



Modi. Biden to hold bilateral discussion ahead of Quad meet



United States to end travel ban for fully vaccinated persons page 12



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Big wins for Olivia Colman, Kate Winslet at the Emmy Awards

page 13



Plea in High Court seeks **AAP** derecognition

NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the Centre, **Election Commission to** respond to a petition seeking derecognition of the Aam Aadmi Party for organising a Ganesh Chaturthi event using public money. The matter will be heard again on November 18.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

COVID-19 vaccine export to resume | Amid row, Channi takes

India has to fulfil its supply commitment towards COVAX, says Health Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India will resume the export of COVID-19 vaccines under its 'Vaccine Maitri' programme to fulfil the commitment towards COVAX (CO-VID-19 Vaccines Global Access), Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Monday.

"We are resuming Vaccine Maitri next month in line with our motto 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'," the Minister said. The surplus supply of vaccines would be used to fulfil India's commitment towards the world in the collective fight against the viVaccine diplomacy

As of May 29, 663 lakh doses of made-in-India COVID-19 vaccines have been supplied to other countries.

A list of the top beneficiaries BANGLADESH MOROCCO NIGERIA BRAZIL MYANMAR 24.48 NEPAL ETHIOPIA 21.84 DR CONGO

COVAX is co-led by Gavi,

the Coalition for Epidemic

Preparedness Innovations

(CEPI) and the World Health

rus, he added.

17.66 SRI LANKA 12.64

Organization.

about increased vaccine production in the coming months, Mr. Mandaviya stat-

ed that more than 30 crore

doses would be made in October. More than 100 crore doses would be produced in the coming quarter (October-December), he added.

Highlighting the importance of indigenous research and production of COVID-19 vaccines, he observed that India's vaccination drive had been a role model for the world and it was marching ahead with great speed. 'More than four times, we have crossed one crore vaccination administration in a single day since the drive commenced," he noted.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Jayant gets khaps' stamp of approval

RLD mounts a show of strength in Baghpat district

ANUJ KUMAR

At a social event that has political ramifications, leaders of different khaps in western Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana on Sunday presented the traditional headgear to Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) president Jayant Chaudhary and formally anointed him as the successor of Chaudhary Charan Singh's legacy.

It not only meant that from now on his name will be preceded by Chaudhary in social and political gatherings, but his word will carry weight in socio-political issues.

Traditional seat

Held in Chhaprauli town of Baghpat district, the traditional seat of the Chaudhary family, the event marked the "rasma pagdi" ceremony of Mr. Jayant's father and former RLD president Ajit Singh, who passed away in May ow-



At the helm: Jayant Chaudhary sporting traditional headgear presented by the khap leaders. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ing to COVID-19 related complications.

With thousands in attendance, observers said the event was mounted as a show of strength by the RLD. It came days after the mammoth Muzaffarnagar panchayat, where a section of the media got the impression that the Bhartiya Kisan Union's (BKU) Rakesh Tikait, who has been leading the farmers' protest against the contentious farm laws in the region, was going to be the political face of farmers as well.

sented the headgear was Napresent at the event.

resh Tikait, president of BKU and head of the Balyan Khap. Speaking to presspersons, he reiterated his call for voting against the BJP and appealed to the public to vote for those who could defeat the ruling party.

In a short speech, Mr. Chaudhary said he would work to live up to the faith reposed in him. "This headgear, your blessings would act as an armour in facing any situation," he said.

Interestingly, Rajendra Singh, head of the Gathwal Khap, who is known to be Among those who pre- close to the BJP, was also

SC not to interfere in reopening of schools

'Decision lies entirely with the States'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The judiciary would not interfere with the States' decision on reopening schools, the Supreme Court said on Monday. The decision to open schools was entirely that of the States and the court would not "queer the pitch", a Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and B.V. Nagarathna stated.

The judiciary had neither the data nor the expertise to pass "omnibus" directions to the States to open schools and resume physical classes, especially when the lives of children were at stake.

Without data

"Governments have to tread with the greatest care when opening schools and exposing children to the virus... If so, courts have to take greater care, that too, with no data at hand," Justice Chandrachud observed.

The court was dealing

with a petition filed by a student who wanted governments to take time-bound decisions to open up schools for physical classes.

Justice Chandrachud said the petitioner should focus on his studies rather than file public interest petitions with no or little data to support his contention. "Different States have different situations regarding COVID-19," Justice Chandrachud noted.

"The situation may vary according to factors like size of the State to density of population. It's the decision of each State to see the areas where there is a spike in cases and act accordingly. Ultimately, it's best to leave it to the governments to decide. We cannot take over governance," he said.

Justice Nagarathna pointed out that teachers had to be vaccinated and children had not been vaccinated yet.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

charge as Punjab CM

O.P. Soni, Sukhjinder Randhawa take oath as Deputy CMs



New roles: Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, centre, with PCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu and Congress's Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat, in Chandigarh on Monday. • PTI

VIKAS VASUDEVA CHANDIGARH

Congress leader and former Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Monday took oath as the new Chief Minister of Punjab, with former party president Rahul Gandhi and other party leaders attending the swearing-inceremony.

In his first remarks after being sworn in, Mr. Channi asked the Centre to withdraw the three contentious farm laws, saying his party stood firmly with the farmers agitating against the "black" laws.

Two Deputy Chief Ministers - O.P. Soni and Sukhjinder Randhawa – also took the oath of office.

Mr. Channi is the first Dalit to head the government in the State.

Apart from Mr. Gandhi, several Congress leaders, including AICC in-charge Harish Rawat and party State president Navjot Singh Sid-

All eyes are on Rajasthan

MOHAMMED IQBAL

The political developments in Punjab have had a ripple effect in Rajasthan, where the promised Cabinet expansion and reshuffle, as well as political appointments have been

inordinately delayed. The

rival factions in the Congress here expect that a power-sharing arrangement will be worked out soon. The camps led by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy, Sachin Pilot, have been at loggerheads for more than a year. ▶ PAGE 9

administered the oath of office and secrecy. Former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh skipped the event, but he extended his best wishes to Mr. Channi.

However, the change of guard came amid reservations being expressed by former Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar over Mr. Rawat's statement that the upcoming Assembly election would be fought under the leadership of Mr. Sidhu.

The controversy forced hu, were present when Go- the party into damage convernor Banwarilal Purohit trol, with Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala saying the election would be fought under the leadership of both Mr. Channi and Mr. Sidhu. Hinting that the turmoil in

the party may not have been +entirely settled, Mr. Jakhar tweeted that it was "baffling" to hear that the Assembly election would be contested under the State party chief instead of the new Chief Minister, which he said, "undermines the Chief Minister's authority".

Paying obeisance



T.N. waives fee for students under 7.5% quota

State govt. will spend ₹250 crore on the scheme, which will benefit 12,000

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Tamil Nadu government will pay the counselling, tuition and hostel fees of government school students admitted to professional courses under the 7.5% reservation, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Monday.

He was speaking at a function organised at Anna University to distribute allotment letters to a few candidates who were admitted to various programmes under this quota. He urged the students to make the best use of the opportunity



and equip themselves with skills to get well placed after graduation or become entre-

preneurs. The government will spend ₹250 crore on the scheme, which is expected to benefit 12,000 students admitted to engineering programmes and other professional courses such as agriculture, fishery and law, officials said. Mr. Stalin said his govern-

ment should be known as the golden era of technical education, as Kamaraj's rule was hailed for promoting school education and M. Karunanidhi's rule was known for promoting and strengthening collegiate education. "It would give me the greatest happiness if, in a few years, a person meets me in some remote village and says, 'It is because of the government order you issued that I got educated, and am placed in a big company or that I have established a company'." He distributed allotment

orders to a few candidates la-

Senior officials of the Department of Higher Education, School Education Minister Anbil Poyyamozhi, Higher Education Minister K. Ponmudi, Health Minister Ma. Subramanian and MP Thamizhachi Thangapandian were present.

Porn case: Raj Kundra, aide get bail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A magistrate court in Mumbai granted bail to businessman Raj Kundra on Monday in a case of producing and streaming pornographic content.

Mr. Kundra along with his aide Ryan Thorpe have been granted bail on a ₹50,000 cash bond or surety. They were arrested on July 19 by the Property Cell of Mumbai Police after a pornographic racket was busted earlier this year.

The FIR, however, dates back to October 2020 and was filed by the Cyber Crime Cell for alleged broadcasting of nude erotic content on an online platform.

In February 2021, a raid was conducted by the Crime Branch and two women were found shooting for a pornographic movie at Mr. Kundra's bungalow.

As per a chargesheet filed in April, Mr. Kundra was involved in producing and streaming pornographic content through apps called Hotshots and BollyFame. Around 51 movies have

been seized from Mr. Kundra's personal laptop. On September 15, a sup-

plementary 1,467-page chargesheet with statements of 43 witnesses was filed by the Crime Branch of Mumbai Police, which named Mr. Kundra, Mr. Thorpe and others. Following this, the accused filed fresh bail applications.

Filters installed in smog tower at C.P.

NIKHIL M BABU NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has finished installation of filters in the smog tower in Connaught Place, which inaugurated last month. Also, a team from IIT Bombay has started a study on the impact of the tower on the air quality, officials said.

"Data generation will take a little more time as we are not operating the fans right now since we are waiting for the humidity to come down," an official told The Hindu.



IN BRIEF

Jewellery theft reported from Khan Market church

A jewellery theft was reported from a church in Khan Market on Monday morning, the police said. They said they got a call at 5 a.m. from regarding theft of jewellery and idols from Mother Mary church. A case has been registered and further investigation is under

Kuki National Front chief held in Delhi

Commander-in-chief of Manipur's insurgent group –Kuki National Front – has been arrested, the police said on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said the accused has been identified as Mangkholam Kipgen alias David Kipgen (24) who was arrested from Dwarka Sector 7.

On Sunday, information was received about the movement of a wanted insurgent of Manipur in Dwarka after which the police laid a trap and apprehend-

ed Kipgen. "He has studied up to Class VII and in 2018, he came in contact with KNF cadres of his village and got engaged with them in extortion, robbery, dacoity among other crimes. Soon, he became infamous for snatching weapons of forces, kidnapping for ransom, extortion and other heinous activities," Mr. Kushwah said adding that in 2020, he declared himself as selfstyled commander-in-chief.

Criminal cases

In December 2020, he along with other accomplices, holding sophisticated weapons attacked, overpowered and kidnapped two sentries of Kangvai Police outpost, district Churachandpur, Manipur and later took away one service rifle INSAS. In February 2021, he along with his accomplices abducted one Nepali national from Kalapahar, Churachandpur, Manipur

Recently, he was planning to kidnap the emplovees of a construction company, involved in major projects and other establishments in Manipur for extortion.

Centre, EC, govt. told to reply to plea seeking AAP derecognition

Organising Ganesh Puja using public money unconstitutional, petitioner tells HC

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the Centre, Delhi government and Election Commission (EC) to respond to a petition seeking derecognition of the Aam Aadmi Party for organising Ganesh Chaturthi using public money.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Amit Bansal posted the petition filed by advocate M.L. Sharma for further hearing on November 18.

"Is there any article in the Constitution which prohibits the State...," the Bench asked Mr. Sharma during the hearing.

Mr. Sharma argued that "any funding to any religious purpose and organising any religious function is contra to the Constitution". He said "any funding to temple, mosque, 'Maulvi', 'Pujari', religious persons/ trust and religious function by the state is unconstitutional". stressed that the Ganesh



Puja organised by the Delhi government on September 10 was unconstitutional. Senior advocate Rahul Mehra, representing the government, op-Delhi posed the plea saying it was a totally motivated and mischievous petition, coloured as public interest litigation (PIL).

"An attempt is being made through this petition that some kind of communal disharmony should be instigated," Mr. Mehra said adding that the government facilitating religious celebrations is not new and it is done every time during

It is the solemn duty of the State and the Union to ensure that people who have certain faith, their public health is looked into...it has nothing to do with

Kumbh Mela and Amarnath Yatra,

exchequer

money...

"It is the solemn duty of the State and the Union to ensure that people who have certain faith, their public health is looked into," Mr. Mehra said adding, "it has nothing to do with exchequer money. No one is being forced to telecast anything. No subsidy given to anyone of any kind".

The senior advocate said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal merely requested the media to cover the celebration for citizens' participation from their residences.

"We may perhaps be the

only State in the country which has banned Ganesh Chaturthi at a mass scale so that the third wave does not come. That was why the Ganesh Puja was organised...so that people may celebrate it at their homes," Mr. Mehra argued.

"It's a laudable objective. We are trying to build a kind of culture in our society where spirituality comes first. Where all religions are kept at par. There absolutely nothing which is unconstitutional here," he added.

'Vested interest'

However, the petition queried whether releasing monev from the state treasury for organising religious worship for "vested interest" attract sections 408 (criminal breach of trust) and 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code.

It said India is a secular country and no government can be seen indulging in religious activities by using public money.

Drug hoarding: HC stays court proceedings against Gambhir

Drugs Control Department told to respond to plea before Dec. 8

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Monday stayed the proceedings before a local court here against BJP leader Gautam Gambhir, his foundation and other connected parties in a case related to the alleged illegal stocking and distribution of COVID-19 drugs.

The court asked the Drugs Control Department of Delhi to respond to the petition by Gautam Gambhir foundation, Mr. Gambhir and his family members who are accused in the case before December 8 - the next date of hearing.

During second wave

The Drug Control Department had earlier informed the High Court that the Gautam Gambhir Foundation has been found guilty of unauthorisedly stocking, procuring and distributing Fabiflu medicine to COVID-19 patients, when they were in short supply in the capital during the second wave of the pandemic.

The Department has filed a complaint against Mr.

Gambhir – Member of Parliament from East Delhi -, his foundation, its CEO Aprajita Singh, his mother and wife, Seema Gambhir and Natasha Gambhir, respectively - who are both trustees in the foundation.

'Not sold for a price'

Advocate A.N.S. Nadkarni, representing Mr. Gambhir and others, submitted that no case was made out against his clients as the foundation was distributing free COVID-19 medicines through a medical camp and that it was an admitted fact that such medicines were not being "sold for a price".

The Department's lawyer, however, said a license to deal in such medicines was necessary and the law did not distinguish between sale and distribution. The petition stated that carrying out a charitable activity during an unprecedented catastrophe did not require any licenses and initiating criminal proceedings for such acts would be a gross miscarriage of justice.

They clarified that neither

Mr. Gambhir nor any of the other trustees had any intention to violate the law and that "it was the compelling circumstances of the deadly pandemic compounded by mass deprivation and inability to afford medicines that compelled the petitioners to take this humanitarian step of organising a medical camp, in the face of the pandemic, to help the needy".

The petition claimed that

the procurement of medicines made by the foundation, under medical superviand against documented invoices, did not obstruct the supply chain of the medicine in any manner. "The fact that almost 2,400 strips of the total approximately 2,600 stripes were provided to the participants of the camp within the span of 16 days, is in no uncertain terms indicative of the fact that the medicines were indeed given almost immediately after procurement," the plea said.

The court had earlier queried how Mr. Gambhir was able to buy COVID-19 drugs in bulk amid shortages.

Two Tihar jail inmates hurt after fight inside cell

This is the fourth such incident in Tihar this month

STAFF REPORTER

Two Tihar jail inmates were injured after they attacked each other with sharp edge objects inside the cell, said officials on Monday.

They said the incident took place on Saturday evening inside jail number 3 of Tihar prison.

After the attack, one inmate was sent to a nearby hospital where he is undergoing treatment. He is said to be stable, a jail official

This is the fourth such incident reported in Tihar jail



this month.

On September 11, two inmates of Tihar jail number 3 were injured after a clash broke out between them. The inmates returned to the jail after treatment. The police had registered an attempt to murder case.

On September 12 and 13, two undertrial prisoners sustained injuries when they were attacked with sharp objects by fellow inmates in separate incidents. On September 12, inmate

Vikas Chopra using a surgi-A day later, undertrial

Vikas Dhull was attacked by

prisoner, Vijay was attacked by fellow inmate Dinesh with a handmade sharp metal piece. He suffered injuries in the back and was shifted to DDU hospital.

An inmate identified as Ankit Guiiar was murdered inside the prison in August after which jail superintendent was booked along with other jail staff.

IIT-D sets up lab to measure electrical performance of devices and circuits

₹17 crore invested in project to improve infrastructure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on Monday said it had set up a laboratory that will enable the measurement of electrical performance of devices and circuits that are used in equipment like mobile phones, space satellites, and quantum computers. The lab it said will help

researchers of IIT Delhi as well as researchers from other institutions who are conducting research in the area of integrated electron ic circuits and devices.

The Advanced Electrical Characterization Laboratory was set up with an investment cost of ₹17 crore.

IIT Delhi Director V. Ramgopal Rao said the institution has significantly enhanced its research infrastructure in the last few years in the areas of Nano-



IIT-D Director V. Ramgopal Rao with his team inside Advanced Electrical Characterization Laboratory. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

fabrication, materials characterisation, testing and prototype manufacturing.

He added that this electrical characterisation facility is a welcome addition to the existing facilities.

laboratory incharge, Abhisek Dixit, from the Electrical Engineering Department, IIT

Delhi said the institute is now equipped to perform various types of electrical measurements on a wide variety of packaged and on-wafer devices in a broad range of tempera tures from 4.2K to +300 deg. C with the highest levels of precision possible anywhere in the world.

Despite failing in Delhi, CM promising jobs in Uttarakhand, says Cong. Mr. Kejriwal had SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Delhi Congress on Monday said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was making poll promises in Uttarakhand that he would projobs for the unemployed youth but failed to deliver on his promises made to the people of Delhi.

Delhi Congress Chief Ch. Anil Kumar said Mr. Keiriwal had promised 8 lakh jobs in five years to the youth of Delhi but after being in power for seven years, just 440 youth got jobs while 84% jobs in the Directorate of Employment are lying vacant.

Mr. Kumar said when pandemic-induced lockdowns robbed lakhs of the youth of their jobs and livelihoods, the Delhi government set up a job portal at the expense of crores

the youth of Delhi but after being in power for seven years, just 440 youth got jobs ANIL KUMAR

promised 8 lakh

jobs in five years to

of rupees and over 13,27061 lakh iob-seekers registered with the portal but only 0.3% got jobs in the private sector.

"It is ironic that Mr. Kejriwal has promised to establish an 'Employment and Migrant Ministry' in Uttarakhand, though he had done nothing when lakhs of migrant workers walked to their native villages in Bihar, U.P. and Uttarakhand when they lost jobs and livelihoods during the CO-VID crisis," Mr. Kumar said.

INTERVIEW | PRAVESH BIYANI

'We need more buses; reforms in tendering, procurement processes'

In India, public transit requires reliable services, routes with wider coverage and better frequency, says expert

examples, bus stops can be

de-encroached of parked

private cars. Routes and ti-

NEW DELHI

Pravesh Biyani, Associate Professor at the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology-Delhi (IIIT-D), who heads the Centre for Sustainable Mobility to provide solutions related to the Capital's transportation sector speaks to *The Hindu* on the present state and fate of public transportation in Delhi.

Privately owned cluster buses are about to overtake those owned and operated by the Delhi government through the Delhi Transport Corporation. Isn't this a

matter of concern?

