



We took tough action against criminals and mafia: U.P. CM Yogi



Taliban should be inclusive: Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal

Australia had grave concerns over French submarines: Morrison Ruturai, bowlers take Super Kings to the top of the table





Gehlot hopes

Amarinder will

not harm party

Stating that the Congress

to act in the party's

party. ▶ PAGE 9

Fault lines

may deepen

Amarinder Singh was

sharpen the fault lines

23 leaders who sought

BJP wants

explanation

answers from the Congress

Amarinder Singh's charge

that Punjab Congress chief

Navjot Singh Sidhu was

"anti-national". ▶ PAGE 9

The BJP has sought

leadership on Capt.

internal reforms. ▶ PAGE 9

removed is likely to

The manner in which Capt.

between the Gandhi family

loyalists and the group of

interest, Rajasthan CM

high command was forced

Ashok Gehlot expressed the

hope that Capt. Amarinder

Singh would not take any

step that would harm the

page 13



Naidu lauds Paralympians for record medal harvest

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday praised the grit and determination of Indian Paralympians and said they brought cheer and hope to the entire nation in these troubled times through their stellar performances.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

Delhi HC dismisses IAF officer's bail plea

The Delhi High Court has said investigation is necessary against an Indian Air Force officer, who became part of an online matrimonial site using a different name, despite having a wife and two children.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Centre yet to approve SC Collegium's list of names

The Centre is yet to take a call on the recommendations made by the Supreme Court Collegium on appointing a total of 68 judicial officers and advocates as judges of various High Courts, sources aware of the procedure for appointment to the higher judiciary have said.

EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ PAGE 5

Punjab gets its first Dalit Chief NRC is final, rules Assam Minister Charanjit Singh Channi

The former Minister, close to State Congress chief Sidhu, will take oath today

VIKAS VASUDEVA CHANDIGARH

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Sunday announced 49-year-old Charanjit Singh Channi as the leader of the Punjab Congress Legislature Party (CLP). He will be the State's new Chief Minister.

AICC in-charge of Punjab affairs Harish Rawat announced the name of the new CLP leader on Twitter. "It gives me immense pleasure to announce that Sh. #CharanjitSinghChanni has been unanimously elected as the Leader of the Congress Legislature Party of Punjab," he said.

Soon after being elected CLP leader, Mr. Channi and other leaders met Punjab Governor Banwa rilal Purohit to stake claim to form the new government.

"After the Congress Legislature Party's unanimous decision, we met the Governor and presented our claim to form the government. Governor has assigned a time slot of 11 a.m. on Monday for the oath-taking ceremony," said Mr. Channi, who is set to become the first Dalit Chief Minister of Punjab.

Mr. Channi, a close aide of State Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu, was among the Cabinet Ministers



New role: Charanjit Singh Channi with Navjot Singh Sidhu, left, outside the Governor's residence in Chandigarh. • PTI

in the outgoing government who rebelled against Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh, saying the latter had not fulfilled the party's 2017 election promises.

Poll calculus

The Congress' decision of choosing Mr. Channi is being seen as an attempt to win over the Dalit votes ahead of the Assembly poll due in early 2022. In Punjab, which has the highest percentage of Dalit population among the States - close to 32% political parties have been making all out efforts to garner their support. The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has already announced that if voted to power, the Deputy

Chief Minister would be from the Dalit community.

Mr. Channi's announcement came after AICC-appointed observers Harish Chaudhary and Ajay Maken, and Punjab affairs in-charge Harish Rawat held hectic meetings in Chandigarh with party leaders and collected feedback from MLAs ahead of short-listing the name of the CLP leader.

During the meeting, the name of senior Congress leader Sukhjinder Randhawa was at the forefront. However, it is learnt that Mr. Sidhu strongly batted for Mr.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8 MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 9

Foreigners' Tribunal

But no notification yet from Registrar General of India

RAHUL KARMAKAR GUWAHATI

While the Registrar General of India has not yet issued a notification on Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) to make it a legal document, a Foreigners' Tribunal has gone ahead and recorded it as the "final NRC" while declaring a man to be Indian.

Hearing a case against one Bikram Singha of Jamirala village whose name figured in the NRC list, member of FT-II in Karimganj town Sishir Dey said, ...there is no doubt that this NRC Assam published in 2019 is nothing but Final NRC.."

State govt. caution

The FT-II's 'order cum opinion' comes just days after Assam's Political (B) Department had on September 4 asked the FTs not to pass "consequential orders/directions" and stick to giving an "opinion" as mandated by the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964. The letter to the FTs followed an assessment by the State's Judicial Department of the "opinions" given by the members in the case of people suspected to be foreigners or doubtful

The Assam police's Bor-



Foreigners' Tribunal office in Barpeta, Assam. • AP

der wing had, in May 2008, filed a case against Mr. Singha, of Jamirala village under the Patherkandi Assembly constituency of southern Assam's Karimganj district. The man, marked a D or 'doubtful voter', remained untraced until June 28 and appeared before the Foreigners' Tribunal-II (FT-II) in Karimganj town two months later, seeking time to return from Bengaluru where he was working.

Mr. Singha produced before the FT-II several documents to prove his Indian ci-

tizenship. These included a 1968 land deed in the name of his grandfather Madan Kumar Singha and proof of his father Bharat Chandra Singha having been an Indian Air Force employee for 29 years

since 1972.

FT-II member Sishir Dev heard his case on September 1. The prosecution lawyer argued that Mr. Singha had no document establishing that his family was living in India prior to 1966.

She referred to the 'White Paper on Foreigners' Issue' published by Assam's Home and Political Department on October 20, 2012, which says that anyone born between January 26, 1950, and July 1, 1987, can be considered an Indian citizen by birth irrespective of the nationality of his or her parents.

However, Mr. Dey observed that Mr. Singha's documents pointed to his father and grandfather having been residents of Jamirala village before 1968.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

+ Crowds are back



Festival ends: Ignoring physical distancing norms, people gather to catch a glimpse of the 40-foot-tall idol of Khairatabad Ganesh being taken for immersion in Hussainsagar lake in Hyderabad on Sunday. • G. RAMAKRISHNA

Hindi-speaking

States make up

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

46% of population

When the Centre launched

its NIPUN Bharat scheme in

July 2021 to improve founda-

tional literacy and numeracy

among primary school stu-

dents, participants from

non-Hindi speaking States

complained that they were

the ones left feeling illiterate

as they could not under-

stand either the speeches,

nor the PowerPoint presen-

tations on the scheme, all

made in formal Hindi. Last

August, Tamil Nadu dele-

gates at a yoga and naturo-

pathy training webinar

claimed that the AYUSH Mi-

nistry Secretary told them if

they wanted English to be

These incidents that

used, they could leave.

1.2 lakh deaths in road accidents in 2020: NCRB

'1.35 lakh hit-and-run-cases since 2018'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India recorded 1.2 lakh cases of "deaths due to negligence relating to road accidents" in 2020, with 328 persons losing their lives every day on average, despite the COVID-19 lockdown, according to government data.

As many as 3.92 lakh lives were lost in three years in deaths due to negligence related to road accidents, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) revealed in its annual 'Crime India' report for 2020. While 1.2 lakh deaths were recorded in 2020, the figures stood at 1.36 lakh in 2019 and 1.35 lakh in 2018, the data show.

The country logged 1.35 lakh cases of "hit and run" since 2018, the report of the NCRB, which functions under the Union Home Ministry, showed. In 2020 alone, there were 41,196 cases of

Hindi gains due to demographic shift

Equal treatment: Experts favour promotion of languages not

included in the Eighth Schedule of Constitution. • GETTY IMAGES

made the headlines over the

last year may be only the tip

of the iceberg when it comes

to language-related frictions

in a country that has 121 lan-

guages spoken by at least

10,000 people – along with

over a thousand more which

have fewer speakers – but

which also restricts educa-

tion and governance to a

According to the 2011 Cen-

handful of languages.

"hit and run" while there were 47,504 such cases in 2019 and 47,028 in 2018, the report said. On average there were 112 cases of "hit and run" reported across the country every day in the past year, according to the data.

The cases of causing "hurt" by rash or negligent driving on public way stood at 1.3 lakh in 2020, 1.60 lakh in 2019 and 1.66 lakh in 2018, the data showed.

Rail accidents Fifty-two cases of deaths due to negligence related to rail accidents were recorded across the country in 2020, 55 cases in 2019 and 35 in

2018, the report showed. During 2020, India logged 133 cases of "deaths due to medical negligence"; 201 such cases were reported in 2019 and 218 in 2018, the NCRB said.

who comprise a higher share

of Hindi speakers," said

Centre for Policy Research se-

nior fellow Partha Mukho-

padhyay, who noted that the

10 States with the highest

share of Hindi speakers grew

from 41.9% of India's popula-

tion in 1971 to 46.5% by 2011.

He added that migration

could be increasing the num-

ber of those whose mother

tongue is Hindi even in non-

"If a Hindi-speaking poor

Hindi speaking States.

Migrants add numbers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Sadduguntepalya police on Saturday took suo motu action and arrested two men on charges of moral policing after they allegedly harassed a man and a woman from different communities for

riding on a motorbike. A video clip of the incident, which took place at Dairy Circle on Friday evening, showed the men harassing the burqa-clad woman and assaulting her friend, who was riding the bike.

Two held in Bengaluru for moral policing $\,+\,$

"They were colleagues at a private firm," said a police officer. The men made her and made a call. The clip hours of the incident.

showed the duo verbally harassing the family for allowing her to travel with a man on a bike. They forced her to get off the bike and insisted she take an autorickshaw home. The video went viral on social media, prompting the police into action. They share her family's number arrested the men within 12

SHUBHRA RANJAN

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sus, Hindi and its variants illiterate family migrates from are the only major languages to have gained mother ton-

gue adherents over the last 40 years, growing from 36.99% of the population in 1971 to 43.63% by 2011. A large factor in this growth comes from demographic changes.

"Fertility rates are higher among the poor and among women with less education,

Bihar to Kerala, they may have fewer children than a similar family in Bihar but they'll have more than the average Malayalam-speaking family in Kerala. This will raise the share of Hindi speakers in other such 'destination' States too," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

DETAILS ▶ PAGE 8

Jobs for youth

if AAP wins in Uttarakhand'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)

national convener and Del-

hi Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal on Sunday promised employment to all

youth in Uttarakhand if the

party is voted to power in

next year's Assembly polls

Addressing a press con-

ference at Haldwani in

Nainital district, along with

AAP's chief ministerial can-

didate Ajay Kothiyal, Mr.

Kejriwal said one youth in

every family would be gi-

ven an allowance of ₹5,000

per month till employment

was provided. He said, "We

will reserve 80% of jobs in

government and the priv-

ate sector for the youth."

NEW DELHI

in the State.

LOADING SEARCH RESULTS

HEMANI BHANDARI NEW DELHI

ometime early last month, 'Bharat Jodo (Unite India)' rally was organised at the Jantar Mantar protest site in Delhi with members of several right-wing organisations in attendance. The ostensibly minor event made to the headlines the next day after several videos in which people could be heard allegedly raising inflammatory anti-Muslim slogans went viral.

Under intense pressure to arrest and identify the accused, the Delhi police lodged a case and turned to their Facial Recognition System (FRS) for assistance.

A few videos of the event and a poster with faces of eight persons were fed into the FRS. "The software was able to identify two persons from the poster via the driving licence database we have access to, but they have not been arrested yet," said an officer privy to the case.

This is the third time in two years that the police have used FRS during a major investigation. The software was used to probe a 2020 north-east Delhi communal riots case, and the January 26, 2021, Red Fort incident, when farmers stormed the monument during a tractor rally against new agriculture laws. Both incidents were widely covered by TV news channels and countless videos were shared on social media.

The police currently use a "basic" level of FRS, which does not function in real-time. The force has access to all CCTVs in the city but is hamstrung by a lack of access to metadata: it can seemingly only tap into the driving licence and criminal databases of some adjoining States. Photos of missing and found children, and missing persons,

have also been fed into the system. Sources said the Election Commission, UIDAI and other Ministries do not share data with

Several limitations

While probing the death of a Hindu man during the riots, the Investigating Officer (IO) sent notices to TV news channels to share videos of the incident. The IO also wrote to the Delhi government requesting it to share relevant CCTV footage. The request had to be hand-delivered. "At the time, getting CCTV footage was a task. But now the situation has changed, they [the authorities] have given us a password and username for the CCTVs and we can monitor footage in our areas," the

The police zeroed in on a suspect after examining all the footage. "The video and a mugshot of the suspect was uploaded to the FRS, which returned four matches. One of them was a Muslim; he turned out to be innocent. We did not make any arrest using FRS in that case," the officer said.

The software examines photos using parameters such as facial features, age, skin colour, etc. "It gives a 70-80% match against the photo put in the system. It only works as an aid. If it filters one lakh photos down to 50, then it helps in policing," said a senior police officer.

The software has had its successes. The officer said that the FRS is frequently used to trace missing children and identify bodies. When a child is reported missing, the IO is expected to upload details along with a photo on ZIPNET (Zonal Integrated Police Network). When a child is found, a photo is uploaded and the software sifts through the database for any matches.



All Delhi police stations have access to the FRS and a few officers in every police station have been given the username and password for it, the officer said.

Restricted access

While the force is still coming to terms with how the new software can be utilised, debates rage over its misuse and privacy concerns. However, the technology available to the police is a far cry from what sceptics fear - total or realtime surveillance.

A sub-inspector said the police station he is posted in has no access to FRS as far as he is aware. "On the ground, most officers do not even upload the details of missing or found children. When they are not using ZIPNET properly, how will they get around to using FRS?" he

Another officer said they do not have ready access to the software. In the rare case when FRS is required, permission is needed from senior officers. "We have to file an application along with FIR number and then send it to the Crime Review Office in Kamla Market police station. It is such a lengthy process that I am not sure if it is ever used in daily investigations," the officer

An officer who investigated the 2020 riots said the software is not very efficient as it does not consider the age parameter. "If the person's driving licence is 20 years old, then it is impossible that the FRS will be able to find that person," the officer

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

The Delhi High Court has

said that investigation is ne-

cessary against an Indian Air

Force (IAF) officer, who be-

came part of an online matri-

monial site using a different

name, despite having a wife

The IAF officer, who faked

his name as Aman Saini on

the matrimonial site, is fac-

ing charges of rape and cri-

minal intimidation levelled

by a woman who met him

to find out whether he has

lured other women also,"

"Investigation is necessary

through the online site.

and two children.

The surveillance trap

The unabated use of Facial Recognition System without any legal framework is leading to a 'function creep', say experts, citing the example of Delhi Police

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH NEW DELHI

India has seen a rapid deployment of Facial Recognition Systems (FRS) in recent years, both by the Centre and State governments, without putting in place any law to regulate their use.

The growing unabated use of this potentially invasive technology without any safeguards, legal experts say, poses a huge threat to the fundamental rights to privacy and freedom of speech and expression of the citizens.

Currently, 18 FRSs are in active utilisation by the Centre and State governments for the purpose of surveillance, security and authentication of identity, and 49 more systems are in the process of being installed by different government agencies.

The national capital has three FRSs in active utilisation by Delhi Police (security/surveillance), New Delhi Airport (authentication of identity), and Indian Institute of Technology (authentication of identity). Three more FRSs are in the process of being installed.

Only Telangana is ahead of Delhi at present with four facial recognition systems in active utilisation for surveillance and authentication of identity, according to data published

by Project Panoptic, which tracks deployment and implementation of such systems across India.

Delhi Police was the first law enforcement agency in the country to start using the technology in 2018. It is important to note that the facial recognition technology is being used in Delhi without any legal framework in place to regulate it, said Anushka Jain, associate counsel (surveillance and transparency) at Internet Freedom Foundation.

HC order

HC dismisses IAF officer's bail plea

He 'lured' woman on matrimonial site under different name despite being married

The software was bought

by the Delhi police in

2018 from Innefu, co-

Speaking to The Hindu, Mr.

founded by Tarun Wig.

Wig said Delhi Police procured the

software to find missing children

and that he was not aware of the

Mr. Wig said, "Delhi Police has

around one lakh personnel and the

city's population is around 1.52

crore. They cannot really monitor

so many people. That is where

predictive policing comes into play.

Its uses and misuses exist but that

can be said about any technology," he said, adding that they are regu-

larly upgrading the software to in-

used widely, more efficiently and

hence more intrusively thus re-

The prospects of this getting

Investigation is

lured other

women also

Justice Subramonium Prasad

cates that the petitioner [the

IAF officer was married and

yet he became part of the

matrimonial site and that too

using a different name which

shows that there was no in-

tention of the petitioner to

marry the prosecutrix [wo-

man] right from the incep-

"A perusal of the FIR indi-

necessary to find

out whether he has

crease its efficiency.

agency using it to find suspects.

In response to an RTI query filed by Project Panoptic over the legality of the use of FRSs, Delhi Police, on February 20, 2020, replied that it was authorised by the Delhi High Court in terms of the decision in the case of 'Sadhan Haldar vs NCT of Delhi'.

In that particular case, the

tion," Justice Prasad said,

while rejecting the officer's

The woman, in her com-

plaint, alleged that she had

met the IAF officer through a

popular matrimonial site in

March 2017. The woman said

the officer introduced him-

self as Aman Saini, unmar-

ried and working in the In-

The woman stated that in

May 2017, they established

physical relationship. In July

2017, the officer introduced

that his real name was not

Aman Saini, and that he was

Later, she came to know

dian Air Force.

her to his mother.

anticipatory bail plea.

High Court had authorised the Delhi police to obtain facial recognition technology for the purpose of tracking and reuniting missing children.

On the question of any guidelines or standard operating procedure guiding the use of facial recognition technology, Delhi Police replied, "FRS may be used in investigation in the interest of safety and security of general public."

Ms. Jain pointed out that Delhi Police was now using the FRS, which was meant for tracking missing children, for wider security and surveillance and investigation purpose.

There is a "function creep" happening with Delhi Police gradually using the technology beyond its intended purpose, said Ms. Jain, giving examples of use of FRS to identify accused who took part in the farmers' tractor rally violence in January this

Earlier, Delhi Police took the help of Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS) to compare the details of people involved in the violence during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act at Jamia Millia Islamia in 2019 with a data bank of more than 2 lakh "antisocial elements".

The police have also been using facial recognition software to track down the suspects involved in the northeast Delhi riots that left 53 people dead.

Bring accountability

Surveillance of any kind happens in secret and the people generally don't know that they are being watched, Ms. Jain said, adding that "there is a very obvious power dynamic and power imbalance which happen when surveillance takes place".

"Citizens are powerless because they don't know what is happening in the name of surveillance. The public needs to know what the government is doing in order to hold them accountable," Ms.

She said the idea behind Project Panoptic is to bring light to the fact that these technology systems are being used without any laws in place to regulate them.

married and had two chil-

dren. The woman filed a

complaint against him with

the IAF as well. However, af-

ter requests from his mother.

she withdrew her complaint.

tered her complaint at a pol-

ice station in the Capital in

The IAF officer, in his plea,

stated that he has been false-

ly implicated in the case. He

stated that even after coming

to know that he was married,

the woman was in touch with

him. He said that he had

joined the probe and was al-

ways available for investiga-

The woman finally regis-



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

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2021-2022

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Authorised Officer



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Kumbakonam - 612 001, E-Mail id : crmd@cityunio Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., having it

strative Office at No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbak branch offices at No.M-17, Ground Floor, Lajpat Nagar II, South Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2)&(12) read ith Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dat 21-06-2021 calling upon the borrowers No.1) Mr. Chaman Kumar, S/o. Late. Sh. Harish Chander at 51/80, Patwari Mohalla, Badarpur, Delhi - 110044. No.2) Mrs. Rajwati, W/o. Chaman Kumar at 51/80, Patwari Mohalla, Badarpur, Delhi - 110044 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.29,66,182/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Sixty Six Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Two Only) within 60 days from the date of the said notice with subsequent interest thereon from 18-06-2021 with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in tise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 15th day of September 2021.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd., for an amount of Rs.30,50,565/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Fifty Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Five Only) and interest thereon from 15-09-2021 till the repayment o

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank (Property Owned by Mr. Chaman Kumar, S/o. Late. Sh. Harish Chander)

Property bearing No.28-B, measuring 150 Sq. Yards, i.e. 125.42 Sq.Mtrs., consisting of Ground Floor with Roof Rights, comprising in Khasra No.42/27, situated within extend Abadi of Lal Dora at Badarpur, New Delhi and bounded as under East : House No.29-B of Shri. Rajesh, West House No. 27-B of Shri. Sonu, North: Gali, South: House No. 28-B Shri. Mahes

Place: New Delhi, Date: 15-09-2021

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

Backdoor entries to educational institutions should stop, says HC

It rejects plea of students who were wrongly granted admission

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has said that permitting "backdoor" entry of students to any educational institution would be grossly unfair to those candidates who are denied admission, despite being more meritorious, on account of the seats being taken and blocked by such entrants.

"It is high time that such backdoor entries in educational institutions, includcolleges, ing medical

should stop. Lakhs of students all over the country work hard and toil to secure admissions to educational institutions on the basis of their merit," a Bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh

court's remarks came while dismissing an appeal filed by five students who were granted admission in 2016 by L.N. Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Bhopal, without their undergoing

said.

The Medical Council of In-

the centralised counselling

conducted by the Depart-

ment of Medical Education.

dia had then issued letters of discharge to the five students. Against the discharge letters, the students moved the court seeking that they be permitted to continue their studies in the college as regular medical students.

"The petitioners [students] have only themselves to blame for the mess that they find themselves in," the court said.

Another arrest in NC leader's murder case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

A third arrest has been made in connection with the killing of former National Conference leader Trilochan Singh Wazir whose decomposed body was found at a flat in Moti Nagar in west Delhi, the police said on Sunday.

The body of Wazir was found on September 9 in a washroom of the flat. DCP (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said the accused, Harmeet Singh, has been arrested from Jammu.

DPR as per guidelines of M/s PFC Date & time of prebid conference in online & offline mode 3.10.2021 at 12:30 hrs. For further details please visit website www.uktenders.gov.in. No. 369/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Date: 18.09.2021

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r for following as detailed below:-

submission of tender in

online & offline mode

22.10.2021 upto

17:00 Hrs.

