Mukhtar Ansari's name is perhaps the most polarising. His intimidating physical persona — broad shouldered, towering way over six-feet and a thick twirled-up moustache — is an unmistakable part of his public image and notoriety.

A gangster and a dreaded mafia don for the Uttar Pradesh government and his detractors, Mr. Ansari is a messiah against feudal and communal forces for his supporters in the backward parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh. Within this binary, lies the timeline of the life and politics of Mr. Ansari.

A five-time MLA from Mau, a small district known for its textile and weavers, Mr. Ansari was born in the neighbouring district of Ghazipur in 1963. His brother Afzal, currently an MP from BSP, was previously elected MLA on a CPI ticket. Together, the brothers, though having influence in a limited area of eastern Uttar Pradesh, have often served as the mascots for criminal politics in the State.

Mr. Ansari is currently lodged in Banda jail. This election season, politics came a full circle for Mr. Ansari and his family. On Friday, BSP chief Mayawati said her party would keep away from candidates who are dubbed 'mafia or Bahubali' in the 2022 poll. She specifically named Mr. Ansari, who won as a BSP candidate in



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

2017, and said he would not be fielded in the next election. It was little more than four years ago, a month before voting for the 2017 election, that Ms. Mayawati, desperately banking on a Muslim-Dalit combination, welcomed Mr. Ansari, his son Abbas, his brothers Afzal and Sibgatullah into the BSP after an image-conscious Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party snubbed them.

Ms. Mayawati had then defended the criminal charges against Mr. Ansari, suggesting that some of the cases were not genuine. Interestingly, Ms. Mayawati had in 2010 expelled Mr. Ansari from the BSP for his alleged criminal activities.

Her choice in 2017 was backed by the understanding that she could reap the benefits of the clout of the Ansaris in Ghazipur, Mau, Ballia, Azamgarh and Varanasi districts, especially among the Muslims and some backward caste com-

munities opposed to dominant castes. If Mr. Akhilesh went on a collision course with his uncle Shivpal Yadav in 2017 over the latter's role in the induction of the Ansaris into the SP, just recently, he welcomed Mr. Ansari's brother Sibgatullah, a two-time former MLA, into the party.

### Under the radar

Ever since the Yogi Adityanath government came to power in 2017, the Ansaris have been under the radar, facing police action. Several persons considered close to Mr. Ansari, who was designated a "gangster" and head of a gang coded as IS191, were shot dead.

The MLA's family repeatedly alleged that the government was targeting them to entangle them in criminal cases and to divert public attention from its failures. Mr. Ansari had 52 FIRs lodged against him, of which 16 are sub-judice, say police. These include cases of at-

tempt to murder and murder, as per his last election affidavit.

On his official bio in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly site, Mr. Ansari states "protection of Dalits, poor and the weak, and maintaining communal unity and brotherhood" are among his special interests. His political career has been eventful.

Mr. Ansari's first election victory came in 1996 on a BSP ticket. In 2002 and 2007, he secured the Mau seat as an independent before winning in 2012 under the Quami Ekta Dal (QED) party, which he formed with his brothers after his expulsion from the BSP in 2010. In 2017, he won on a BSP ticket, but his son Abbas lost. In 2009, he unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha election in Varanasi against BJP veteran Murli Manohar Joshi.

In the 2012 Assembly election, the QED secured two seats. In 2014, he announced that he would contest against Narendra Modi from Varanasi but eventually backed out to prevent a division of "secular votes". His brother Afzal Ansari, a former MP, defeated Manoj Sinha in 2019, who was a Minister in the Narendra Modi government and till the last hour touted to be the CM of Uttar Pradesh in 2017.

It would be clear in the coming months what role the Ansaris will play in the 2022 Assembly election. But Mr. Ansari is certain to be among the talking points in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

OLAF SCHOLZ

# A socialist at the centre

The SPD leader is pitching himself as the true successor of Angela Merkel

G. SAMPATH

With just two weeks to go for the German federal elections, the centre-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) has surged ahead of the two leading contenders — the centre-right Union parties consisting of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Christian Socialist Union (CSU), and the centre-left Greens.