■ For a population of two crore, we need at least 10,000 buses. Therefore, it's not a concern if the fleet owned by private operators in any city outsizes any government-owned fleet. Currently, in Delhi, less than half of the total fleet (of around 6,700) is owned by private operators. The DTC still has the bigger share of fleet. But importantly, we need more buses - throughout the country. Finally, to be fair to both, the DTC and the Delhi government, the bus procurement system is also not that friendly and is extremely complex. In India, we need reforms in the tendering and procurement processes.

In your experience, is the size of the bus fleet the only issue that needs to be rectified for a relatively better, more efficient and reliable experience for

commuters in Delhi?

■ Not just in Delhi, for public transit in India, we need more service, we need better frequency, reliable service, routes with wider coverage. That can be done by using private operators as well as government-owned bus fleet. But more importantly, we need a more efficient system. A fleet size of 10,000 running on sub-optimal routes is worse than fleet size of 6,000 running in an efficient manner. The Delhi government has taken the first and the most difficult step towards making the system efficient by digitisation of their depots and opening up the transit data. Currently, Delhi is the only city with such initiatives.

What are the issues, both in terms of public perception as well as infrastructure, which you believe the government needs to rectify regarding its own fleet?

■ There are many things that can be improved in Delhi. For

metable information can be provided in the bus stops. We have been working with the Delhi government to provide real-time passenger information system in the stops, that I think will solve the problem to a certain extent. For example, real-time information of buses is available on Google Maps, our own Chartr app as well as the One Delhi app in future. Further, operating routes in pre-decided frequencies in a timely manner will also help. Making these changes will certainly improve public perception. These processes take time but are certainly doable.

> Is it safe to allow overage buses to carry lakhs of passengers on a daily basis?

■ Honestly, on the question of safety, I am yet to hear of a casualty because the bus was old. Yes, an older fleet will have more breakdowns and that will lead to many problems, but safety is not one of the bigger concerns. This does not mean that we should continue to run a bus till it completely breaks

Why could the government not procure vehicles in time to avoid this situation? Can it not buy smaller vehicles or



vehicles of any other specification in the meantime till it is able to buy low-floor buses?

■ I cannot comment and judge the timelines of procurement of buses as I am not privy to the internal details. But as mentioned, procurement is in general a very complex problem.

Yes, there are other options possible, too, for buses. Just like metro feeder buses, the government can also operate smaller buses and other buses like standard buses (same as orange cluster buses) in their fleet

The DTC's legacy as the

service provider in the

largest CNG-propelled bus

world seems to be at stake

along with its survival. How

can the public transportation sector be

The public transportation sector in India cannot only be saved but can also be turned around and agencies like the DTC can be the best and the most-used transit agencies in the world. The DTC, for example, has an envious monopoly in the bus-based public transit market in a city with a population of 20 million. It has a great infrastructure support in the form of depots. Unfortunately, many transit agencies in India have historically lacked passenger focus like their corporate counterparts. Public transits should consider their passengers as customers and, like every successful business, design all the features of their product accordingly.

How can the transportation sector transform itself in terms of public perception which, as you have outlined, has deteriorated over time as well as in terms of commuter experience?

■ The public perception of bus-based public transit has to be lifted throughout the country. Perceptions like buses are delayed and unreliable can be repaired easily by running buses by timetable and by apps and a passenger information system (PIS). The government should start with outcomes in mind. The government should emphasis on the eco-friendliness of public transit and this will certainly motivate younger passengers to take public transit. Taking a public transit should be made "cool" just like driving an electric

What are the infrastructural improvements that the government can consider to improve the image of the public transportation sector in the eves of the average commuter?

■ There are many places like airports, railway stations with enormous passenger demand. For instance, most air flyers are not even aware of the reasonable and cheap DTC services from the airport to the city. The buses at Nizamuddin and New Delhi railway stations are operated from a faraway place, thereby, missing lakhs of potential passengers every day. Public transit should be made accessible to commuters in such places. Public transit agencies should also collaborate with last-mile providers like e-rickshaw providers, bikesharing companies, grameen seva, etc. to provide an endto-end journey experience for its passengers. All the above can only happen by bringing a conscious passenger focus in the public transit agencies.

The government should also improve the most critical infrastructure of footpaths which has a direct bearing on the use of public transit.

Do you have any suggestions to transform the sector so that it is able to face both the advantages as well as the challenges that the ever-changing availability of technology presents?

■ The other often missing aspect is the involvement of new-age professionals that specialise in data and IT to compliment the excellent administrative and operations capacity in organisations like the DTC. Note that modern transit companies like Transport for London (TFL), Uber

and Ola etc. hire world-class people with expertise in newage technologies involving optimisation and machine learning etc. The government should engage such people to build their systems to meet the above mentioned outcomes in the public transporter. That being said, however, I must also acknowledge that Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot has prioritised many of the modern initiatives like open transit data, contactless ticketing etc. to make busbased public transit better for

What are the options that the DTC has to fall back upon to survive given the lack of procurement of buses over more than a decade?

passengers.

■ The other option for the DTC till they procure lowfloor buses is to engage with private operators, especially for air-conditioned routes, airport routes and even electric buses. There are indeed many ways of adding to the fleet of the DTC; some even do not involve painful procurement and tendering pro-

The DTC has served the people of Delhi well in the last many decades and there is no reason that it cannot serve more in future. The DTC should be the pride of

Filters installed in smog tower, IIT Bombay team begins study

Data generation to take time as fans will be operated after humidity drops: official

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has finished installation of filters in the smog tower in Connaught Place, which inaugurated month. Also, a team from IIT Bombay has started a study on the impact of the tower on the air quality, of-

"The filters are now in place and IIT Bombay has started the two-year study. But data generation will take a little more time as we are not operating the fans right now since we are waiting for the humidity to come down," an official told The Hindu.

The smog tower is a 24metre-high structure fitted with fans and air filters and it will draw in polluted air from the top and release purified air near the ground through fans fitted on sides.

The tower has 40 big fans and 5,000 filters to clean the air and the fans suck in air, which will be cleaned as it passes through the filters.

The tower was inaugurat-

ed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on August 23.

After the inauguration, the tower is yet to be fully

functional as authorities

Minister Arvind Kejriwal on August 23. ■ FILE РНОТО

The smoq tower in Connaught Place was inaugurated by Chief

be fungal growth in the filter due to high moisture during the monsoon. "The fungal growth will be more if we use the fans during monsoons as the moisture is more and it will be caught by the filters," the

In January 2020, the Supreme Court had asked the Delhi government to set up the tower on a pilot basis.

There is about a

90% reduction in

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leave the tower in

test runs. But how

much effect it will

have at a distance

be known only

from the tower will

after the IIT study

that enter and

"There is about a 90% reduction in the PM particles that enter and leave the tower in test runs. But how much effect it will have at a distance from the tower will be known only after the IIT study," another official said.

Stubble burning: govt. to spray bio-decomposer in paddy fields

Environment Minister says it also enhances soil quality

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi government will start spraying bio-decomposer for free in 4,000 acres of paddy fields in Delhi from October 5, to tackle stubble burning, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Monday.

Bio-decomposer is a solution, which, if sprayed in fields, decomposes straw and stubble into manure. The government sees it as a solution to stubble burning and has also been urging other States to adopt it.

A bio-decomposer capsule, developed by Pusa Institute, is made into a solution through a week-long process and then sprayed on stubble and straw left behind on fields after harvesting. The Delhi government first sprayed it last year and it claimed that the results were positive.

Mr. Rai said the government is fully prepared with its mechanism to spray the bio-decomposer, and farmers just need to fill out a form to get the spraying done at their fields.

"We presented a holistic report on the performance



Stubble being burnt at a field near Kundli in Delhi. • FILE РНОТО

of the bio-decomposer to the Commission For Air Quality Management. They asked us to get a third-party audit done on it. We got the third-party audit conducted through an agency of the Centre. They, too, heaped praises on the solution. Their report says that not only is the bio-decomposer an effective solution to curb stubble burning pollution, it also enhances the quality of

Last week, Mr. Rai had said that they had sought time to meet the Union Environment Minister to urge him to use bio-decomposer

the soil," Mr. Rai said.

in neighbouring States to control stubble burning.

'The Union Environment Minister has still not given time to me and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. I appeal to him to understand the gravity of the problem and act on it," the Minister said.

About the winter action plan to control air pollution in the city, Mr. Rai said the department will finalise it by September 30. "The plan would then be presented to the Chief Minister. After discussions with the CM, the plan would be brought forth to the people of Delhi," he

Man involved in snatchings in NCR held after gunfight in Noida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A man suspected behind several cases of phone and jewellery snatchings in the National Capital Region was arrested in Noida on Monday after a gunfight with the police in which he suffered injuries, officials said.

The accused, hails from Khoda colony in adjoining Ghaziabad, and his aide were intercepted by a team of Sector 24 police station around 8 a.m., following a tip-off, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ranvijay Singh said.

"The Noida police had been working on cases of snatchings and street crimes in which criminals based out of bordering cities of Ghaziabad and Delhi were often involved. Accused Subhash Negi, who has over a dozen cases against him, was also wanted by the police," Mr. Singh said.

'This morning, the local police got a tip-off about his movement in Noida, following which he was intercepted, and while he was on the bridge of a nullah near RTO office in Sector 33A. Seeing himself surrounded by the police, he opened fire in a bid to escape but got hit in retaliatory firing and was held," the officer said.

Mr. Negi was immediately sent to a hospital, Mr. Singh said, adding that his aide, however, managed to escape but a combing operation was under way to track him.

An illegal countrymade pistol and three stolen mobile phones have been seized from his possession, while the scooter he was using has been impounded, the officer said.

An FIR was being lodged in the case and further legal proceedings were under way, Mr. Singh said, adding that the police are also trying to track the network of suppliers and buyers of the stolen phones in the region.

Karol Bagh mall sealed again as traders refused to pay BJP: AAP

STAFF REPORTER

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)ruled North Delhi Municipal Corporation had sealed ND Mall in Karol Bagh in 2013 and after taking crores of rupees from shopkeepers, BJP leaders allowed the mall to run for eight years.

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj claimed that the mall was again sealed on Monday after traders did not pay money to BJP leaders, and this alleged corruption came to

'Seal broken' "This building was sealed

but has not been demolished. Sealing is a temporary measure for a couple of days or weeks before the building is demolished. In-



AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj

stead, this seal was broken, and bribes were taken for the shops and showrooms to continue functioning," Mr. Bharadwaj said.

The AAP leader said that the authorities knew about this and still took no action.

"In 2014, an FIR was registered in this matter and this has reached the Deputy Commissioner of Karol Bagh zone. It is written here that the shops which were sealed have opened again and this was addressed to the SHO of Karol Bagh police station. After that, this matter was suppressed," he

were waiting for monsoon

to be over to install the fil-

ters and run the fans. Offi-

cials delayed the installa-

'BJP got greedy'

Mr. Bharadwaj alleged that the BJP got greedy and asked for money again from the traders and threatened to seal the shops.

"To express their dissatisfaction with the intimidating behaviour of the BIP, these shopkeepers held a press conference and revealed everything about this matter. Once that clip started playing on channels and even. I tweeted it, the MCD's blackmailing and extortion practices got exposed and those shops were again sealed on Monday,"

Precious drops



Scarcity: Residents filling containers with drinking water from a Delhi Jal Board tanker at Mahavir Enclave on Monday. Water supply was disrupted in several areas of south-west Delhi due to a fault in Dichaon Kalan underground reservoir. • shiv кимак ризнракак

Previous govts. used bullets to acquire land, BJP regime did it without ruckus: MLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Previous governments had used force to acquire land while the current Yogi Adityanath-led regime in Uttar Pradesh got it done without any ruckus, BJP leader and Jewar MLA Dhirendra Singh said on Monday.

Mr. Singh was referring to the recent acquisition of land from villagers in his constituency for the proposed greenfield Noida International Airport and the Bhatta-Parsaul episode a decade ago when the region witnessed violence over land acquisition.

Presenting the 'report card' of the BJP government's four-and-a-half-year tenure, the MLA said Jewar, predominantly a rural area, had transformed during this period with more industrial investment coming to the region and improvement in law and order situation.

"In the previous government's regime, bullets were fired to acquire land, while today, such a huge land acquisition (for the airport) took place, but there was no ruckus," Mr. Singh told reporters at a conference held at the Yamuna Expressway Authority's office.

He said a Metro line will soon connect Greater Noida and Jewar.

"Big firms have established their companies in Jewar due to which the means of employment are going to open soon and women will also get employment in the Apparel Park while the clothes made there will help Jewar make a mark in the world," he added.

"The land for setting up a Skill Development University has also been received and soon the youth of the area will start getting training here," Mr. Singh said.

Human rights panel awards ₹5 lakh Delhi sees no death for third day compensation to families of victims

Two died after falling into open sewer in Faridabad 5 years ago

ASHOK KUMAR

The Harvana Human Rights Commission has recommended ₹5 lakh compensation each to the next of the kin of a woman and a man. who died after falling into an open sewer in Faridabad five vears ago.

In a 10-page order, Justice S.K. Mittal said that "roads are meant for use by the public and if a user is harmed, the State shall be directly responsible for the consequences of such a mishap." The order further said that the mishap was evidently on account of the negligent maintenance by the civic authority which was dutybound to ensure that the manholes in its jurisdiction were not left open.

Turning down the corporation's plea that the deceased herself was negligent as she fell into the sewer busy talking over phone, Mr.

Mittal said, "An open manhole is indeed a death trap." Mahesh, a resident of Chhajjan Nagar Colony, and his wife had gone to buy vegetables from a nearby market, when the man received a call on his mobile phone. He handed over the phone to his wife and got busy with

a 25 feet deep open sewer while attending to the call. Laxman Prasad (30), a man, went down the sewer holding a rope to pull her out. But the rope snapped, and he too fell into the sewer. The two were later pulled out by fire brigade officials but declared dead on arrival

buying the vegetables. The

28-year-old woman fell into

Taking a suo motu cognisance of the incident following a newspaper report, the commission sought a report from the Municipal Corporation of Faridabad. But the matter had to be adjourned

at a hospital.

several times on the request of the civic body and the commission finally recommended the compensation on September 2 with an observation that "there was an inordinate delay on behalf of the Municipal Commissioner in putting the response before the commission" on the matter.

The commission said that the essential facts of the case were not disputed and "the principal of Res Ipsa Loquitur ought to be followed and compensation without waiting for response from the commissioner as the case has been lingering for five years and dates after dates are being sought without any plausible reason".

The commission relied on the post-mortem report of the woman and the admission by the authorities that the deaths were caused due to the two falling into the open sewer.

City adds 28 new COVID-19 cases; active count stands at 379



A healthcare worker administers a COVID-19 vaccine dose to a beneficiary at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences vaccination centre in Delhi on Monday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

STAFF REPORTER

The city reported no new COVID-19 death in 24 hours for the third consecutive day and the total number of fatalities stood at 25,085, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government on Monday.

Twenty-eight new cases were reported, taking the total case tally to 14,38,517. A total of 47,845 tests were done in a day while the test positivity rate was 0.04%.

Of the total cases, 14,13,053 people have recovered and there are only 379 active cases.

Also, the COVID-19 vaccine stock in the city would last for five days, another bulletin said.

Two builders' offices, societies' clubs sealed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Noida Authority has sealed the offices and clubs of two realtors in their two under-construction housing societies in Gautam Budh Nagar for flouting the National Green Tribunal rules,

an official said on Monday. The Authority said it had started an inquiry to find out

if all housing societies in the city, adjoining Delhi, had their sewage treatment plants (STPs) functional or not. "During the inquiry, it transpired that some societies either did not have STPs or they were not functional, which is a violation of the NGT orders," the authority

"Noida Authority CEO Ri-

tu Maheshwari had instructed that the builders' offices and the clubs of all such societies should be sealed," the authority said.

The offices and clubs of the Eco City being developed by Futura Shelters in Sector 75 and RG Residency being developed by RG Buildtech in Sector 120 were sealed on Monday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

An oxygen plant with a capacity of 280-litre per minute set up by students of Delhi University's Shri Ram College of Commerce at the Commonwealth Games village was inaugurated on

The students of SRCC said they had raised ₹35 lakh

within 10 days through an online fundraiser for the plant. Delhi had battled a brutal second wave of the pandemic in April-May during which a number of lives were lost with shortage of beds and oxygen adding to

Commonwealth Games Centre has been converted into a 500-bed CO-

the woes of people.

VID-19 care facility by the Delhi government. The event was attended by SRCC alumnus and BJP leader Vijay

280-litre oxygen plant set up by students of SRCC inaugurated

He expressed happiness and pride for being an alumnus of an institution like

He appreciated the efforts of the college teachers, authorities as well as 'Doctors For

instrumental role in pulling off the campaign. College principal professor Simrit Kaur called it a

You', which collaborated for

the initiative, for playing an

'commendable effort' by the students of the college.

The students said the plant can save around 20-30 lives at a time. "The plant will be installed at a perma-

nent government health facility post the pandemic with the help of district authorities who were also present at the event," Ms. Kaur said.

Sunil Kumar, Nodal Officer, CWG Covid Centre, district administration, explained the journey of converting the Commonwealth Games Centre into a COVID-19 care facility.

Timings **DELHI**

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

RISE 06:10 SET 18:17 RISE 19:50 SET 08:04

max min 26

thunderstorm may occur with partly cloudy to cloudy sky and

thunderstorm may occur with moderate winds at some places. Warm and humid day

ED to grill three U.P. leaders in money laundering cases

Heat on Azam Khan, Mukhtar Ansari and Ateeq Ahmed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) will begin the questioning of Samajwadi Party MP Azam Khan, gangster Mukhtar Ansari and strongman Ateeq Ahmad from Monday in separate money laundering probes being conducted against them and their associates.

Official sources said the action is being initiated after obtaining permission from special courts that try cases booked under the Prevention of Money Laundering

They said the 72-year-old Khan, lodged in Sitapur dis-

trict jail of Uttar Pradesh, will be questioned and his statement recorded between September 20 and September 24. Similarly, the 58-yearold Ansari, the BSP legislator from Mau seat, will be questioned at the Banda district jail after a court in August allowed the ED to record his

An order on the same lines has been issued by the PMLA court authorising the ED to question the 59-yearold Ahmad, who is lodged in the Sabarmati jail of Gujarat in judicial custody, official

They said the agency has filed separate PMLA cases

against them and the ED may attach their assets under the criminal provisions of the same law.

The ED had initiated probe against Khan in 2019 after taking cognisance of at least 26 FIRs filed by the State police including allegations that a university run by him in Rampur has been raised over a land that was grabbed from an 'enemy property'. Ansari is under the ED scanner in connection with at least 49 criminal cases including land grabbing, murder and extortion. Ahmad, a former MP, is being investigated on the basis of as many as 196 FIRs.

8-foot-long crocodile rescued from pond

An eight-foot-long estuarine crocodile, that had strayed into a community pond, was caught alive by forest personnel in Odisha's Kendrapara district on Monday and later released into the Baunsagadi rivulet, a Forest department official said. The crocodile had sneaked into the pond in search of food when a fisherman sighted it and raised alarm, he said, PTI

BJP's Kirit Somaiya detained at Karad railway station

He was planning to visit properties owned by NCP leader Hasan Mushrif

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Kirit Somaiya was detained at Karad railway stain western Maharashtra's Satara district early on Monday after the Kolhapur district administration issued prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Cr.PC against the former

A video clip later surfaced showing the BJP leader being escorted out of the station by police officers and security personnel.