Last date & time of online Date of opening

23.10.2021 at

15.30 Hrs.

onwards

Superintending Enginee

E-TENDER NOTICE (NIT)

work for

PMA (in ₹)

26.31 Cr.

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document

including

GST (in ₹)

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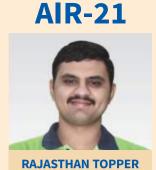
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AIR-56



AIR-57 AIR-58



AIR-32

AIR-59 AIR-60



AIR-66



AIR-38

AIR-67





Distance

AIR-43

AIR-78



AIR-51



AIR-87 AIR-89

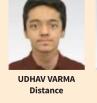


HARSH H. VORA Classroom **AIR-93**



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AIR-33



TEJAS ANAND Distance



CHAHEL SINGH

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Timings **DELHI**

MONDAY, SEP. 20 RISE 06:09 SET 18:20 RISE 18:19 SET 05:15 TUESDAY, SEP. 21 RISE 06:09 SET 18:19

RISE 18:50 SET 06:12 WEDNESDAY, SEP. 22 RISE 06:10 SET 18:18

RISE 19:20 SET 07:09

Delhi Weather Delhi City 26 Safdarjand 26 Palam

Delhi Palam Today 34°C Light rain or thunder-storm would occur with partly cloudy/cloudy sky at some places. Day would remain warm and humid.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 33°C Few spell of light rain or thunderstorm may occur with cloudy sky and moderate

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019 All rights reserved.

Kejriwal blames stubble burning for poor AQI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday shared the air quality index (AQI) of Delhi, which was recorded at 82 (satisfactory), and said the air quality is clean but deteriorates due to stubble burning from mid-October. He said State governments are yet to take action in supporting farmers to stop stubble burning.

Rising dengue, malaria cases will take a toll on healthcare system'

In time of pandemic, doctors say management of such diseases needs a holistic view

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, doctors in the city have warned that a rising number of dengue and malaria cases will turn out to be the most difficult diseases to treat. As a result, they say, there will be increased pressure on the healthcare ecosystem.

Hospitals in the city have been reporting a steady rise in dengue and malaria cases. "Apart from that, we are getting cases of chikungunya and leptospirosis. These diseases are caused by mosquito bites and contaminated water. Even cases of jaundice and hepatitis rise during monsoon. Both of them can be as dangerous as malaria, dengue or chikungunya." said Shuchin Bajaj, director, Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospi-

He added, "The management of such diseases needs holistic views, especially if the patient is COVID-19 positive."

He said dengue, also known as breakbone fever, is a severe flu-like illness that affects all age groups. In most people, the fever takes its own course to subside.

"However, in some pa-



A worker fumigating a house in the city. ■ FILE РНОТО

tients, it can cause serious complications like hemorrhagic fever, which can damage the lymph and blood vessels and can cause high fever, bleeding from nose and gums, liver enlargement and circulatory system failure. It is important to stay under medical supervision during the course of the disease. If the platelet count dips too much, it may also increase the chances of internal bleeding, and platelet transmission becomes important," he explained.

According to an estimate by the World Health Organisation, nearly a third of the world's population lives in areas where dengue is endemic. This means around 2.5 billion people are constantly in danger of acquiring

the infection. Around 50 million of them contract the infection and about 25,000 people die from the infection every year.

India has seen a steady rise in dengue infections from 2001, with Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Chandigarh accounting for the majority of cases. With more urbanisation, Mizoram, Odisha and Arunachal Pradesh have also reported dengue infections, where the disease was previously non-existent.

Varying symptoms

"Clinically, symptoms of dengue vary from mild flu-like illness with headache, fever with rash, respiratory symptoms, to bleeding, and multiorgan failure," said Ruta Patwardhan, consultant microbiologist, Metropolis Healthcare.

Dr. Patwardhan added that there is no specific drug or vaccine available against dengue in India at present and it is highly advisable for people to start taking preventive measures. Doctors have advised that people should not allow water to stagnate and wear full sleeve clothes while stepping out of the house.

Delhi reports 28 new cases, zero fatalities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Capital recorded 28 fresh COVID-19 cases and zero deaths on Sunday, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government.

The bulletin said 63,302 tests had been conducted with a positivity rate of 0.04%. The death toll stands at 25,085. The city now has 387 ac-

tients are in home isolation. The total number of cases since the pandemic began now stands

tive cases, of which 130 pa-

14,38,497. Over 14.13 lakh patients have recovered from the disease.

In the last 24 hours, 2,03,527 people were vaccinated, of whom 1,04,457

received their first dose. The total number of people vaccinated so far stands at 1,59,66,480, of whom 47,89,506 have received their first dose



Murals of Paralympic medal winners at Timarpur in Delhi

Naidu lauds Paralympians for record medal harvest

'Make sports a viable career option'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday praised the grit and determination of Indian Paralympians and said they brought cheer and hope to the entire nation in these troubled times through their stellar performances.

Addressing a gathering during the felicitation of Tokyo Paralympians in Gurugram, the Vice President lauded sportspersons for the highest ever medal haul even though the Tokyo Paralympics was held in rather extraordinary conditions due to the pandemic.

Recognising that these achievements were not easy, he said the entire nation was proud of its Paralympic athletes. "You have overcome several obstacles, demolished stereotypes, and have triumphed over social attitudes that looked down

upon sports," he said, adding that their accomplishments despite such adverse conditions were an inspiration to every Indian.

Sporting culture

Emphasising the need to create a sporting culture in the country, he called for making sports an attractive and viable career option for the youth. He complimented the Haryana government for taking several policy initiatives in this regard.

Taking cognisance of the general lack of sporting facilities for specially-abled sportspersons at local level, Mr. Naidu called for creation of necessary facilities for them. He also emphasised the need to identify and encourage specially-abled sportspersons at local level.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal was also present.

by Aditya Mongra Sir

On 22 Sep. at 9:00 AM

BJP expels 3 councillors on graft charges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta on Sunday expelled three municipal councillors for six years on corruption charges and for ignoring party workers. Mr. Gupta said it was a matter of regret, but the party can't ignore the complaints and would not desist from taking similar action in future as well.

The councillors expelled are Pooja Madan from Mukherjee Nagar, Rajni Bablu Pandey from New Ashok Nagar, and Sanjay Thakur from Said-ul-Ajaib. In the expulsion letter to the councillors, Mr. Gupta said they had been warned in the past and asked to improve their behaviour towards party workers but to no avail. "The party works on zero tolerance policy and this won't be tolerated at any cost. If there is any laxity on this account or any corruption is detected, strict action will be taken," Mr. Gupta said in his letter. Reacting to the action taken by the BJP, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said it was the AAP that revealed in April how BJP councillors were looting people of Delhi and now that they fear losing the civic body elections, they are hastily covering up for their corrupt deeds.

MYSURU URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, MYSURU

J.L.B. ROAD, MYSURU-570005 Tele/Fax: 0821-2420624

No.MUDA/SE/PB/TN/05/2021-22

Date: 17-09-2021

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through GoK e-Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders through e-procurement portal as per KTPP Act 1999-2000 and rules 2000 & in accordance with standard tender document terms, are invited for the total No of 39 Various Works and Packages works amounting to in the range of Rs.5.00 Lakh to Rs. 5240.00 Lakh Tender documents for the works of the SI.No. from 01 to 11 may be obtained from 24.09.2021 and the last date for submission of tender is 21.10.2021 upto 4.00 PM. Technical bids and Financial bids will be opened on 22.10.2021 after 4.30 PM.

For the works from the SI.No. 12 to 24 tender documents may be obtained from 24.09.2021 and the last date for submission of tenders is fixed to 25.10.2021 upto 4.00 PM. Technical bids will be opened on 26.10.2021 after 4.30 PM.

For the Package works of **SI.No. from 25 to 39** the tender documents from the e-portal may be obtained from 24.09.2021 and the last date for submission of tenders fixed to 25.11.2021 upto 4.00 PM. Technical bids will be opened on 26.11.2021 after 4.30 PM.

Eligible registered Civil Contractors may submit tenders through e-Procurement portal http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in as per the rules. The details of the tender notification may be obtained by contacting this office Tel No.: 0821-2420624 and MUDA website www.mudamysore.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer

Mysuru Urban Development Authority, Mysuru



Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise) No.8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Telefax: 080-22024000 email: cekrdcl@gmail.com Website: http://www.krdcl.in

No. KRDCL/IFB/2021-22/10 Dated: 18.09.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(on e-procurement basis)

1) The Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) invites offer from agencies having experience in respect of following work as per the requirement of Bangalore City Traffic Police on item rate tender basis in two cover system as detailed below:

SI. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender (Rs.in Crore)	Earnest Money Deposit	Period of completion (including monsoon)
1	Supply and Maintenance of Body Worn Camera with Software, Live streaming, tracking and Evidence Management to Bengaluru City Traffic Police under B-TRAC/ Road Safety Authority and Traffic Management Project in Bengaluru city bearing Tender No: KRDCL/2021-22/ BT/WORK_INDENT372	4.55	As per e-portal & also submit the form of EMD Declaration	1 month
2	Supply of Collapsible Barricade to Bengaluru City Traffic Police under B-TRAC/ Road Safety Authority and Traffic Management Project in Bengaluru city bearing Tender No: KRDCL/2021- 22/BT/WORK_INDENT367/CALL2	1.00	As per e-portal & also submit the form of EMD Declaration	2 months

- 2) Interested applicants may download bidding documents from e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and submit the bids & EMD (electronically) through e-Procurement portal only.
- 3) The Calendar of events for various activities are as follows:

a) Pre-bid Meeting will be held on 28.09.2021 at 11.30 Hrs. in the Board Room of KRDCL Office, Bengaluru at the above address. The applicants may submit their queries through electronic mail: cekrdcl@gmail.com

b) The Last date & time for submission of bids: 18.10.2021 upto 17:30 Hrs.

c) Date & time of opening of Technical bids: 21.10.2021at 11:00 hrs.

Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal website.

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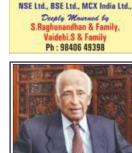
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Activists seek govt. help for release of rationalist

Man from Kerala is in prison in Dubai

STAFF REPORTER

Rationalist groups have urged the Union government to secure the release of an entrepreneur from Kerala, who has been jailed in Dubai for alleged blasphemous remarks against Islam.

According to sources, Abdul Khadar Puthiyangadi from Kasaragod ran an IT-related business in the Gulf country for the past five years.

Arif Hussain Theruvoth, president, Non-Religious Citizens, told The Hindu on Sunday that Mr. Khadar was earlier a quite devout and had delved deep into Islamic texts and scriptures to counter those against the religion. However, his deep study later made him a vocal critic of the religion, Mr. Hussain said.

"He started criticising Islam with the same vehemence with which once he defended that religion," he

Three-year sentence

According to Mr. Hussain, a section of Muslims from Kerala based in the UAE objected to Mr. Khader's critique. They translated his writings and speeches in Malayalam into Arabic and presented them to the Dubai authorities, seeking action against him. This led to his arrest on April 22. He was later sentenced to three years

K.N. Anil Kumar, president, and Shooranad Gopan, State secretariat member, Kerala Yutkthivadi Sangham (Kerala Atheists' Society), C.M. Liyakathali, president, Ex-Muslims of Kerala, and Mr. Hussain pointed out in a joint statement that the same group of Islamists were "champions of secularism, and freedom of expression"

Big win for YSRCP in civic polls

It bags 451 of 515 ZPTCs and 5,858 of 7,219 MPTCs

STAFF REPORTER VIJAYAWADA

The YSR Congress Party's (YSRCP) winning streak continued in the ZPTC and MPTC elections in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday, and it is poised to score a landslide victory as per the reports at 10 p.m., dashing the hopes of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) to regain lost ground.

Of the 515 ZPTCs (Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies) and 7,219 MPTCs (Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies) for which elections were held, the YSRCP bagged 451 ZPTCs. The TDP won six (two in Krishna and one each in Kadapa, Anantapur, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari), CPI(M) one, Jana Sena one and an independent one. The BIP drew a blank.

The counting is still on for



Sweet moment: YSRCP leaders celebrating the party's victory in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

some ZPTCs and MPTCs when the reports came in

The YSRCP's district-wise tally is Srikakulam 33, Vizianagaram 31, Visakhapatnam 34, East Godavari 21, West Godavari 35, Krishna 40, Guntur 44, Prakasam 41, Nellore 34, Chittoor 33, Kadapa 9, Kurnool 36 and Ananta-

The YSRCP has won 5,858 MPTCs, TDP 792, Jana Sena 157, BJP 26, CPI(M) 15, CPI eight, Congress four and oth-

The following is the breakup of YSRCP's seats: Srikakulam 492, Vizianagaram 389, Visakhapatnam 450, East Godavari 639, West Godavari 589, Krishna 572, Guntur 495, Prakasam 320, Nellore 312, Chittoor 389, Kadapa 92, Kurnool 406 and Anantapur

The district-wise MPTCs bagged by the TDP: Srikakulam 81, Vizianagaram 86, Visakhapatnam 118, East Godavari 85, West Godavari 94, Krishna 60, Guntur 57, Prakasam 33, Nellore 31, Chit-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Mangaluru police ar-

issuing a life threat to Karna-

taka Chief Minister Basava-

raj Bommai, veteran BJP

leader B.S. Yediyurappa,

and Muzrai Minister Shashi-

kala Jolle, and issuing state-

tension over the temple de-

molition episode at Nanjan-

galuru have arrested Dhar-

mendra, a resident of Urwa,

while Rajesh Pavitran, Prem

Polali, and Sandeep Shetty

Adka are being questioned.

have named Kamalaksha Pa-

In addition, the police

gud in Mysuru district. The Barke police of Man-

MANGALURU

1 held for issuing threat

toor 25, Kadapa 11, Kurnool 62 and Anantapur 49.

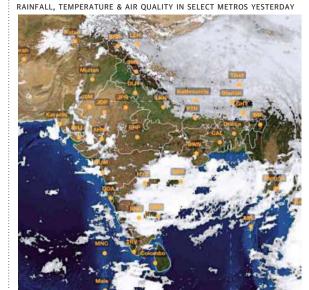
Blow to TDP

According to the official information, the YSRCP trounced the TDP on the home turf of party chief N. Chandrababu Naidu i.e. Chittoor district, where it won all 33 ZPTC seats for which elections were held, and 389 out of 419 MPTCs, including Naravaripalle. The TDP won 25 MPTC seats in the district.

The YSRCP's resounding victory in Chittoor district is being considered as a strong blow to the TDP. The ruling party fared well in the MPTC elections in all the coastal districts by winning not less than 312 seats in each.

Meanwhile, 301 ballot papers stored in a ballot box belonging to Pulimeru MPTC and ZPTC elections under Peddapuram Revenue Division in East Godavari district have been eaten by termites.

(With inputs from East Godavari)



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS) Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over east Rajasthan and Gujarat; heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Tamil Nadu

.11Y	KAIN	IVIAX	IVITIN	CITY	KAIN	WAX	IVII
Agartala	3	31.4	25.6	Kozhikode	–	32.6	25.
Ahmedabad	1.7	30.4	26	Kurnool	–	34.7	25.
\izawl	43	25.5	21.5	Lucknow	–	34.9	27.
Allahabad		35.7	26.8	Madurai	4	34.8	23.
Bengaluru		31.3	22.2	Mangaluru	–	31	24.
Bhopal	7.8	29.9	23	Mumbai	0.8	31.6	25.
Bhubaneswar	34.4	32.2	24.4	Mysuru	–	33	2
Chandigarh		34	25.7	New Delhi	0.2	33.4	24.
Chennai		35.2	26.3	Patna	6	33.6	26.
Coimbatore		35	24	Port Blair	–	31.6	24.
Dehradun	16.5	31.9	23.5	Puducherry	4.4	33	21.
Gangtok		21.9	18.2	Pune	–	30.8	20.
30a		31.5	24.6	Raipur	–	32	25.
Guwahati	18	34.2	25.3	Ranchi	35	23.7	21.
lubballi		–	–	Shillong	20	22.7	1
Hyderabad		33.4	24.4	Shimla	–	26	20.
mphal	9	31.2	21.1	Srinagar	–	32	17.
aipur	5	31	25	Thiruvananthapuram	–	31.2	24.
ochi		31.6	25.8	Tiruchi	–	35.6	26.
(ohima	4	29.6	17	Vijayawada	–	–	
Kolkata	21	31.9	25.6	Visakhapatnam			
Rainfall data	in mm·	temner	ature in	Celsius)			

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

.39 .12 .3310 ...66 .21 .2790 .144 .26 .2051 ...94 .26 .2694 .102 .26 .6059 .28 .8018 ...98

Air Quality Code: 📕 Poor 📕 Moderate 📕 Good (Readings indicate average AQI) SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced

Priest warns against 'Christian girls being lured by Ezhava boys'

But it is Christians who are converting Ezhavas, says SNDP

The raging controversy over "religious jihad" took a new turn with a Christian priest cautioning the community against "Christian girls being systematically lured into love marriages by some Ezhava boys".

The statement was made by Fr. Roy Kannanchira, who heads the Deepika Children's League, at a training session for Catechism teachers.

A recent statement by Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop of the Pala diocese of the Syro Malabar Church, that extremists elements were using "love jihad" and "narcotic jihad" to lure away Christian girls created a furore in the State.

According to Fr. Kannanchira, a priest of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate congregation of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, the statement was made to highlight the fact that the marital life of many Christian girls, who married outside the religion, ended up in familial

However, Vellappally Natesan, general secretary of the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam, said it was not the Ezhava community members who were converting the Christians, but the other way round.

"Hundreds of Ezhava and Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe members had been converted into Christianity in the hill areas of the State over the years. The Christians, who constitute around 17% of the State's population, grew in strength by converting people from other religions to their faith," he

Video clip: Sadananda files complaint

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A video clip, purportedly showing former Union Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda in a compromising position went viral on social media, prompting him to file a complaint with the Cyber Crime police in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Filing the complaint on behalf of the BJP leader, one Thamme Gowda S. said that the video was fabricated and circulated to tarnish the image of the former Minister.

"This is politically moand created through fabrication," Mr. Thamme Gowda said.



Basavaraj Bommai

dil, Sudhakar Shetty, Praveen Shetty, and Ullas as accused in the FIR registered following a complaint filed by Lohith Kumar Suvarna, State president of Akhila Bharat Hindu Mahasabha.

lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and prematur death in people with heart or lung disease

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It is better for students to learn in the language they can understand, feels Sandeep Bapna, Managing Director, Khan Academy India

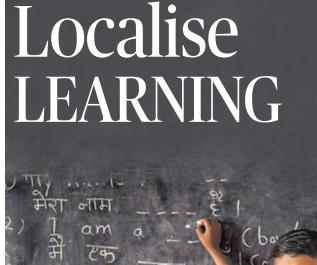
MADHUMITHA SRINIVASAN

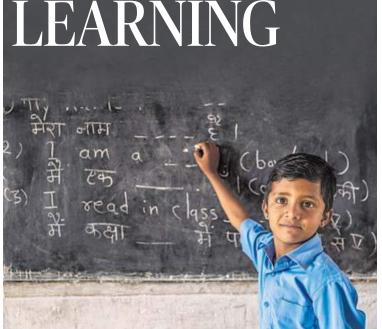
According to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, "wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Class 5, but preferably till Class 8 and beyond, will be the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language." While this is not mandatory, research proves that it has its benefits like effective learning in communities where children have minimal or no proficiency in English, and can help reduce the number of dropouts and increase student participation.

Khan Academy India (KAI), a notfor-profit organisation incorporated in India, has aligned itself with this belief. Founded by Khan Academy Inc. and Tata Trusts, KAI provides free tech-enabled learning resources, and assessment and feedback tools for Classes 1-12, in English and regional languages like Hindi, Gujarati, Kannada and Tamil. Sandeep Bapna, Managing Director, Khan Academy India, sheds more light on the effectiveness of learning in regional languages and why KAI backs the idea.

Khan Academy has been into digital learning long before the pandemic. What advantage did you have because of that?

First of all, it allowed us to respond quickly to the situation. Within two to three weeks of school closures, we were able to reach out to five lakh students in Delhi with 'At-home' learning packs. We were able to take similar steps with a few other State partners. So the advantage was that we had the resources in place to de-





Is the challenge for KAI unique because of the multiple medium of instructions and

It's a challenge for everyone in India, so it is not unique in that sense. The real challenge for us is: How fast can we move on this front? A vast body of content takes time to translate, because it is not just about using voice-overs but recreating the entire content.

How does the localisation process take place?

In three stages: First is the translation, which takes about nine months; 100 schools to assess how the content can be integrated and what kind of training works; finally, we need

then we start the pilot phase with 50-

to start expanding. The challenge in the final step is the infrastructure available in schools. This is changing quite a bit now. With this model in place, in the next two to three years, we aim for 9 out of 10 students to have access to KAI resources in their own language.

How can education in regional languages be made more effective in the context of opportunities for higher education, jobs or research?

If you are a learner in a regional language, the first priority should be to build a solid foundation in your early schooling years, right up to Mid-

If you can solidify your understanding of Math, Science and Language in your own language, you are ready to pursue it further in the language of your choice...

dle School. If you can solidify your understanding of Math, Science and Language in your own language, you are ready to pursue it further in the language of your choice. But here's where things beyond our purview come into play like: Are there enough high-quality education institutes in local languages where students can pursue advanced careers?

There is research coming out globally about mixed learning, where a student has to learn both a subject like Math and the language it is taught in. We are making life difficult for students. So, at least initially, it is better for students to learn in the language they can understand. That way, they can just focus on the subject.

Have you been able to measure the effectiveness of learning in a regional

We have not and it is likely to be a complex study. When we started in India about four years ago, KAI was available only in English. The share of vernacular then was 0%. Now it is already over 15-20% per month. I foresee that, in a couple of years, it will be more than 50%. It is a combination of content becoming available, students becoming aware of the content and using it. If you see metrics like the YouTube videos, videos in Hinglish trump every other language. So, from an engagement parameter, I'd say learning in a regional language is definitely more effective.

In an evolving education scenario, what is the way forward?

Technology can be used to empower teachers. So, leveraging technology in a classroom with a human who can guide the students in the early years is going to be the most effective method.