When the SPD announced last year that Olaf Scholz would be its Chancellor candidate, its ratings were far behind that of the Greens and the CDU-CSU. But in a poll last week, the SPD led at 25%, ahead of the CDU-CSU at 19% and the Greens at 17%. Most analysts credit the SPD's late upswing to two factors — Mr. Scholz's popularity, and a clever messaging strategy.

Mr. Scholz, a labour lawyer by training and the Vice Chancellor and Finance Minister in the outgoing CDU-CSU-SPD coalition government under Angela Merkel, is a seasoned politician who is perhaps the most experienced of the three candidates in the Chancellorship race. The Green Party's Annalena Baerbock doesn't have government experience while the CDU-CSU's Armin Laschet is a regional politician who is only now making a switch to national politics. Mr. Scholz has been the most popular candidate all along, leading Mr. Laschet and Ms. Baerbock by a sub-



ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

stantial margin even as his own party lagged behind in opinion polls.

Mr. Scholz is helped by the fact that although the SPD is centre-left, he is perceived to be from the more moderate — that is, the rightwing — faction of the SPD, making him the quintessential centrist. Just as he has made himself acceptable to rival factions of his own party, the SPD is banking on his ability to gather divergent sections of the German electorate behind him. As Finance Minister, Mr. Scholz did keep to the rightwing script of fiscal prudence. But when pandemic struck, he did not hesitate to open the purse strings, taking on additional debt of €400 billion to provide a generous rescue package that kept small and medium enterprises afloat and avoided big lay-offs.

With an established track record of being business-friendly, Mr. Scholz has smartly built his campaign

around social justice. His campaign slogan is 'respect' — especially for those whose job profile affords very little by way of social mobility. A self-proclaimed fan of Michael Sandel's *The Tyranny of Merit*, Mr. Scholz has said many times that the reason nations go for choices like Donald Trump and Brexit is because the working classes feel they have no stake in the warped world of privilege propped up by a liberal 'meritocratic' society. He believes that rather than so-called merit, it is respect — a currency of value where a delivery executive and a CEO are entitled to the same amount — that should be society's guiding principle.

### Incremental steps

He has followed up this messaging with promises to raise the minimum wage, provide more social housing, and not give tax cuts to the wealthy. On climate change, unlike the Greens, who would like drastic mea-

sures, Mr. Scholz prefers incremental steps toward a carbon-neutral economy.

Most significantly, Mr. Scholz has tied up all these messages in a Merkel-shaped bundle, presenting himself as the one most likely to ensure continuity with the Merkel years. He even posed for magazine photographs making the rhombus symbol, a trademark Merkel gesture. It is clear that many CDU-CSU voters are unimpressed with Mr. Laschet. If a good percentage of them switch to Mr. Scholz because they believe he will stay true to their favourite leader's mantra — incremental change built on a base of stability — that could be enough to ensure an SPD victory. However, with none of the three parties anywhere close to the halfway mark, the SPD, even if it wins the most seats, will have to cobble together a coalition. For Mr. Scholz, this has been the sole vulnerability where the CDU-CSU has been able to score some points. It has warned voters that Mr. Scholz may form a government with the hard-left Die Linke.

In most democracies, it is common to hear talk of anti-incumbency around poll time. In Germany, however, the ruling party finds itself in a bizarre situation where it could lose polls because the rival party has produced a convincing clone of the incumbent who, for the first time in the history of post-war Germany, is not standing for election.





## Rajini stamps his class, wins in style

Jagan has the last laugh in his battle with Rajiv, overtaking the latter on the final lap

### MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Veterans Rajini Krishnan (RACR) and Jagan Kumar (TVS Racing) posted brilliant but contrasting victories in their respective categories to light up the second round of the MRF-MMSCI National motorcycle racing championship on Saturday.

Rajini, 41, stamped his authority and class while winning the race in the premier Pro-stock 301-400cc category after starting from P6. Jagan, 31, exchanged leads with pole-sitter Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing) in the Pro-stock 165cc before clinching it with a last-lap overtake.

**The results (provisional - all six laps unless mentioned):**  
**National Championship: Pro-stock 301-400cc (Race-1):** 1. Rajini Krishnan (RACR) (11mins, 21.868secs); 2. P.M. Soorya (Rockers Racing) (11:23.279); 3. Rahil Shetty (Gusto Racing) (11:23.414).