"Police stopped me at Karad under prohibitory order," he tweeted, adding that he would address reporters at the Karad Circuit House to expose one more scam of senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and Maharashtra Rural Development Minister Hasan Mushrif.

Last Monday, Mr. Somaiya had accused Mr. Mushrif and his relatives of being involved in a ₹127-crore money laundering scam.

He was scheduled to visit the properties owned by Mr. Mushrif in Kolhapur in this regard on Monday.



BJP leader Kirit Somaiya arrives at the ED office in Mumbai with papers to back allegations against NCP minister.

On Sunday, Mr. Somaiya had alleged that he was being detained at his own in Mumbai and had launched an attack against the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas

'It's illegal'

"Who in the Thackeray government has given these orders restricting me from going out of Mumbai?" said Mr. Somaiya, who had already set off for Kolhapur on Sunday from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus by the Mahalaxmi Express.

Aghadi (MVA) government.

Before leaving he had tweeted: "Thackeray Sarkar Dadagiri; Notice is for Kolhapur District NO ENTRY, but not allowing me to move out from my house...Mulund Police wants to arrest me, but no warrant, no order...it's total illegal."

On Saturday evening, Kolhapur District Collector Rahul Rekhawar issued a restraining order under Section 144 (1) (3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 for September 20 and 21 prohibiting the assembly of five or more persons in public places in the district.

Mr. Rekhawar said that the move was to preclude a law-and-order situation that could arise in the view of Mr. Somaiya's anticipated visit.

'Baseless allegations'

Dismissing Mr. Somaiya's allegations as "utterly baseless" and "without any shred of evidence", Mr.

Mushrif claimed that the BJP leader was "woefully uninformed and was uttering illinformed allegations at the behest of BJP State president Chandrakant Patil".

Mr. Somaiya, who has been targeting senior leaders in the MVA government with alleged scam exposes, said he had already filed a complaint and submitted documents with the Income Tax authorities in Mumbai and was in the process of giving documents to the Enforcement Directorate.

Stating that he had had an unblemished reputation throughout his political career, the NCP leader said that the BJP was playing these "low political games" as they had no standing in Kolhapur.

In July 2019, a team of the Income Tax Department had raided Mr. Mushrif's residence and factory premises in Kolhapur.

At the time, it was widely believed that the raid on Mr. Mushrif's home was owing to the NCP leader's alleged refusal to join the then Devendra Fadnavis-led BJP-Shiv Sena coalition govern-

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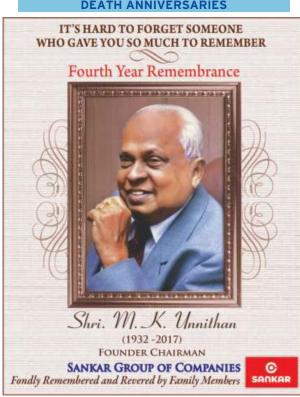
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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE General public is hereby informed that one female namely Neetu Devi, W/o Chandan R/o Gali No. 3 House No. 1102 Kapashera C/o Rakesh Yadav, New Delhi. Age 21 yrs., Height 5', Fair Complexion, Round face, Built normal wearing blue colour saree and sleepers in feet has been missing since 25.08.2021 from the area of PS Kapashera New Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 69-A Dt. 02.09.2021 has been lodged at PS Kapashera, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing Female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing Female may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-23011334 Ph.: 011-23014046 011-23015218 DP/827/SW/2021

S.H.O. PS Kapashera, New Delhi. Ph.: 011-25066105, 25063758, 8368217535

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one male child Namely: Amir Hamja, S/o **Abdul Malik, R/o** Village Maheshpur, Mahadev Nagar, P.S. Farkha Distt. Murshidabad, West Bangal, has been kidnapped since 05.12.2019 at 4:00 pm from Platform No. 9-10, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 80/2019 dated 05.12.2019 has been registered at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station. Delhi. The description of the kidnaped boy

is as under: Age: 6 months, Sex: Male, Height: 1.5 Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Green colour sweater and black colour nikkar, Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing boy kindly inform to the

Website: http//cbi.nic.in E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639 PS Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871302 DP/264/RLY/2021

COVID-19 cases dropping in Maharashtra

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

Maharashtra continued to see a steady drop in cases, with the State reporting 3,836 recoveries against 2,583 new COVID-19 cases as the active case tally dipped further to 41,672. Twenty-eight deaths took the cumulative fatalities to 1,38,546. The case fatality rate remains constant at 2.12%.

The total cases now stand at 65,24,498 while the State's cumulative recoveries have risen to 63,40,723 with the recovery rate at 97.18%.

"Of a total 5,71,64,401 lab samples tested thus far, 65,24,498 have returned positive with over 1.36 lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours," said State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeen Awate.

Pune reported more than 500 new cases taking its total cases to 11,32,125 while five deaths pushed the total deaths to 18,854. As per district authorities, the active case tally stands around 7,000. Mumbai reported 417

new cases to take its tally to 7,38,518 while the active count declined to 5,109. Five deaths took the city's death count to 16,058. Ahmednagar reported

the highest cases in the State, with 527 new ones and 12 deaths, taking its total cases to 3,24,542 of whom 5,551 are active. The district's cumulative death toll rose to 6,742. Satara reported 161 new

cases and three deaths, taking the total cases to 2,45,827 of whom 3,002 are active, while the death toll rose to 6,215. Neighbouring Sangli re-

ported 108 new cases and zero deaths. The total case tally stands at 2,06,306 with the active cases falling to 1,732 while its death toll is 5,558.

Kolhapur reported just 37 new cases and no deaths, taking its total case tally to 2,05,918. The active cases dropped to 855. The cumulative death toll stands at 5,833.

THE HINDU

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<u>Te</u>

THURSDAY, SEP. 23

Delhi Weather Safdarjang

Delhi Palam Today 34°C A few spell of light rain or

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 33°C Light to moderate rain or

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IN BRIEF



Two injured in elephant attack in Wayanad

A lone wild elephant entered human habitats near Meenangadi in Wayanad district on Monday, triggering panic among people. The elephant attacked two elderly persons, who have been hospitalised. A forest team managed to drive away the tusker into the Neykuppa reserve forest.

Man from Rajasthan held on spying charge

Officials of the Southern Command Military Intelligence and the Central Crime Branch arrested a man here for allegedly taking photos of defence establishments and sharing them with foreign agencies. Jitender Singh, who hailed from Rajasthan, "was in touch with a Pakistan-based ISI officer over WhatsApp",

Congress, BJP push for all-party meet as more social leaders wade into debate; peace moves on

_____ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The controversy that erupted after Pala bishop Joseph Kallarangatt's recent caution against 'narcotic jihad' during a sermon continued on Monday with more leaders weighing in.

Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam general secretary Vellappally Natesan blamed a priest for alleging that the Ezhava community plotted to entice Christian girls into the Hindu fold via interfaith marriage. He demanded that the Church defrock the priest, although he had tendered an apology. Mr. Natesan decried "Christian proselytising" and said "narcotic jihad" was a misnomer.

General secretary of the All India Sunni Jamiyyathul Ulama Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliyar insisted that the Pala bishop withdraw his remark

Several Muslim social or-



'Narcotic jihad' remark draws fresh fire

Peace message: Religious leaders at a meeting in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. • s. MAHINSHA

ganisations slammed Cooperation Minister V.N. Vasavan for making a "placatory' visit to the bishop's house. No similar move to assuage the Muslim community's feelings was made, they felt.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan attacked the government for failing to deal with rising religious sectarianism. He demanded an cultural figures to join the Congress's "peace initiative."

BJP State president K. Surendran, who also sought an all-party meeting, accused the Congress and the CPI(M) of brushing the issue under the carpet to protect 'minority vote banks'.

CPI (M) acting State secretary A. Vijayaraghavan said the Congress and the BJP were trying to fish in troubled waters. The Congress was trying to regain political relevance as a peacemaker.

Meanwhile, back-channel efforts to dial down tensions continued. Major Archbishop - Catholicos of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, Cardinal Baselios Cleemis, chaired a meeting of various religious leaders. The participants included Muslim Youth League State president Panakkad Sayyid Munavvar Ali Shihab Thangal, Kozhikode Palayam Imam Hussain Madavoor, Thiruvananthapuram Palayam Imam V.P. Suhaib Moulavi, Kerala Muslim Jamaath president Karamana Bayar, Thiruvananthapuram Archbishop (Latin rite) M. Soosa Pakiam and Santhigiri Ashram general secretary Swami Gururetnam Jnana Thapaswi.

Call for restraint

The Catholicos called for restraint, especially from religious and spiritual leaders, to avoid "wounding" other communities. "Narcotics must be viewed as narcotics alone" he said, without elaborating.

In Kozhikode, the Thamarassery bishop recalled a handbook for the laity after Muslim leaders said it had observations hurtful to the community. Police booked an online news portal for

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Guiarat, Himachal Pradesh, east Raiasthan, Uttarakhand, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, north interior Karnataka, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MII
Agartala	0.8	31.7	25.3	Kozhikode		32.6	25.6
Ahmedabad	11.3	30.9	26.3	Kurnool		35.1	26.7
Aizawl	3	29.0	21.3	Lucknow		35.7	27.4
Allahabad		36.4	26.4	Madurai		35.5	25.6
Bengaluru	26.2	28.5	19.8	Mangaluru		30.8	24.
Bhopal	2.5	30.8	23.4	Mumbai	71	31.0	24.2
Bhubaneswar.		32.6	24.5	Mysuru		32.9	21.0
Chandigarh		34.8	28.0	New Delhi		35.8	26.5
Chennai		36.5	24.2	Patna		33.2	27.
Coimbatore		33.2	24.2	Port Blair		31.0	25.3
Dehradun	34	32.7	23.0	Puducherry		34.8	
Gangtok	0.8	23.2	16.9	Pune		29.9	22.2
Goa		31.4	25.2	Raipur	0.1	30.5	24.
Guwahati		35.5	26.2	Ranchi	12	31.0	22.2
Hubballi		30.0	21.0	Shillong		24.5	16.4
Hyderabad	11	33.2	23.0	Shimla	0.3	26.8	20.4
Imphal		31.2	21.8	Srinagar		30.4	18.4
Jaipur		31.5	25.0	Thiruvananthapur	am	33.8	25.3
Kochi		30.8	26.0	Tiruchi	7	34.0	23.0
Kohima		27.2	18.4	Vijayawada	1	34.6	25.4
Kolkata	95	25.9	25.0	Visakhapatnam	9	33.2	23.8
				•			

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

....64 ...68 Hyderabad5 .75 .20

4.00 p.m., Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir recorded an overall air quality inde (AQI) score of 232

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI) 502: 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 lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and prematu death in people with heart or lung disease

Teen flags bug in IRCTC's system

Hacker could have accessed details of passengers

S. VIJAY KUMAR

A city school student has helped the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) fix a bug on its online ticketing platform that could have exposed private information of millions of passengers. Acting on his alert, the

Computer Emergency Response Team, India, conveyed the vulnerability to the IRCTC that fixed the glitch, preventing a possible hacking of the largest online ticketing portal in the coun-

According to P. Renga nathan, 17, a Class XII student of a private school in Tambaram here, he was booking a train ticket by logging into the IRCTC portal a few days ago when he found certain vulnerabilities that could compromise the security of the site. The critical Insecure Object Direct References (IDOR) vulnerability on the website enabled him to access the journey details of other passengers such as name, gender, age, PNR number, train details, departure station and date of

"Since the back-end code is the same, a hacker would have been able to order food, change the boarding station and even cancel the



P. Renganathan

ticket without the knowledge of the bonafide passenger. Other services like domestic/international tourism, bus tickets and hotel bookings would have been possible in the user profile of othimportantly, there was a risk of a huge database of millions of passengers getting leaked," Renganathan said.

Issue resolved

On August 30, 2021, he reported the vulnerability to the CERT, India, which raised a ticket within minutes. Five days later, the bug was fixed and acknowledged by the IRCTC, says Renganathan.

The teenager says he has got acknowledgements from LinkedIn, United Nations, Nike and Lenovo among others for reporting security vulnerabilities on their web applications.

Renganathan wants to pursue a career in Computer Science, while continuing independent research on security of web applications.

Bommai govt. tables Bill to protect illegal shrines

Move follows temple demolition row

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Caught between the compulsion to abide by a court order and the outrage from a section over the temple demolition in Nanjangud, the BJP government in Karnataka on Monday chose the legislation route to protect religious structures built illegally in public plac-

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai tabled the Karnataka Religious Structures (Protection) Bill, 2021, in the Le-Assembly protect religious structures from the ambit of the court's

directive to demolish structures "constructed on public places without the authority of law".

The Bill marks the day of commencement of the proposed legislation as the cutoff date and makes it clear that only structures built before this date will get protection. "It is considered necessary to provide for the protection of religious construction in public places before the date of commencement of this Act in order to protect communal harmony and not hurt the religious sentiments of the public," the Bill stated.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS

⁺ KTR, Telangana Cong. chief spar over drugs scandal

Industries Minister files defamation suit against Revanth

HYDERABAD

The war of words between Municipal and Industries Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) and Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president A. Revanth Reddy on Twitter over the drug tests intensified and culminated in the Minister filing a defamation suit in the City Civil Court.

The bitterness between both the leaders has been quite open and they made no bones about hiding their dislike with accusations and counter accusations over the last few years. Their fresh war is related to the drugs scandal in Telangana involving some celebrities sum-



Revanth Reddy

moned for an investigation by the Prohibition and Excise Department of the State government and also the Enforcement Directorate of the Central government.

Mr. Reddy has been alleging that some celebrities involved in the drugs scandal were close to KTR and ac-

cused him of trying to save them. Mr. Reddy later said KTR had become the 'drug ambassador' of Telangana. Taking strong objection to

the remarks, KTR offered to undergo a drug analysis test to prove his innocence and put an end to the spat. Responding to this, the Telangana Congress chief came up with a 'White Challenge' wherein he asked people in public life and celebrities to get drug analysis tests done openly to send a positive message to the youth.

KTR, in the defamation suit filed against Mr. Reddy in the Hyderabad City Civil Court on Monday, sought a grant of perpetual injunction against the PCC chief.

Sabarimala airport plan faulty: DGCA

The proposed construction of the Sabarimala greenfield airport on the Cheruvalli estate near Erumely here in Kerala, appears to have hit hurdles with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation finding fault with its design and techno-economic feasibility report.

According to a report by the regulatory body, the site-clearance approval sought for the airport is not in tune with the Greenfield Airports Policy.

"The proposed site has an aerial distance of 88 km and 110 km from the Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram airports respectively. Whereas according to para 8.1 of the Greenfield Airports Policy, no greenfield airport would be allowed within an aerial distance of 150 km of an existing civilian airport," the report read.

The agency has come down heavily on the technoeconomic feasibility report prepared by Louis Berger, a private consultant, stating that it seems not reliable. "The appended map/

charts to get the site clearance approval are not signed or authenticated by the surveyor and the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC), the nodal agency for the project, as the content of documents varies at various places," it added.

The three-page report by the DGCA carries adverse remarks on the space marked for the preparation of the

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Kerala auto driver wins ₹12 crore in lottery

Day-long speculation ends after Jayapalan presents winning ticket at Kochi bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The confusion over the winner of the first prize of the Kerala Thiruvonam Bumper Lottery, worth ₹12 crore, has come to an end with Jayapalan T.R. an autorickshaw driver, from Maradu, Kochi, submitting the winning ticket at the Maradu branch of a nationalised bank on Monday.

The development brought the curtains down on day-long speculation about the real winner of the lottery after Saithalavi, 45, an expatriate worker from Panamaram in Wayanad, initially claimed to have won the lottery. He works as a help at a restaurant at Abu Hail in Dubai.

The draw was held around 3 p.m. in the State capital on Sunday and the



right, with his mother and son in Kochi. •THULASI KAKKAT

winner of the first prize could not be identified immediately. It was reported that the first prize was won by a ticket bearing the number TE 645465 sold through a wholesale agency at Karunagapally in Kollam

On Monday, sources at Meenakshi Lotteries, a retail agency at Statue Junction, Thripunithura, near Kochi, claimed that the winning lottery was sold from there. Mr. Jayapalan told the media that he had bought

the ticket from the

Thripunithura agency and would use the prize money to meet his liabilities.

'Will continue work' He added that he had no plans to leave his work, something he has been doing for more than three

Mr. Saithalavi had initially said that he had purchased the ticket with the help of a friend in Palakkad. Though the friend was to have brought the ticket to Mr. Saithalavi's house in Wayanad, he was yet to arrive there.

each priced ₹300, were sold across the State for the Thiruvonam bumper draw. A sum of around ₹54 crore is paid to winners in different categories, including the six second prize winners who get ₹1 crore each.

Around 54 lakh tickets,

No-dowry bond a must to study in Calicut varsity

STAFF REPORTER

More universities seem to be following Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan's dictum to get a 'nodowry' bond before awarding degree certificates as the University of Calicut has now asked students and parents to sign such a declaration during the ongoing admissions to undergraduate courses.

As many as two lakh students seek admission to various undergraduate courses in Calicut University, which has a jurisdiction over six of the 14 districts in the State.

READ

It is learnt that Mahatma Gandhi University too has issued a circular, making anti-dowry declaration a must for awarding degree certificates.



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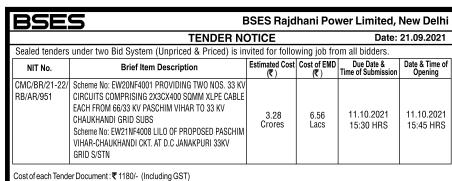
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The endgame

Guarantees for the 'bad bank' may help, but not suffice to fix lenders' woes

The Government has offered a sovereign guarantee to help the new 'bad bank', proposed in this year's Budget, extract better value from non-performing loans worth ₹2-lakh crore in the banking system. To begin with, the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) will pitch to take over toxic assets worth ₹90,000 crore that banks have already fully provided for. It will offer a certain value to the lead bank for troubled loans of over ₹500 crore, and pay 15% upfront in cash, and issue the balance as tradable security receipts. The bad bank will then rope in a separate asset manager being incorporated - the India Debt Resolution Company Ltd. (IDRCL) - to add value to the ailing asset, and resolve it as a 'going concern' or liquidate it. The guarantee, worth ₹30,600 crore over five years, can only be invoked once an asset is resolved and will cover any shortfall between the face value of the security receipts issued by the NARCL and the actual amount realised from a bad loan. The guarantee fee will be increased each year as a nudge for NARCL and the IDRCL to speed up resolution. After losing precious time dithering over its pros and cons, the Government now believes this approach will be more expeditious to fix the substantial NPAs that persist despite the existing debt recovery mechanisms including the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. Terming banks' high provisioning for legacy loans a 'unique opportunity', the Centre thinks NARCL will also help free up bank personnel to focus on faltering credit growth and spur the economy.