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Cutting the captain

The Congress might have ended one crisis in Punjab only to set off a bigger one

marinder Singh's ouster, and the selection of his baiter Charanjit Singh Channi as Chief Minister ▲of Punjab was scripted in Delhi by the Congress high command, which in effect is party MP Rahul Gandhi and AICC general secretary in charge of Uttar Pradesh Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. They pushed for the change of guard only months ahead of the next Assembly election tenaciously. Punjab is one of only three States where the party is in power. The party MLAs had turned against Captain Amarinder, but not before the Gandhis made it clear that they wanted him out. Capt. Amarinder, 79, had said of the 2017 Assembly election that it was the last in his career, and the party should identify his successor ahead of the next election which is now due in months. While the Gandhis appear to have taken it too seriously, Capt. Amarinder, as those in power often do, went back on his words. Capt. Amarinder says the reason for his change of mind – he now says his retirement is not imminent – is the choice by the Gandhis of Navjot Singh Sidhu as the party State president, whom he considers as anti-national and mixed up with the Pakistani establishment. The incoming Chief Minister, a Dalit Sikh, and the party chief have been acting in tandem to unseat Capt. Amarinder.

It is one thing to push for new leadership in the party and quite another to create a crisis in the process. The cost of this change for the Congress will be clear only in the coming days, but it is already evident that getting the party back in fighting shape will be an uphill task. Capt. Amarinder is exploring political options outside the Congress. While it may not be easy for him to build something new, he could queer the pitch for the Congress. His absence itself could be a drag on the feet for the party. Though admittedly inaccessible to ordinary workers and even party leaders, his sense of the people's pulse in the communally sensitive border State has been critical for the party. His moderate image, secular approach, and nationalist rhetoric fit the Congress well. Mr. Sidhu and Mr. Channi have been making provocative appeals to Sikh religious grievances, in their efforts to outsmart the opposition Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the outgoing Chief Minister. His propensity for communal appealing, and his unstable temperament make Mr. Sidhu a sinister joker in the Congress pack. Should the Congress win, he will claim the Chief Minister's post. With the SAD on the back foot for being part of the Union government when it enacted the three farm laws that the State's farmers are up in arms against, and the BJP friendless and faceless, the Congress had appeared poised to retain power. Perhaps such advantageous circumstances emboldened the Gandhis to go for the jugular in Punjab. But the SAD might have got a lifeline, and the Aam Aadmi Party new hope while the Congress deals with its internal crisis.

A spike

India must prioritise vaccines to States and

districts that are at greatest infection risk ndia on September 17 administered a record 2.5 crore vaccine shots, which an ebullient Health Mi-Inistry said was the equivalent of the populations of the whole of Australia, two-thirds of Canada and five times that of New Zealand. The only other comparison would be China's pace of vaccination – 2.47 crore shots on a single day. Thus, 2.5 crore means 62% Indian adults have now got at least one dose and one in five fully inoculated. Friday's drive was part of a concerted push by BIP-ruled States to boost vaccination numbers as a birthday gift to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But to encourage a behavioural nudge when supply is abundant and demand is not commensurate – as in the U.S. – and have a marked supply shortage even as vaccine production continues – as in India – are two different things. Bharat Biotech was supposed to be supplying 6-7 crore doses a month from July-August and 10 crore doses a month from September, according to a Department of Biotechnology statement in April. This would mean at least 52 crore doses from July-December, of which 40 crore is to be supplied from September-December. Since the vaccination drive began, only nine crore doses of Covaxin have been administered as of last week at least three crore short. Several cabinet Ministers, in summer, had boasted that India would inoculate its adult population (about 94 crore) by the year end. This will require over 185 crore doses, or close to one crore inoculations a day; India has now crossed the 80 crore mark. Before the birthday drive, India's most recent seven-day average was 0.6-0.7 crore. Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, which saw among the highest vaccination spikes on September 17, delivered 6-10 times their previous seven-day average.

India is once again on a downswing as far as daily coronavirus numbers go, but at close to 30,000 cases a day is nowhere near the all-time low of nearly 10,000 daily cases in February which preceded the catastrophic second wave. The globally most prevalent Delta variant may have already washed over large swathes of India, but waning immunity and the emergence of variants capable of immune escape are thriving too. With educational institutions set to open in a big way during the winter and crores of unvaccinated children vulnerable, the imperative should be to boost daily supplies. India is lucky that there is so far no discernible vaccine scepticism and hesitancy and it has only to really bother with producing and delivering the jab painlessly. Instead of positioning vaccine drives as opportunities to set vacuous records, the Centre must prioritise vaccines to States and districts that are at greatest infection risk and follow up with vaccine makers to speed up and make good on their commitments.

A one-party juggernaut and its feeble challengers

With no glue still to bond the Opposition, the non-party movements of resistance could offer hope for change



HARBANS MUKHIA

The political Opposition in its entirety appears to have decided this - that each party would rather contest and lose to a smaller local adversary than challenge the one bigger, common and more ominous adversary. And win (or lose) the forthcoming Assembly elections, and more importantly, the crucial general election of 2024 together. The writing has been on the wall ever since 2019, reaffirming the urgency of the good old saying, "united we stand/ win, divided we fall".

Some stirrings

Only one leader with credible bo $na\ fides\ -\ the\ inimitable\ fighter$ and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee – appears to have recognised this and is striving to forge a united front to challenge the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Indeed, she had sounded out the Opposition on this even before 2019, but it was ignored then as it is being ignored now. Nationalist Congress Party leader Sharad Pawar, the veteran, is also one leader sensitive to the nuances of the present scenario and did take some initial steps towards forging a common front to take on the strong adversary. It ended with an online conversation, with a prepared sermon by Indian National Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on how India must be saved. Period. The writing

while, every party is busy finalising its list of candidates for the forthcoming Assembly elections and issuing statements to the press asserting its own invincibility in the forthcoming battle. The year 2024 is still too far on the horizon to exercise one's mind. Never mind the link between the two.

A contrast lies in strategy

It is hard for an outsider to ignore the distinct modes of election management, one that the BJP has introduced especially over the past decade and that of the other established parties. The BJP prepares for an election at the ground level at least two years ahead by activating its cadres, especially cadres from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, in establishing personal contacts with potential voters, collecting information about the local issues that might motivate voters to its side, the caste/subcaste/community profile of each constituency to cohere with grandiose calls for Vikas, and Hindu Rashtra from the top-level leadership, not to forget the ever active BJP IT cell forging and spreading questionable material every day on social media.

In other words, the BJP is forever preparing for an election. This is in contrast to the Opposition parties which get into action a month or two before election dates are announced, their chief concern being to usually nominate candidates with their own resources for winning. The leaders contribute their mite to the process by making speeches at election meetings. The BJP also learns quickly from its defeats and victories and does take immediate remedial ac-

governments in several BIP- ruled States is a good example. The party also changes its tactics keeping in mind the lessons learnt. The contrast, of the energy of the BJP and the lethargy on the other side,

is striking. The BJP and the Opposition rely largely on attacking each other. This suits the BJP more because the Opposition earns credibility only if it posits an alternative economic, political and social programme to the electorate that carries conviction, for which it has to be formulated long before the elections are seen on the horizon. Before 2019, the Congress did posit an attractive economic alternative by promising ₹6,000 per month to poor farmers, but it was formulated a few weeks before the elections, announced from electoral daises by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with no groundwork to prepare the audiences for it, and thus, carried no conviction. Since then, no Opposition party has challenged the Government by positing an attractive alternative

As of now, the reluctance of the Opposition parties to come together for the decisive fights ahead, and the absence of any evidence of serious preparations, do seem to ruling party.

The Congress's problem

It is easy to pin the responsibility for this denouement on the Indian National Congress. As the country's second largest party in the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, with footprints around the country (besides being the oldest and the most experienced political party), the responsibility devolves upon it squarely to forge a vision and a programme which would accommodate most if not all the others into a single conglomerate (though preferably not a single unit), for the battles ahead.

But it is this status it has that fills it with an arrogance to claim the unshared leadership of any possible combination of parties, expressed in the following formula: come and support us and we shall fight together. There is no need for discussion, for discussion involves sharing. Just listen to either Ms. Sonia Gandhi or second best, Rahul Gandhi, and do as they say and demand. This is contrary to what its high status should imply: openness, liberalism, generosity and a vision for India beyond a vision for the present party leadership.

Its exclusive concern looks like retaining the three Gandhis (Ms. Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra) at the top even if the bottom keeps floundering and withering away. It is not only the pleas from leaders of a much higher stature such as Mr. Sharad Pawar but also pleas for the reinvigoration of the party from its own seniormost and most committed leaders (the G23, or 23 of them) that are perceived as a threat to Gandhis and thus sidelined.

There has been nil "introspec-

tion" within the party after each stunning political defeat. There is no sign of the party being a living organism capable, or at least willing, to rectify its errors and move on. This is in contrast to its chief rival. The grimness of the situation is highlighted by the sterling fact that the Opposition cannot go forward without the Congress either. What more could make the BJP happier?

A new brigade

Paradoxically, the only avenue of political change through the elections that lies open, if at all, is in the non-political movements of resistance such as the farmers' agitation. The farmers, who have withstood the indifference and the assaults of the Government show no sign of backing off. They have kept almost all political parties away while also shouting from the rooftops that their mission is to defeat the BJP in the elections by mobilising farmers around the country. That they do have the capacity to mobilise themselves has been demonstrated repeatedly, most recently in Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh) and Karnal (Harvana). The mahapanchayat at Muzaffarnagar has also cautioned farmers against the BJP's use of the so-far successful strategy of divide and rule along communal lines, and the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has already announced his intention to go the whole hog along this path. A major communal conflagration may also be in the offing. The results of these elections will decide the future of India to a large

Harbans Mukhia taught history at the

The relative income, subjective well-being connect

A key policy lesson would be to pursue a strategy of shared growth through remunerative employment



VARSHA S. KULKARNI & RAGHAV GAIHA

ell-being is attained little by little, and nevertheless is no little thing itself," pronounced philosopher Zeno of Citium. While the centrality of the notion of well-being is hard to dispute, its measurement is far from straightforward. to measurement of well-being: one is the conventional approach of measuring it in terms of objective criterion such as income/expenditure; and the second is the growing consensus around a measure of subjective well-being/SWB/life satisfaction/happiness that takes into account not just objective criteria such as income but also individual characteristics including age, gender, schooling, religion, caste, marital status, health, employment, social networks, and the overall economic and natural environment. The intuitive appeal of SWB measures is that these are influenced not just by objective criterion of income/expenditure but also by perceptions of individuals about their experiences of whether they are better-off, just the same or worse-off.

In a previous OpEd article, Kulkarni et al. ("Money vs. happiness" - Subjective well-being and income are intricately linked, The Hindu, February 18, 2021), it was argued that subjective well-being

varies with level of income but at a diminishing rate. Here, however, our focus is on whether relative income (i.e., relative to that of a reference group) matters more than the level of income and, in that case, whether a shift in policy is necessary to enhance SWB. Our analysis draws upon the two rounds of the nationally representative India Human Development Survey (IHDS), conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and University of Maryland, covering the years 2005 and 2012. The data were released in 2015. Its salient features are: it is the only all-India panel age of demographic, health, economic, and social variables, it asks a question on SWB. The question is: compared to seven years ago (2005), would you say your household is economically doing the same, better or worse today (2012)? Specifically, therefore, it is a measure of change in SWB, but for convenience of exposition we refer to it interchangeably as SWB, or, SWB outcomes. Admittedly, a broader coverage of both economic and social aspects (such as questions about the best possible life on a scale) would have been more helpful for comparisons with studies conducted using the Gallup World Poll.

SWB and income/expenditure are positively related but at a diminishing rate. Besides, the association is weak and arguably transitory. These findings are not surprising. First, we find that the relative income effect (actual per capita income/expenditure as a fraction of the maximum in the primary sampling unit) is much



larger. This is consistent with the relative income hypothesis formulated by Duesenberry (1949) and the famous Easterlin paradox (1973). This paradox states that at a point in time, SWB/happiness varies directly with income both among and within nations, but over time, happiness does not trend grow.

Indeed, rank in the income distribution influences life satisfaction. As a society becomes richer, the average rank does not change and thus average life-satisfaction remains stable despite income growth. The relative income hypothesis cannot by itself explain why a permanent increase in an individual's income has a transitory effect on his/her well-being, as relative standing would increase. However, the increase in relative standing can be offset by change in the reference group: with this increase, the new peers serve as a reference point, and the previous peers lose salience.

On material goods

Second, individuals adapt to material goods, and these goods yield little joy for most individuals. Thus, increases in income, which are expected to raise well-being by raising consumption opportunities, may in fact have minor lasting effect because consumption of material goods has little effect on well-being above a certain level of consumption or because of hedonadaptation (https:// bit.ly/3zrlPNA). This has been questioned on the grounds that there is no income threshold at which SWB diverged. Instead, higher incomes are associated with both feeling better momentto-moment and being more satisfied with life overall. While there may be some point beyond which money loses its power to improve well-being, the current view is that the threshold may be higher than (https://bit.ly/3nQEYX8).

Income changes

We further analysed how relative income changed during 2005-2012. We classified relative income/expenditure into three intervals: 0-25%, >25-50% and above >50% in both 2005 and 2012. The cross-tabulation unravels sharp changes. Consider the first interval with lowest relative income, 0-25%, in 2005. About 40% remained in this interval, while about the same proportion experienced a sharp increase in relative income (by moving to the interval, >25-50%), and above a fifth a substantial increase (by moving into the interval, >50%). The next interval with higher relative income, (>25-50%), revealed a different pattern. While about 40% remained in this interval, more than a third ascended into the highest relative income interval, >50%, implying substantial narrowing of the income/expenditure disparity. However, a distressing feature was that well over one fourth experienced a marked increase of this disparity or lower relative income (i.e., by moving into the interval 0-25%). In the third interval, >50%, about 51 % remained in it, while about one third experienced a marked reduction in relative income (by moving into the lower interval, >25-50%) and a considerably lower proportion (over 16%) registered a sharp reduction (by moving into the highest relative income interval, 0-25%).

Going forward

So, to recapitulate, the lower the relative income, the lower is SWB. What our analysis shows is that a large majority of those with lowest stantially higher relative incomes; also, a large majority of those in the next higher range (>25-50%) recorded significantly higher relative incomes; and, nearly half of those in the highest range of relative income (>50%) recorded lower relative incomes in 2012. During a period of steady growth of per capita income (just under 6% annually), the benefits in terms of higher relative income accrued largely to those in the lower intervals.

In sum, the important policy lesson is that, instead of relentless pursuit of income growth, more attention must be given to a strategy of shared growth through remunerative employment in order to enhance well-being.

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$LETTERS\ TO\ THE\ EDITOR\ \ \text{Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.}$

Change in Punjab

Amarinder Singh stepping down as Punjab Chief Minister on Saturday is nothing short of a dramatic move by the 'people's maharaja' (Page 1, "Amarinder quits amid turmoil in Cong.", September 19). The writing was on the wall when the younger Gandhis appointed Navjot Singh Sidhu as the State party chief. On the whole, the developments in Punjab must make the Bharatiya Janata Party rub its hands in glee. N.J. RAVI CHANDER,

■ The proverb, it never rains but it pours, sums up the crisis in the Grand Old Party (GOP). With the exit of Captain Amarinder along with existing problems in the

Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh party units, also compounded by the exit of Jyotiraditya Scindia, the writing is on the wall. The GOP is in deep trouble. It is rather disturbing to realise the Indian National Congress (INC), nourished and brought up by the greatest stalwarts, patriots of exceptional calibre, is moving toward a state of oblivion. There is hardly any need now for the BJP to keep citing the phrase "Congress Mukt Bharat" when the INC is presenting on a platter reasons for the Bharatiya Janata Party to continue its rule. It is disappointing that vested interests are calling the shots in the principal Opposition party, totally demoralising its grass-root workers. When will the party

realise the need to set its

house in order before making futile attempts to challenge the Narendra Modi regime? S. SESHADRI,

■ The Congress is in power in only a handful of States and the development comes as a tragedy at a time when there is turmoil in every State it controls. That the dissenting Assembly members have suddenly found out at the fag end of the party's term the presence of unfulfilled election promises is strange. Considering the administrative experience of Amarinder Singh, Navjot Singh Sidhu or any other leader cannot do justice to the post. Criticisms against the policies of the BJP

government will not be

effective unless the Congress

manages to sort out its troubles. It is pathetic that the national Opposition party is being run by an interim party president which makes other leaders and party workers lose D. SETHURAMAN,

■ The inability of the Grand Old party to keep its flock together is glaring. It is disappointing to see the Congress party failing to honour the people's mandate in various States as a result of factionalism. The 'tall leadership' of the party is in slumber as far as maintaining a coherent leadership is concerned. The

Congress is charting a course

of its disintegration.

J. ANANTHA PADMANABHAN,

■ Capt. Amarinder Singh is ready to salute but is definitely not prepared to kowtow to incompetent people. He did as much good for the State of Punjab as he possibly could. A disciplined military person like Capt. Amarinder could not have swum for long in a cesspool of politics. A lion has been made to vacate the throne to make way for a circus. M.R. ANAND, Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh

Harmony in Kerala

It is rare to find the kind of religious cohesion one has in Kerala anywhere else in the country. The cent percent educated population speaking the same one language yet tragically falling prey to divisive forces must be reversed. Nothing must disturb this cohesion

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

(Editorial page, "A dark cloud in Kerala's sky of communal harmony", September 18). Keralites themselves need to restore MOHAMMED IKRAMULLA,

Exit Ford

The decision of American car maker Ford to close its manufacturing base in India is a bolt from the blue – to its customers, employees and dealers. It is a matter of concern that the plants which helped the manufacturer establish a niche for itself may stop. Ford's exit from the Indian market is also a huge loss for Chennai, the Detroit of India. RAJAMANI CHELLADURAI, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

THE HINDU DELHI MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

How the 9/11 wars changed the world

The war on terror strengthened Islamist and Islamophobic politics



STANLY JOHNY

The bombing by the Islamic State Khorasan Province on August 26 outside Kabul airport that killed about 200 Afghans and 13 Americans at a time when the U.S. was scrambling to evacuate its citizens from Afghanistan was a tragic testimony to everything that went wrong with America's war on terror. After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the U.S. went to Afghanistan to defeat al-Qaeda and topple the Taliban regime. Twenty years later, when the U.S. exited Afghanistan, the Taliban, which never fully severed its ties with al-Qaeda, was back in power in Kabul and the country was emerging as the new base of the Islamic State.

U.S. President Joe Biden says the war on terror will continue. But the U.S.'s options are limited. It has lost its base in Afghanistan. Its alliance with Pakistan, which goes back to the Cold War, is over. Afghanistan's neighbouring countries refuse to host an American base. This will impact intelligence operations. Even if the U.S. wants to carry out a drone strike in Afghanistan (which is not an effective counter-terrorism strategy anyway), it will have to fly the machines from the Gulf, based on intelligence collected from afar. If the U.S. couldn't defeat terrorism after fighting two decades in Afghanistan along with Pakistan, how is it going to fight it in a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan from bases in the Gulf?

Regime change wars

After the 9/11 attacks, the U.S. saw a global outpouring of support and sympathy. There was a legal and moral argument in favour of its military action against al-Qaeda. But the fundamental problem with the war that the U.S. launched was that it wasn't strategically focused on defeating al-Qaeda. Instead, the U.S., driven by the neoconservative hubris of the Bush administration, launched regime change wars to remake the Muslim world. President Biden now says the U.S. went to Afghanistan to defeat al-Qaeda. But facts on the ground tell a different story. In 2001,



The regime change wars, which

helped terrorist outfits proliferate in

many countries, also led to the

strengthening of both Islamist and Is-

lamophobic politics across the

world. The repeated attacks on Mus-

lim-majority countries and the

deaths of hundreds of thousands of

locals, mostly Muslims, in these wars

helped strengthen the jihadist narra-

tive that the 'Christian West' is

launching 'a crusade' against Mus-

lims. The Islamic State repeatedly re-

ferred to all westerners as "crusad-

ers" and broadcast videos of

American strikes on social media

with the aim of recruiting young

Muslims. Anti-Americanism emerged

as a dominant political theme across

Muslim-majority countries, which Is-

lamist hardliners sought to cash in

The wars also triggered a massive

outflow of refugees from the affected

countries to neighbouring nations

and the faraway West where the po-

pulist far-right, already on the ascent

after the 2008 financial crisis, turned

it into a political weapon. During the

2011-15 Libyan and Syrian crises that

saw hundreds of thousands of asv-

lum seekers take the perilous boat

ourney across the Mediterranean

Sea to Europe, the far-right harped

on Islamophobic rhetoric to drum up

support. The Islamic State-inspired

terrorist attacks in the West during

this period further strengthened this

narrative. In the end, the regime

change wars, which failed to defeat

terrorists, came back to divide and

haunt the West in a different form.

Geopolitical setback

the U.S. brought down the Taliban regime and destroyed al-Qaeda's base in Afghanistan. But instead of going after al-Qaeda networks, the U.S. initiated the next regime change war in Iraq. The invasion of Iraq, based on false intelligence or the lie that President Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, not only diffused the U.S.'s focus in Afghanistan but also created conditions inside Iraq for al-Qaeda, which was forced to retreat from Afghanistan, to establish a new branch. Al-Qaeda in Iraq, led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, rose from the ruins of postwar Iraq to become the deadliest branch of the global jihadist outfit.

If the Bush administration did not learn from the mistakes of its Afghan invasion, the Obama administration did not learn from the mistakes of the Iraq invasion by President George Bush. In 2011, NATO launched another regime change war in Libya. The U.S. believed that with its superior military force, it could topple regimes, reorder political systems and remake the world. It did bring down regimes in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, but it remained clueless about how to tackle the instability that followed. Jihadists thrive amidst chaos and lawlessness. If post-war Iraq provided a new base for al-Qaeda, Libya's collapse into anarchy, with different militias and governments fighting each other for control, allowed terrorists to spread to other parts of Africa. In Syria, the U.S. stopped short of a direct military intervention but backed armed rebels against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad. It is from the ruins of Syria that the Islamic State rose.

the U.S. suffered was in geopolitics. When the U.S. was busy in the Muslim world, China was steadily rising. By the time the U.S. realised that China had become its greatest rival since the end of the Cold War, it was too late. The U.S. had already lost the war in Afghanistan; al-Qaeda had split into different branches (what President Biden called a metastasised threat); divisive, ethno-nationalist and Islamophobic politics had become stronger at home; and the moment of unipolarity had passed. In the face of these enormous challenges, President Biden decided to end the war in Afghanistan allowing the Taliban their victory. This left the war on terror uncertain and caused a shift in the U.S.'s strategic focus towards a resurgent China (policies followed by President Donald Trump). On August 31, Mr. Biden said the era of wars to reshape the world was over, marking an official end of the neoconservative regime-change foreign

This doesn't mean that the global hegemony of the U.S. is over. The U.S. suffered setbacks in the past and bounced back. The 1970s were particularly a bad decade for the U.S. during the Cold War. It had to withdraw from Vietnam in 1975, allowing the communists to win and unify the country. In 1978, the communists assumed power in Afghanistan. In 1979, the U.S. lost Iran. Yet, by late 1979, the U.S. was back in action, thanks to the Soviet intervention in

Afghanistan. Mr. Biden's America, having suffered a crushing defeat in Afghanistan, might be reluctant to launch another direct military intervention in the near future. To be sure, America's withdrawal and the perception of its weakness will embolden its rivals like Iran, Russia and China. But the U.S., which is seeking to return to realism from neoconservatism, might wait for its rivals, especially China, to commit blunders - like the Soviets, emboldened by America's defeat in Vietnam, did in 1979 – or it might grab other strategic opportun-

Afghanistan is not the end of American power; it's the beginning of the new U.S.-China cold war. Meanwhile, terrorist outfits will continue to operate from the havens they have already found.