**In cruise mode:** Rajini Krishnan won the premier Pro-stock 301-400cc category after starting from P6. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Pro-stock 165cc (Race-1):** 1. Jagan Kumar (TVS Racing) (11:46.731); 2. Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing) (11:46.778); 3. KY Ahamed (TVS Racing) (11:47.691).

**Novice (Stock 165cc) Race-1:** 1. Anfal Akhdar (Rockstar Racing) (13:05.852); 2. Allwin Xavier (Sparks Racing, Thrissur) (13:05.980); 3. Sarvesh Balappa (Sparks Racing, Hubballi) (13:17.967). **One-Make Championship organised by Madras**

**Motor Sports Club: Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup - NSF 250R (Race-1):** 1. Kavin Quintal (11:08.113); 2. Mohsin Peramban (11:22.860); 3. Sarthak Chavan (11:22.959 - incl 10-sec penalty for jump start).

**CBR 150 (Race-1):** 1. Prakash Kamath (13:14.859); 2. Shubankar Joshi (13:23.925); 3. Johann Reeves Emmanuel (13:27.157).

**Hornet 2.0 (Race-1):** 1. Kevin Kannan (13:26.735); 2. Alwin Sundar (13:35.033); 3. C. Rajku-

mar (13:35.134). **TVS Apache Open (RR310, Race-1):** 1. Navaneeth Kumar (11:49.658); 2. Amarnath Menon (11:50.606); 3. Vivek Pillai (11:50.729). **Rookie (RTR 200, Race-1):** 1. Jindra Kiran Sangave (12:48.856); 2. V. Chiranth (13:04.132); 3. Shreyas Copparam Hareesh (13:04.992).

**Girls (RTR 200, Race-1, 5 laps):** 1. Rakshitha Dave (11:15.447); 2. Renuka Gajendran (11:30.442); 3. Zigna Pamnani (11:39.959).

## Daruvala dominates second Sprint Race

This is his second victory in F2

S. DIPAK RAGAV

India's Jehan Daruvala produced a composed performance to take a dominant win in the second Sprint Race of the FIA Formula 2 championship in Monza here on Saturday. The Red Bull Racing junior driver started second and took the lead into the first corner from David Beckmann and built a small lead ahead of the rest of the pack.

After a couple of laps under Virtual Safety Car, racing resumed on lap five and from there on Daruvala, driving for Carlin, was in total control. He slowly built up his lead and took the chequered flag six seconds ahead of Bent Viscaal and Robert Shwartzman.

This is Daruvala's second win in F2 after his Sprint Race win in Bahrain last year. Daruvala on Friday missed out on pole by just 0.041s and will start second in Sunday's feature race.

Earlier, he started and



Jehan Daruvala.

finished ninth in the first sprint race that gave him a second-place start for the second. The win moves him to eighth in the championship with 71 points.

Daruvala said, "That a win was long overdue this season, so I am very happy. This weekend has been good so far, I've been consistently quick. I think we deserved the win, hopefully, I can repeat it tomorrow."

## Nishant takes honours

First singles title of his career in the international junior circuit

### TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

Nishant Dabas capped a fine run by outplaying Walid Ahouda of Morocco 6-0, 6-4 in the final of the ITF grade-2 junior tournament in Cairo.

After a struggle the previous three weeks when he managed to win three matches in all, the 17-year-old Nishant struck rhythm.

He started well in the fourth tournament by outclassing the second seed Marcel Kamrowski of Poland for the loss of three games.

Thereafter, he did not drop a set till he was stretched by third seed Ilya Simakin of Russia in the semifinals when Nishant prevailed 7-6(6) in the third set.

It was the first singles title of his career in the international junior circuit for Nishant who trains with coach Zeeshan Ali in the Capital.

He had lost five finals earlier, two against Aman Dahiya, two against Chirag Dhan and one against Yu Zhang of China.

Nishant has been winning



Nishant. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

doubles titles, five of them in all, including three this season, but has been waiting for his first singles title to match his status as the No.1 junior in the country.

**The results:** **Singles (final):** Nishant Dabas bt Walid Ahouda (Mor) 6-0, 6-4; **Semifinals:** Nishant bt Ilya Simakin (Rus) 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(6). **Quarterfinals:** Nishant bt Cooper Williams 6-3, 6-4. **Pre-quarterfinals:** Nishant bt Ahmed Zaki (Egy) 6-4, 6-0. **First round:** Nishant bt Marcel Kamrowski (Pol) 6-2, 6-1.