To the extent that the NARCL and IDRCL managements will streamline decisions once a loan is taken over, instead of seeking consensus among multiple lenders as the IBC entails, the idea holds some weight. But banks have already provided for these loans, so this is perhaps a tardy gambit and may not work in jumpstarting credit flows unless accompanied by their recapitalisation. On the likelihood of the guarantee being invoked, the Finance Ministry has said once the assets are pooled together, 'it is reasonable to expect' that many of them will realise more value than NARCL's acquisition cost. This may be a tad optimistic. As the Finance Minister herself said, 28 existing private ARCs are hesitant about taking a jab at extracting value from these bad loans, perhaps owing to their size. That begs the question about the calibre of professionals NARCL and the IDRCL would need to outdo private players. The new entities' ability to get a few good men to deliver more bang for sunk capital would be critical, as would structures to pre-empt a moral hazard that the guarantee poses (of not bothering too much about final realisation value). This self-proclaimed endgame of India's bad loans crisis needs sustained attention for a satisfactory culmination.

Done and dusted

The NRC process needs closure, not another reboot

Thile there may have been lulls aplenty, the next twist or turn in the long-running saga of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) update for Assam is never far. The latest seeks to imbue a sense of finality to the exercise, though it has come from what is only a quasi-judicial body. A Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) in Karimganj district of southern Assam, while removing the ambiguity around a man's citizenship, has pronounced that there is no doubt that the NRC published on August 31, 2019, is the final one. The exercise left out over 1.9 million from a list of around 33 million applicants, whose citizenship would be determined at the FTs. The entire updating process was monitored by the Supreme Court and executed by the State's administrative machinery. Unsurprisingly, its publication annoyed political parties across the ideological divide, with some alleging it victimised document-less Bengali Hindus and indigenous Assamese people and others that it targeted the State's Bengali-origin Muslims. In the run-up to the publication of the final document, Assam and the Centre had petitioned the Supreme Court for re-verification of a sample of names included in the draft NRC – 20% in the border districts and 10% elsewhere - but this was dismissed after Prateek Hajela, the State NRC Coordinator, said re-verification of 27% names had been already done. In May this year, the State NRC authority, now led by Hitesh Dev Sarma, filed a petition in Supreme Court seeking re-verification of the August 31, 2019 list, citing inclusion of ineligible names and exclusion of eligible ones, and other errors. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is already on record as having said the State government wants 20% re-verification in the districts bordering Bangladesh and 10% in others.

The crux of the matter is that post-publication progress on the NRC has been excruciatingly slow, and not just due to the pandemic. The new NRC Coordinator's petition is still pending, as is another by the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind. More crucially, on the execution side, the issuance of rejection slips to those left out of the NRC has not begun, a necessary step to file appeals in the FTs. Another iteration of the NRC, whether led by the judiciary or the executive, would rely on the same administrative set-up. The system has demonstrated dynamism: the list of excluded in the NRC draft released in July 2018 was nearly 4 million, an additional list in June 2019 left out 1,00,000 more, but the final draft absorbed 2.2 million of those. While a Registrar General of India notification has not conferred the stamp of legality on the NRC yet, that, along with kick-starting the appeals process, is perhaps the most prudent path ahead. Mounting another gargantuan exercise at a colossal cost may only yield a new set of discontents.

A simmering mistrust that should not boil over

The seeds of communal discontent threatening to affect the social fabric of Kerala today were sown about a decade ago



ANAND KOCHUKUDY

n the 1990s and early 2000s, it was a common sight to see L churches being dismantled to be replaced with brand new structures in Kerala. Most of these churches belonged to the Catholic Church, specifically the Syro-Malabar rite, forming a sizeable chunk of the Christian population in the State. The ostensible reason for these large-scale demolitions was the space constraints in the ageold structures, but a more immediate reason was the kind of money coming in as donations and charity from the laity, growing prosperous on the back of a spike in prices of rubber among other cash crops. Towns with sizeable Catholic population in Kottayam district such as Pala and Kanjirappally would see a huge offtake of the newly-launched cars back then. The era of prosperity, however, was short-lived as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India free trade agreement and other factors caused the prices of rubber and other cash crops to nosedive.

A turning point

With the community's collective bargaining power on the wane, its focus gradually shifted to the Muslim community's newfound affluence on the back of West Asian remittances. The seeds of mistrust threatening to rip apart the social fabric of Kerala today were sown about a decade ago. There were allusions to 'Love-Jihad' from the clergy even then, but it remained confined to catechism classes or drawing room conversations. The

assault, in 2010, on Professor T.J. Joseph, whose palms were chopped off by Popular Front of India (PFI) extremists proved to be a seminal event, despite the Church going on the defensive and even victimising the professor in its aftermath. The fallout of this incident was contained by the swift intervention of civil society; yet, in hindsight, this was probably the point when Islamophobia began to take root among Christians in Central Travancore. The Assembly election in 2011 saw the Congressled United Democratic Front (UDF) coming back to power but it also saw the eclipsing of the Church-backed Kerala Congress by the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) in the power structure contributing to the churning.

Political change, world events When the Narendra Modi-led Bha-

ratiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in New Delhi in 2014, the Sangh Parivar saw an opportunity in closing ranks with the Christian community to reverse its electoral fortunes in Kerala. By 2016, as the Islamic State (IS) gained prominence, 21 Keralites – some Christian and Hindu converts among them - who had gone missing were traced to the terrorist outfit. sparking further anxiety within the Church. A spate of anti-Muslim propaganda began to circulate within Christian family networks and social media groups around that period.

A stray remark of State police chief T.P. Senkumar, who would later join the BJP, of Muslim 'live births' overtaking Hindus in the State, laced with communal overtones, and the connection of the Popular Front of India (PFI)backed 'Sathya Sarani' to the case of Akhila alias Hadiya, a young Hindu woman who converted to Islam and married a Muslim youth, further queered the pitch.

This phase saw a gradual increase in engagement between Christian bishops and BJP leaders in the Centre, facilitated by Minister of State K.J. Alphons. Those days it was assumed that the Church was cosying up to the BJP only to protect its interests in the wake of the central government's crackdown on non-governmental organisations (NGOs) over the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA).

Gradual mainstreaming

The growing Islamophobia among the Catholics which was limited to the realms of social media got mainstreamed around the 2019 Easter bombings in Sri Lanka, sparking off a hate-campaign against Muslims. People who were otherwise reticent to speak in sectarian lines were emboldened by the clergy who were beginning to speak like community leaders rather than spiritual figures. There were growing concerns over the Muslim community in Kerala being collectively classified as Other Backward Classes (OBC) and coming under specific minority scholarship schemes.

The onset of COVID-19 led to people participating in Holy Mass online which essentially meant that what was limited to a church gathering was now open to everyone's scrutiny. The Syro-Malabar Church-backed Shekinah TV became the go-to platform for the laity but regular content on such channels was often rabble-rousing. The Old Testament was being quoted more regularly in churches

and given more emphasis than the reflection gospel,

Communal polemic

An article on the reopening of the historic Hagia Sophia in Turkey as a mosque by the Congress-ally IUML's Syed Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal in the party mouthpiece, Chandrika, on the eve of the Kerala local body elections as well as the IUML's decision to have an electoral understanding with the Jamaat-e-Islami caused a furore and saw a major Christian vote shift away from the UDF to the Left Front. In fact, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) very effectively utilised the situation to its advantage by feeding off the insecurities of the Church in central Travancore while playing up the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Malabar to secure Muslim votes. The Assembly election that followed saw the communal polemic in full swing, but it was the Left Front rather than the BJP which benefitted once again from the Christian-Muslim divide.

Of late, the Church and a section of the laity have been quick to latch on to any development abroad, including the march of the Taliban in Afghanistan, but they inexplicably kept mum on the institutional murder of Stan Swamy. The Church's steady engagement with the Sangh Parivar was driven home by a meeting of Ram Madhav with Bishop Emeritus Mathew Arackal recently.

A couple of months ago, the Pala diocese headed by Joseph Kallarangatt issued a circular announcing financial support and other benefits for Christian couples with five or more children in a bid to encourage larger families. The move was reflective of the Church's concerns over the dwindling numbers of the community as a proportion of the total population of the State

as well as in absolute numbers. An unwieldy controversy over the naming of a film - Eesho (Jesus) helmed by a Muslim as late as last month indicated the level of mistrust prevalent between both

Not much traction

The sweeping 'narcotic-jihad' remark of Bishop Kallarangatt during his service at a church in Kuravilangad in Kottayam district on September 9 proved to be the last straw. That a theologian of Bishop Kallarangatt's standing would resort to such language was difficult to comprehend but it is instructive of the kind of radical turn the Syro-Malabar Church has taken lately. Nonetheless it is significant that Bishop Kallarangatt did not get the backing of the Malankara and Latin Catholic rites. It is also telling that the fellow Saint Thomas Churches - Mar Thoma, Jacobite and Orthodox factions - and the protestant Church of South India Church have come out openly against the remark. While the Congress and the CPI(M) disapproved of the remark, a State BJP officebearer wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah seeking 'protection' for the Pala bishop, seeking to make the most of it.

There have been demands that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Viiavan intervene to diffuse the situation rather than play safe but it is unclear how the simmering discontent within the Christian community could be addressed in the long term. The suspicion and distrust prevailing between the Syro-Malabar Church and Muslims would take more than a patch-up to heal and would probably require a Pope Francis-like figure to initiate reconciliation.

Anand Kochukudy is a Kerala-based journalist and former editor of The Kochi

'Fund and faculty' count in higher education rankings

The new edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework highlights the huge gap between the best and the rest



FURQAN QAMAR

The sixth edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for higher education was released by the Union Minister of Education on September 9 2021 (https:// bit.ly/2XyL4k0). Jubilant are those that have made it to the top 100 or have improved their rankings or scores by a few notches. Downcast are those that have slid in rank or score but are still upbeat as they are in the coveted list. Disheartened, they must already be busy finding out their faults. Those with no rank may be ready with their excuses and commitment to do better next year. Since the NIRF ranks only the top 100, an estimated 935 universities, in any case, are bound to remain shut out. Each higher educational institution in the country undergoes the trauma of hope and despair a few times a year when the Academic Ranking of World Universities (AR-WU), Times Higher Education (THE) and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rankings are published.

Ranking may offer many advan-

tages. Its signalling effect may help students, faculty, and prospective employer, respectively, to help them choose institutions for admission, to enhance chances for securing research funding, and target campuses for hirings. It may promote competition among institutions, which in turn leads to an overall improvement in their quality. As in present policy, ranking leads to privileges such as getting autonomy, power to offer open and distance mode programmes, and permission to enter into coluniversities

The most useful purpose that the ranking can serve - but ignored so far – is to identify areas of improvement and then proactively to work to overcome those deficiencies and thus ensure quality and promote excellence. This would mitigate the huge difference that presently exists between the best and the rest of the Higher Education Institutions. After all, no nation can afford a few 'islands of excellence surrounded by the sea of mediocrity', condemning them to eternal inferiority.

Basis of metrics

Universities ought to offer quality dissemination of knowledge, skill and application orientation, but to attain excellence, they must make a seminal contribution in research, publications, patents and innovations. Since performance of

universities cannot be measured by a single indicator, they are assessed, and ranked on a metric of measures. Most give considerable weightage to research output, quality and impact thereof. The ARWU ranks universities solely on the basis of their research performance whereas THE and OS, respectively, accord 60% and 20% weightage to research. Following the trend. NIRF accords 30% weightage to Research Performance and Professional Practices (RPP).

This, in turn, is measured through the combined metric of publications (PU, 35%), combined metric of quality of publications (QP, 35%), IPR and patent (IPR, 15%) and Footprint of Projects and Professional Practice (FPPP, 15%).

Analysed in this context, even the top 100 universities in NIRF, present a very disquieting trend

which warrants urgent attention. The NIRF 2020 ranking (https:// bit.ly/3zpkC9F) reveals that the best university in the country scored 92.16% on research performance. The score drastically declined to 60.52% for the 10th best university. Going further down, the 20th and the 50th best universities, respectively, scored 50.32% and 28.69%. In the case of the 100th best university, the RPP declined to as low as 4.35%. It is not difficult to guess the state of affairs of the remaining 935 universities

On salaries and research

NIRF does not disclose data on the total number of teachers but amongst a few statistics that it reports includes the total expenditure on salaries of teaching and non-teaching staff bunched together and the total number of PhD students enrolled in each of the ranked universities. Using the above two as proxy for the size of a university in terms of the faculty members and research staff, they were transposed against the Research and Professional Practice (RPP) ranks grouped in 10 categories.

The data disclose in no uncertain terms that on an average, the higher the expenditure on salaries of the staff, the higher is the ranking of the university. For example,

the average annual expenditure on salaries for the top 10 universities works out to be ₹391.72 crore. As against this, the universities ranked between 41-50 were found to be spending only ₹119.64 crore on salaries. Expectedly, those ranked at the bottom between 91-100, spent only ₹79.26 crore. So is the case with regard to the research scholars. Data discerns that the top 10 universities in NIRF had an average of 2,627 research schoiars, whereas those ranked bet ween 41-50 had only 1,036 PhD students on the rolls. Reinforcing the trend, the universities ranked in the bottom 10 had no more than 165 research scholars. The larger the number of research scholars, the higher the ranks of the universities in terms of RPP. What was already known intuitively is now proven by the data.

To conclude, the fund and the faculty, the two most neglected areas, are critical not only for research performance but also for the overall ranking, as the two bear a high degree of positive

Furqan Qamar, a Professor in finance at Iamia Millia Islamia, is a former Secretary General of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and also a former Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh and the University of

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

Punjab developments

The appointment of Charanjit Singh Channi as the new Chief Minister in Punjab can only be construed to be a last ditch gamble by the Grand Old Party of India to retain power in the State (Page 1, "Punjab gets its first Dalit Chief Minister Charaniit Channi", September 20). Rather than being a genuine step towards ensuring the uplift of the downtrodden community, it is glaring and obvious that this is a desperate attempt to use caste and identity politics. The withering away of dynamic leaders such as Jyotiraditya Scindia, Jitin Prasada and Captain Amarinder Singh reflects the sorry state of affairs within the party. The decline of the once majestic **Indian National Congress** can be attributed to its total disconnect with the grassroots coupled with its

wilful reluctance to look beyond dynastic politics. B. SURESH KUMAR,

■ When a sitting Chief Minister and one of the senior most party members. submits his resignation just months before a crucial State Assembly election saying that he has been humiliated a few times by his own party, there is certainly something very wrong happening within the Congress central leadership. We have had similar crises handled poorly in other Congress-ruled States too. A. MOHAN,

■ The unceremonious exit of Capt. Amarinder was a foregone conclusion; a classic case of the Congress rocking its own boat. Punjab was the only Congress-ruled State where the state of affairs seemed pretty good.

The ham-handed approach has changed the situation. DEEPAK SINGHAL,

■ It is odd that the party is acting irresponsibly by showing a veteran the door. More shocking is that he has been slighted in deference to the wishes of a novice in politics. The consistently inconsistent and quixotic decisions by the party's leadership make one wonder where the party is headed. THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,

■ A real leader is one who can carry all other leaders and interests along while binding them to the ideology of the party. I think Captain Amarinder Singh failed parts of this test. No leader however tall he or she may be can insist that he is entitled to rule for ever. If Capt. Amarinder is really interested in the welfare of

his State, he should work with Mr. Channi. C.K. SASEENDRAN,

■ To many readers, the overplay of caste and religion in Indian politics has grown into a sort of mental discomfort. Politicians have unavoidable reasons behind sticking to it. The unfortunate scenario is that the media gives undue importance to it; the latest example is the change in Punjab which is evidently a political and administrative issue in the State.Most readers are unconcerned by P.R.V. RAJA, Pandalam, Kerala

AUKUS

The sudden joint decision by three major countries – the U.S., the U.K. and Australia – to form an alliance and induct nuclear-powered submarines is one that

comes in the wake of China's rise and newfound affinity with the Taliban. Countries have to seriously ponder over the developments that have taken place in Afghanistan and consider the likely security repercussions. V. LAKSHMANAN, Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

Act now India, as the third largest greenhouse gases emitting country, can no longer hide behind claims of a right to delay because of historical emissions by other countries, or per capita differences in emissions. Where is India's national

for this, "the biggest commercial opportunity in history"? Why are we left with just a limp "National

plan and political leadership

Action Plan on Climate Change" which has no calculation of reduced carbon emissions, and the Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change, which is mostly about "adaptation" to warming? We need national and State real emergency action plans with goals to quickly use renewables, and infuse public cooperation. CLARENCE MALONEY, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The blurb of an OpEd page article titled "Empathy through education" (Sept. 20, 2021) should have read: "Social and emotional learning is not 'fluff'; it is an important goal in education." The

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No persona visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

published version had erroneously said "educational learning".

The end of the doing business rankings

The Ease of Doing Business index was plagued with problems and deserved to be scrapped



On September 16, the World Bank Group scrapped its flagship publication, the 'Doing Business' report. This report publishes the influential annual ranking of countries on the Ease of Doing Business (EDB) index. The Group acted on its commissioned study to examine the ethical issues flagged in preparing the 2018 and 2020 editions of the EDB index. The allegation surrounding Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, is the proximate reason for scrapping the publication. As Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank in 2018, Ms. Georgieva is accused of having exerted pressure on the internal team working on the Doing Business report to falsely boost China's rank by doctoring the underlying data. Similarly, tensions were also reportedly brought to bear in the case of Saudi Arabia's rank, among others.

How the index works

The World Bank's decision has wide ramifications, as the index serves varied purposes. Many countries showcase improved ranking to signal market-friendly policies to attract foreign investments. National leaders often set EDB rank targets. This helps them measure domestic policies against global "best practices" and browbeat domestic critics. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for instance, wanted his administration to ensure that India breaks into the top 50 ranks of the EDB index. Some countries seem to use their political heft to improve their rank, polish their international image and sway public opinion (as appears to be China's case).

The EDB index ranks countries by the simplicity of rules framed for setting up and conducting businesses. Peruvian economist Hernando De Soto's theory underpins the index. The theory claims that secure property rights with minimal state interventions are a precondition for a free market to flourish. Management consultants and corporate lawyers collect the information for the index on

Comparing India's Ease of Doing Business (EDB) index rank with its economic performance **GDP Mfg** Year GFCF*/GDP 31.3 2013-14 1.5 2014-15 7.9 2015-16 1.7 2016-17 28.2 2017-18 7.5 77 1.1 2018-19 5.3

*Gross fixed capital formation Source: National Accounts Statistics, RBI Handbook Statistics on Indian Economy, and DPIIT, GOI

-2.4

26.9

matters is economic incentives. Mea-

suring regulatory functions underly-

ing the index could be tricky and

subjective and possibly politically

motivated as well, as the controver-

sies surrounding the index seem to

suggest. Instances of data manipula-

tion brought to light by the indepen-

dent investigating agency seems to

The EDB index also seems vulner-

able to a tweaking of the underlying

method. For instance, India's im-

proved ranking was reportedly an

outcome of such an effort. When the

index was re-estimated with un-

changing procedures, the needle

hardly moved. Similarly, Chile's rank

on the EDB index sharply rose when

the conservative government was in

power and went down when the so-

cialists were ruling despite no chang-

es in policies and procedures. This

was reportedly the result of the fine-

tuning of the methodology and had

profound political implications.

Former World Bank Chief Econo-

mist, and later Nobel Laureate, Paul

Romer, publicly apologised to Chile's

socialist President for World Bank's

less-than-professional conduct in

Weakening labour regulations

Closer home, India has weaponised

the mandate to improve the rank in

the EDB index to whittle down la-

bour laws and their enforcement and

bring them close to the free-market

ideal of 'hire and fire'. Most States

preparing the index.

vindicate such a view.

time required for regulatory compliance – as per the statute (de jure) and not as practised (de facto) from select cities and larger firms.