The most unexpected setback that stanly.johny@thehindu.co.in

Holding TNCs accountable

Bilateral investment treaties can be harnessed in this effort



PRABHASH RANJAN

The UN working group on 'human rights, transnational corporations (TNCs) and other businesses' has published a new report on human rights-compatible international investment agreements. It urges states to ensure that their bilateral investment treaties (BITs) are compatible with international human rights obligations. It emphasises investor obligations at the international level i.e., the accountability of TNCs in international law. Given the enormous power that TNCs wield, questions about their accountability have arisen often. There have been many instances where the misconduct of TNCs has come to light such as the corruption scandal involving Siemens in Germany.

Past efforts

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said in 1975 in the UN General Assembly that the international community should are ticulate standards of conduct for TNCs. Subsequently, an audacious effort was made at the UN to develop a multilateral code of conduct on TNCs. However, due to differences between developed and developing countries, it was abandoned in 1992.

An integral feature of the neoliberal project was to use international law to institutionalise the forces of economic globalisation, leading to the spread of BITs. These treaties promised protection to foreign investors under international law by bestowing rights on them and imposing obligations on states. This structural asymmetry in BITs, which confer rights on foreign investors but impose no obligations, relegated the demand for investor accountability.

However, after the 2011 report of John Ruggie, UN Special Rapporteur on business and human rights, the issue of holding TNCs accountable gathered momentum again. In 2014, the UN Human Rights Council established an open-ended working group with the mandate to elaborate on an international legally binding instrument on TNCs and other businesses concerning human rights. Since then, efforts are being made towards developing a treaty and finding ways to make foreign corporations accountable. The latest UN report is a step in that direction.

BITs can be harnessed to hold TNCs accountable under international law. The issue of fixing accountability of foreign investors came up in an international law case, Urbaser v. Argentina (2016). It involved a concessionaire that was looking after the supply of

■ The share of the population aged

16+ which is vaccinated with both

the doses increased from 27.5% on

So, despite a very high share of the

doses, cases continues to rise

ulation covered with both the

May 1 to 81.5% on September 16

water and sewerage services in Argentina, in which Urbaser, a Spanish environment management company, was a shareholder. Argentina adopted emergency measures to ward off a financial crisis in 2001, which caused losses to the concessionaire, ultimately leading to its insolvency. Urbaser brought a claim against Argentina alleging breach of its rights guaranteed under the Argentina-Spain BIT. Argentina filed a counterclaim charging the investors for floundering in ensuring the required level of investment in the services provided and thus violating the international human right to water. The tribunal held that corporations can be subjects of international law and are under a duty not to engage in activities that harm or destroy human rights. However, as regards the question of whether the foreign investor was under an international law obligation to provide drinking water and sanitation, the tribunal held that only states have a positive obligation to meet the human right to water; corporations only have a negative obligation in this regard unless specific human rights obligations are imposed on the foreign investor as part of the BIT.

The case played an important role in bringing human rights norms to the fore in BIT disputes. It also opened up the possibility of using BITs to hold TNCs accountable provided the treaty imposes positive obligations on foreign investors. In the last few years, states have started recalibrating their BITs by inserting provisions on investor accountability. However, these employ soft law language and are hortatory. They do not impose positive and binding obligations on foreign investors. They fall short of creating a framework to hold TNCs accountable under international law.

Lessons for India

The recent UN report has important takeaways for India's ongoing reforms in BITs. India's new Model BIT of 2016 contains provisions on investor obligations. However, these exist as best endeavour clauses. They do not impose a binding obligation on the TNC. India should impose positive and binding obligations on foreign investors, not just for protecting human rights but also for imperative issues such as promoting public health. The Nigeria-Morocco BIT, which imposes binding obligations on foreign investors such as making it mandatory for them to conduct an environmental impact assessment of their investment, is a good example. These reforms would help in harnessing BITs to ensure the answerability of foreign investors and creating a binding international legal framework to hold TNCs to account.

Prabhash Ranjan is Professor & Vice Dean, Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal Global University. Views

Empathy through education

Social and educational learning is not 'fluff'; it is an important goal in education

RADHIKA GOSAVI & VIKRAM VINCENT

India's National Education Policy (2020) mentions social and emotional learning (SEL) as an important facet of education. SEL is the process of learning to recognise and manage emotions and navigate social situations effectively. While the policy notes numeracy and literacy as its central aims, SEL should be an equally important goal as it supports skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

What is SEL?

SEL is foundational for human development, building healthy relationships, having self and social awareness, solving problems, making responsible decisions, and academic learning. Key elements of SEL include cultivating empathy and theory of mind. 'Empathy' is the ability to understand another person's emotions and be aware of why they might be feeling those emotions from their perspective. 'Theory of mind' is the ability to understand others' intentions, knowledge and beliefs and recognise that those might be different from your own. Research finds that students with greater social skills and emotional regulation are more likely to have success.

While some people may perceive discussions surrounding SEL as "fluff", it is, in fact, rooted in physiology. Neurobiologically, various brain regions such as the prefrontal and frontal cortices, amygdala, and superior temporal sulcus are involved in the cognitive mechanisms of SEL. Interestingly, scientists have proposed that the physiological and psychological factors of SEL are inherently linked. Brain systems that are responsible for basic human behaviour, such as getting hungry, may be reused for complex mechanisms involved in SEL. This can explain why the way we feel physically directly impacts our social-emotional evaluation of the world. Despite its importance to life, SEL is often added as a chapter in a larger curriculum rather than being integrated in it. To overcome this challenge, it is vital to consider that the learning process is a social and emotional experience.

The pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges for SEL as school closures reduced opportunities for students to deepen social relationships and learn collaboratively in shared physical spaces. Conversely, remote learning "gave parents the opportunity to discover their childrens' social and emotional lives," notes Jim Eagen, the head of Synapse school in California, where SEL is a key strategic pillar of the school. Even with parental involvement, the challenge of an inadequate support system for SEL remains. So, how do we move forward?

A way forward

Perhaps we can contextually adapt best practices from existing models. Synapse school seamlessly incorporates SEL into curricula through selfscience classes, and places SEL centrally within the school culture.

How can we sustainably incorporate SEL into education across communities, cultures, and social strata? In reality, individuals from underprivileged backgrounds have faced immense learning losses over the last one and a half years. A starting point would be to consider insights from the Indian SEL framework: one, application of SEL practices should be based on students' socioeconomic backgrounds; two, SEL strategies of caretakers and educators must align with one another; three, long-term success requires SEL to be based on scientific evidence.

While policies provide guidelines, a big challenge in moving forward is unlearning old habits. The lockdowns provided an unintended reset which afforded an opportunity for positive change. As a sustainable development goal outlines, policymakers now have to ensure that future changes prioritise "inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." Importantly, the onus lies on all of us to make individual contributions that will drive systemic change.

Radhika Gosavi is an educational neuroscientist and Assistant Director of the Brainwave Learning Center at Synapse school; Vikram Vincent holds a Ph.D. in EdTech from IIT Bombay

DATA POINT U.K.'s recent COVID-19 spike explained OVID-19 cases in the United Kingdom started increasing again from June this April, the share of the Delta variant in daily cases has been growing too. By July, the share of the Delta variant crossed 90%. Meanwhile, the % of the population aged over 16 that has been administered both the doses of the vaccine grew from 28% on May 1 to 81.5% on September 16. All this shows that the vaccines' effectivenes against the Delta variant has dropped over time. However, studies show that vaccines continue to be highly effective against hospitalisation and death due to COVID-19. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Jasmin Nihalani 0 0 Of every 1 lakh cases among vaccinated Of every 1 lakh cases among patients not vaccinated patients aged 80+, only around 50 aged 80+, about 144 people went to the emergency care between weeks 33-36 in 2021 people went to the emergency care 1. SHOTS INCREASE, CASES ■ The share of the population aged **TOO** The graph shows the SEVEN-DAY 16+ which is vaccinated with at average no. of COVID-19 cases ROLLING AVG. least one dose increased in the U.K. on the left axis. from 63% on May 1 to 89% on (IN THOUSANDS) On the right axis, the % share September 16

of the U.K. population aged AT LEAST ONE DOSE over 16 and vaccinated with at least one dose and with both does are depicted. Cases in the U.K. started increasing **BOTH DOSES** from June this year and peaked on July 21 with about 47,000 daily cases. After a brief respite, they started increasing again in August FEB. 1, 2020 ◀ ➤ SEPT. 16, 2021

However, efficacy is still high against

hospitalisation and death

SOURCE: "OURWORLDINDATA, UK'S VACCINE SURVEILLANCE REPORT WEEK 37"

	T1: Cases (per 1 l	akh pop.)	T2: Cases (p	-	hat went		T3: COVID-19 deaths (per 1 lakh population)					
Age	among persons vac- cinated with 2 doses	among persons not vaccinated	among per vaccinated v 2 doses	rsons with	among persons not vaccinated	a		persons	among persons not vaccinated			
<18	458	1,362	0		4.2	0			0	0		
18-29	633	1,285	2	•	12	0.	1		0.5			
30-39	796	1,070	2.5		20.6	0.3	0.2		1.5			
40-49	1,157	853	4.4		32.2		0.6		5.4			
50-59	972	699	7.9	!	51.7		1.7		14.6	14.6		
60-69	700	478	13.5		74.3	4.8	4.8			31.5		
70-79	512	371	26.9		96.6	13.	13.7		69.9			
80+	412	425	50.5		143.9	52	2.4		155.7	155.7		
	CY DROPS	esinos has		Sympton	natic disease	Hos	pitalisa	ition	Death			
The efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines has dropped significantly against the			Vaccine	Alpha	Delta	Alpi	ha	Delta	Alpha	Delta		
	iant and so infection		Pfizer	95	83.5	97.9)	96.7	96.3	95.2		
continue	to rise.		AstraZonoca	Q1 7	65.2	03.0	<u> </u>	03	100	92.7		

AstraZeneca 81.7 93.9 While infections continue to rise despite a rapid increase in the share of the population covered with both doses, those who are administered the vaccine are less likely to get hospitalised and are at a lower risk of dying from the disease

The Man Prindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 20, 1971

Secret Pak. directive on visitors

An official directive on how to manipulate foreign visitors to East Bengal has been issued under a "secret" classification to information officials by the Pakistan Government, it was reported to-day [London, September 19]. The Sunday Times said it had received a photocopy of the directive giving detailed guidance on the handling of journalists and other important visitors from abroad. The newspaper quoted the directive as saying that when a visitor wanted to visit a camp for refugees (who had returned from India), officials would make sure of having a crowd by delaying the normal dispersal of the refugees to other areas. Foreigners who wanted to check stories about army attempts to eliminate intellectuals at Dacca University following its intervention in the east in March could be allowed to see people there but only if the visitors were dependable. Security arrangements should be unobtrusive and there should be no overdisplay of military personnel according to the directive. Important visitors should also be encouraged to visit some of the scenes of massacre of non-Bengalis. They should be encouraged to visit the refugee camps of Mymensingh and listen to their tales of woe, the directive was reported as saying.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 20, 1921

Arrival at Trichinopoly

Trichinopoly, September 19 - Mahatma Gandhi accompanied by Maulana Azad Sobhani and Janab Yakub Hassan Sait arrived at 9-30 last night at the Trichinopoly junction station. Quite an enthusiastic reception awaited the distinguished visitor. The whole platform was lined with spectators and leading members of the public among whom were: Moulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib, Dr. T.V. Sastri, Messers. N.L. Dorai, T.V. Narasu Pillai, N.M. Kaja Mean Sahib, Raghava Perumal Pillai, V. Balasubramaniam, and Janab Muhammed Hussain. As the train steamed into the station loud shouts of "Mahatma Gandhi ki jai" rent the air. The Mahatma and party surged through the immense crowd and got into the motor car, the Mahatma giving "darshan" to the vast gathering by standing in the car. At first there was great difficulty in getting access to the platform as Mr. Storer, the Station Master, would not order the issue of more than 50 platform tickets and that many respectable men stood outside for an

2,988 kg heroin seized

Containers brought by Vijayawada firm

in Gujarat; two held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In what is said to be one of

the largest-ever seizures in

the world, the Directorate of

Revenue Intelligence (DRI)

has impounded two con-

tainers carrying about

2,988.22 kg heroin at the

Mundra port in Gujarat.

Two persons have been ar-

rested and the role of some

Afghan nationals is being

The breakthrough came

after the agency received a

tip-off about a consignment

imported by Aashi Trading

Company, located in Vijaya-

wada, declared as semi-pro-

cessed talc stones originat-

ing from Afghanistan and

shipped from the Bandar

Abbas Port in Iran to the

Suspecting that the con-

NEW DELHI

investigated

Mundra Port.

FROM PAGE ONE

Punjab gets first Dalit CM Charanjit Channi

Later, before announcing the decision, senior leaders Ambika Soni and K.C. Venugopal held a meeting with Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi.

Following Mr. Rawat's announcement, Mr. Gandhi tweeted: "Congratulations to Shri Charanjit Singh Channiji for the new responsibility. We must continue to fulfil the promises made to the people of Punjab. Their trust is of paramount importance."

Some political observers feel that while the move of

selecting a Dalit leader would politically help the Congress in the upcoming Assembly election, it appears to be a temporary arrangement. "The decision will benefit the Congress as it will help garner support among the Dalit community. But eventually, it's a stopgap arrangement and the face of the campaign for 2022 poll would be Navjot Singh Sidhu," said Professor Ashutosh Kumar of the Political Science Department of Panjab University.

NRC final, rules Assam Foreigners' Tribunal

The member also observed that Mr. Singha's name figured in the NRC that was supervised by the Supreme Court on the basis of the Citizenship Act of 1955 and The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

...final NRC... has been published on 31.08.2019 which is available online on the official website of NRC Assam wherein also it's referred and mentioned as 'Final NRC'. This legal position is still in force. The National Identity Cards have yet to be issued to the citizens whose names have been included in Final NRC. But there is no doubt that this NRC Assam published in 2019 is nothing but Final NRC," the order

"I am of the considered opinion that the Opposite Party (Singha) is not a foreigner but a citizen of India," the order on Septem-

es" and can only progress

through coexistence. Even

while increasingly shifting

the daily routines of gover-

nance into Hindi, the Centre

has in fact taken steps to in-

corporate powerful regional

languages. For instance, the

NEET for entrance into

medical programmes is now

offered in 13 different lan-

guages, while engineering

colleges have started offer-

ing courses in five Indian

Faced with political push-

back from non-Hindi speak-

ing States, the Centre had al-

so amended the draft of the

National Education Policy to

ensure that Hindi is not im-

posed as a compulsory lan-

guage choice for school stu

dents. While the political

tussles around language in

education revolve around

schools, it is significant that

higher education – which

produces the teachers who

teach the language in

schools - is significantly

skewed towards Hindi and

English. Education Ministry

data shows there were 1.3

lakh students enrolled in

M.A. Hindi programmes in

2019-20, while the next

highest language, Bengali,

had only 22,719 students at

the postgraduate level. In-

terestingly, English has al-

most 2 lakh students en-

"Unless English is re-

"There is a top-down

guages like Bhili or Gondi,

which have lakhs of speak-

ers, but are not in the Eighth

Schedule. If a diwas is need-

ed to promote a language,

those are the languages that

rolled for Masters degrees.

languages this year.

Hindi gains ground due to demographic shift

mother tongue data to justify its stance on the languag-

In March, DMK MP A.K.P. Chinraj raised a query in the Lok Sabha asking for the estimated number of people from non-Hindi speaking States who would understand the Central government's notifications and

languages, while 20% included English on their list.

The 2021 Census will be the second to gather such data, and thus record for the first time the growth among actual speakers of a language, rather than those who claim it as their mother tongue. "So far, the Census data has not been about the knowledge of a language, but rather identity with a language," said Ayesha Kidwai, a professor of linguistics and the politics of language at the Jawaharlal Nehru University. "Hindi is identified as a language of power. When Hindi is promoted, it is not a promotion of choice, but a promotion of power." She noted that the choice of Hindi in the Census in fact subsumes 50 other choices, as variants like Bhojpuri, Rajasthani, Magadhi and Chhattisgarhi - each of which has more than a crore speakers – are all clubbed under the Hindi umbrella. In fact, only about 26% of the Indian population selected Hindi itself as their mother tongue. Al-

At the celebration of Hindi Divas last week, Home Minister Amit Shah emphasised that "Hindi is the

tually chose one of the

variants.

Centre yet to take call on 68 names sent by SC Collegium

Recommendation made for appointment as judges in the High Courts

take a call on the names re-

commended by the SC colle-

gium headed by Chief Justice

of India N.V. Ramana, the

from Karnataka and one

sources said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Union government is yet to take a call on the recommendations made by the Supreme Court Collegium on appointing a total of 68 judicial officers and advocates as judges of various High Courts, sources aware of the procedure for appointment to the higher judiciary have

Between August 8 and September 1, the Collegium processed over 100 names recommended by various High Courts and had finally sent 68 names to the government for appointment as judges to 12 High Courts.

The government is yet to

Peace trip

have been sent for a third time, while 10 others have been recommended for a second time.

rest are fresh The recommendations.

Prior to these recommendations, in a historic decision on August 17, the SC Collegium had sent nine names, including three women, for elevation as judges of the Supreme Court.

The names were cleared with significant pace by the government leading to their swearing-in as judges on Au-

On Friday, the Supreme Court Collegium recom-Out of the 68 names, two mended eight names of judges, including Acting Chief from Jammu and Kashmir

Justice of the Calcutta High Court Justice Rajesh Bindal, for their elevation as Chief Justices of different High Courts.

Besides, the marathon Collegium meetings on Thursday and Friday have led to recommendations of transfer of five High Court Chief Justices, including Tripura High Court Chief Justice Akil Kureshi, and 28 other judges.

The combined sanctioned strength of the 25 High Courts of the country is 1,098 judges. As on September 1, there were 465 vacancies, according ti data put in public domain by the Law Ministry.

> signment contained narcotic drugs, being supplied from Afghanistan, the DRI

intercepted the two containers. In the presence of experts from the Gandhinagarbased Forensic Science Laboratory, the containers were searched. The experts confirmed the presence of heroin, according to an agency

While 1,999.58 kg was recovered from the first con-

tainer, 988.64 kg of the stuff was found in the second. The contraband was seized under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substanc-

Subsequently, searches are being conducted in Delhi, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Gandhidham and Mandvi in Gujarat. "Two persons have been arrested and a number of persons and entities are under investigation. The probe conducted so far has also revealed the involvement of Afghan nationals, who are under the scanner," said the official.

In July, the Directorate had seized about 300 kg heroin from some containers at the Nhava Sheva Port in Navi Mumbai. The consignment had also originated from the Bandar Abbas port. It was being smuggled in the garb of talcum

At the same port, the agency seized 191 kg heroin in August 2020 and arrested Suresh Bhatia, Mohammed Nauman and Mahendra Nigam, apart from two Customs house agents, Meenanath Bodake and Kondibhau Gunial. It was routed through Chabahar in Iran from Pakistan's Gwadar.

Iranian boat with drug seized off Gujarat coast

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

An Iranian boat carrying ov-

There were seven Iranian

agencies based on intelligence inputs.

According to sources, the boat carried an estimated 30 to 50 kg of the contraband, worth about ₹150 to ₹250 crore in the international markets. The exact amount will be known after its inspection once the boat is anchored at a nearby port. The crew members have been apprehended + and are being taken to a port

and apprehended by the

er 30 kg of heroin worth more than ₹150 crore in the international market was seized off the Gujarat coast in a joint operation by the Coast Guard and the Anti-Terrorism Squad of the Gujarat police on Saturday.

crew members on board when the fishing boat entered the Indian territorial waters and was intercepted

> Life opened a new avenue

in Gujarat for investigation.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KOLKATA

for me: Babul

Former Union Minister and BJP MP Babul Supriyo, who switched over to the Trinamool Congress in a surprise move, on Sunday said life has now opened a new avenue for him from the prospect of being 'retired hurt' from public affairs

not so long ago. Mr. Supriyo also said he has nothing to prove to anybody, and he has been involved in politics from the grassroots level since

becoming an MP in 2014. "Life has opened a new avenue for me from the prospect of being retired hurt from public life...I received a lot of support from a party (TMC) with which I had a very tumultuous relationship," Mr. Supriyo said at a press conference at the

headquarters here. "Being retired hurt was the feeling when I had wished to leave politics. But, I changed my decision in the last four days...I thank Mamata didi and Abhishek for giving me a big opportunity. It was completely unexpected,"

Mr. Supriyo will meet Ms. Banerjee on Monday, senior party leader and MP Saugata Roy said. He will leave for Delhi early next week to tender his resignation to the Lok Sabha Speaker as an MP from Asansol, he said.

he said.

On his prospects in the TMC, Mr. Supriyo said Ms. Banerjee will take a call about this. Asked if Ms. Banerjee could become the consensus Opposition candidate for the PM's post in 2024, he said, "Won't you agree she is the most popular personality in the country?"

Security alert on threat of human bombs

IS book, published in multiple languages, explains ways to make explosive belts and vests, say police

S. VIJAY KUMAR

Security agencies issued an alert early this month on the possibility of human bombs targeting vital installations or targeted individuals as part of an Islamic State terror plot to eliminate enemies of jihad.

Acting on specific information that 'Al-Saqri Foundation for Military Sciences' had published a book in multiple languages on the ways and means of making explosive belts and vests, the alert was issued to intensify security arrangements at vantage points, sources in the intelligence agencies told The Hindu on Sunday.