### TV PICKS

**F1:** Italian GP: **Sprint Race:** SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m.; **Main Race:** SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m.  
**Sri Lanka vs South Africa:** 2nd T20I, Sony Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 7 p.m.  
**Premier League:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 9 p.m.  
**US Open 2021:** SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday). **Bundesliga:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 11 p.m.

## Messi inspires Argentina

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SAO PAULO

Lionel Messi shone once more in South American World Cup qualifiers, leading Argentina with all the goals in its 3-0 home win against Bolivia. His hat-trick made him the top international scorer in South American football history. The 34-

year-old has netted 79 for Argentina, overtaking Brazil's Pele's tally of 77.

**The results:** Uruguay 1 (Pereiro 90+2) bt Ecuador 0; Paraguay 2 (Martinez 7, Kaku 46) bt Venezuela 1 (Chancellor 90); Colombia 3 (Borja 19-pen, 20, Diaz 74) bt Chile 1 (Meneses 56); Argentina 3 (Messi 14, 64, 88) bt Bolivia 0; Brazil 2 (Ribeiro 14, Neymar 40) bt Peru 0.

## Consolation win for NZ

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DHAKA

Skipper Tom Latham and Finn Allen set up a 27-run win for New Zealand in the fifth T20I against Bangladesh here on Friday.

Latham's unbeaten 50 and a 24-ball 41 by Allen guided New Zealand to 161 for five. The Kiwi bowlers

kept Bangladesh down to 134 for eight in 20 overs but the hosts took the series 3-2.

**The scores:** New Zealand 161/5 in 20 overs (Finn Allen 41, Tom Latham 50 n.o.) bt Bangladesh 134/8 in 20 overs (Afif Hossain 49 n.o.). **Toss:** New Zealand; **MoM:** Latham; **MoS:** Nasum Ahmed and Latham.

NZ won match by 27 runs; Bangladesh won series 3-2.

## Hitesh and Tamanna triumph

SPORTS BUREAU  
JHAJJAR

Hitesh Chauhan and Tamanna Takoria won the boys' and girls' titles in the AITA Super series under-16 tennis tournament here at the Joygaon Academy.

**The results (finals):**

**U-16: Boys:** Hitesh Chauhan bt Manish Yadav 6-3, 5-7, 6-1. **Doubles:** Vansh Nandal & Manish Yadav w/o Debasis Sahoo & Chandan Shivaraj.

**Girls:** Tamanna Takoria bt Asmi Adkar 6-0, 7-5.

**Doubles:** Asmi Adkar & Kaira Chetnani bt Thania Sarai & Dheepa Yazhini 7-5, 6-4.

## Blasters overcome Navy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Indian Super League side Kerala Blasters had a tough start to the season as it beat managed to weather a resolute challenge from Indian Navy in a Group C league

match of Durand Cup football by a solitary goal, at the Salt Lake Stadium, on Saturday.

**The result: Group C:** Kerala Blasters FC 1 (Adrian Luna 71-pen) bt Indian Navy 0. **On Friday: Group A:** CRPF 1 (Amarjeet

Singh 90) lost to Mohammedan Sporting 5 (Azharuddin Mallick 13, 86, Marcus Joseph 64, 66, Brandon 90+2).

**Group B:** Jamshedpur FC 1 (Jitendra Singh 61-pen) lost to Army Green 3 (Deepak Singh 43, 48, Sochin Chhetri 57).

## SA beats Sri Lanka

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
COLOMBO

Disciplined bowling and a quickfire 48 by Aiden Markram helped South Africa beat Sri Lanka by 28 runs in the first T20I here on Friday.

**The scores:**

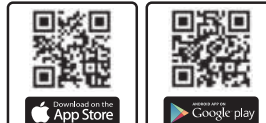
South Africa 163/5 in 20 overs (Quinton de Kock 36, Reza Hendricks 38, Aiden Markram 48, David Miller 26) bt Sri Lanka 135/6 in 20 overs (Dinesh Chandimal 66 n.o.).

**Toss:** SA; **MoM:** Markram. SA won by 28 runs, leads three-match series 1-0.

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