63

2019-20

Advanced countries usually hold the index's top ranks. India ranked low, around 130-140, till 2014. However, it zoomed to the 63rd position in 2019-20 (see table). Showcasing the accomplishment, India has claimed success of the 'Make in India' campaign. The flagship initiative, launched in 2014, sought to raise the manufacturing sector's share in GDP to 25% (from 16-17%) and create 100 million additional jobs by 2022 (later revised to 2025).

The success is absent on the ground, however (see table). The annual growth rate in GDP manufacturing (at constant prices) fell from 13.1% in 2015-16 to (-) 2.4% in 2019-20. Net FDI inflow to GDP ratio has fluctuated around 1.5%. The fixed investment to GDP ratio (at current prices) fell from 30.1% in 2014-15 to 26.9% in 2019-20. Why is there such a disconnect between the stellar rise in EDB index rank and economic outcomes?

The theory underlying the EDB index could be suspect, the measurement and data could be faulty, or both. For example, China's phenomenal economic success, especially its agricultural performance (after the reforms in 1978), is perhaps the most unmistakable evidence demonstrating that lack of clarity of property rights may not be the binding constraint in a market economy. What

have emulated Maharashtra's lead of administrative fiat, which renders labour laws toothless by dismantling official labour inspection systems and allowing employers to file selfregulation reports.

The government has farmed out critical safety regulations such as annual inspection and certification of industrial boilers to 'third party' private agencies (compliance reportedly honoured more in the breach than in observance).

The Labour Department's inspection is now not mandated; it is optional only by prior intimation to employers. Such abdication of the government's responsibility towards workers has reportedly affected industrial relations. The workers' strike at Wistron's iPhone assembly factory in Karnataka last year is an example. Further, severe industrial accidents are rising, damaging life and productive industrial assets. Though comprehensive data are lacking, available evidence indicates a sharp upturn in such accidents in recent years, which may be associated with the lack of independent inspections and employers' self-reporting of labour law compliance.

The World Bank's decision to scrap its annual publication Doing Business report is welcome. Investigations into "data irregularities" in preparing the EDB index, as brought out by the independent agency, seems to confirm many shortcomings repeatedly brought to light for years now. The index appears motivated to support the free-market ideal. It is dressed up under scientific garb and is underpinned by seemingly objective methods and data collection. Strong leaders (and motivated officials) seem to have used their position to manipulate the index to suit their political and ideological ends.

India claimed the success of its Make in India initiative by relying on its ranking on the EDB index without tangible evidence. It weaponised the index to weaken labour regulations. Handing over law enforcement to employers by self-reporting compliance seems to have increased industrial unrest and accidents. It perhaps calls for honest soul-searching as to what havoc a questionable benchmark can wreak.

R. Nagaraj is with the Centre for

Private investment declines

3,000

2,500

2,000

1,500

1.000

Private capital expenditure in India took a considerable hit in 2020-21, a recent analysis

plummeted too, and the average time taken to complete projects increased

2019-20; the pandemic brought it down further. Only 220 private projects were sanctioned by banks/financial institutions in 2020-21, a record low. The number of completed projects

Announcements ←

Tackling hate speech

As there are no laws on hate speech as such, India needs a political and pedagogical solution to the menace



KALEESWARAM RAJ & THULASI K. RAJ

A speech by a Bishop belonging to the Syro-Malabar Church in Kerala has caught attention for the wrong reasons. Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, the Bishop of Pala, a small city in Kerala, coined the term 'narcotic jihad'. He accused a few Muslim groups of giving Catholic girls narcotics or wooing them with the aim of religious conversion or of taking them to terrorist camps abroad. The speech aimed at a particular religion has a divisive tone.

Understanding hate speech

This controversy has occasioned intriguing questions about hate speech regulation. It is important to consider - philosophically and morally - what justifies prohibiting hate speech. In Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire (1942), the U.S. Supreme Court held that their Constitution does not protect "insulting or 'fighting' words - those which, by their very utterance, inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace." This is the core principle behind hate speech prohibition. It is important to think why liberal democracies prohibit some types of speech on grounds that they are 'injurious'.

An important answer is based on the dignity and equality of individuals. Every person is entitled to basic human dignity and decent treatment. Lord Bhikhu Parekh, a British academic, said: "(Hate speech) views members of the target group as an enemy within, refuses to accept them as legitimate and equal members of society, lowers their social standing, and... subverts the very basis of a shared life. It creates barriers of mistrust and hostility between individuals and groups, plants fears, obstructs normal relations..., and... exercises a corrosive influence on the conduct of collective life."

In Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan v. Union of India (2014), the Supreme Court of India quoted from the Canadian Supreme Court's decision in Saskatchewan v. Whatcott (2013). It said that hate speech "impacts a protected group's ability to respond to the substantive ideas under debate, thereby placing a serious barrier to their full participation in our democracy." This idea resonates well in India's political context. Being a minority in an aggressively Hindu majoritarian political climate, Muslims are left defenceless against a rhetoric of hatred against them. This rhetoric has not only led to a climate of fear for

Muslims, but to cases of violence carried out solely on the basis of their identity. Relentless accusations have successfully sidelined the real concerns of the community, including social and educational backwardness.

The Indian legal position

Values of social tranquility and substantive equality justify laws such as Section 153-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which prohibits "promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc. and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony". The very genesis of the provision indicates that emphasis was given to societal integrity which the law thrives to preserve. The provision in its erstwhile form was incorporated by way of the Penal Code Amendment Act of 1898. The Select Committee rejected the proposal to add this provision along with Section 124-A of the IPC (sedition) saying that the former is more concerned with "public tranquility" than the security of the state. It said: "The offence only affects the Government or the State indirectly and the essence of the offence is that it predisposes classes of people to action, which may disturb the public tranquility." It is this communitarian element that makes the law still relevant, while the sedition law has become dangerous and obsolete.

The law, in contemporary politics, suffers from disuse and misuse. This is an issue at the operational level, i.e., how the law is implemented and enforced. On the one hand, remarks with tendencies towards hatred and violence, especially against Muslims, are ignored. On the other, vague references against the majoritarian agenda are often charged under this provision.

The Kerala incident, unfortunately, is not an isolated one. In a national scenario where hate has become an ideology and its impact on society is fatal, we need to think about countering it with political and jurisprudential means. In India, hate speech is not defined under the Constitution or in the penal statutes. There is no specific legislation on it. It is not easy to design an accurate anti-hate speech law, due to its inherent potential for misuse. This is why we need a political and pedagogical solution to the menace. The Constitution's ideas of equality, liberty and fraternity must be made topics of continuing public education. Whenever hate speech thrives, the state should invoke the existing law judiciously in appropriate cases. It must also take a secular stand based on the rule of law and educate the masses.

Kaleeswaram Raj and Thulasi K. Raj are lawyers at the Supreme Court of India

The Man Prindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 21, 1971

Severe test for Indian diplomacy

New Delhi, September 20: The External Af-

fairs Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh, is leaving

for New York to-morrow to lead the Indian

delegation to the U.N. General Assembly ses-

sion during which a number of important is-

sues of special interest to India will come up

for discussion. Apart from the question of

China's admission the Bangla Desh problem

is bound to feature during this session put-

ting Indian diplomacy to a severe test. While

the United States is taking the initiative to

clear the way for China's admission, India

will have to mobilise the necessary support

in bringing in the Bangla Desh problem in

some form or the other in the General As-

sembly and the relevant committees. The In-

dian delegation will not raise the Bangla

Desh issue as such, but will keep on refer-

ring to the political, economic and human

aspects of this stupendous tragedy during

this session to keep up the worldwide con-

cern about it. The Secretary-General's refe-

rence to the Bangla Desh issue in his annual

report on the work of the United Nations

opens the way for the expression of concern

by various delegations in the General As-

sembly and the committees over the plight

of the East Bengal refugees and the demand

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 21, 1921

for an early political settlement.

A joint Muslim manifesto

Time to criminalise marital rape

Doing away with the exception to marital rape would show non-tolerance by the state with respect to rape

The recent judgments of two High Courts on marital rape made headlines. Though neither of the Courts delved into the constitutionality of marital rape, their reference to it once again raked up debate on whether Exception 2 to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code is constitutional or not. According to Exception 2, sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife (provided she is over the age of 18) does not amount to the offence of rape.

The approach of the courts

The Kerala High Court held that acts of sexual perversions of a husband against his wife amounted to (mental) cruelty and was therefore a good ground to claim divorce (since marital rape is not a punishable offence). The Court said that in modern social jurisprudence, spouses are treated as equal partners and a husband cannot claim any superior right over his wife either with respect to her body or with reference to her individual sta-

The Chhattisgarh High Court, while discharging the accused husband, held that the charge of rape framed under Section 376 of the IPC was erroneous and illegal as it was covered under Exception 2 to Section 375 and the wife was not under 18 years of age. As the law on marital rape stands today, both the High Courts were right in their approach but the Kerala High Court was appreciated more for being progressive in

The Justice Verma Committee report of 2013 stated that the notion that a wife is no more than a subservient chattel of her husband has since been given up in the U.K. The European Commission of Human Rights has held that "a rapist remains a rapist regardless of his relationship with the victim". Marital rape is a criminal offence in South Africa, Australia, and Canada, among other countries. After due deliberations, the Committee recommended that the exception for marital rape be removed, but this suggestion was not accepted by the government.

Earlier, in 1983, the Andhra Pradesh High Court, in T. Sareetha v. T.

Venkata Subbaiah, held restitution of conjugal rights under the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 to be unconstitutional as its decree could be misused by a husband for enforcing sexual intercourse with his wife. However, the Supreme Court overruled it by declaring that the institution of marriage stood for much more than mere sexual congress.

A partnership of equals

A section of society feels that once marital rape is criminalised, it may lead to filing of false charges against husbands. It also thinks that it will be very difficult for the police to prove such cases beyond reasonable doubt. The first apprehension is unfounded in the absence of any empirical data. Further, there are legal provisions to deal with false cases. If found ineffective, legal remedies may be revised suitably. Similarly, the difficulty of proof cannot be a criterion for not notifying deviant behaviour as an offence. Like most other sexual offences, the prosecution may establish the case with relevant facts and circumstances. Moreover, doing away with Exception 2 would show complete non-tolerance by the state with respect to rape

While decriminalising adultery, the Supreme Court in Joseph Shine vs. Union of India (2018) said that a legislation that perpetuates stereotypes in relationship and institutionalises discrimination is a clear violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

It is undisputed that marriage in modern times is regarded as a partnership of equals. It is an association of two individuals, each of whom has separate integrity and dignity. The violation of bodily integrity of a woman is a clear violation of her autonomy. Any provision of law that is not reasonable, just and fair, and is against the spirit of Article 21 of the Constitution, is discriminatory and arbitrary and therefore must be declared unconstitutional. It is now only a question of time that exemption of liability from marital rape shall be declared unconstitutional and individual's dignity recognised in full.

R.K. Vij is a senior IPS officer in Chhattisgarh. Views are his own

DATA POINT



No private

project worth

₹5,000 cr or

above was

completed in

2020-21

The cost of

total sanctioned

private projects

by banks/financial

institutions

declined by 57%

While 414 private

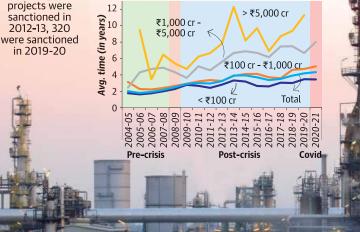
1. Steep decline The number of announced and completed private projects had decreased in 2008-09 on account of the global financial

crisis. The decline was even steeper in 2020-21 owing to the pandemic

1997-98 **2. Record low** The chart shows the no. of projects sanctioned by banks or financial institutions (right axis) and the cost of those projects (left axis). Only 220 projects were sanctioned in 2020-21. The cost of the projects sanctioned also dropped from ₹1.75.830 crore in 2019-20 to ₹75,558 crore in 2020-21

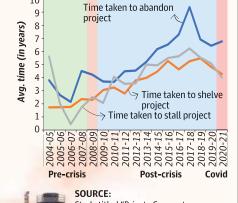
1,60,000 450 1,20,00 350 80,000 Project co No. of projects (in ₹crore) 2012-13 **→** 2020-21

3. Delayed projects | The chart shows the average time taken to complete projects of various sizes. The average time taken to complete projects increased sharply in 2020-21, mainly due to the delays in bigger projects. A similar trend was observed in 2008-09 when the average time for completion increased and remained high till 2014-15



4. Abandoned projects | The chart shelve or stall private projects. There was a substantial rise in the average time taken since the global financial crisis till 2017-18. However, it did not rise from then, indicating that either the execution has improved or the

announcement of new projects has declined



Study titled "Private Corporate Investment: Growth in 2020-21 and Outlook for 2021-22", prepared by Rajendra N Chavhan, Pronita P Saikia and R K Sinha in the Corporate Studies Division of the Department of Statistics and Information Management The study was published by the RBI as a part of their bulletin

Abdulghani wires from Bombay dated 16th December: Hazrat Maulana Abdul Bari and Maulana Azad Subhani have issued a joint manifesto which runs as under: It is a recog-

nised principle of Shariat that Propagation of Faith and conversion of people by force is not permissible and produce no result. No non-munshi can be converted to Islam by force. Any person who had outwardly adopted Islam under compulsion or is made to perform formal ceremonies of conversion, but in fact on his heart, likes to stick to his former religion, is not a Musselman from the view-point of Shariat. After dwelling upon this principle, we desire to express our opinion regarding reports which refer to the detestable action of Moplahs for their forcing certain Hindus to adopt Islam. We would like to state clearly that this wrong action of certain mad Moplahs, done in the name of religion, against some affected Hindu brethren, is an open cruelty and Islamic religion has nothing to do with it. We express our heartfelt sympathy towards those Hindu brethren who have been subjected to those

cruelties in the name of religion. A ND-NDE

FROM PAGE ONE

Channi takes charge as Punjab CM amid row

Mr. Jakhar said, "On the swearing-in day of Sh @Charnjit_channi as Chief Minister, Mr. Rawats's statement ...is baffling. It's likely to undermine CM's authority but also negate the very 'raison d'être' of his

Addressing a press conference after taking charge, Mr. Channi said there would be zero tolerance towards corruption government.

"Electricity tariff will be reduced and to smaller houses, free water supply will be provided. Also, domestic water bills will be waived for the poor. This government is of the poor, for the poor and with the poor,"

India to resume export of COVID-19 vaccines

Meanwhile in a release issued on Monday, the Health Ministry said India's CO-VID-19 vaccination coverage has crossed the 81 crore landmark (81,73,95,763) on Monday.

"More than 85.68 lakh (85,68,026) vaccine doses have been administered till 7 p.m. today," the release said. It added that out of 81,73,95,763, 64.8%

60,88,10,164 eligible people had received the first dose and 22.2% or 20,85,85,599 persons had received the se-

The Ministry said the vaccination exercise as a tool to protect the most vulnerable population groups in the country from COVID-19 continues to be regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level.

SC not to interfere in reopening of schools

"The government is ultimately responsible to bring children back to school. We cannot direct them to open up in a time-bound manner. We have just come out of the second wave. There may be a third wave, though it may not be as devastating," Justice Chandrachud remarked.

The issue of whether to send children to school for physical classes or not and when to do that concerned the "complexities of governance which makes it eminently a case on which the court should not interfere".

Advocate Ravi Prakash Mehrotra, for the petitioner, said the plea was not meant to be "publicity seeking". Instead, it focused on the psychological and physical damage children were being subject to by not going to school.

Dependence on schools Many thousands of children also depended on schools for their midday meal. Justice Chandrachud agreed that there was a need to balance the need to keep chil-

dren safe from the virus

with the requirement to

keep them physical and

mentally healthy.

The court said many States have decided to open schools in a phased man-

Excess September rainfall shrinks monsoon deficit to 3%

With fresh pressure system in Bay of Bengal, monsoon not to withdraw soon

Deficit reduces

The deficit has reduced from

10% in August

80-

was 3%, according to IMD data.

The all-India rain deficit till September 20

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The September rainfall in India is 27% more than what is normal for the month. With a fresh rain-bearing pressure system forming in the Bay of Bengal, it is also likely that the withdrawal of the monsoon, which normally starts by September 17, is expected to be delayed.

Until August-end, a crippling rainfall deficit had brought India dangerously close to a drought-like situation with a nearly 9% deficit, but a resurgence of rain since September has narrowed the deficit to 3%.

'Not unusual' Delayed monsoon withdrawals are not unusual. In 2019, the southwest mon-

soon commenced withdra-

60-40-20-July 31 June 1 wal on October 9, and last

From September 1 to 20, rainfall was in excess in all regions of the country. Central India saw an excess of 71% over what is normal and

northwest India 26% above normal.

The monsoon completely withdraws from India around mid-October. There are no signs of monsoon withdrawal from North India for the next 10 days, Mrutunjay Mohapatra, Director General, India Meteorological Department, said in a statement on September 16.

Anti-cyclonic wind

According to the department, the monsoon withdrawal from northwest India takes place if there is a cessation of rainfall activity over the area for continuous five

An anti-cyclonic wind has to form over the lower troposphere, and there should also be considerable reduction in moisture content.

Kangana appears in court after final warning

Defamation case filed by Javed Akhtar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

After being given a final warning, actor Kangana Ranaut appeared before a Mumbai magistrate court on Monday in a criminal defamation case filed against her by lyricist Javed Akhtar.

Summons were issued to her in February. Last week, the court gave her a warning, saying it would issue a warrant against her if she failed to appear on Monday.

Ms. Ranaut has filed an application seeking the transfer of the case to another court, calling it "biased". Advocate Rizwan Siddiquee, appearing for her, said, "This court has passed orders against her multiple times without giving reasons as to why she should remain present in a bailable, non-cognisable offence."

The matter will be heard on November 15.



court in Mumbai. • AFP

The Bombay High Court early this month refused to grant Ms. Ranaut any relief and dismissed her plea to quash all proceedings against her. Justice Revati Mohite-Dere said, "There was no procedural illegality or irregularity in the metropolitan magistrate's order initiating the proceedings."

Mr. Akhtar filed the complaint under Sections 499 (defamation) and 500 (punishment for defamation) of the Indian Penal Code.

Bengal riots: final arguments in SC on Sept. 28

The appeal challenges a Calcutta High Court order transferring the investigation to the CBI

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday scheduled West Bengal's appeal against the Calcutta High Court decision to hand over the post-poll violence cases to the CBI, for final disposal, on September 28 as the first case of the day.

A Bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Aniruddha Bose asked the parties to complete all pre-hearing formalities, including the filing of documents, by Friday.

The court decided to go ahead and hear the final arguments on September 28 as respondent parties, some of them represented by senior advocates like Harish Salve and Mahesh Jethmalani, were already present in the hearing on

During the brief hearing. senior advocate Kapil Sibal began with a submission that the victim in one of the murder cases was alive.

year, the withdrawal began

on September 28. The mon-

soon also saw delayed with-

drawals in 2017 and 2018.