The book titled The Mobile Bomb, released by "Al-Azm Media Foundation" associated with the IS, explains



On a mission: Director-General of Police Dilbagh Singh flagging off the 'Pedal for Peace' rally, organised by the Jammu and

Kashmir police, on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar on Sunday. • NISSAR AHMAD

On alert: Security has been enhanced following an input that militants could infiltrate, particularly into J&K. • NISSAR AHMAD

how various types of explosive belt/vests could be made with different chemicals. Besides explanatory content on the making of bombs, the book lays emphasis on 'Media Jihad'.

While the accounts of many IS supporters were blocked by cyber security

agencies in the recent months, the book was being circulated on certain social media platforms by activists propagating the jihadi ideology.

"Working in the media is the same as performing *jiha*d...if your intentions are right, then the media jihad enemy in a fight," a police officer quoted an excerpt from the book.

against the enemy is not less

important than facing the

Evade cameras

IS urged its cadres to avoid being noticed or identified in surveillance cameras while executing their plans and start their mission from remote or deserted locations where there would be no Closed Circuit Television network.

Calling for meticulous planning, the terrorist outfit urged its operatives to cover their faces, change bodily features and use different number plates for vehicles during the operations in remote or deserted locations, the sources said.

Stating that the IS soldiers

were fighting the fiercest of battles, including those who carried out 'martyrdom' attacks, the outfit called upon its sympathisers to support by way of spending time, effort and money and prevent the enemy from accessing information about iihadists.

The alert sent to all city and district police chiefs in the State has come at a time when security forces have enhanced cover following an input that armed militants in Afghanistan could "aggressively" infiltrate into India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.

Security has also been beefed for Israeli establishments, settlements and tourists following information that they could be targeted, the sources added.

Foreign tourists may be allowed to visit India

First 5 lakh visitors may get free visa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Amid a decline in COVID-19 cases in the country, India may soon reopen its doors for foreign tourists for the first time in a year and a half, officials said.

First five lakh foreign tourists will be issued visas free of cost, in an attempt to revive the tourism, hospitality and aviation sectors, badly hit by the pandemic since March 2020 when a nationlockdown announced.

Top Union Home Ministry officials are deliberating with all stakeholders on the expected date and modalities for opening up of the country for foreign tourists.

A formal announcement allowing foreign tourists to visit India may come within the next 10 days, an official from the Home Ministry

The decision is being taken in view of the declining number of COVID-19 cases in the country. The free visa to the tou-

rists will be issued till March 31, 2022 or the issuance of five lakh visa, whichever is earlier. The total financial implication for this would be ₹100 crore.

The free visa move is expected to incentivise shortterm tourists visiting India, the official said. The e-tourist visa has been suspended since March 2020.

Jobs for all if AAP wins in Uttarakhand

Kejriwal promises 80% job quota, unemployment grant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday promised employment to all youth in Uttarakhand if the party is voted to power in next year's Assembly polls in the State.

Addressing a press conference at Haldwani in Nainital district, along with AAP's chief ministerial candidate Ajay Kothiyal, Mr. Kejriwal said one youth in every family would be given an allowance of ₹5,000 per month till employment was provided. He said, "We will reserve 80% of jobs in government and the private sector for the youth of Uttarakhand and within six months one lakh jobs will be created. A Minis-



candidate for Uttarakhand Ajay Kothiyal at Haldwani . • PTI

try of Employment and Migration Affairs will be created, which will explore new employment opportunities." Sensing space for an alter-

native with the ruling BJP changing Chief Ministers in quick succession and the opposition Congress in disarray, the Delhi Chief Minister said political parties missed no opportunity to ransack

Uttarakhand's resources in the State's 21-year history. He promised to undo the damage done in 21 years in just 21 months.

Mr. Kejriwal said, "The youth want jobs, and it shouldn't seem like they are begging for it. It is rather the right of the youth to ask for employment from the government."

need it," he said.

The Centre cites the Census' es used in governance.

The Home Ministry responded with Census data claiming that the Hindispeaking population of Nagaland was 62,942, while the English-speaking population was 419. For Kerala, the figures were 51,928 and 4,471, respectively. However, these are in fact, the number of people who claimed Hindi and English as their mother tongues, not the number who can actually speak these languages. An analysis by *The Hindu* of the bilingualism and trilingualism data gathered for the first time in 2011 shows that 16% of Nagaland's population said Hindi was among their top three spoken language choices, only half of the 33% who chose English. Similarly, in Kerala, 9% had Hindi among their top three

placed at the higher education level, nothing will change. For that, speeches at Hindi Diwas are not sufficient; the government must be willing to put in the painstaking background work needed to develop curriculum, reading materials, resources and teachers for Hindi," said Abhay Kumar Dubey, who heads the Indian Languages programme at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. pressure to promote Hindi, from the government, as well as the more organic promotion via popular culture. For English, there is a societal pressure, from the bottom-up, from a society which recognises it as a language of aspiration. Both have their engines in place," said Deepesh Chandrasekhar, an assistant professor of English at Shiv Nadar University, who has a backmost 40% of those clubbed ground in linguistics. " I'm under the Hindi label acmore worried about lan-

friend of all Indian languag-

Captain baiter, Sidhu loyalist takes charge

Charanjit Singh Channi, the 49-year-old Chief Minister-designate of Punjab, is a seasoned politician

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Charanjit Singh Channi, the Congress's choice as the next Chief Minister of Punjab, will be the first Dalit to head the government in the State.

Mr. Channi, 49, was the State Technical Education Minister in Captain Amarinder Singh's Cabinet.

A close aide of State Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu, he was among the Ministers who rebelled against Capt. Amarinder, expressing lack of faith in the former Chief Minister's ability to fulfil the party's election promises.

Journey began in 2002

The three-time MLA began his political journey as president of the Kharar municipal council in 2002 - a post he held for two terms. He was first elected to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha in 2007 as an Independent from Chamkaur Sahib in Rupnagai district.

Later he joined the Congress and retained the seat in 2012 and again in 2017. He was elected the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly

BJP takes a dig

at Congress

over CM pick

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

officer in 2018.

head, tweeted, "Congress's

CM pick Charanjit Channi

faces action in a 3-year-old

MeToo case. He had alleg-

edly sent an inappropriate

text to a woman IAS officer

in 2018. It was covered up

but the case resurfaced

when Punjab Women's

Commission sent notice.

Mr. Malviya also posted

a story reported in May this year that said that Capt.

Amarinder's rivals within

the party had accused him

of "hounding" them with

Sidhu's aide

slams remark

by Amarinder

Punjab Congress president

Navjot Singh Sidhu's stra-

tegic adviser Mohd. Musta-

fa on Sunday attacked

former Chief Minister Ama-

rinder Singh for calling Mr.

IPS officer, also accused

Capt. Amarinder of target-

ing the Gandhi family, and

said he is in possession of

"irrefutable proofs" of

wrongdoings by the former

Chief Minister.

Mr. Mustafa, a former

Sidhu "anti-national".

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH

Well done, Rahul."



Staking claim: Chief Minister-designate Charanjit Singh Channi, in red turban, with Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit, right, at the Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh on Sunday. •PTI

from 2015 to 2016 during the SAD-BJP regime.

In 2017, Mr. Channi secured a place in the Amarinder Singh government as a Cabinet Minister, handling the portfolios of Technical Education, Industrial Training, Employment Generation and Tourism and Cultu-

Share of controversies The Chief Minister-designate has had his share of contro-

In 2018, a woman IAS of-

sending an "inappropriate text" message. Thereafter, the Punjab Women Commission had taken suo motu cognisance of the matter and had sought a response from the government.

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had then asked Mr. Channi to apologise to the woman officer and had said he believed the matter had been "resolved" to her satisfaction. But amid the infighting in the party and Mr. Channi's strident opposition to Capt. Amarinder, the issue returned to haunt him in May this year when the women's panel chief threatened to go on a hunger strike if the State government failed to apprise her within a week of its stand on the issue.

In 2018 again, as Minister he was at the centre of a row when he chose to toss a coin to decide on postings for lecturers at a polytechnic.

Mr. Channi had invited 37 lecturers for a discussion before handing them orders All the candidates had been selected through the Punjab Public Service Commission examination.

While 35 lecturers amicably reached a consensus over the station of their choice, same station in Patiala. To break this deadlock, Mr. Channi then decided to toss a coin, which he later said "was done after both the

'Hope Amarinder won't hurt Cong.'

Gehlot says high command was forced to take decision in party's interest

is a respected leader

of the party and I hope that

he will continue to work in

the future also keeping the

Capt. Amarinder Singh*ji*

MOHAMMED IQBAL

The BJP on Sunday took a Rajasthan Chief Minister swipe at the Congress over Ashok Gehlot on Sunday its Punjab chief ministerial said the Congress's high pick Charanjit Singh Chancommand was forced to take ni, citing reported allegaa decision in Punjab in the tions that he had sent an inparty's interest on the basis appropriate text to an IAS of the feedback received from the MLAs and the pu-BJP leader Amit Malviya, blic at large. who is its IT department

Mr. Gehlot expressed hope that former Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh would not take any step that would harm the

Gehlot said Capt. Amarinder is a respected leader of the Congress and had himself stated that the party had kept him as the

party's interests in the forefront Chief Minister for nine-anda-half years. "Capt. Amarin-

der Singh has served the people of Punjab by working to the best of his ability," Mr. Gehlot tweeted.

Mr. Gehlot said since the high command was forced to take a decision in the party's

interest, it would be wrong to blame it for the timing of the change in the State.

"I personally believe that the Congress president has to face the resentment of several leaders who are in the race, while selecting a CM. The same leaders later blame the high command for its decision."

"In such moments, one should listen to one's conscience." Mr. Gehlot said. He said while the people should be worried about the fascist forces taking the country in the wrong direction, the responsibility of the Congress members had increased manifold in this situation.

The senior Congress leader said party workers should rise above their personal interests and think about the party and the nation. Mr. Gehlot said he earnestly hoped that Captain Amarinder would continue to work in future keeping the party's interest above anything else.

Fault lines deepen within Congress

Tweets by senior leaders hint at differences of opinion over the crisis in Punjab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The political turmoil in Punjab Congress and the manner in which Captain Amarinder Singh was removed as the Chief Minister is likely to sharpen the fault lines between the Gandhi family loyalists and the group of 23 (G-23) senior leaders who had sought internal reforms in the party.

Amid signs of assertion by the Congress high command especially former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra – two cryptic tweets from Lok Sabha member from Punjab Manish Tewari and Rajya Sabha member Kapil Sibal pointed to a divide over the Punjab developments.



Kapil Sibal

"Changing Guard... Uttarakhand, Guiarat, Puniab. Age old saying: A stitch in time saves nine Will it?" tweeted Mr. Sibal on Sunday.

Full-time chief

While his tweet can be read as questioning the timing of the Punjab decision, another interpretation could be that it is a reiteration of the G-23's demand for a "full time". elected party president instead of the current arrangement of Sonia Gandhi being party's interim president.

'Ekla Chalo Re'

Known for his proximity to Capt. Amarinder, Mr. Tewari did not refer to Punjab but posted a 32-year-old picture of Rajiv Gandhi, addressing a National Students Union of India convention in April 1989, to make a political point.

"This was the Congress!" tweeted Mr. Tewari.

Later, in another tweet, he added that "there is dignity in Ekla Chalo Re (Go it

On Saturday, Lok Sabha member from Thiruvananthapuram Shashi Tharoor, who is also a G-23 member, spoke of the need for a "permanent president" for the Congress party.

'We all want Congress to have a permanent president. No one will speak against Sonia Gandhi. Sonia Gandhi is a leader who has led us so well. But even she has been saying for years that she has a desire to step down," Mr. Tharoor told reporters in Kerala.

"We saw a new leadership emerge under Rahul Gandhi when Sonia Gandhi had stepped down. But if he is willing to come back into the party's leadership role, that needs to happen fast," he ad-

Congress faces challenge of retaining Hindu votes in State

With Sidhu trying to woo Sikhs, the bloc might turn to BJP

VIKAS VASUDEVA

After the Congress high command 'cornered' Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh into resigning from his post, making it amply clear that the Assembly election due early next year would be contested under his detractor and party's State president Navjot Singh Sidhu, the road ahead for the party is likely to be bumpy.

Even as 78 of the 80 MLAs on September 18 attended the meet of the Punjab Congress Legislature Party (CLP) convened by the All India Congress Committee (AICC), in which a resolution was passed authorising the Congress president to select the new CLP leader, Capt. Amarinder's stance making it clear that he was "not hanging his boots anytime soon", has set alarm bells ringing within the party even as Mr. Sidhu has other challenges to face ahead of the election.

While contesting the election under the aegis of Mr. Sidhu would help in galvanising the party cadre because of his mass appeal and oratory skills, the anti-incumbency factor among the public against the ruling Congress would not be easy for Mr. Sidhu to counter. Though Mr. Sidhu has been pointing the finger at his own government, accusing it of failing to resolve several issues – be it the Bargari sacrilege, the failure to curb the drugs and transport mafias and other unfulfilled 2017 election promises - he would be under immense pressure to deliver on the promises with the election just a few months away.

Over the past few months,



The road ahead: Congress leaders Harish Rawat and Navjot Singh Sidhu in Chandigarh on Saturday. • PTI

Mr. Sidhu has been consistently hitting out at the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), led by the 'Badal' family, in an attempt to make inroads into the 'Panthic' (Sikh) vote bank. In Punjab, 'Panthic' voters have been traditionallv associated with the Akali Dal, and the Hindu voters with the Congress, especially under Capt. Amarinder's moderate face at the helm.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Some political observers, however, feel that in an attempt to woo the 'Panthic' voters, Mr. Sidhu may end up losing substantial support of the Hindu vote bank. Moreover, with the SAD breaking alliance with the BJP, there is a good chance that the Hindu vote bank could eventually shift towards the BJP, whichover the years had been contesting as the junior partner in the former BJP-Akali Dal al-

"Sidhu has been targeting the Akali Dal and questioning their credentials as a 'Panthic' party surrounding religion-related issues to garner the Sikh votes, but he is not realising in this entire episode Hindu voters, could silently shift. Capt. Amarinder has a moderate image and is an acceptable leader among Hindus in Punjab, but the party has already sidelined him, which shall only cause trouble," said Professor Ashutosh Kumar of the Political Science Department of Panjab University.

Not just outside, but with in the party as well Mr. Sidhu's trouble seems to be far from over. Capt. Amarinder has clearly stated that he would decide his future political course of action after consultation with his supporters who have stood by him for more than five decades. While the 79-year-old outgoing Chief Minister may have lost the numbers game with his loyalists in the party he could still play spoilsport.

Already Capt Amarinder has hit out at Mr. Sidhu, targeting his "Pakistan connection" and dubbing him "antinational, dangerous, unstable and incompetent". This comes as the Opposition parties, including the SAD and the Aam Aadmi Party, have already been cornering Mr. Sidhu, accusing him of trying to fool the people of Punjab by pointing the finger at the government of Capt. Amarinder, of which he had been a part as a Cabi-

Will Congress act on Captain's charge against Sidhu, asks BJP

It questions silence of senior Congress leaders on the issue

The BJP on Sunday demanded answers from the Congress after former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh termed State Congress president Navjot Sidhu Singh "anti-national".

Former Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said the allegations were serious and

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Congress president Sonia rinder had on Saturday al-Gandhi and party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi over the claims.

"We demand that Congress speak on the issue and put forward their version. Will the Congress take cognisance of these allegations and take any action on the issue?" Mr. Javadekar said.

Hours after quitting as the

questioned the silence of Chief Minister, Capt. Amaleged that Mr. Sidhu was overly friendly with the Pakistan military establishment and its chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, and called the State party chief an "anti-national".

> Capt. Amarinder added that he would not accept Mr. Sidhu as his successor for this reason.

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U.P. a model State, says Adityanath

Chief Minister says the State has transformed for the better during his tenure

OMAR RASHID LUCKNOW

On completing four-and-ahalf years in power, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said his tenure would be remembered as a "memorable" one in the history of the State from the point of security and good governance, and that it was looked upon as a "model" by the rest of the country and the world.

Making public his government's 'report card' at a press conference here, the Chief Minister hit out at the Opposition. Targeting the previous governments, especially the Samajwadi Party rule from 2012 to 2017, Mr. Adityanath said that earlier



Yogi Adityanath

"professional criminals and mafia used to create an atmosphere of fear and terror and spread lawlessless" under the patronage of power. Uttar Pradesh had the rep-

utation of being a "danga pradesh (riot province)", he said, claiming that under Akhilesh Yadav there was a big riot in the State every three

or four days. In contrast, he claimed, there had been zero riots in the State since

'150 shot dead' Since March 2017, 150 sus-

pected criminals have been shot dead in alleged exchange of fire, termed "encounters" by the State, while 3,427 others were injured, said a booklet released by the government on the occasion. The government also said it had arrested 44,759 persons under the Gangsters Act, booked 630 under the National Security Act and seized and demolished property worth ₹1,886 crore belonging to alleged mafia

dons. The government said it

had taken Uttar Pradesh out of the "BIMARU" tag and given it a label of prosperity. Mr. Adityanath said his go-

vernment took "tough action within the law" against criminals and mafia irrespective of their caste, religion or region. In the booklet, the govern-

ment also highlighted that it had put up hoardings of those accused of violence and damaging property during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens in 2019 and recovered damages from them. It also shut down slaughterhouses" brought a new law against illegal conversion of religion.

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INTERVIEW | FAISAL BIN FARHAN AL SAUD

'Taliban have responsibility to exercise good governance, to be inclusive'

Saudi Foreign Minister says there should be focus on path of dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve issues in a way that can settle concerns permanently

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

India and Saudi Arabia have discussed the way forward in Afghanistan, says Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud. During his first visit to India, he spelt out plans for investments in India, despite the delays in Saudi Arabia's \$100 billion pledge made in 2019, and offered Saudi Arabia's "good offices" for any talks between India and Pakistan.

You spoke with External **Affairs Minister** S. Jaishankar about Afghanistan... But, as of now, neither Saudi Arabia nor India actually has a diplomatic presence there or any formal engagement with the self-styled Taliban government. How do you hope to cooperate on the issue?

On Afghanistan, I think the thing that is of most concern is stability. Our other main priority is security and that it does not become a source of transnational terrorism. And in that regard, the leadership in Afghanistan now, the Taliban, has a responsibility to exercise good judgment and good governance, to be inclusive, to bring in all people in Afghanistan, and to forge a path that can lead to stability, security and prosperity. And they must also take into account the concerns of the international community as regards the security situa-

Unlike 25 years ago, Saudi Arabia has not maintained a diplomatic engagement with the Taliban regime this time, while rivals Qatar, Turkey and Iran have. Why?

■ We hadn't been in contact with the Taliban for many years and that was a policy decision we took then that they must completely renounce any connection to transnational terrorism. They have made certain promises on that regard and even recently reaffirmed those promises, and we look to them to adhere to them. We will work with our international partners in an effort to make sure that that commitment holds and that they stick to it. And we will base our decisions on that.

Do you think that there is any chance that the Taliban are going to be moderate when it comes to their stand on women's education, terrorism and so on? And what exactly can the international community do if they don't?

■ There's a lot we can do. Engagement, setting a good example, cooperation and coordination can help to en-

We will always provide our good offices, but it's up to India and Pakistan to decide on talks when the time is right

courage actors to go in the right direction...

Would you suggest withholding international aid until they do?

■ I think international aid is directed primarily for the benefit of the Afghan people and, therefore, our position is that aid should continue and should not be affected

by these situations.

On India-Saudi Arabia ties, is there any movement on the \$100 billion investment plan made in 2019 for India (by the Saudi government and Aramco)?

We have a very broad rang-

ing relationship with India. India is one of our key partners, a strategic partner and for us, the relationship is a top priority. Of course, CO-VID-19 has been a challenge for all of us and has perhaps delayed some of this. Nonetheless, India has become the third largest trade partner for KSA, a significant growth in both trade and also investment. When this announcement was made, we had \$500 million direct investments, and we are more than \$3 billion now.

Is there a need to reassess the \$100 billion figure and how Saudi Arabia hopes to proceed on investment in

Our priorities haven't changed, our excitement about the relationship hasn't changed. COVID-19 has dampened some activities just because of the restrictions on travel, and, of course, the effects it had on oil, etc.

I'm confident that not only will we achieve the ambitious targets that we have set, we will probably exceed them over time.

Earlier this year, India asked OPEC countries to rationalise oil prices, and there was an exchange that led to the Indian Energy Minister terming the statement by the Saudi **Energy Minister an** "undiplomatic response from a friendly nation". Did this come up in your talks?

■ It's not my portfolio, so we did not address it. But I

would say that Saudi Arabia has always worked with OPEC to stabilise the oil market. The primary driver is a stable market that allows for both consumers and produc-

ers to benefit.

Another issue that has come up between India and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which Saudi Arabia is a leader of, are statements about Jammu and Kashmir, the status of Indian Muslims, communal violence. Did vou discuss this with your Indian counterparts?

■ From our perspective, these are domestic issues. And it is up to the people of India and to the Government of India to address these concerns. And we would, of course, always support any initiatives in this regard that the Indian government takes, but from our perspective, it's a domestic affair.

R&D labs transform livelihoods

They work with 5,000 farmers, artisans and women SHGs

in Odisha's poorest district

Will Saudi Arabia take the initiative to stop these OIC statements?

On the statements as regards to Kashmir, this is an issue that continues to be a dispute between two countries and, therefore, what we would encourage is that there should be a focus on a path of dialogue and discussion among India and Pakistan to resolve these issues in a way that can settle these concerns permanently.

Given the closeness of ties between Saudi Arabia and India and Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, are you disappointed that there aren't talks between the two countries?

■ We will always provide our good offices when we can, but it's up to India and Pakistan to decide when the time

Anti-tank missile completes all trials

Process for issuing acceptance of necessity by Army for Helina has started, says project director

DINAKAR PERI

The helicopter-launched Nag Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), Helina, being developed indigenously, has completed all trials and the proissuing for acceptance of necessity (AoN) by the Army has started, said Sachin Sood, project director of Helina and Dhruvastra at the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad, a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).



Defence mode: The Air Force had asked for the feasibility of integrating Helina on the Light Combat Helicopter. • ANI

"The launcher and missile are ready. There are some Human-Machine Interface

are going on now," Dr. Sood told The Hindu.

While the cost estimate was yet to be done, each missile was expected to cost under ₹1 crore, and around 500 missiles and 40 launchers would be required initially, he added.

Once the AoN is issued, the request for proposal (RFP) would be issued. Some firing trials would be done from the first production lot by the Army at a later stage.

Helina is a third-generation fire-and-forget class ATGM mounted on an indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), and has a minimum range of 500 metres and a maximum range of 7

kilometres. All issues with the minimum range had been sorted out and the integration with other weapons on the platform was over, said Dr. Sood.

Stating that the Air Force had asked for the feasibility of integrating the Helina on the soon-to-be inducted Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), Dr. Sood said this would be done and would bring in economies of scale in the production of the missile. "There is also very good export potential," Dr. Sood

With 56% tribal and 15% Dalit population, Nabarangpur has the lowest per capita income of ₹14,700 in Odisha (at 2004-05 prices), and 50% of its working population

does not have any work.

ing quite a stir.

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

In 2019, a consortium of 12

national research and deve-

lopment (R&D) laboratories

joined hands in a rare effort

to transform livelihoods at

Nabarangpur in Odisha, one

of India's poorest districts.

Two years later, the inter-

ventions appear to be creat-

NABARANGPUI

The collaboration involves five Council of Scientific and Industrial Research laboratories - the Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) in Bhubaneswar, the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) in Lucknow the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (Cl-MAP) in Lucknow, the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) in Mysuru and the Indian Institute of Petroleum in Dehradun; and an equal number of Indian Council of Agricultural Research centres - the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) in Bhubaneswar, the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research in Bengaluru, the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute in Thiruvananthapuram, and the Central Avian Research Institute and the Indian Institute of Water Management in Bhu-



Helping hands: An artisan explaining the usage of a modern kiln provided by IMMT, Bhubaneswar. • SATYASUNDAR BARIK

baneswar. The Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) Regional Medical Research Centre and the Department of Biotechnology's Institute of Life Sciences in Bhubaneswar are also involved.

Nabarangpur now has 5,000 farmers, artisans and women self-help groups (SHGs) involved in livelihood generation with 12 government departments and 15 entrepreneurs.

A three-day training by scientists of the CFTRI propelled Albedin Bagh, 30, from being a housewife to a chocolate maker. Her handmade chocolates help her earn her ₹30,000 a month. "As I have got a fair idea about the market, I intend to switch to automation this year itself," Ms. Bagh said. The CFTRI has formally transferred nine processes and technologies in favour of Nabarangpur's new

entrepreneurs. Nabarangpur's

non-existent fish market, which was heavily dependent on imports from Andhra Pradesh, is also likely to see local fish flooding it in a year or two. "After the CIFA conducted a number of refresher courses and live demonstrations on scientific fish farming, I have expanded my operations," said Sujit Das, who runs a hatchery at Umarkote.

CIMAP's high-yielding curcuminoid-rich variety of turmeric named 'CIM-Pitamber', and the NBRI's 'Keshari' variety of turmeric have also been introduced in Nabarangpur. Women SHGs have been asked to donate seeds after the annual harvest to prospective farmers.

"Government and other agencies must pitch in to create a sustainable market for the products so that the interventions could spread among the masses," said S.K. Mishra, project coordinator and former scientist with the

'Stop fighting ⁺ for junta in Myanmar^{*}

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A pro-democracy organisation in coup-scarred Myanmar has threatened to evict extremist groups from Ma nipur after democracy returns to the country.

The People's Defence Force asked the Manipur outfits to stop fighting on behalf of the junta against the civilian forces. Manipur has seven active outfits that Indian security forces call VBIGs, or (Imphal) valleybased insurgent groups.

On September 17, the People's Defence Force said the "Manipuri UGs" (undergrounds) had been hobnobbing with the military in Myanmar instead of "living peacefully in Manipur

'PM will take a call on Afghan investments'

India has invested \$3 billion in welfare, infrastructure projects in the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on Sunday said a final decision on continuing infrastructure investments in Afghanistan will be taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar considering situation.

Mr. Gadkari also said while many infrastructure projects there had been completed by India, some were yet to be completed.

Last month, the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan, ousting the previous elected leadership that was backed by the West.

"We have built a dam [Salma dam]... We have worked in areas of water resources in Afghanistan," Mr. Gadkari



Back in the day: Former Afghan President Ashraf Ghani with Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the inauguration ceremony of the Salma dam in Afghanistan in 2016. • AP

said while responding to a query on whether India would make further investments in the now Talibancontrolled country.

"As a friendly country, we

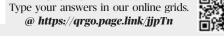
had discussions with Afghanistan government officials for building some roads... Good that I did not start the construction of roads [in Afghanistan]... The situation

there is of concern," Mr. Gadkari added.

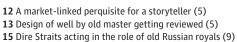
India has invested \$3 billion in welfare and infrastructure projects in the

TH CROSSWORD+ 13356

@ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn 12 A market-linked perquisite for a storyteller (5)



SCAN TO PLAY



17 Flowers retracted, slipped and dropped on a hound's tail (9) 19 Arrest by old British king (5)

Display keystrokes of genius.

 ${\bf 22}$ After removing shirts, come, pray with holy leader - a Muslim

23 Possibly informal convention for grooming (5,4)

25 Fermented rum's not a cure, is it? (7)

26 Doctor pens one article on outbreak of strange shivers (7) 27 Untouched whiskey-tainted bottles (3-4)

28 "Reflections in Music" - Songs without "C" and "G", say (7)

DOWN

grunt awkwardly (9)

1 Sacking of support and maintenance heads by British ombudsman, very nearly upset the bureaucracy (7)

2 Having kidnapped king, a brute gets in touch (7)

3 Worthwhile investment in "Manhattan Timbers" (5) 4 In Mongolia, onager is dozing on leaves — it starts to exhale and

5 Unfair – whichever way you look at it (3,2)

6 Time taken to mature is not age? That's basically preposterous (9) **7** Slips by the Spanish vaults in church (7)

8 Kosher pasta-eating professional trekkers (7)

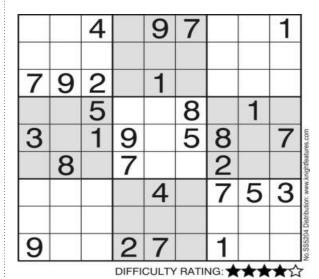
14 Daring way to get Hydra (9) 16 Michaelmas daisy on wall around Malta's port (9)

17 Surgeon had gone under (7) **18** Divine four? (7)

20 One old lab developed a logical system of counting (7) **21** Sanctifies black vessel in sanctuaries (7) 23 Ill-fated love is put away — like the Taj Mahal? (5)

24 It's changing America's position (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13355 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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FAITH

Desire to seek God

Realised souls seek to rid themselves of any worldly desire and set their goal in meditation of the Lord at all times. The story of Dhruva, narrated in the Bhagavata Purana, illustrates the truth that all desires are fulfilled and all sorrows are alleviated by seeking the help of God, pointed out Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse. No doubt Dhruva is disappointed when his wish to sit on the lap of his father is not fulfilled. It is an innocuous desire of a small child longing for his father's kindness.

Narayana Bhattatiri interprets the king's silence when the stepmother intervenes to prevent Dhruva from ascending the father's lap as a hidden gain for Dhruva. Moreover, if Suruchi advises him to do penance to get his wish fulfilled, Suniti, though distraught at the situation, seconds it as it seems to be the only option available. Her advice to Dhruva is pertinent to humanity at large. All the sorrows faced by jivatmas are owing to their past karma. Only the Lord can rid us of this karma and lead us to salvation from samsara. To seek the Lord is not easy. It requires tremendous effort involving deep meditation and severe penance.

Dhruva is determined and with Narada's grace and advice gets steeped in penance and is able to have direct darshan of the Lord within a short span. But the irony is that he is more disappointed that in spite of beholding the Supreme Lord and receiving His blessings, he has to wait for 36,000 years to get liberated from samsara. His worldly wish is responsible for this long separation from God. One can imagine how desires in every jivatma cannot be dismissed easily and that these desires will distance us more and more from God. The way of desire is that it seeks fulfilment and this process continues endlessly tying down the jivatma to this cycle.

10 Trace out simple charts, adjusting lines emerging at the origins with the right proportions (2,5) **11** Section in sewer is contracting (7,2)

ACROSS



1 Floor outside terminal blew up (7)

5 Cuckoo eating rejected egg pieces (7)

9 Land, not essentially best in wines, lacking greenery at the

'France knew of Australia's grave concerns'

Morrison says submarine deal was scrapped as it wouldn't meet Canberra's interests in the Indo-Pacific

ASSOCIATED PRESS

France would have known Australia had "deep and grave concerns" that a submarine fleet the French were building would not meet Australian needs, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Sunday after the contract's cancellation set off a diplomatic crisis.

France accused Australia of concealing its intentions to back out of the 90 billion Australian dollar (\$66 billion) contract for French maiority state-owned Naval Group to build 12 conventional diesel-electric submarines.

President Joe Biden revealed last week a new alliance, including Australia and Britain, that would deliver an Australian fleet of at least eight nuclear-powered

Mr. Morrison blamed the switch on a deteriorating strategic environment in the



Widening rift: A file photo of Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison at a press conference in Canberra. • AFP

Indo-Pacific. He has not specifically referred to China's massive military buildup, which has gained pace in recent years.

"The capability that the Attack class submarines were going to provide was not what Australia needed to protect our sovereign interests," Mr. Morrison said.

"They would have had ev-

ery reason to know that we have deep and grave concerns that the capability being delivered by the Attack class submarine was not going to meet our strategic interests and we have made very clear that we would be making a decision based on our strategic national interest," he added, referring to

Amid row, Biden asks for early talks with Macron

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

U.S. President Joe Biden has requested early talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, France said on Sunday, in an apparent effort to mend fences after a row over a submarines contract sparked rare tensions between the allies.

French government spokesman Gabriel Attal said on Sunday that there would be a telephone conversation between Mr. Biden and Mr. Macron "in the coming days" at the request of the U.S. President.

"We want explanations," Mr. Attal said.

Morrison has said the contract cancellation will cost his government at least \$1.7

France responded to the contract cancellation by recalling its Ambassadors from Australia and the U.S.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian on Saturday denounced what he and lies" surrounding the sudden end of the contract and said France was now questioning the strength of the alliance.

China has denounced the sharing of such U.S. and British nuclear technology as

France won the contract in 2016 over offers from Ger-

Taliban-run Kabul govt. tells women workers to stay home

Those who can't be replaced by men can work, says Mayor

Women employees in the Kabul city government have been told to stay home, with work only allowed for those who cannot be replaced by men, the interim Mayor of Afghanistan's capital said on Sunday.

The decision to prevent most women city workers from returning to their jobs is another sign that the Taliban are going back on their promises that they would be tolerant and inclusive. In their previous rule in the 1990s, the Taliban had barred girls and women from schools, jobs and public life.

In recent days, the new Taliban government issued several decrees rolling back the rights of women. It told women middle-and high school students that they

Kabul on Sunday to demand

their rights. • AP

could not return to school. On Friday, the Taliban shut down the Women's Affairs Ministry, replacing it with a Ministry for the "propagation of virtue and the prevention of vice".

On Sunday, over a dozen women staged a protest outside the Ministry, holding up signs calling for the participation of women in public life. "A society in which women are not active is (sic)

The protest lasted for about 10 minutes. After a short verbal confrontation with a man, the women got into cars and lef.

Interim Kabul Mayor Hamdullah Namony said the women employees have been ordered to stay home, pending a further decision. He said exceptions were made for women who could not be replaced by men, including some in the design and engineering departments and the attendants of public toilets for women. Namony did not say how many women employees were forced to stay home.

Meanwhile in Jalalabad, witnesses said an explosion targeted a Taliban vehicle. Hospital officials said five people were killed in the second such deadly blast in as many days in the Islamic State stronghold.

Myanmar junta's convoy hit by bomb near Yangon

Several killed in subsequent fighting

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Myanmar anti-junta dissidents have carried out a bomb attack on security forces near Yangon, with several killed in an ensuing firefight, the military and media said.

The Southeast Asian nation has been in turmoil since the military toppled Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government in February, sparking mass pro-democracy protests and a bloody crackdown by the military.

Various townships across Myanmar have formed so-

called "people defence forces" to fight back against the junta, although the majority of clashes have been reported in rural areas.

Security forces were travelling through Khayan, a suburb of Yangon on Friday, when they were attacked with a homemade bomb, the junta said in a statement on Saturday.

"Both groups fired back and forth – a member of the security forces was injured," the statement said.

Local media reported at least two dissidents were killed and one arrested.

Hong Kong's first 'patriots-only' election kicks off

Select pro-China residents voted for candidates to a poll committee that will pick the city's next leader

Fewer than 5,000 Hong Kong residents from mostly pro-establishment circles began voting on Sunday for candidates to an election committee, vetted as loyal to Beijing, who will pick the city's next China-backed leader and some of its legislature.

Pro-democracy candidates are nearly absent from Hong Kong's first election since Beijing overhauled the city's electoral system to ensure that "only patriots" rule China's freest city.

"The whole objective of improving the electoral sys-



Cherry-picking: A man stands behind a mock prison during a protest against the election committee. • AP

tem is to ensure patriots administer Hong Kong," Carrie Lam, Hong Kong's Chief Executive, said on Sunday morning.

In December, the committee will appoint 40 of the city's 90 legislators – 30 others will be chosen by special interest groups and just 20 will be directly elected. In March, it will pick the city's next

Police have ramped up security across the city, with media reporting 6,000 officers are expected to be deployed to ensure a smooth vote, in which about 4,900 people are expected to cast

Changes to the political system are the latest in a string of moves - including a national security law that punishes anything Beijing deems as subversion, secession, terrorism or collusion with foreign forces - that have placed the international financial hub on an authoritarian path.

Most prominent democratic activists and politicians are now in jail or have fled abroad.

Meanwhile, a Hong Kong opposition trade union coalition, the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions, said on Sunday it would disband, adding to several civil society organisations that have ceased operations. "We want to apologise to the people of Hong Kong that we cannot continue," HKCTU co-president Joe Wong said tearfully, adding that some members had received threats.

Pak. constable on polio duty shot dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Assailants on a motorcycle on Sunday shot dead a police constable guarding polio vaccination workers in Pakistan, police said.

Police said the attack happened in Dhal Behzadi village, about 75 km south of Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Members of the vaccination team were unhurt, police added.

Militants often target polio teams, claiming the vaccination campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilise children.

+ After crackdown on critics, Putin's party leading in polls

Communists get boost due to Navalny's 'Smart Voting' campaign

President Vladimir Putin's United Russia party was leading in the country's parliamentary election with 39% of the vote, according to first results announced after polling stations closed on Sunday.

The vote was held in the wake of a crackdown on the Opposition and independent media that saw Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny jailed his organisations and banned.

In the lead-up to this weekend's vote, all of his top allies were arrested or had fled the country, with anyone associated with his groups kept from running in the parliamentary and local



Vladimir Putin

of votes counted, United Russia had received 39.2%, Russia's Election Commission said. The Communists fol-

lowed with 24.7% and the

In the last elections to the lower house State Duma in

With just more than 10%

nationalist LDPR party with

2016, United Russia received

54.2% of the vote and the Communists 13.3%.

The Communists were likely given a boost by Mr. Navalny's "Smart Voting" campaign, which advised voters who to support to have the best hope of defeat-Kremlin-aligned politicians.

The campaign's website was shut down and on Friday Apple and Google removed the "Smart Voting" app from their stores, causing an uproar among the Opposition who accused them of giving in to Kremlin "blackmail".

In this election most of its voting list consisted of Communist Party candidates.

Turnout was at 45%, according to the latest figures released by the EC.

'North Korea

Recent satellite images show North Korea is expanding a uranium enrichment plant at its main Yongbyon nuclear complex, a sign that it's intent on boosting the production of bomb materials, ex-

The assessment comes after North Korea recently raised tensions with its first missile tests in six months amid long-dormant nuclear disarmament nego-

"The expansion of the enrichment plant probably indicates that N. Korea plans to increase its production of weapons-grade uranium at the Yongbyon site by as much as 25%," Jeffrey Lewis and two experts at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey said in a report.

expanding nuclear plant'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

perts say.

tiations with the U.S.

Boxer Pacquiao to run for Philippines President

He vowed to end corruption in govt.

REUTERS

Boxing star Manny Pacquiao said on Sunday he will run for President of the Philippines next year, after railing against corruption in government and what he calls President Rodrigo Duterte's relationship China.

Mr. Pacquiao accepted the nomination of his political allies during the national assembly of the faction he leads in the ruling PDP-Laban Party, days after a rival faction nominated Mr. Duterte's long-time aide, Senator Christopher "Bong" Go, as its presidential candidate.

That faction nominated Mr. Duterte for Vice-President, a move that critics called a cynical ploy by Mr. Duterte to retain power.



"I am a fighter, and I will always be a fighter inside and outside the ring," Mr. Pacquiao, 42, a Senator, said in a live-streamed speech. "I am accepting your nomination as candidate for President."

Mr. Duterte is prohibited by the Constitution from running for a second sixyear term as President.

Israel recaptures last two jail-break fugitives

Massive manhunt was on for them

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

All six Palestinian fugitives who escaped a high-security Israeli jail through a tunnel dug under a sink are back in custody, after the Israeli Army said on Sunday it had recaptured the last two.

The inmates, who were being held for attacks against the Jewish state, became heroes among many Palestinians when reports emerged they had burrowed out using tools as basic as a spoon.

The full weight of Israel's security arsenal was deployed to catch them, including aerial drones, checkpoints on roads and an Army mission to Jenin where many of the men

The massive manhunt

lasted almost a fortnight, with four of the six recaptured last week.

In a tweet on Sunday, the Israel Defence Forces said the last two had surrendered "after being surrounded by security forces that acted precisely based on accurate intelligence". The men, 35-year-old Ay-

had, an armed Palestinian Islamist movement. They were arrested in a joint operation with counterterrorism forces in Jenin, in the West Bank, the Army said in a statement to the

Two other men who had helped the fugitives were also detained, it added.

being interrogated".



ASK US

N. SREE KANTH

Q. My daughter-in-law, an NRI, bought a flat in Chennai two years ago. The flat was registered when she was working in the city, before she became an NRI. Now, she plans to sell it at about ₹35 lakh, much below the price paid by her, and repatriate the money. Kindly advise as to the rules applicable and the steps to be followed. Does the buyer need to deduct TDS, and if so, can it be avoided as the sale will be at a loss?

JAYALAKSHMI NARAYAN

A. Sale of residential property will be termed a "Capital Asset" and the ensuing gain/loss from the sale transaction is termed as "Capital Gain/Loss". Period of holding above 24 months in case of immovable property will be treated as "Long Term Capital Asset" while period of holding lesser than 24 months will be treated as "Short Term Capital Asset".

Capital gains is computed in the following manner; first limb will consist of selling price less brokerage. Also, if the selling price is lesser than the guideline value, then the guideline value is to be replaced with the selling price.

Kindly check with the Registrar's office or visit the TN Reginet website in order to ascertain the guideline value of the UDS. Further, you will have to ascertain the value of the building depending on the characteristics-cum-amenities of the building on the basis of PWD rate.

Total of the value of the UDS as per guideline value and the PWD rate valuation of the building will have to be compared with the selling price.

Second limb will consist of purchase cost plus registration costs which is to be adjusted with inflation (indexation) in case of Long Term Capital Asset. This is to be done with the aid of Cost Inflation Index (CII) released by the I-T department every assessment year. If you have incurred any cost of improvement, then the same can also be added along with the purchase cost (adjusted with CII if applicable). Indexation will not be applicable for Short Term Capital Assets.

The difference of the first and second limbs, if positive, is Capital Gains and if negative, is Capital Loss. For properties held for more than 24 months, it is Long Term Capital Gains/Loss. Long Term Capital Gains attract 20% tax plus applicable surcharge and cess, while Short Term Capital Gains depend on slab rates plus applicable surcharge and cess.

TDS is required to be deducted by the buyer at the time of making payment to the seller. In your case, the seller being an NRI, the TDS rate for Long Term Capital Asset is



20% plus applicable surcharge plus cess and in case of Short Term Capital Asset it is at slab rates plus applicable surcharge and cess. The TDS will have

to be deducted on the sale price. However, the buyer can approach their jurisdictional Income Tax Officer and file Form 13 in order to

obtain a lower/nil TDS deduction certificate which will be issued based on the actual capital gains/loss. The copy is to be shared with the seller who will deduct the TDS based on this certificate.

Post completion of the aforementioned formalities, the funds can be repatriated by approaching an authorised dealer and obtain a Form 15CA and 15CB, as applicable, along authorised dealer.

Q. I am 37 and earn income from the share market. (In FY21), I encountered a loss of ₹1.25 lakh in trading. I had traded in segments such as equity, F&O and put call. Kindly guide me as to how I should file my income-tax returns.

A. You are to split your income into 3 parts. First, Capital Gains — short and long — based on the period of holding and for those equity instruments for which delivery was taken. Second, Speculative Income for intraday trading in equity instruments. Third, Income from Business and Profession for F&O. For the above sources of incomes, ITR-3 will be applicable for you.

You are to first compute the turnover of the F&O and intraday equity separately by adding the gains and absolute figures of the loss. Related expenses such as brokerage, Internet expenses, depreciation for the assets used, exchange charges, among others, is to be identified separately for F&O and intraday equity and can be claimed as deductions from the turnover and the profits/losses, respectively.

Loss from intraday equity will be treated as "Speculative Loss" and can be carried forward for four years and be set off against future "Speculative Gains".

Loss from F&O will be treated as "Business Loss" and can be carried forward for eight years and be set off against future "Business

Capital Gains is to be first split into short term and long term - short term for period of holding of less than 12 months and long term for above 12 months. When computing Long Term Capital Gains for which STT was paid both at the time of purchase and sale, grandfathering provisions will apply.

Short and Long Term Gains/Losses from such equity instruments are to be disclosed separately. Profits from short term will be charged at 15% while long term profits will be charged at 10% for gains above ₹1 Lakh.

Short Term Loss can be carried forward for eight years and be set off against future Short/Long Term Gains and Long Term Loss can be carried forward for eight years and be set off against Long Term Gains only. In the above cases, it is assumed that in case of losses, no gains are available to set off in the same assessment years.