Justice Bose, after a consultation with Justice Saran, asked whether the CBI and the Special Investigation Team (SIT) were doing an investigation or an inquiry. Mr. Sibal clarified that the

CBI had been entrusted with cases of murder and rape while other cases were with the SIT, which was monitored by a judge. At this point, Justice Sa-

ran, the lead judge on the Bench, asked Mr. Sibal how long he would take to complete his submissions. "Two or three hours," Mr.

Sibal replied. Justice Saran said that then it would be better to

In the previous hearing on September 13, West Bengal accused a committee appointed by the National Human Rights Commission

hear the case continuously

without any interruption on

another day as the first case

of that day. The parties con-

sented to September 28.

Charge against panel

(NHRC) to look into "post poll violence" of "apparent The appeal challenges a five-judge Bench judgment of the Calcutta High Court transferring the investigation of post poll violence cases, involving murder and

rape, to the CBI.

The High Court, on August 19, directed the State to immediately pay compensation to the crime victims. The judgment was based on the NHRC committee's findings on July 12.

West Bengal had argued that the panel members were either "members of the Bharatiya Janata Party or were closely associated" with it. It named committee members Atif Rasheed and Rajulben L. Desai in this referred to another committee member, Rajiv Jain, during the hearing, though the State's petition did not refer to him.

"The inclusion of the aforesaid members in the committee indeed gave rise to a reasonable likelihood of bias and vitiated the independence of the entire committee, especially given their admitted leadership position within the committee and their rank when compared to others in the committee," the West Bengal petition in

the Supreme Court said. It contended that the transfer of cases to the CBI should be done only in "rare and exceptional cases" and not because unsubstantiated allegations have been levelled against the local pol-

Warning to government staff in J&K

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A fresh order by the J&K administration on Monday said employees' attempts to approach the offices of the President, the Prime Minister, the Lieutenant-Governor or the Chief Secretary on service matters being seriously.

It said the government had observed that some officers or officials working in various government departments of J&K were bypassing proper channels and approaching the high-

"These acts, being in violation of the J&K Civil Services Conduct Rules, 1956, have been viewed seriously by the authorities,"

Jaishankar warned against adopting Constitution: Oli

He said consequences would be negative: former Nepal PM

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emissary S. Jaishankar warned against passing the Constitution in 2015, former Nepalese Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli has said in documents submitted to his party. The set of "political documents" was submitted to the standing committee of the Communist Party of Nepal-UML, which met on September 19. The meeting was called to mark the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution on Monday.

"The Indian diplomat who arrived as a special emissary of the Prime Minister of India threatened the leaders of the political par-



S. Jaishankar

ties not to promulgate the Constitution and that it would not be accepted if it was done against India's suggestions," said the papers from Mr. Oli's collection. "He said the consequences would be negative," said the documents written in Nepa-

The democratic Constitu-

tion was adopted on September 20, 2015, but India till date has not welcomed the development, saying it "noted" the Constitution. The adoption took place soon after Mr. Jaishankar, then Foreign Secretary, paid a visit to Kathmandu during which he met the leaders of various political parties, including Pushpa Kamal Dahal

Ever since the adoption of the Constitution, successive governments in Nepal have promised to carry out amendments to satisfy the demands of greater representation of the Madhesis in politics and state institu-However, these amendments have not yet been completed.

Zero ceasefire violations on LoC: Army

'But terrorists are forcing local people to carry out some activity and get killed'

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

The Army on Monday said ceasefire violations by Pakis tan along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir had dropped to zero this year, but "60 to 70 Pakistani terrorists" are still active in the Valley.

"There has been no increase in ceasefire violations. This year, there has been none. At least in the Kashmir Valley, there have been no incidents of ceasefire violation," Lt. Gen. D.P. Pandey, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps (15 Corps), said during a function in the Valley.

He said the Army was prepared for any situation though there has been "no instigations from across the



Relative calm: The Army says it is prepared for any situation, despite 'no instigation from across the border'. NISSAR AHMAD

Lt. Gen. Pandey said there were a few attempts of infiltration "though not adequately supported".

"There were two infiltration attempts. One was neutralised in Bandipora recently. Another operation is on in Baramulla's Uri for the past 24 hours after we felt an infiltration attempt was made.

Whether they [infiltrators] are on this side or returned to that side is not clear. We are quiet alert. We will ensure minimal infiltration takes place," the Army offic-

Lt. Gen. Pandey said the police figures suggested that 60 to 70 Pakistani terrorists were active in Kashmir.

"The strategy seems that these Pakistani terrorists do not attack themselves but force locals to carry out some activity and get killed in encounters. This results in angst among the local militants' family and friends against us. That seems their strategy," Lt. Gen. Pandey

He appealed to the local youth to shun the path of violence.

To a question on the likely fallout of the Taliban takeover on Kashmir, the Army officer said, "Why are you worried? You are safe. You will be kept safe. There are enough efforts [in that direction]. Whoever picks up a weapon will be neutralised. either by killing or apprehending. If anyone wants to surrender, he will be welcomed."

Top seer found dead in Allahabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ALLAHABAD

Mahant Narendra Giri, president of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad, was found dead on Monday at Baghambari Math here, police said. The Parishad is the largest organisation of sadhus in India.

According to Inspector General of Police K.P. Singh, Mahant Giri's body was found hanging from the ceiling by his disciples.

Police said that a suicide note was found at the site. He had also delegated various responsibilities to his disciples in the note, the

police said. (Suicides are preventable and help is just a phone call away. Call Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health -011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 am -7.30 pm.)

Webinar to explore emerging careers in law

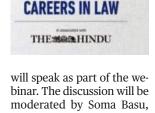
Bar, academic experts to participate

STAFF REPORTER

A webinar on 'Emerging Careers in Law' presented by SAI University, in association with The Hindu, will be held from 5 p.m. on Wed-

nesday, September 22. Sriram Panchu, senior advocate, Madras High Court; Justice Prabha Sridevan, retired judge, Madras High Court; Bahram Vakil, founder and senior partner, AZB & Partners; Ananth Padmanabhan, Dean and

Associate Professor, School of Law, Sai University, and K.V. Ra-Law, Sai Univermani, founder Sai University,



EMERGING

Plus, The Hindu. Parents and students who wish to register for the webinar can log on to https://bit.ly/2Xy2QDH



or scan the QR code.



tional Coaching Camp to be Manika Batra

Ms. Batra, in her plea, also est ranked Indian women alleged that on one occasion, national coach Soumyadeep Roy "pressured" her to "throw away a match" to enable one of his personal trainees to qualify for the Olympics 2020.

The 26-year-old, the high-

Tennis Championships in

Doha, challenging the Table

Tennis Federation of India's

(TTFI) mandate of compul-

sory attendance at the Na-

selected.



HC seeks Centre's stand on Batra plea

player internationally, said she not only refused to comply with such an "unethical, illegal and immoral request", but also immediately communicated this to the

The High Court said the

allegations against the coach were serious and the Centre should be a little proactive. It posted the case for Septem-Senior counsel Sachin Dutta, appearing for Ms. Ba-

tra, argued that by virtue of a rule on mandatorily attending the national camp, Ms. Batra's chances for the 25th ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships, 2021 had been scuttled despite her fulfilling all merit-based criteria. Counsel for the federation denied all allegations.

"After the conclusion of Olympics, the respondent no.1 [the TTFI] issued rules and regulations dated August 4, 2021 [received by the petitioner on August 27, 2021] informing her that attending of the National Coaching Camp is compulsory, failing which she would not be selected for any upcoming international event," the plea said.

Ms. Batra said table tennis is an individual sport which requires specialised training. "Only the personal coach would know the strengths, weaknesses, skills and areas which a player should focus and strengthen. However, these rules do not permit any personal coach / support staff," she argued.

Commonwealth Games gold medallist and Khel Ratna awardee, in her plea, also highlighted that the TTFI was carrying out its selection processes in a "non-transparent manner".

Girl raped in U.P., video shared on social media

Two have been arrested, say police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUZAFFARNAGAF

A 17-year-old girl was raped allegedly by two men who also recorded a video of the crime and shared it on social media sites, the Uttar Pradesh police said on Monday.

The accused, identified as Shubham and Ashish, have been arrested.

The incident took place on Sunday in a village under the Bhopa police station, Station House Officer Sub-

hash Babu said. A case of rape had been against the registered accused.

According to the complaint lodged by the girl's mother, the accused lured

The incident came to light after the video of the crime was circulated on social media sites, the police

Bid to rape woman

her into a garden on the pre-

text of getting her a guava

from a tree and then raped

ly trying to rape a woman in a village under the Kotwali police station area. The accused, Bobby, tried to rape the woman

In a separate incident, a

man was booked for alleged-

who was in her field on Sun-However, she raised an

alarm and he fled from the spot, they said.

Channi as new CM a gimmick, says Mayawati

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Mondav said the choice of Dalit MLA Charanjit Singh Channi as the new Chief Minister of Punjab for a short period was nothing but an "electoral gimmick" by the

It would have been better had the Congress earlier nominated Mr. Channi as the Chief Minister for a full term of five years, said Ms. Mayawati, who is a Dalit leader and currently an ally of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) in Punjab.

Reacting to a statement made by senior Congress leader Harish Rawat that the next election in Punjab would be contested under the leadership of Navjot Singh Sidhu, "a non-Dalit", Ms. Mayawati said this showed that even now the Congress did not "fully trust" Dalits.

Channi and Sidhu are the faces of the party, clarifies Congress

AICC issues statement after rival parties attack it for 'insulting' a Dalit CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Amid a backlash from within the party and criticism from political rivals, the Congress went into damage control to clarify All India Congress Committee (AICC) Punjab incharge Harish Rawat's statement that the party would contest the State Assembly election under Navjot Singh Sidhu's leadership, Stating that Chief Minister

Charanjit Singh Channi and Mr. Sidhu will be the faces of the party, AICC chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said while Mr. Channi will represent the government, Mr. Sidhu will be the face of the party in the election, adding that Mr. Rawat's statement "misconstrued and misrepresented".

The AICC spokesperson



Caught in the middle: CM Charanjit Singh Channi with Congress leaders Harish Rawat and Navjot Singh Sidhu on Monday. • PTI

cation" after the BJP, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) attacked the Congress for "insulting" a Dalit Chief

'Made to hold seat' The BIP alleged that the

Chief Minister was "made to hold the seat" for a Gandhi

Mr. Sidhu. "Our faces will be Mr. Channi and Mr. Sidhu, as also ordinary Congress workers and leaders who will be supporting them. If anybody says one or the other will be the face, intentionally or otherwise, it is being misinter-

preted by the media," Mr.

family loyalist, referring to

Surjewala told presspersons. Mr Surjewala, however, chose to ignore comments from former Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee chief

Sunil Jakhar who said Mr Rawat's statement undermined the newly appointed Chief Minister's authority.

'Unwarranted attack'

The Congress chief spokesperson attacked the party's political rivals for "unwarrantedly, shamelessly and regrettably" attacking the candidature of Mr. Channi.

"I want to tell all our friends in the media, please, you also do not grudge the young Dalit leader and the role assigned him to as Chief Minister of Punjab... We urge the BJP, the Akali Dal, the BSP and the AAP to stop insulting Dalits and spreading lies about them," he stated.

'Cong.'s mentality shown with Rawat's statement'

Lip service to Dalit empowerment: BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The BJP on Monday attacked the Congress for its alleged "lip service" to the idea of Dalit empowerment. This followed Congress Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat's statement that the Assembly election campaign would be under State unit chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.

BJP MP and party national secretary Vinod Sonkar recounted instances where the Congress had replaced Dalit Chief Ministers with those from other communities after it returned to power in those States. "The Congress mentality with regard to Dalits has been exposed by Mr. Rawat's statement," he said.

"The party has made Mr. Channi the Chief Minister with only six months left for the election, and Mr. Rawat then says that Mr. Sidhu will be the face of the campaign.



Vinod Sonkar

In 2004, they did the same to Sushil Kumar Shinde in Maharashtra, where they made him Chief Minister in the last few months, and after winning the election under his leadership, replaced him with Vilas Rao Deshmukh. In Rajasthan, too, in 1980, they made Jagannath Pahadia the Chief Minister with only one year to go for the election, and when they won the same, they replaced him with Shiv Charan Mathur," Mr. Sonkar

Not appeasing a community, says Yogi

OMAR RASHID

Pitching the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya as an achievement of the BJP government, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday asked if the Opposition parties were capable of building the temple.

'Would the SP have been able to carry out the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Could the BSP have done it...," Mr. Adityanath asked.

Listing schemes and welfare projects launched by his government, Mr. Adityanath also said that all communities were benefitting from them. The government did not look at anyone's face or ask for their religion or caste while distributing the benefits, he said. "Vikas sabka, lekin tushtikaran kisi ka na*hi* (Development of all, but appeasement of none).

PM-Biden bilateral ahead of Quad meet

Leaders to meet in person for first time on Friday; Afghan crisis to top agenda

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON DC

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden will meet on Friday for their first in-person discussion, the White House announced on Monday. In a publicly released schedule, the bilateral was listed first, followed by a summit-level meeting of Quad leaders.

...In an interesting way, the bilateral discussion between the U.S. and India will help reinforce and give momentum to the Quad discussion because many of the topics are very much interrelated," a senior administration official said in response to a question from The Hindu, while speaking to presspersons on a briefing call.

Afghanistan and, more broadly, counterterrorism will be part of the agenda for

Virtual decisions: Leaders of Quad countries meeting virtually

the bilateral discussions, the official said. India has been concerned that Afghanistan will become a safe haven for terrorists and a base from which they can step up attacks on the Indian territory.

The two leaders will also compare notes, the official said, on a range of regional issues and developments. It is likely they will discuss dynamics with Beijing as part

Focus on COVID-19

The main areas of consultation and announcements for the Quad Leaders Summit on Friday will be around addressing the pandemic, as per the senior official. At a

virtual summit in March, Quad leaders launched a vaccine initiative - supplying at least a billion vaccines in Asia by the end of 2022. On Friday there will be announcements on moving that goal forward.

The official also told presspersons that in the list of Quad outcomes will be one related to its core objective for the region - "...an overarching commitment at the core of the Quad to promoting a free and open Indo Pacific," the official said.

On last week's launch of a trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific, AU-KUS, the senior administration official reiterated that the deal was "unique". "This is for Australia, and it is based on a unique set of circumstances involving the

All eyes on Rajasthan after changes in Punjab govt.

Rival factions expect a power-sharing arrangement soon

party with the majority of

MLAs being in his support.

The Pilot camp, however,

MOHAMMED IQBAL JAIPUR

The turmoil in the ruling Congress in Punjab, leading to the appointment of a new Chief Minister, has had a ripple effect in Rajasthan, where the promised Cabinet expansion and reshuffle as well as political appointments have been inordinately delayed. The rival factions in the Congress here expect that a power-sharing arrangement will be worked out soon, after the Punjab

The camps led by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy, Sachin Pilot, have been at loggerheads for more than a year, though Mr. Gehlot seems to have control over the ruling

feeling more confident after the developments in Punjab, expects a decisive move by the high command in Rajasthan as well.

Change in stance? Mr. Gehlot, who has so far

refused to act under any pressure for making the changes, is likely to soften his stance after an unambiguous statement made by All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Ajay Maken that the roadmap in the State was ready. The delay in Cabinet expansion was attributed to Mr. Gehlot's ill health.

Mr. Pilot reportedly met

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi over the weekend and had a discussion

On the other hand, the State's decision to transfer 25 IAS officers on Saturday was seen as a move for political management ahead of the Cabinet reshuffle.

Sunday's resignation of the Chief Minister's Officer on Special Duty, Lokesh Sharma, was also linked with the Punjab episode, as he had posted a tweet making an indirect criticism of the Congress high command over the change in leadership.

Mr. Sharma has been associated with Mr. Gehlot for over a decade and his resignation is yet to be accepted.

'Put pressure on Centre to free Rajiv case convicts'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AIADMK coordinator O. Panneerselvam on Monday urged Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to exert pressure on the Union government for the premature release of the seven life convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

Referring to Law Minister S. Regupathy's reported observations that no pressure could be mounted on the new Governor, R.N. Ravi, he said people were under the impression that the DMK government had diluted its stand on the issue, as it did in the case of the NEET. He demanded that +the CM mount pressure on the Union government, and through the MPs and MLAs.

Patil is Cong. RS bypoll nominee

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI

The Congress on Monday nominated senior party leader and Gandhi family loyalist Rajani Patil to the Rajya Sabha bypoll from Maharashtra to be held on Octob-

er 4. The seat had become vacant after the death of party leader Rajiv Satav. The tenure of the seat is till April 2026. Ms. Patil, 62, is currently the AICC in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir. She was sent to the Rajya Sabha

in 2013 and had won the best parliamentarian award then. In 1996, Ms. Patil had won the Beed Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra for the Congress. She is known to have close relations with the Gandhi family.

SHORT TENDER NOTICE File No:RySS/NF/104/2021 Date: 20/09/2021 RySS invites sealed Tenders for supply of Scientific Instruments. Last Date for receipt of tenders 28/09/2021 upto 5:00 PM Visit our website for more details https://apcnf.in/tenders Sd/- Chief Executive Officer



Online tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer (AM) Guntur from the reputed firms of Information Technology services for "Engagement of service provider for technical manpower for the Agri. Marketing Department" Eprocurement site opens on Dt.22-9-2021 at 4.00 P.M. Any other information can be had from the www.tender.apeprocurment.gov.in or from the office of the Superintending Engineer (AM) Guntur. Contact Nos.9182361156, the Superintending Engineer (AM) G 9182361199, 8919546484 & 9985121069.

Superintending Engineer (AM), O/o Commissioner and Director of Agrl.Marketing Govt. of A.P, Guntur.





No. SEEPZ SEZ/ESTATE/SASRR/62/2021-22

Date:-21/09/2021 REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Sub: Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) Cum Terms of Reference (ToR) for Providing Strategic Advisory Services for Rejuvenation and Redevelopment of SEEPZ SEZ, Mumbai.

Expression of Interests (EoIs) for the aforementioned consulting services are invited by SEEPZ-SEZ Authority, Mumbai and to be submitted only through e-Procurement portal of Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP). The Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) Document along with procedure of online submission is available at websites http://seepz.gov.in and https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Online Eols will be accepted on or before 11th October 2021 till 15:00 Hrs. -SD-

(Raju Kumar)

Assistant Development Commissioner/ Estate Manager, SEEPZ SEZ, Mumbai Email: ediseepz-mah@nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Public Works Division, Nanded. E-TENDER NOTICE NO. (46) FOR 2021-2022

E-tenders for **03** Works in **B-2** form is invited by the Executive Engineer P.W.Division, Nanded (Phone No.02462-253711) from the unregistered contractors/registered contractors in appropriate class of Public Works department of Govt. of Maharashtra for the improvement in Dist. Nanded. The details can be viewed and downloaded from following website.

1. Above all the works are worth more than Rs.25.00 crores.

2. All information related to this tender is made available on the following website. Also, all the changes will be made available on this website. www.mahapwd.com

https://mahatenders.gov.in DGIPR/2021/2022/2018

Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Nanded.

sd/-

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE (ISEC)

Tel: 91-080-23215468 / 5592 / 5519 Fax: 080-23217008 Web: www.isec.ac.in AN ALL INDIA INSTITUTE FOR INTER - DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH & TRAINING IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES **DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME 2021-22**

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the Doctoral Research Programme 2021-22. The prescribed application form and information

brochure can be downloaded from the ISEC Website www.isec.ac.in. Completed applications with requisite attachments should reach the following address on or before 22.10.2021. Hard copy of the Application is preferred.