(N. Sree Kanth is partner, GSS Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Safety in a 'champion' index

Banks' unique position that allows access to low-cost capital makes them a safe investment option, but threats lurk

ANAND SRINIVASAN SASHWATH SWAMINATHAN

When it comes to investing in Indian stocks, a few names such as TCS, HUL, Britannia, Nestle and ITC constantly provoke interest. However, interestingly over the last decade, it is neither the FMCG industry nor the IT sector that has outperformed the Nifty 50 index, but rather the banking sector. As seen in the accompanying graph, the Nifty Bank index has predominantly outpaced the Nifty 50

According to the RBI, the number of scheduled commercial Indian banks includes 22 private sector banks, 11 small finance banks, and 12 public sector banks. In stark contrast, the U.S., which has merely one-third of our population, has 2,108 banks in total. Additionally, it should be noted that the top five banks in India dominate the share of the total deposits and transactions.

Concentration risk

Concentration of significant market share in the hands of a few leads to behaviour where independent firms may likely act in cohesion to ensure profit maximisation. A significant barrier to entry into the industry further spurs such behaviour.

The RBI has meticulous rules and is very conservative in distributing large-scale commercial banking licences, as can be seen by the sparse number of banks. These large banks also keep the financial system in order by lending to and borrowing from

Therefore, as American economist Irving Fisher said, the collapse of

even a single bank would wreak havoc in the financial system, as has been observed in the U.S. on multiple occasions. The RBI is aware of this and will go to great lengths to ensure no bank collapses, leading to an added layer of safety for banks as investments. The bailout of a troubled bank has been exhibited with great certainty if one may recall the Yes Bank

Promise of steady cash flow in the long run attracts investors to traditional bank stocks. But, fintechs and small finance banks are readying to take market share and are looking sharp about it

Among the several advantages that banks enjoy, the most significant is the access to big finance from their banking peers, and from the RBI, which acts as the lender of the last

'Low-risk bets'

This places banks in a unique position to receive cheap capital, as most of their asset books are liquid and therefore considered low risk. They have access to low-cost capital through the ability to open current accounts and savings accounts. Fractional reserve banking – in which only a fraction of bank deposits are backed by actual cash on hand and available for withdrawal, to help expand the economy by freeing capital for lending – also allows them to create money temporarily. It's not just the markets

that recognise banks' dominance, but group of banks, which highlights the also NBFCs that want to enter the areattraction that the sector holds for asna due to the superior bepirants. The graph comparison unnefit of access to lowderstates the dominance of cost capital. Capital banks because the Nifty 50 First, an NBFC, also consists of banking merged with IDFC stocks. This means that the performance of Bank to create the merged entity banks has beaten IDFC First Bank the general market on December 18, by a far more significant mar-At the time of merggin than is evier, their loan book was ₹1.03 lakh crore. Capital First effectively gained access to low-cost capital to supplement its existing retail client base further. This was also a way for it to circumvent the need to possess a banking licence. There is also word in the wind of another NBFC following this path - Clix Capital is said to be in talks with Suryoday Small Finance Bank, to eventually join this elite

Riding high | Since 2008, the Nifty Bank index has

also highlights an important point the market favours businesses with a steady cash flow stream in the long

Nonetheless, it is prudent to understand that the banking business is resilient, but not immune to threats. This banding together of entities in the banking system can end in the future due to a plethora of reasons, the principal one being innovative and cutting-edge fintech companies making significant inroads into India.

U.S. scenario different

Small finance banks, which offer far more competitive rates, also bring an element of competition and healthy behaviour to the table. The eventual and much-needed liberalisation of the banking sector might also end the dream run. The U.S. has liberalised its banking sector immensely, resulting in the large number of players in the game there. Although most of the market share still belongs to the 10 largest banks, it is clear from the market performance that the banking sector (which underperformed the S&P 500) is nowhere as dominant as it is in India. Regardless of these threats, banks, at least for the time being, will continue to enjoy advantages that no other industry can.

(Anand Srinivasan is a consultant. Sashwath Swaminathan is a research associate at Aionion Invest-Services)

COVID COVER

Insurers step in with riders as consumable costs spike

Insurance firms are tweaking rules to help cover the expense on consumables via riders, to be bought along with the base plan

250

200

150

Source: Nseindia.com, as on Sept. 7, 2021

AMIT CHHABRA

Over the last 18 months, medical expenses of in-patients with COVID-19 infection in India have risen to unprecedented levels. This has resulted in tremendous financial pressure on families of those infected by the deadly coronavirus, forcing them to borrow money from family and friends to pay the hospital bills.

Detailed analyses of hospital bills show that the rise is majorly due to consumables that include PPE kits, syringes and sanitisation products. Consumables refer to single-use items used for medical treatment or procedures.

During pre-COVID-19 times, the average cost of treatment at a private hospital was between ₹50,000 and ₹60,000. However, during the COVID-19 phase, this has increased ₹80,000-90,000.

The cost of consumables in hospital bills has significantly gone up since the outbreak of



Ballooning prices: In COVID hospitalisations, consumables make for one-fourth of the bill. • B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

pandemic. Today, the per-day, per-patient cost of hospitalisation for COVID-19 treatment is ₹10,000, and for a 15-day hospitalisation, the cost comes around anywhere between ₹1.5 lakh and ₹2 lakh.

During hospitalisation due to COVID-19, consumables make for one-fourth of the bill and if the stay extends for a longer period due to co-morbidities, the cost may rise significantly.

Additional equipment For context, till February 2020, the cost of consumables used to be up to a maximum of 3-5% of the entire hospital bill, accord-

ing to an SBI report. The reason behind the extremely high usage of consumables in hospitals over the last 18 months is the highly contagious nature of the virus. Considering the severity of the pandemic, hospitals across the country have been forced to make it mandatory for staff to wear protective gear such as bodysuits and face shields all the time, and these add to hospital bills. While people without health cover have to pay the entire bill from their own pocket, those with a comprehensive health insurance plan have to bear the cost of consumables entirely on their own.

Underwriting rule changes

This is because, as per the underwriting rules of insurers, the cost of consumables under a health insurance plan is not payable by the insurance company. Consumables, in health insurance parlance, are nonmedical items and hence, are not payable by the insurer.

With the advent of the virus, many insurers have started to make amendments in their underwriting rules and have decided to cover the cost of consumables through additional riders that may be bought along with the base plan.

'No-claim bonus protected' Apart from providing coverage for consumables, the riders also protect your No-Claim Bonus (NCB), provided the claim amount is up to ₹50,000.

Some riders also pay the customer for preventive health check-ups, wellness benefits, home care, doctor consultations, and diagnostics.

The average cost of the riders is 5% of the premium of the base plan. Say, if you choose a base plan whose annual premium is ₹8,000, the annual premium for the rider would be ₹400. Apart from these riders, there are standalone/comprehensive health plans that cover consumables without any rider.

These plans are reasonably priced and available starting from monthly premium of ₹600 for a 30-year-old individual with a ₹5-lakh cover.

These plans pay for consumables like such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits on a case-to-case basis. In fact, as per market trends, the claims payout ratio is highest among people with cover consumables.

Porting out

Those already having a comprehensive health insurance plan, but still wish to be covered under a plan that covers the cost of consumables have the option of porting their health insurance plan.

Policyholders can now easily port their existing plan to a different insurer online without the requirement of any physical paper work. Porting can help enhance the sum insured, avail better features, reduce waiting period for pre-existing ailments, among other reasons. Porting can be done up to 45 days prior to the policy renewal date.

(The writer is Head-Health *Insurance*, *Policybazaar.com*)

	PERSONAL L	OAN - RATES A	ND CHARGES				
Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure - 5 years	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure - 5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)			
HDFC Bank	10.50-21.00	10,747-13,527	2,149-2,705	Upto 2.5% (Max Rs 25,000)			
Bank of Baroda	10.00-15.60	10,624-12,053	2,125-2,411	Rs 1,000-10,000			
State Bank of India	9.60-13.85	10,525-11,595	2,105-2,319	Upto 1.5% (Max Rs 15,000)			
Canara Bank	10.20-13.90	10,673-11,608	2,135-2,322	Upto 0.5%			
Punjab National Bank^	8.95-14.50	10,367-11,764	2,073-2,353	Upto 1%			
HSBC Bank	9.75-15.00	10,562-11,895	2,112-2,379	Upto 1%			
Federal Bank	10.49-17.99	10,744-12,694	2,149-2,539	Upto 3%			
South Indian Bank	10.15-14.45	10,660-11,751	2,132-2,350	2%			
IDBI Bank	9.50-14.00	10,501-11,634	2,100-2,327	1% (Min Rs 2,500)			
UCO Bank	10.05-10.45	10,636-10,735	2,127-2,147	Upto 1%			
Bank of Maharashtra	9.55-12.90^^	10,513-11,351	2,103-2,270	Upto 1%			
Indian Overseas Bank	12.05	11,135	2,227	Upto 0.75%			
Indian Bank	9.05-13.65	10.391-11,544	2,078-2,309	1%**			
Dhanlaxmi Bank	11.90-15.70	11,097-12,079	2,219-2,416	Upto 2.5% (Min Rs 1,250)			
IndusInd Bank	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	2.5% onwards			
**For pensioners, NII, processing fees for loan unto Rs 25,000, and fees of Rs 250 for loan above Rs 25,000							

**For pensioners, NIL processing fees for loan upto Rs 25,000, and fees of Rs 250 for loan above Rs 25,000.

^0.10% additional concession in applicable interest rate to customers who opt for coverage under Credit Life

^^ Interest rate of 8.55% p.a. offered to BPCL (Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.) employees

NEW CAR LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES										
Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)							
Union Bank of India	7.15-7.50	9,936-10,019	Rs 1,000							
Punjab National Bank	7.15-7.65	9,936-10,055	Up to Rs 1,500							
Bank of Baroda	7.25-10.25	9,960-10,685	0.5% (2,500-10,000)							
Canara Bank	7.30-9.90	9,972-10,599	0.25% (Rs 1,000-5,000)							
Bank of India	7.35-8.55	9,983-10,270	Up to 0.25% (Max: Rs 5,000) For Rural Areas: Rs 1,500 - 20,000							
UCO Bank	7.45-7.70	10,007-10,067	1% (Max: Rs 1,500)							
State Bank of India*	7.50-8.45	10,019-10,246	NIL till 31.01.2022							
IDBI Bank	7.50-8.10	10,019-10,162	Rs 2,500							
Bank of Maharashtra**	7.40-10.40	9,995-10,722	NIL till 30.09.2021							
Indian Overseas Bank	7.55	10,031	Rs 500-Rs 10,000							
ICICI Bank	7.90-9.85	10,114-10,587	Rs 3,500-Rs 8,500							
HDFC Bank	7.95-8.30	10,126-10,210	0.5%(Rs 3,500-Rs 8,000)							
Karnataka Bank	7.95-10.00	10,126-10,624	0.5%(Rs 2,500-Rs 10,000)							
Dhanlaxmi Bank	8.10-9.20	10,162-10,428	1%							
Federal Bank	8.50	10,258	Rs 2,000-4,500							
Axis Bank	7.45-14.50	10,007-11,764	Rs 3,500-Rs 7,000							
South Indian Bank	9.05-10.50	10,391-10,747	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)							
RBL Bank	12.00-14.00	11,122-11,634	Up to 2%							
City Union Bank	12.25-12.75	11,185-11,313	1% (Min: Rs 250)							
		6 1								

*Further interest rate concession of 0.20% on purchase of electric vehicle(Green Car Loan) **0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holder. 0.05% concession on interest rate to women & armed forces personnel subject to minimum floor ceiling of RLLR.

Rates and charges as on September 14 Source: Paisabazaar.com

Ruturaj delights in Super Kings' win

The opener's unbeaten 88 takes Chennai side to 156 before Deepak Chahar & Co. stifle MI



Sparking a revival: With Super Kings reeling at 24 for four, Ruturaj pulled the team out of the woods with a quality innings. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

Duturaj Gaikwad's price-Ness 58-ball unbeaten 88 bailed out Chennai Super Kings from a horror start before the bowlers cut all escape routes for Mumbai Indians at Dubai on Sunday. Chasing 157, Mumbai In-

dians went down by 20 runs. Its sixth win took CSK to the top of the table.

CSK struck early. Deepak Chahar consumed southpaw Quinton de Kock with a full ball and then prised out Anmolpreet Singh with a slower delivery Shardul Thakur then

struck, sending back the inform Survakumar Yadav with Faf du Plessis taking a fine catch running from midoff. CSK continued to hurt Mumbai Indians with M.S. Dhoni captaining with vision. With a cleverly placed fielder at cover, Dwayne Bravo pitched the ball in the right area and the dangerous Ishan Kishan was walking

Dhoni shrewdly brought back Josh Hazlewood and the crafty Aussie seamer

trapped Kieron Pollard legbefore with a ball that skidded through. Despite Saurabh Tiwary's defiant halfcentury, it was all over for

Earlier, the Chennai Super Kings captain's decision to bat first on a surface with bounce and movement was not without risks

Early strikes

And MI's Kiwi pair of Trent Boult and Adam Milne, bowling with pace, fire and intensity, were running hot. They blew away Faf du Plessis, Moeen Ali and Suresh

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Ruturaj Gaikwad (not out) 88 (58b, 9x4, 4x6), Faf du Plessis c Milne b Boult O (3b), Moeen Ali c Saurabh b Milne O (3b), Ambati Ravudu retd. hurt O (3b). Suresh Raina c Rahul Chahar b Boult 4 (6b, 1x4), M.S. Dhoni c Boult b Milne 3 (5b), Ravindra Jadeja c Pollard b Bumrah 26 (33b, 1x4), Dwayne Bravo c Krunal b Bumrah 23 (8b, 3x6), Shardul Thakur (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-3, w-8): 11; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 156.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-1 (du Plessis, 0.5 ov), 2-2 (Moeen, 1.3), 3-7 (Raina, 2.6), 4-24 (Dhoni, 5.6), 5-105 (Jadeja, 16.4), 6-144 (Bravo, 19.2).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING Boult 4-1-35-2, Milne 4-0-21-2, Bumrah 4-0-33-2, Pollard 2-0-15-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-22-0,

Krunal 2-0-27-0. **MUMBAI INDIANS**

Quinton de Kock lbw b Deepak Chahar 17 (12b, 3x4), Anmolpreet Singh b Deepak Chahar 16 (14b, 2x4, 1x6), Suryakumar Yadav c du Plessis b Shardul 3 (7b), Ishan Kishan c Raina b Brayo 11 (10b. 1x4). Saurabh Tiwarv (not out) 50 (40b, 5x4), Kieron Pollard lbw b Hazlewood 15 (14b. 1x4, 1x6), Krunal Pandya run out 4 (5b), Adam Milne c sub (Gowtham) b Bravo 15 (15b,

Raina in quick time, all three caught slicing.

The mean Milne delivered a nasty incoming lifter to Ambati Ravudu that struck a painful blow on the batsman's shoulder. Rayudu was off the park, retired hurt. Dhoni did not last long, but opener Ruturaj, fortunate when on 19 as 'keeperde Kock fluffed a catch off leggie Rahul Chahar, played some delectable

The dependable Ravindra Jadeja batted with chutzpah during his 81-run fifth-wicket partnership with Ruturaj.

1x6), Rahul Chahar c Raina b Bravo O (1b), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 1 (2b); Extras (w-4): 4; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 136.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-18 (de Kock, 2.2), 2-35 (Anmolpreet, 4.6), 3-37 (Suryakumar. 5.4), 4-58 (Ishan, 9.2), 5-87 (Pollard, 13.1), 6-94 (Krunal, 14.4), 7-134 (Milne, 19.2), 8-135 (Rahul Chahar, 19.4)

SUPER KINGS BOWLING Deepak Chahar 4-0-19-2, Hazlewood 4-0-34-1, Shardul 4-0-29-1, Moeen 3-0-16-0, 4-0-25-3,

1-0-13-0. Toss: CSK; MoM: Ruturaj. CSK won by 20 runs.

Innings scan

CSK		MI
54	Dots	46
11	Fours	12
7	Sixes	3
24/4	PP	41/3
7.80	RR	6.80

Next assignment

MI: Sept. 23 vs KKR, Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST CSK: Sept. 24 vs RCB, Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

The calm Ruturaj innovated and created against the spinners as Pollard, leading in place of the injured Rohit Sharma, surprisingly opted for a double spin attack.

Ruturaj gradually shifted gears, striking Bumrah for a six over covers. He went ballistic towards the end, hitting the final delivery for a six over square-leg off the same bowler

The last nine overs produced a whopping 108 runs for CSK. Dwayne Bravo's patented slashed sixes off the pacemen over covers helped.

Kohli to step down as RCB skipper after the 2021 edition

ASHWIN ACHAL BENGALURU

Virat Kohli will step down as Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) captain at the end of IPL 2021, Kohli announced on Sunday. This comes a few davs after Kohli relinquished the captaincy of the Indian T20 side.

Kohli added that he intends to remain a part of the RCB squad after he gives up the captaincy.

"I spoke to the squad earlier this evening, to inform everyone that this is going to be my last IPL season as RCB captain. I spoke to the management too; this is something that has been on my mind for a while.

"I recently announced that I'll be stepping aside from the Indian T20 team captaincy as well to manage my workload. My workload has been immense over the years. I felt I needed some



space to refresh, regroup, and be absolutely clear on how to move forward. I also understand that RCB is going to go through a transitional

The 200-club

■ Kohli will become the fifth after Dhoni (212), Rohit (207). Dinesh Karthik (203) and Suresh Raina (201) to figure in 200 IPL games when he plays against KKR

phase with a big auction next year. I've made it clear to the management that I can't think of being in any other team apart from RCB.

"I will continue to be an RCB player as long as I'm playing in the IPL. It's been a great journey, with moments of joy and sadness.

"I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for supporting me unconditionally," Kohli said in a video message.

Despite tasting success with the bat, Kohli could not lead RCB to an IPL title in his

Upbeat RCB takes on KKR

SPORTS BUREAU

Points table

Delhi Capitals

Royal Challengers

Mumbai Indians

Rajasthan Royals

Kolkata Knight Riders

Sunrisers Hyderabad

After the CSK-MI match on Sept. 19

Punjab Kings

Chennai Super Kings

CB, on a roll before the K_{IPL} was suspended, will look to return to winning ways when it takes on KKR in its opening match of the second leg at Abu Dhabi on

Monday. Virat Kohli's team registered five victories in seven matches as A.B. de Villiers came good with two unmatch-winning knocks (75 n.o., 42b vs DC; 76 n.o., 34b vs KKR).

Pacer Harshal Patel, who

12

12

1.223

0.547

-0.171

-0.071

-0.190

-0.368

-0.494

-0.623

took 17 wickets, is the Purple Cap holder.

KKR, on the other hand, could notch up only two wins in seven outings in the first leg. Eoin Morgan's men need a dramatic turnaround to make it to the playoffs.

TODAY'S MATCH



HEAD-TO-HEAD Played: 27 KKR 14 | RCB 13

In 2021 Played 1 | KKR 0 | RCB 1 STAR SPORTS 1 & SS SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

Indian women's team arrives in Mackay

The three-match ODI series against Australia begins on Tuesday



on their arrival in Mackay. • TWITTER/ BCCIWOMEN

INDIA IN AUS

ANI

The Indian women's cricket team arrived in Mackay on they are one of the best Sunday for the first ODI teams in the world and quite gainst Australia on Septem-

#TeamIndia arrive in Mackay for the 1st #AUSvIND ODI," BCCI women wrote on its twitter handle.

Team India departed for Australia on August 28 and upon landing, every member of the touring party underwent the mandatory 14day hard quarantine.

Smriti Mandhana said her team loves playing against Australia as the ultra-competitiveness of the Southern Stars rubs off on the Indians.

"We all love playing against Australia, because competitive. When it comes to Australia, you're a bit more pumped up because the level of competitiveness of the Australians just rubs off on us and we also start being extra competitive."

Smiri told *The Scoop* podcast, as reported by cricket-.com.au, that "the wickets have a true bounce and I think everyone loves batting in Australia. We are all just happy to play, whatever the quarantine period maybe."

Chelsea zooms to the top with Spurs win

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Chelsea powered to the top of the Premier League with an impressive 3-0 win at Tottenham, while David de Gea saved a stoppage-time penalty to preserve Manchester United's 2-1 victory at West

Thomas Tuchel's unbeaten side sits top of the Premier League after winning four of its first five games, while Tottenham has suffered two successive topflight defeats.

The results: Premier League: Brighton 2 (Maupay 35-pen, Welbeck 50) bt Leicester 1 (Vardy 61); West Ham 1 (Benrahma 30) lost to Manchester United 2



2

5

Perfect dive: David de Gea was United's hero, producing a stoppage time save from Mark Noble's spot kick. • REUTERS

(Ronaldo 35, Lingard 89); Tottenham O lost to Chelsea 3 (Silva 49, Kante 57, Rudiger 90+2). LaLiga: Mallorca O drew with Villarreal O.

Serie A: Empoli O lost to Samp-

doria 3 (Caputo 31, 52, Candreva 70); Venezia 1 (Ceccaroni 59) lost to Spezia 2 (Bastoni 14, Bourabia 90+4); Verona 3 (Barak 49, Caprari 54, Faraoni 63) bt Roma 2 (Pellegrini 36, Ilic

(Mangala 38) lost ot Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Andrich 2, Schick 19, Wirtz 70); Borussia Dortmund 4 (Guerreiro 10, Haaland 24, 83, Friedrich 52-og) bt Union Berlin 2 (Kruse 58-pen,

58-og); Lazio 2 (Immobile 45,

Cataldi 83) drew with Cagliari 2

Bundesliga: VfB Stuttgart 1

Voglsammer 81). On Saturday: Premier League: Aston Villa 3 (Cash 66, Digne 69-og, Bailey 75) bt Everton O. LaLiga: Atletico Madrid O drew with Athletic Bilbao O; Elche 1 (Lucas 33) drew with Levante 1 (Morales 55); Alaves O lost to Osasuna 2 (Garcia 23, Roberto

Serie A: Salernitana O lost to Atalanta 1 (Zapata 75); Inter Milan 6 (Martinez 6, Skriniar 30, Barella 34, Vecino 54, Dzeko 63, 68) bt Bologna 1 (Theate

Torres 29-pen).

Triple jumper Praveen Chithravel hits a new high

Sprinter Amlan Borgohain and hammer thrower Manju Bala break meet records

ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN WARANGAL

Praveen Chithravel is very promising but is also one of the most inconsistent triple jumpers in the National circuit. And injuries have often troubled him.