The Registrar, Institute for Social and Economic Change Dr. V K R V Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072, (Karnataka) For detailed information visit our website: www.isec.ac.in

सेन्ट्रल माईन प्लानिंग एण्ड डिजाईन इन्स्टीच्यूट लिमिटेड CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED (A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited) (कोट इण्डिया विलिय्ड की एक अपूर्वण केंपनी) Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-334 031, Jharkhand, INDIA

NOTICE "All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, www.cmpdi.co.in), CIL eprocurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and

Government of Kerala

https://gem.gov.in".

Published Tenders from 13-09-2021 to 19-09-2021 State Water Transport Department

Tender ID: 2021_SWTD_431843_2 * DIRECTOR SWTD *
Purchase of 75 pax solar boats * Closing Date: 12-Oct-2021 *
PAC: Rs60000000

Central Public Procurment Portal https://eprocure.gov.in

In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal

Visit https://etenders.kerala.gov.in for more details. Ro.No:13-19/Sep/2021/PRD/(N)12

RAJAHMUNDRY ASSET, RAJAHMUNDRY (A.P.)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) For qualification of vendors to set up "Group Gathering Station on HIRE BASIS along with Operation and maintenance"

The Joint Venture (JV) comprising Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), and Vedanta Ltd. (Cairn Oil & Gas) is developing the Nagaylanka oilfield located about 80Kms. from Vijayawada. The Joint Venture has proposed to set up Group Gathering Station on HIRE BASIS along with Operation and maintenance for Three Years to produce oil and gas from the existing and upcoming wells. The JV is looking for interested vendors having previous experience in Setting up of Production System on Hire Basis along with Operation and Maintenance. (1) Vendors having the required capability and possessing relevant statutory approvals may respond to this EOI and shall attend Video approvals may respond to this EOI and shall attend video Conference along with supporting documents in respect of Eligibility Criteria stipulated at Clause No.2.1(a) on 01-10-2021 and 02-10-2021.(2)Bidders to give presentation on the following deliverables:(a)Tentative PFD & PID of the GGS going to be offered.(b) Execution Methodology etc.(c)Time schedule for complete supply & commissioning(1month, 2months etc.).(3) Submit the documents latest by 15:00 hrs on 12-10-2021. CGM (P)- I/C Specialist Pool Group, Room No.: G-C-1, Godavari Bhavan, ONGC Base Complex, Lala Cheruvu, Rajahmundry -533103.Contact No: 0883-2494259. NOTE:Interested bidders to note that, there will be no further extensions under any

circumstances, since the project has to be rolled out on fast track basis. For details of the vendor qualification criteria, please

visit https://tenders.ongc.co.in

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE Follow Physical Distancing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

vice-presidents

BJP appoints

two national

BIP president I.P. Nadda on Monday appointed former Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya and former West Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh as the party's national vice-presidents. The Lok Sabha MP from Balurghat, Sukanta Majumdar, was made West Bengal BJP president.

While Mr. Ghosh had come to the end of his tenure as the State unit chief in West Bengal, Ms. Maurya, the first Dalit woman to be Mayor of Agra, will, in all likelihood, be deployed in the Uttar Pradesh election as a Dalit face. Ms. Maurya had resigned as Governor of Uttarakhand two weeks ago. The organisational appointments were announced together, in an attempt to fill the gap in the national team's organisational structure. Many appointments have been made since Mr. Nadda's ascension to the post of BJP president.

Mr. Majumdar has been appointed West Bengal BJP chief to replace Mr. Ghosh who fills in a vice-presidential slot in the national team vacated by Mr. Mukul Roy, who has now returned to the Trinamool Congress. Mr. Majumdar is known to be close to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).



TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)

(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking) Gandhinagar

E-Tendering

Tender are invited by TCGL regarding Event Management and other related work of upcoming Event on 2nd October. 2021 at Nr. Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad.

Interested bidders/agencies may download the tender document from the website: www.nprocure.com from Dt.21/09/2021 onwards. Tender document may also be referred on www.gujarattourism.com. Managing Director of TCGL reserve the right to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Managing Director

COMMISSIONERATE OF INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Office of the Commissioner, Kaushalaya Bhavana, Near Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560029. Ph: 080-25189100, 105, 125. e-mail: ddpurchase2016@gmail.com Website: www.emptrg.kar.nic.in

No. DITE/TRG/PUR-6/CR-2/2021-22

Date: 20-09-2021 TENDER NOTIFICATION

The sealed and superscribed tenders under Two Electronic Tender Document system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 through e-procurement portal are invited from the eligible and registered suppliers for the Procurement of Tool Kit and Stationery Kit for SC & ST Trainees of Govt., Grant in Aid and Pvt. Industrial Training Institutes in the State under

SCP 13P scheme.									
SI.No.	Scheme	Descriptio n	Tender Days						
1	SCP	Tool Kit	30 Days						
2	TSP	Stationery Kit	30 Days						

Tender Document is available for down load from: 21-09-2021 Last date of receipt of Tender Through e-portal: 21-10-2021 till 5:00. P.M. Date of opening of Technical Bid through e-portal 22-10-2021 at 5:15 P.M. To obtain this document and tender processing fee details is

available in e-procurement portal and for further details visit

e-procurement web site https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in Help

Desk - Phone No. 080 25501216 / 25501227, or may also contact this office during working hours. Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority, DIPR/DDU/BCPL/1600/2021-22 Industrial Training & Employment





bilateral matters

Ahead of the first in-person meeting of the Quad leaders later this week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday held a telephonic conversation with U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin and discussed bilateral and regional matters, including developments in Afghanistan. "They discussed defence cooperation and looked forward to working closely," a Defence Ministry

Bodies of two boys who drowned recovered

statement said.

The bodies of the two boys who had drowned on Sunday night during the Ganesh idol immersion at Versova beach in the western suburbs of Mumbai, Maharashtra, were recovered on Monday. The search for the third boy was on, said officials. According to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials, five boys had ventured into the sea to immerse the idols The lifeguard and the locals managed to rescue two of the boys, while three were declared missing.

ED arrests MD of **Usher Agro Limited**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested the managing director of Usher Agro Limited and other group companies in a money laundering case of more than ₹900 crore. The accused has been identified by the agency as Vinod Chaturvedi, who faces the charge of bank loan fraud. The probe is based on a First Information Report registered by the CBI in January 2019, against the firm, Mr. Chaturvedi, Manoj Pathak and others. It is alleged that the group took loans and siphoned off the

SC seeks details on jabs for the disabled

Bench tells Centre to respond in two weeks on steps taken to facilitate easy access to vaccination

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Union government to explain the steps taken by it to facilitate persons with disabilities to gain easy access to COVID-19 vaccines in order to equally protect them against the novel coronavirus.

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and B.V. Nagarathna issued notice on a petition filed by the non-governmental organisation Evara Foundation, represented by advocate Pankaj Sinha, saying it had raised a "significant issue". The court directed the government to respond in two weeks.

The petition has sought



For a cause: A man dressed as Gandhiji as part of a COVID-19 vaccination awareness campaign receiving his second dose at a hospital in Ahmedabad on Monday. • VIJAY SONEJI

adequate provisions to be made by the government to vaccinate persons with disabilities at home. It urged the court to direct the government to give preference to persons with disabilities while scheduling vaccination slots. It also sought a dedicated helpline, besides the CoWIN portal, for them to book vaccination.

The petition argued that protection for persons with disabilities was explicitly required under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. The obligation of the State to make available quick and easy access to COVID-19 vaccine for them fell within the "principle of reasonable accommodation", the petition

vernment had taken to resolve the "genuine grievancpersons disabilities.

to know what steps the go-

The Bench said it wanted

The court also issued notice in a separate petition filed by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights seeking easy availability of vaccines for pregnant and women mothers.

Advocate Vrinda Grover, for the commission, said the petition was originally filed in May during the second wave. The government had since then framed operating guidelines for pregnant and nursing women. "There is a need to conduct scientific research to see the virus' effect on pregnant women and lactating mothers... There is need to ensure continuous monitoring," she submitted.

The court asked the Solicitor-General to give details on the implementation of the guidelines.

Jairam Ramesh says U.K.'s quarantine rule is racist

Covishield not recognised in country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Former Union Ministers Jairam Ramesh and Shashi Tharoor on Monday slammed the U.K.'s CO-VID-19-related travel rules, under which Indians vaccinated with Covishield would still be treated as unvaccinated.

Mr. Tharoor said that because of the restrictions he had even pulled out of a debate at the Cambridge Union Debating Society and from the launch events for the U.K. edition of his book The Battle Of Belonging.

Passengers who are not recognised as being fully vaccinated with authorised

vaccines and certificates under England's international travel rules are required to take a pre-departure test, further PCR tests on Day 2 and 8 of arrival, and self-isolate at their given address for 10 days upon entry, according to the rules.

Tweeting on the restrictions, Congress leader Mr. Ramesh said, "Absolutely bizarre considering Covishield was originally developed in the U.K. and the Serum Institute, Pune has supplied to that country too! This smacks of racism."

Mr. Tharoor said, "It is offensive to ask fully vaccinated Indians to quarantine. The Brits are reviewing!'

HC to hear

President honours Brig. Saraswati

Efforts in nursing, training commended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In a virtual ceremony on Monday, President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020 on Deputy Director General of Military Nursing Service (MNS) Brig. S.V. Saraswati for her contribution to the MNS as nurse administrator, a Defence Ministry statement said.

The award is the highest national distinction a nurse can achieve for selfless devotion and exceptional professionalism.

"As a renowned operation theatre nurse, Brig. Saraswati has assisted in more than 3,000 lifesaving and emergency surgeries and has trained residents, operation room nursing trainees and auxiliary staff in her career," the statement said. She has prepared patient



Brig. S.V. Saraswati

teaching materials and improvised drape kits and suture packing for cardiac surgeries, it stated.

She has also served with the UN Peace Keeping Forces at Congo.

Brig. Saraswati hails from Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh and was commissioned into the MNS on December 28, 1983.

Buddha collection on display soon

Artefacts of the National Museum will be showcased in new locations

DAMINI NATH

The National Museum's extensive collections are set to be displayed in new locations in the city, with galleries on Buddhist art expected to be opened within the next few weeks. Work is also under way to prepare the arms and armour collection and the freedom struggle collection for display.

The Buddhist galleries, located in the Archaeological Survey of India's former offices next to the National Museum, were set to be opened within a week or two, a National Museum source said on Monday.

The National Museum building on Janpath is among the buildings proposed to be demolished as part of the Central Vista redevelopment project and museum itself has moved to the North and South Block. However, the





Intricate work: A red sandstone head of Buddha (4th-5th century CE) and and a sculpture in the preaching pose (11th century CE) from the National Museum. • v.v. KRISHNAN

plans for these projects and timelines have not been announced.

At the same time, parts of the National Museum's collections are being moved to new galleries, including in renovated barracks at the Red Fort. The National Museum's gallery on arms and

armour of India would be shifted to the Red Fort within the next two months, the source said.

Freedom struggle

In addition, the gallery on the freedom struggle from 1857 onwards was being developed by the National Museum at the Red Fort and would take about four or five months to complete, the source noted. The Jammu and Kashmir display was also being developed by the National Museum, the source added.

In a reply to the Lok Sabha in August, Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy said the museum on Buddha was being "developed in a renovated century-old majestic building and spread over an area of about 15,000 square feet, surrounded by a lush green landscape". He added it was a first-of-its-kind museum on Buddha and would include over 200 objects dating back to the 1st Century

Mr. Reddy had further stated that the museum on the freedom struggle would have an interactive approach and tell the stories of those who fought for Indepen-

The Bombay High Court at Goa on Monday said it would virtually hear on October 27 the Goa govern-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tejpal acquittal

appeal against

ment's appeal challenging the acquittal of former journalist Tarun Tejpal in a case of rape and sexual assault in 2013.

Advocate General of Goa Devidas Pangam appeared before a Division Bench of Justices M.S. Sonak and M.S. Jawalkar and sought a date to commence the hearing.

The Bench then decided to take it up on October 27 virtually, as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta is expected to appear on behalf of the Goa government from New Delhi.

On the last occasion, a request was made before the Chief Justice to have a hybrid hearing (physical and virtual) due to the CO-VID-19 pandemic. Mr. Mehta had earlier said, "The system expects sensitivity over jurisprudence. We owe it to our girls."

Acquitted in May

On May 21, 2021, special judge Kshama Joshi at the Mapusa district and sessions court, Goa, acquitted Mr. Teipal of all charges of rape by a person in position of control, rape by a person in position of authority, assault with the intent of outraging modesty, assault with intent to disrobe, and sexual harass-

ment. The Goa government immediately filed an appeal before the High Court challenging the acquittal.

On November 7, 2013,

Mr. Tejpal's junior colleague accused him of molesting, undressing and attempting to perform oral sex on her in the elevator of a five-star hotel.

Western Ghats offer major additions to flora

Botanical Survey of India says 202 species were discovered across the country in 2020

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

The Botanical Survey of India, in its new publication Plant Discoveries 2020 has added 267 new taxa/ species to the country's flora.

The 267 new discoveries include 119 angiosperms; 3 pteridophytes; 5 bryophytes, 44 lichens; 57 fungi, 21 algae and 18 microbes.

In 2020, 202 new plant species were discovered across the country and 65 new records were added.

With these new discoveries the latest estimate of plant diversity in India stands at 54,733 taxa including 21,849 angiosperms, 82 gymnosperms, 1,310 pteridophytes, 2,791 bryophytes,



Green gem: Leaves and bark of the Syzygium anamalaianum, a new tree species of the Western Ghats. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

2,961 lichens, 15,504 fungi, 8,979 algae and 1,257 mi-

"The year 2020 will remain marked in global history for the outbreak of the CO-VID-19 pandemic, with the havoc it caused and still continues in 2021. This overwhelming addition of 267

distributional records for India, is nowhere less than the average number of new plant discoveries made from India during the past one-and-half decade," said A.A. Mao, Director of the Botanical Sur-

Balsam blossoms

Among the new discoveries this year, nine new species of balsam (Impatiens) and one species of wild banana (Musa *pradhanii*) were discovered from Darjeeling and one species each of wild jamun (Syanamalaianum) zygium from Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu and fern (Selaginella

SCAN TO PLAY

plant taxa to Indian flora, odishana) were recorded which were discovered as from Kandhamal in Odisha. either new species or as new There are 14 new macro and 31 new micro fungi species recorded from various parts of India.

> An assessment of the geographical distribution of these newly discovered plants reveals that 22% of the discoveries were made from the Western Ghats followed by the Western Himalayas (15%), the Eastern Himalayas (14%) and the Northeast ranges (12%). The west coast contributed 10% while the east coast contributed (9%) in total discoveries; the Eastern Ghats and south Deccan contribute 4% each while the central highland and north Deccan added 3% each.

EPFO adds 14.65 lakh net subscribers in July

9.02 lakh members join for first time

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) added 14.65 lakh net subscribers in July, an increase from the 11.16 lakh net additions in June, according to the provisional payroll data published on Monday.

In a statement, the Labour and Employment Ministry said of the total addition, 9.02 lakh members had joined the EPFO for the first time.

"Around 5.63 lakh net subscribers exited but rejoined EPFO by changing jobs within the establishments covered by EPFO.

This shows that majority of subscribers opted to continue their membership with EPFO, by transferring their past accumulations from previous job to the current PF account rather than applying for final withdrawal," the statement read.

With 3.88 lakh new subscribers from the 22 to 25 age bracket and 3.27 lakh in the 18 to 21 age group, the Ministry said this pointed towards first-time job-seekers joining the workforce in large numbers.

Over 62% of the net addition came from Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, it said.

TH CROSSWORD+ 13357

13 Did not like to hug before being substituted (11)

Display keystrokes of genius.

Type your answers in our online grids.

@ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

18 Sort of a good poll run (6)

20 Most love and eat pulpy vegetables (8) 22 USA is right about this de-facto dictatorial state (6)

23 Kind of verbose, right-wing reporter (8) 24 Trek isn't about trifles (8)

25 Surprisingly, older student passed (6)

DOWN

1 They assist her sleep somehow after loss of energy (7)

2 Agile duo's excited communication (8)

3 Claim it is about accepting partners (6)

4 Receipt delivered fast (8)

5 Sleepy at last? Thing to be worn (6) 6 Writer mixes up sin and virtue in the end for change (7)

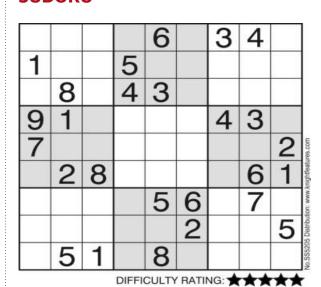
8 Concerns bodies (13) 14 Embraced by nations, EPL succeeds (8)

15 Elementarily, no meal is prepared in wholesome manner (8) 16 Fool around, run a riot for a month (7)

17 Erased document about lease (7) 19 Failing to keep record about wrongdoing (6)

21 Promise ryots, marginally reduce distress (6)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13356 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

В	L	Α	S	Т	Ε	О		Z	U	G	G	ш	Т	S	8	3	4	6	9	7	5	2	1
Α		В		Α		Z		0		Ε		L		Н	-		-	0	-	-	0	_	-
В	U	R	U	Ν	D	-		т	0	s	O	Α	ᆚ	Ε	15	1	6	3	8	2	4	7	9
С		Е		Τ		G		0		Т		Ρ		R	7	0	0	F	4	A	0	0	0
D	R	Α	W	Ι	Ν	G	Ι	Ζ		Α	Е	S	0	Ρ	1	9	2	0		4	3	О	Ø
0		S				ш				т		ш		Α	2	7	5	4	3	Я	a	1	6
М	0	Η	١	Ŧ		Т	S	Α	R	_	Т	S	Α	S	~	-	J	7	U	U	J	1	U
				0		Α		Μ		0					3	6	1	9	2	5	8	4	7
D	Α	F	F	О	D	1	L	s		Ν	Α	В	0	В	A	0	0	7	^	4	0	0	-
R		0		L				Т				0		L	4	8	9	1	0	1	2	3	5
0	М	R	Α	Н		Δ	R	ш	ഗ	s	O	0	О	Ε	6	2	Q	1	1	a	7	5	2
W		Е		Α		0		R		_		۲		S	O	~	O		7	0	1	J	J
Ν	0	S	Т	R	U	Μ		Δ	-	Т	Ξ	ш	R	S	1	4	7	8	5	3	6	9	2
Е		Α		О		Е		Α		\Box		Α		Ε	-	-	•	~	-	~	4	~	-
D	R	Υ	Е	Υ	Е	D		М	υ	s	Ιī	Ν	G	S	9	5	3	2	1	0		g	4

FAITH

Sareera sareeri concept

The Upanishads say Ekam eva adviteeyam. This means that there is only One Supreme Brahman. In Ramanuja's Visishtadvaita philosophy, it means that there is none superior to the Supreme One, or equal to Him. It does not mean nothing else exists in this Universe, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. There is only one Brahman. Advaita philosophy argues that nothing exists except Brahman. When we see other things, it is because of our illusion. They are not real,

but illusory, goes the Advaitic argument. But there are portions of the Vedas where apart from Brahman, other things also are said to exist. So how does one reconcile this with the argument that nothing else exists except Brahman? That is why Ramanuja said that indeed there is only one Brahman. But other things are real too, and are not illusions. He used what are known as the ghataka srutis, as a bridge to link both ideas present in the sacred scriptures, namely the existence of only one Brahman, but the existence of many other things too. He pointed out that the world was the Lord's body, for the Lord pervaded everything. This is the sareera sareeri concept of Visishtadvaita.