But everything came together nicely for the 20-yearold from Tamil Nadu on the final day of the 60th National Open at the Nehru Stadium here on Sunday. The youngster produced a massive 16.88m, which bettered his personal best by 37cm, in his

opener for the gold. That made him the third best Indian ever, after Renjith Maheswary (17.30) and Arpinder Singh (17.17), and his series had three jumps

over 16.70. Services' Abdulla Aboobacker (16.84, new PB) and Karthik Unnikrishnan (16.80, equalled PB) took silver and bronze. This is probably the first time three triple jumpers were touching 16.80m or more in a Nationals.

"I've not changed anything, everything is the same, only I've become stronger mentally and more confident," Praveen, who trains at JSW's Inspire Institute of Sport at Vijayanagar, told The Hindu. "I've had a lot of injuries

earlier, hamstring at the 2019

Asians and then ankle pain.

But I felt good and I think I

can do 17m next year." Meanwhile Asian Games champion Arpinder, making a comeback from last year's knee injury, could manage only 15.91 for sixth. "My knee

Later, Assam sprinter Amlan Borgohain clocked a stunning 20.75s – the second fastest time on Indian soil for the men's 200m gold in a new meet record time.

still hurts," he said.

And Rajasthan's Manju Bala, former Asian Games medallist, won the hammer throw in a meet record 64.42m, the second best by an Indian, behind Sarita Romit Singh's 65.25m.

title and women's team championship while Services took the men's team title. The results (finals): Men: 200m: 1. Amlan Borgohain (Asm) 20.75s (MR, Old: 20.92, S Arunjith, 2007), 2. Balakumar Nitin (TN) 21.06, 3. N. Shamugha Srinivas (AP) 21.12;

Railways won the overall

10,000m: 1. Kartik Kumar (Ser) 29:42.63s, 2. Dharmender (Ser) 29:49.56, 3. Shrawan Kumar (Har) 30:01.87: Hammer throw: 1. Damneet Singh (Pun) 65.65m, 2. Bajinder Singh (Pun) 63.29, 3. Sukhdev Singh (Rly) 63.18; Triple Jump: 1. Praveen Chithravel (TN) 16.88m, 2. Abdulla Aboobacker (Ser) 16.84, 3. Karthik Unnikrishnan (Ser) 16.80; 4x400m Relay: 1. Haryana (Pankaj, Sachin, Ayush Vikrant Panchal) 3:087.86s, 2. Services 3:09.13, 3. Punjab 3:11.29.

Women: 200m: 1. Archana Suseendran (TN) 23.58s, 2. Taranjeet Kaur (Del) 23.64, 3. Chan-Lekha (Rly) 24.35; 10,000m: 1. Sanjivani Jadhav (Mah) 34:20.03s, 2. Kavita Yadav (Rly) 35:57.46, 3. Jyoti (UP) 36:37.90; Hammer throw: 1. Manju Bala (Raj) 64.42m (MR, Old: 61,67, Hardeep Kaur. 2002), 2. Sarita Singh (Rly) 59.58, 3. Jyoti Rana (Rly) 58.36: Discus throw: 1. Navjeet Kaur (Pun) 54.49m, 2. Nidhi Rani (Rly) 50.87, 3. Gurveer Kaur (Pun) 48.66. 4x400m relay: 1. Haryana (Nancy, Nisha, Nanhi, Kavita) 3:42.82, 2. Police 3:43.01, 3. Delhi 3:43.13.

Best athletes: Men: Praveen Chithravel (triple jump); Women: Harmilan Bains (1500m). Championships: Overall: Railways (253.5 pts); **Men:** Services (187.5); **Women:** Railways (157).



opening jump was enough to land him the gold. • AFI

Nishant shocks Naveen

wal of Railways.

terfinals):

BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI

Young Nishant Dev stunned Strandja memorial bronze medallist Naveen Boora to enter the semifinals and assure himself of a first podium finish in the National boxing championships at the Inspire Institute of

Sports (IIS) here on Sunday. The 20-year-old Nishant, an IIS trainee hailing from Haryana and representing Karnataka, used his experience of sparring with National champion Naveen at the camp to record a 5-0 victory in the 71kg quarterfinal.

Nishant, a southpaw, initiated attacks early and kept the hard-punching Services rival quiet.

"The time spent at the camp made me fight fearlessly. Even though I had body soreness due to the previous bout (against Railways' Ashish Kulheria), I was able to do well," said Nishant.

Promising Services boxer Sumit produced a powerpacked performance to get the better of the experienced Ankit Khatana of Haryana 5-0 in a 75kg quarterfi-

The seasoned Shiva Tha-

pa smartly handled the challenge posed by World youth bronze medallist Ankit Nar-

Thapa banked on his de-

fensive skills and clean punches to beat Narwal 4-1 in a 63.5kg last-eight bout. Other important results (quar-

48kg: Barun Singh (SSCB) bt Neeraj Swami (Del) 5-0, Govind Sahani (RSPB) bt Shiv Kant (Pun) 4-1.

51kg: Deepak Kumar (SSCB) bt Sparsh Kumar (Pun) 5-0, Ankit (Har) bt Ashish Insha (RSPB)

54kg: Sachin Siwach (RSPB) bt Roshan Zameer (Goa) 5-0; **57kg:** Mohd. Hussamuddin bt Rushikesh Goud (Mah) KO-R3.

Inderjit Singh (DDNH) 5-0; 63.5kg: Abhinash Jamwal (HP) bt Hitesh Singh (DDNH) 4-1. 67kg: Amit Sheoran (Raj) bt Aman (Chd) 3-2; 71kg: Amit Ku-

60kg: Varinder Singh (RSPB) bt

(Mah) 5-0. 75kg: Buntee Singh (Del) Pushpender Rathee (Goa) 4-1; 80kg: Sachin Kumar (SSCB) bt

mar (DDNH) bt Nagesh Kharare

Uday Singh (Kar) 4-1. 86kg: Gowtham Palani (TN) bt Vishal Bataan (Kar) RSC-R1, Sumit Sangwan (Har) bt Avinash Singh (MP) RSC-R3.

92kg: Sanjeet (SSCB) bt Sandeep Sharma (RSPB) ABD-R2; 92+kg: Narender (SSCB) bt Tarun Sharma (Raj) 5-0.



Naveen quiet. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

TV PICKS

IPL 2021: Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. Australia Women vs India Women: 1st ODI, Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m.

IN BRIEF

(Tuesday)

Army Red & Gokulam make the last eight

KOLKATA Defending champion Gokulam Kerala FC and Army Red registered contrasting wins in their respective Group D matches on Sunday to reach the Durand Cup

football quarterfinals. The results: Group D: Assam Rifles 2 (Soibam Roger Singh 36, Samujal Rabha 63) lost to Gokulam Kerala FC 7 (Chisom Chikatara 1, 52, 71, Beneston Piecton Barreto 3, 45+2, Rahim Osumanu 34, Sourav 61); Army Red 2 (Liton Shil 33, 70) bt Hyderabad FC 1 (Koustav Dutta 35).

Sharmada pleased with doubles title

Clinches the ITF women's event in Monastir with Sravya

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI

Sharmada Balu and Sravya Shivani beat the top seeds Dalayna Hewitt of the US and Elena Milovanovic of Serbia 7-5, 6-3 in the doubles final of the \$15,000 ITF women's tennis in Monastir, Tunisia.

It is a 16th professional doubles title, and first this season, for Sharmada, who has returned to the game after five years.

For the 21-year-old Sravya - who is in the singles quarterfinals as well – it is her maiden doubles title in the ITF circuit in her third dou-

"I am extremely happy

with this win. It was not expected this week," said the 28-year-old Sharmada. "I didn't go with any expectation this week, and it works the best that way."

Sharmada and Sravya had won two AITA titles before the international circuit and were slowly getting into their rhythm over four weeks in Tunisia.

"We get on really well off court and the energy is great on court," said Sharmada, who has won titles with Rish ika Sunkara, Sowjanya Bavisetti, Prarthana Thombare Dhruthi Venugopal among others.

"Each one of them have their unique style of play. I adapt very well to their strengths. Sravya also brings a lot of things to the table. Since we train together, it is a lot easier for us," said Sharmada.

"We have three more weeks here. Then we get ready for the National championship," said Sharmada.

Sharmada – who trains at the Rohan Bopanna Academy in Bengaluru with coach M. Balachandran – has also been enjoying coaching stints at the Sports School.

"Surprisingly I enjoy coaching after being unsure about it. It gives me a completely different perspective. When you are telling someone what to do, you realise that is exactly what you need to do!," Sharmada said.



Winning duo: Sharmada Balu and Sravya Shivani have had a fruitful outing in Tunisia. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Alicia claims feature

CHENNAI: Pesi Shroff-trained Alicia, piloted by P.S. Chouhan, claimed the Coromandel Gromor Nilgiris Derby Stakes, the star attraction of the season held here on Sunday (Sept. 19). The winner

Owners: Mr. Vazhaparambil J. Joseph & Bharat V. Epur. Trainer:

(DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45: FULL OF SURPRISE (K. Mukesh Mavflower Narredu) 3 and Charliez Angel (A. Avaz Khan) 4. 5. lnk and 4-3/4. 1m, 13.69s. Owner: Mr. Tatineni Prasad Rao. Trainer: Vishesh.

Trainer: Saddam Iqbal.

3-y-o only (Terms): DASHING BEAUTY (P. Trevor) 1, Cartel (C. Umesh) 2, Lakshanam (Nikhil Naidu) 3 and Amber Lightning (Nakhat Singh) 4. Not run: My Triumph. Hd, 1 and 4-1/2. 1m,

Owner: Miss Yashasvi D Gal vankar. Trainer: P. Krishna.

TURF AUTHORITIES CUP (1,400m), rated 60 to 85: NIGHT HUNT (Gauray Singh) 1. Royal Currency (Akshay Kumar) 2, Angelino (S. John) 3 and Star Eleg-Noble Heir. 4-1/4, 1-3/4 and 1-3/4.

Owner: Mr. M.A.M.R. Muthiah. Trainer: R. Ramanathan. 6. NILGIRIS GOLD CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o & over (Terms): BORN OUEEN (P. Trevor), My Opinion (Akshay Kumar) 2, Rambunctious (Neerai) 3 and Trafalgar (S. John) 38.84s. Owners: M/s. United Ra cing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd.

Trainer: S. Narredu.

GIRIS DERBY STAKES (1.600M), 3-ARISTOCRAT-HEATHER) CHOUHAN 1, All Attractive (Excellent Art-Balmoral Castle) (P. Tre-Le Louvre) D.S. Deora 4. 2, hd Owners: Mr & Mrs. Cyrus Palia &

(1,600m), rated 40 to 65: MR KOOL (Nikhil Naidu) 1, Emelda (Akshav Kumar) 2, Cotton Hall (Farid Ansari) 4. 2-1/4, 2-1/4 and 3

AT A GLANCE

BCCI's apex council set to ratify 2021-22 home season

India is set to host four

Tests, three ODIs and a whopping 14 T20Is at home in the forthcoming 2021-22 season, including a rare home series in June next year. The programme for a power packed home season of international cricket is set to be ratified by the apex council during its meeting on Monday. According to the proposed fixtures for the season. India will face New Zealand, West Indies, Sri Lanka and South Africa from November 17 to June 19 next year. In between, India will also tour South Africa in

Praggnanandhaa on top of the table

December-January.

Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa won all five rounds to lead the table after the first day of Hou Yifan Challenge online rapid event, part of the \$100,000 Julius Baer Challengers Chess Tour on

Saturday. Praggnanadhaa beat Balaji Daggupati (USA), and then defeated elder sister R. Vaishali, Zhu Jiner (China), Yahli Sokolovsky (Israel) and Lei Tingjie (China) to stay one point clear of Germany's Vincent Keymer. Compatriot Leon Mandonca (3.5) was tied for the third spot.

Aditya Mittal (3) was tied fifth.

Russia in lead in Team of four Gold

NEW DELHI Russia led with 100.50 VPs after seven rounds of Swiss league in the Team of four Gold event on the second day of the 18th HCL International Bridge championship being held virtually on the Real Bridge platform. Formidables, led by Kiran

second with 99.76 points. In the Team of four Silver event, the team of Dr. SSMC led with 98.07 VPs, and was followed by Jiya (96.32), MG Sports (96.13), Prayas (92.25) and Prabhav (88.93). In the team of four Bronze event, Urbane Gaming led with 131.30 points after nine rounds.

Snehit loses in singles final

NEW DELHI India's Fidel R. Snehit lost to World No. 46 Kril Gerassimenko of Kazakhstan 6-11, 9-11, 3-11, 11-9, 6-11 in the singles final of the ITTF Kazakhstan International Open table tennis in Karaganda.

Payas wins u-17 **World Youth TT title** TUNIS

India's Payas Jain won the boys under-17 title in the World Table Tennis Youth Contender here on Sunday with a 7-11, 11-4, 11-4, 15-13 victory over Tom Closset of

Easy for R.D. Sports

Belgium in the final.

Tishant Dabla (46) and Urooz Rizvi (34) took R.D. Sports to a six-wicket victory over KEI XI in the R.V. Sports T20 cricket. The scores: KEI XI 145 in 20 overs (Abhishek Kohli 34) lost to R.D. Sports 146/4 in 17 overs (Tishant Dabla 46, Urooz Rizvi 34).

S.S. Sports 162 in 20 overs (Pradeep Malik 42, Satender Thakran 3/23) bt Ambika Club 135/9 in 20 overs (Pargam Sharma 53, Lakshay Thareja 38, Ajay Yadav 3/28).

Big win for Dream Chasers

resounding eight-wicket win over Rajnish Gautam Academy (under-13) league. The scores: Rajnish Gautam Academy 154 in 38.5 overs (Rahul 3/13, Gorish Dahiya 3/21) lost to Dream Chasers 157/2 in 25.4 overs (Abhishek Chahal 58 n.o., Gorish Dahiya

It's Mystery vs. Days Of Reckoning in main event

HYDERABAD: Mystery and Days Of Reckoning should fight out the finish of the S. Rangarajan Memorial Cup, the chief event of Monday's (Sept. 20) races here.

MOUNT PLEASANT PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3y-o only (Cat. II), 1.00 p.m.: 1. Ambitious Star (3) Nakhat Singh 56, 2. Bruno (4) R. Ajinkya 56, 3. N R I Sport (5) Mukesh Kumar 56, 4. Star Cruise (12) Aneel 56, 5. Unsung Hero (9) Kuldeep Singh 56, 6. Able Love (16) B. Nikhil 54.5, 7. Burano (2) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 8. Key To Time (1) Md. Ismail 54.5, 9. Miss Little Angel (13) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 10. Morior Invictus (7) Rafique Sk. 54.5, 11. Reining Queen (14) Gaurav Singh 54.5, 12. Sally (8) Kiran Naidu 54.5, 13. Shelly Anne (10) G. Naresh 54.5, 14. Spectacular Cruise (15) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 15. Thanks (6) P. Trevor 54.5 and 16. Total Darc (11) Afroz Khan 54.5. 1. ABLE LOVE, 2. N R I SPORT, 3.

REINING QUEEN

) POP MARCOOLYN PLATE (DIV. 2 I) (1,400m). 4-y-o & upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 1.30: 1. Art In Motion (2) Afroz Khan 62, 2. Southern Lady (4) Santosh Raj 62, 3. Sun Dancer (7) C. Umesh 62, 4. Sputnic (11) Gaurav Singh 61, 5. Team Player (10) R.S. Jodha 61, 6. Forever Bond (5) P. Trevor 60.5, 7. Hip Hop (13) B.R. Kumar 60, 8. Winning Player (14) Ashad Asbar 59, 9. Bedazzled (6) Kuldeep Singh 58.5, 10. N R I Gift (9) Mukesh Kumar 57.5, 11. Acadian Angel (12) G. Naresh 57, 12. Minnelli (15) Surya Prakash 57, 13. Fe-lix Flame (3) Ajit Singh 55.5, 14.

Cephalonia (8) N.B. Kuldeep 53.5 and 15. Hopscotch (1) Abhay Singh

1. HIP HOP, 2. FOREVER BOND, 3.

ACADIAN ANGEL 3 MOUNT PLEASANT (DIV. II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3y-o only (Cat. II), 2.05: 1. Bandit King (10) A.A. Vikrant 56, 2. Cosmico (12) Rafique Sk. 56, 3. Divine Chakram (15) B. Nikhil 56, 4. Gurbaaz (9) Afroz Khan 56, 5. Sea of Class (5) Mukesh Kumar 56, 6. Tales Of A Legend (4) Md. Ismail 56, 7. Aarya (2) C. Umesh 54.5, 8. Bold Bidding (14) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 9. Furious Fun (3) Kiran Naidu 54.5, 10. Hot Seat (8) Kuldeep Singh 54.5, 11. Inside Story (6) Nakhat Singh 54.5, 12. Isra (7) Aneel 54.5, 13. Joy O Joy (11) P. Trevor 54.5, 14. Precious Gift (1) Santosh Raj 54.5 and 15. Rivadavia (13) Ashad Asbar 54.5.

2. BOLD BIDDING, 3. BANDIT KING

KUNIGAL PLATE (DIV. II) 4 KUNIGAL PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.40: 1. Rapid Fire (9) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Red Snaper (5) C. Umesh 60, 3. Mind Reader (2) B.R. Kumar 59.5, 4. Star Racer (1) A.A. Vikrant 58.5, 5. Blazing Jupiter (7) Kiran Naidu 57, 6. Green Turf (6) Gaurav Singh 57, 7. Gusty Note (8) Md. Ismail 56.5, 8. Explosive (3) R. Ajinkya 54.5, 9. Albak (10) Aneel 54, 10. Dillon (4) Kuldeep Singh 52.5 and 11. Hashag (11) B. Nikhil 51. 1. GREEN TURF, 2. STAR RACER, 3.

5 make way plate (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.15: 1.

Maximum Glamour (15) Akshay Kumar 61, 2. Blickfang (3) Md. Is-mail 59.5, 3. Horse O' War (12) Mukesh Kumar 58.5, 4. River Song (7) P. Trevor 58, 5. Star Dan-cer (5) Kiran Naidu 57.5, 6. Catalina (4) Gauray Singh 56.5, 7. Catalina (4) Gauray Singh 56.5, 7. Look Of Love (2) Rafique Sk. 56.5, 8. Solo Winner (1) C.P. Bopanna 54.5, 9. Artemis Arrow (8) Aneel 54, 10. Berkeley (10) N.B. Kuldeep 54, 12, Thunder Road (6) Kuldeen Surva Prakash 53.5, 14. City Queen (14) G. Naresh 52 and 15.

1. RIVER SONG, 2. MAXIMUM GLAMOUR,

3. STAR DANCER G KUNIGAL PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.50: 1. Angel Tesoro (10) B.R. Kumar 60, 2. Four One Four (1) Deepak Singh 60, 3. Linewiler (6) Akshay Kumar 60, 4. Sublime (9) Ajit Singh 59.5, 5. Curcumin (12) A.A. Vikrant 58, 6. Dunkirk (11) Mukesh Kumar 57, . Soul Empress (7) R. Ajinkya 57, 8. Loch Stella (8) Nakhat Singh 55.5, 9. Hurricane (2) Abhay Singh 53, 10. Sacred Lamp (4) Gaurav Singh 53, 11. Flamingo Fame (5) P. Trevor 52 and 12. Sea Wolf (3) B. Nikhil 51.

Healthandhappiness (13) S.S. Tan-

1. FLAMINGO FAME, 2. LINEWILER, 3. FOUR ONE FOUR

7 S. RANGARAJAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.25: 1. Her Legacy (11) Kiran Naidu 60, 2. Maxwell (9)

Mukesh Kumar 59.5, 3. Full

Volume (4) R. Ajinkya 56, 4. Sporting Smile (6) C.P. Bopanna 56, 5. Xfinity (3) Afroz Khan 55, 6. Days Of Reckoning (10) Akshay Kumar 54, 7. Incredulous (1) A.A. Vikrant 54, 8. Mystery (2) P. Tre-vor 53.5, 9. Mark My Day (7) B.R. Kumar 53, 10. Chuckit (13) Aneel 52.5, 11. Just Incredible (8) Ajit Singh 52.5, 12. Shaquille (12) Md. Ismail 52 and 13. NR I Magic (5) B.

1. MYSTERY.

2. DAYS OF RECKONING.

3. MAXWELL

POP MARCOOLYN PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m), 4-y-o & upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 5.00: 1. Red River (7) R.S. Jodha 62, 2. Stark (1) Akshay Kumar 62, 3. Lorena (2) Deepak Singh 61.5, 4. Air Salute (12) N.B. Kuldeep 61, 5. Royal Girl (9) Gauray Singh 61, 6. Astronaut (10) Surya Prakash 60, Sheldon (13) P. Trevor 59.5, 8. Lightning Pearl (3) Rafique Sk 58.5, 9. Theo's Choice (14) Abhay Singh 58.5, 10. That's My Speed (4) Mukesh Kumar 57.5, 11. Elmira (15) Afroz Khan 57, 12. N R I Flame (5) Kiran Naidu 56.5, 13. Turf Monarch (11) A.A. Vikrant 55, 14 Ice Berry (6) C.P. Bopanna 52.5 and 15. Royal Avenger (8) B. Nikhil

2. STARK, 3. LORENA Day's Best: RIVER SONG Iackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) Tanala: All races

1. SHELDON.

is owned by Mr & Mrs. Cyrus Palia & Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd.

DELHI RACE CLUB CUP Soul Mate (Akshay Kumar) 2, Shield Maiden (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Uncle Sam (Ashhad Asbar) 4. 1-1/2, 1-1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 27.36s.

2. BANGALORE TURF CLUB CUP

3. BANGALORE TURF CLUB CUP (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45: PACIFIC (Ashhad Asbar) 1, Protea (C. Brisson) 2, Empress Eternal (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Oberon (H.M. Akshay) 4. 1-3/4, nk and 2-1/2. lm, 13.75s. Owner: Mrs. Masooda Asad & Mr. M.J. Asad.

4. ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF CLUB LTD. CUP (1,200m), maiden

7. COROMANDEL GROMOR NIL

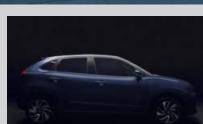
vor) 2, Knotty Dancer (Gusto-Daf fodils) K. Mukesh Kumar 3 and Siege Perilous (One Lucky Dane M/s. Five Stars Shipping Co.

Trainer: P. Shroff. 8. HYDERABAD RACE CLUB CUP C. Umesh) 3 and Dont Dilly Dally

Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer:

Dream Chasers scored a Academy in the Push Nadar, followed a close

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