A contemporary example can be used to explain the idea of the One and the many. Suppose someone holds a clock in his hand and says, "How many clocks do I have?" We would reply, "One clock." But although he holds only one clock, the clock itself has many parts. Likewise, the world has many things – sentient and non sentient. The Lord is present in all. He is the atma (sareeri) and the world is His body (sareera). Thus, we have One Brahman and many other things too. In just one verse, Nammazhvar gives us the whole idea of the unequalled One and the rest of the world, thus establishing what Ramanuja elaborated on later.

ACROSS

7 Outline of French character (6) 8 Got into a bed, exhausted (8)

9 Exercising or playing quietly perhaps (8) 10 Bum's hot in bed surprisingly (6)

11 Affleck has true glow (8) 12 Zero knowledge about algebra variables is needed for living (6)



ANNIVERSARY





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MARKET WATCH

	20-09-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	58,491	-0.89%
US Dollar	73.74	-0.35
Gold	45,080	-0.28
Brent oil	74.61	

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANG
Adani Ports	748.90	18.2
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv	17018.95.	178.7
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL		
Britannia Ind	4084.50	32.6
Cipla	938.10	15.9
Coal India	154.20	2.5
Divis Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab	4774.95	109.6
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech		
HDFC	2742.50	83.1
HDFC Bank	1559.85	22.3
HDFC Life	730.15	17.6
Hero MotoCorp	2889.50	42.6
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever	2800.35	78.1
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank	1089.95	-40.0
Infosys	1687.85	3.4
Indian OilCorp	114.60	3.6
ITC		
JSW Steel	633.20	49.1
Kotak Bank		
L&T		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki	6950.40	64.0
Nestle India Ltd	20322.60	146.9
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life	1177.50	21.3
State Bank	137 15	-16.6

Tata Steel	1253.10	132.80
TCS	3823.50	4.35
Tech Mahindra	1431.30	20.25
Titan	2077.35	18.25
UltraTech Cement	7576.00	135.85
UPL	705.60	36.75
Wipro	662.50	2.75
EXCHANGE RA	ATES	
Indicative direct ra except yen at 4 p.n		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.54	73.86
Euro	86.09	86.46
British Pound	100.62	101 06

-16.65 -457.55

...-13.40

....67.43

.79.33

78.98.

54.37...

857.00....-17.15

437.45

30101.90

756.50

State Bank..... Shree Cement

Products Ltd.

Tata Motors

Sun Pharma

Japanese Yen (100) 67.11...

Swiss Franc

Canadian Dollar.



JNPT flags off dwarf container train services

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has introduced a train service from its dwarf container depot at the port to the inland container depot at Kanpur. Dwarf containers are containers whose height is lower by 660 cm than the normal containers, giving

Cars24 raises \$450 mn via mix of equity, debt

them a logistical edge.

NEW DELHI Cars24, an e-commerce platform for pre-owned vehicles, said it had raised \$450 million, doubling its valuation to \$1.84 billion. The funding includes \$340 million Series F equity round along with \$110 million debt from diversified financial institutions, it said.

Bharti to halve carbon footprint by FY31

NEW DELHI Bharti Airtel committed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% across its operations by FY31 to contribute to alobal efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change. "Airtel has adopted targets to significantly reduce its carbon footprint from network operations," it said.

RBI to conduct purchase, sale of bonds on Sept. 23

The Reserve Bank said it will conduct an open market purchase of government securities aggregating to ₹15,000 crore under the G-sec Acquisition Programme on September 23. It will also conduct a simultaneous sale of government securities under open market operations for ₹15,000 crore on the same day. PTI



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'Recovery signals are mixed since August'

Trends for September 'unconvincing'; hopeful that rising confidence will amplify festive demand: ICRA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Signalling a softening in momentum of the economic recovery, eight of 15 high-frequency indicators weakened in August, with diesel consumption, domestic passenger traffic and vehicle registrations sliding below pre-COVID levels, ICRA said on Monday.

While the August numbers indicated that the recovery after the second CO-VID-19 wave had been patchy, the early data for September also remained mixed, the ratings agency said in a note on the state of



Clouded outlook: High-frequency indicators in August were 'decidedly uneven', says ICRA's Aditi Nayar. • MURALI KUMAR K

the economy. It appeared the temporary fillip to economic activity, following the easing of State-wise curbs to cope with the second wave, had petered out, said ICRA chief economist Aditi Navar. emphasising that high-frequency indicators in August were 'decidedly uneven', especially when compared with pre-COVID levels.

The performance of 13 non-financial indicators in August was mixed compared with July, as well as with pre-COVID levels. "Particularly, after a sharp recovery since June, the daily average generation of GST e-way bills rose only mildly to 2.13 million in August from 2.07 million in July," ICRA said, attributing this to a stabilisation in dispatches rather than a signal that the industrial growth momentum was pla-

The daily average generation of GST e-way bills so far in September had been similar to August levels, but ICRA expected it to pick up in October as pre-festive season stocking comes into play.

Ms. Nayar said she was 'cautiously optimistic that rising confidence would amplify festive demand' even though early trends for September were 'unconvincing'.

On the positive side, nonoil goods exports, Coal India's output, rail freight, electricity demand and petrol demand recorded encouraging expansions in August, relative to August 2019.

'Climate change is a key driver of financial risk'

RBI's Rao flags physical, transition risks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Climate change and its impact is increasingly being acknowledged as a key risk driver for the financial system by governments, regulators and financial firms, said M. Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

"Climate risks can impact the financial sector through two broad channels; first physical risks which mean economic costs and financial losses resulting from the increasing severity and frequency of extreme weather events and long-term climate change, and second transition risks which arise as we try to adjust towards a low-carbon economy," Mr. Rao said in a speech at the CAFRAL Virtual Conference on Green and Sustainable Finance on September 16, a copy of which was posted by

the RBI on Monday. "It is, therefore, important to understand these risk drivers which are likely to affect the financial firms," he added.

Mr. Rao said physical risk drivers are directly observable and often refer to frequent extreme weather events which inflict direct economic costs and financial losses on financial firms as well as cause a longerterm but gradual shift in climate. Such acute physical



risks arise from extreme climate events such as heatwaves, landslides, floods, wildfires and storms.

On the other hand, chronic physical risks are longer-term events as they arise from gradual shifts of weather patterns, he said.

Compliance cost

He said transition risks essentially reflect as compliance cost when one embarks upon adjustment to a low-carbon economy.

"This would include changes in government policies, market and customer sentiments and necessity for technological upgradation. Mandated climate-related mitigation plans could cause decrease in financial valuation or downgrade of credit ratings for businesses which are violating climate norms," he said.

"Such plans can also cause a shift in market pow-

'Spectre of food inflation will stare at us in 2022'

COVID-19 disrupted prices: Nestle India

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA NEW DELHI

Nestle India CMD Suresh Narayanan said 2022 would be a difficult year as commodity inflation pressures were anticipated to worsen.

"Going forward, 2022 clearly looks to be a difficult year," he told the media.

"There is an uptick as far as milk prices are concerned. The disruption of the pandemic and the nonreplacement of the milch herd across the country has

really led to a depleted supply base," he said. "There is going to be an escalation as far as milk prices are concerned."

He added that globally coffee prices were also rising quite significantly with Vietnam, the largest grower of the commodity, reeling under adverse effects of the pandemic.

"So, there is going to be the spectre of food inflation that will be staring at us," Mr. Narayanan said

'Differential GST for coconut oil is a replay of the 2009 excise move'

Unclear why legally settled issue is raked up: JM Financial

VIKAS DHOOT

The GST Council may have put off a proposal to tax coconut oil sold in pack sizes below one litre at 18% instead of 5% levied on edible oils, but analysts are puzzled by the idea since similar moves in the pre-GST tax regime had been challenged successfully in court.

The Council's Fitment Committee had recommended that coconut oil,

packed and sold in containers of less than one litre should be classified as hair oil, and taxed at the 18% rate levied on personal care items, while the 5% GST could continue for the same oil when sold in containers of one litre or more.

In 2009, the erstwhile Central Board of Excise and Customs had issued a circular that proposed to classify small coconut oil packs of up to 200 ml as hair oil, subject

to excise duty of 8%, while bigger packs had attracted no duty. In a research note, JM Financial said the move had reopened the issue. Marico had legally challenged the proposal and won a verdict in its favour.

"We are not sure what would prompt the Council to reconsider this issue all over again, especially since the matter seemed well settled in the court," the finan-

Jet set ready



Software exports rose 2.1% to \$148 bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Exports of software servic es, including services delivered by foreign affiliates of Indian firms, recorded 2.1% growth during FY21 and stood at \$148.3 billion, as per a Reserve Bank survey released on Monday.

The RBI released data related to the 2020-21 round of its annual survey on exports of computer software and information technology enabled services. "Exports of software services (excluding exports through commercial presence) are estimated at \$133.7 billion... registering

destination for software ex-54.8%; Europe had 30.1% share" it said.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Overall job postings in Au-

gust grew by 14% year-on-

year, while industries such

as garments, textiles, leath-

er, gems and jewellery grew

24% between July and Au-

gust this year with the fes-

tive season pushing up de-

mand for seasonal hiring,

according to the Monster

Employment Index released

Most of these hiring activi-

ties were reported from

Bengaluru (59%), Hydera-

bad (34%), Pune (40%),

Chennai (37%), Delhi-NCR

(14%), and Mumbai (16%)

and were largely driven by

technology, software and

An August 2020 to August

hardware sectors.

on Monday.

Metro cities

Mills pause sugar export deals as local prices jump

Domestic prices rise 13% to 4-year high

REUTERS

Indian mills are holding off on signing new sugar export contracts for the upcoming season as a rally in domestic prices to a four-year high widened the gap between local and global rates, industry officials told Reuters.

for

2021 comparison indicated

strong growth in e-recruit-

ment activities in varied in-

dustries including IT hard-

ware, software (39%),

shipping/marine (37%), and

from the second wave of the

pandemic, there has been

positive stable growth in job

postings in the month of Au-

gust 2021," said Sekhar Gari-

sa, CEO, Monster.com.

"With India recovering

telecom/ISP (36%).

"Mills are not signing export contracts, as they are getting far higher prices in the local market," said Prakash Naiknavare, managing director of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd. Lower shipments from

India could support global prices, as supplies from top 4% growth," the RBI said. 'The U.S. was the major producer Brazil are expected to decline, and traders accounting for were banking on India to compensate shortfall.

Job postings in August

grew 14% y-o-y: Monster

Bengaluru saw most hirings, by IT



After shipping out a record 7.5 million tonnes of sugar in the current season, Indian mills have so far signed contracts to export 1.2 million tonnes in the 2021/2022 marketing year that starts from Oct. 1.

The bulk of those deals were signed in August, but a surge in domestic prices has since cut new contracts almost to zero, dealers said.

Amazon staff under lens in

REUTERS NEW DELHI Amazon.com Inc. has be-

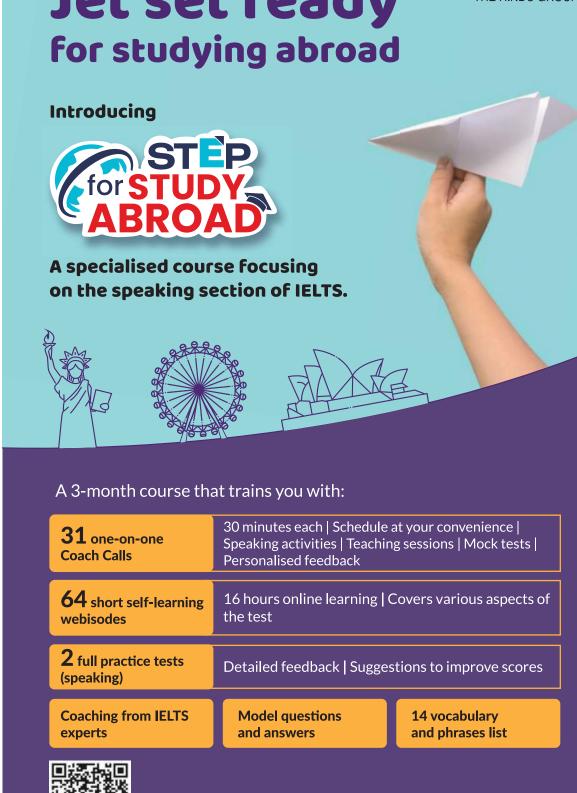
alleged

had been investigating the matter for about two months after a complaint was received about the dealings an Amazon India legal team staff member had with outside counsel working for the firm. The staff member has been sent on leave pending the investigation, the source said.

The source said Amazon

bribery probe

gun an internal investigation in India after a whistleemployee had taken kickbacks, a source with direct knowledge of the case told Reuters. Amazon did not answer Reuters' questions related to the investigation involving its India unit but said that it has "zero tolerance" for corruption.



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Oppn. alleges fraud after Putin party win U.S. to end travel ban for

United Russia claims two-thirds majority in the Lower House Duma; Communists come second

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Russia's Opposition accused the authorities of mass voter fraud after election results on Monday showed the ruling United Russia party winning a sweeping majority in Parliament.

The three-day vote that ended on Sunday followed an unprecedented crackdown on the critics of President Vladimir Putin and came with pre-election polls showing United Russia's popularity at a historic low.

But the party still claimed a two-thirds majority in the State Duma, the Lower House of Parliament, with United Russia's Andrei Turchak saying it was a "convincing and clean victory".

He told reporters that United Russia had taken enough seats from both the party and single-mandate lists to have more than 300 of the Duma's 450 seats.

With nearly all votes counted by Monday afternoon, United Russia was



Counting of votes: Officials emptying a ballot box at a polling station in Moscow. • AFP

ahead with 49.8% of the vote followed by the Communist Party with 18.9%

Election chief Ella Pamfilova said the final turnout was 51%, telling Mr. Putin in a televised meeting that this was higher than in previous elections and that there had been fewer complaints of vote violations than ever

"I would like to address special words of gratitude to the citizens of Russia (and)

thank you for your trust, dear friends," Mr. Putin said during the meeting.

'Openness and honesty' Kremlin spokesman Dmitry

Peskov hailed the "competitiveness, openness and honesty" of the elections, saying it was clear that "United Russia is the main preference of the voters".

tions were banned as "extre-But allies of jailed Kremlin mist" ahead of the election, critic Alexei Navalny, Rushis top allies were arrested or fled, and anyone associatsia's leading Opposition fi-

"clarified".

ed with his groups was kept from running.

Mr. Navalny's team had called for Opposition supporters to back other candidates who could potentially defeat United Russia, most of them from the Communist Party, and results indicated that the "Smart Voting" campaign may have had some impact.

United Russia's share of the vote was down from 54.2% in the last parliamentary election in 2016, while the Communists saw their support grow from 13.3%.

Three other parties appeared to meet the 5% threshold needed to enter Parliament - the nationalist LDPR, the recently formed 'New People' party, and 'A Just Russia', all with less than

Mr. Navalny's top aide Leonid Volkov said it was clear that mass falsifications had taken place and called for results to be overturned and recounted in Russia's two biggest cities.

vaccinated passengers

The new policy will replace the bans first instituted by Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON

The U.S. said on Monday it will ease airline restrictions this fall on travel to the country for people who have vaccination proof and a negative COVID-19 test, replacing a hodgepodge of rules that had kept out many non-citizens and irritated allies in Europe and beyond where virus cases are far lower.

The changes, to take effect in November, will allow families and others who have been separated by the travel restrictions for 18 months to plan for longawaited reunifications and allow foreigners with work permits to get back to their jobs in the Ū.S.

The new policy will replace a patchwork of travel bans first instituted by President Donald Trump last year and tightened by President Joe Biden that restrict travel

by non-citizens who have in the prior 14 days been in the United Kingdom, European Union, China, India, Iran, Republic of Ireland, Brazil or South Africa.

White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients announced the new policies, which still will require all foreign travellers flying to the U.S. to demonstrate proof of vaccination before boarding, as well as proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within three days of flight. Mr. Biden will also tighten testing rules for unvaccinated American citizens, who will need to be tested within a day before returning to the U.S., as well as after they arrive home.

Fully vaccinated passengers will not be required to quarantine, Mr. Zients said.

There will be no immediate change to U.S. land border policies, which restrict much cross-border travel with Mexico and Canada.

The travel bans had become the source of growing geopolitical frustration, particularly among allies in the U.K. and EU. The easing comes ahead of Mr. Biden meeting with some European leaders on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly this week.

"This is based on individuals rather than a countrybased approach, so it's a stronger system," Mr. Zients

6 killed, 28 injured as student opens fire in Russian varsity

The accused was detained after being shot, say officials

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A student opened fire on Monday at a university in Russia, leaving six people dead and 28 hurt, before being shot by the police and detained, officials said. Beyond saying that he was a student, authorities offered no further information on his identity or possible motive.

During the attack, students and staff at Perm State University locked themselves in rooms, and video posted on Russian news sites showed some students jumping out of second-sto-



In shock: Students gathering on the university campus in Perm after the mass shooting on Monday. •AP

rey windows. In some footage, a black-clad, helmeted figure could be seen striding on a sidewalk cradling a long-barreled weapon.

The Investigative Committee, the country's top body for criminal probes, said the accused fired a smoothbore

Suu Kyi has 'no comment' on call for war against junta

Clashes have increased in Myanmar

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

gure, called the results out-

unbelievable. I remember

the feeling in 2011, when

they stole the election. The

same is happening right

now," said Mr. Navalny's spo-

Claims of widespread

fraud in 2011 sparked huge

protests led by Mr. Navalny,

who was arrested in January

and jailed on old fraud charg-

es following a poisoning he

being falsified on a massive

scale, pointing especially to

delays in releasing a break-

down of the results of elec-

tronic voting in the Opposi-

had suffered from intimida-

tion and limited "credible"

monitoring, while Germany

called for fraud claims to be

Mr. Navalny's organisa-

The EU said the elections

tion-friendly Moscow.

His allies said the vote was

blamed on the Kremlin.

keswoman Kira Yarmysh.

"This is truly

Toppled Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi has "no comment" on a declaration of war against the junta by a shadow government dominated by lawmakers from her party, her lawyer said on Monday.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military ousted Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy government in a February coup, sparking huge democracy protests which have triggered a bloody crackdown from the junta.

NLD lawmakers make up the majority of a "National Unity Government" which

is working to overturn the military regime and declared a "people's defensive war" earlier this month urging citizens to attack junta

Following the declaration, clashes between local "people's defence forces" and the military have

Ms. Suu Kyi had "no comment" when asked by her lawyers about the NUG's declaration of war, her lawyer Khin Maung Zaw said, and would comment only after discussions with others in the NLD leadership.

"She said she never turns against the wishes of the pe-

Biden seeks early dialogue with Macron to ease tensions

Paris has accused Washington of a 'major breach of trust'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The United States and Britain sought on Sunday to smooth tensions with Paris over a new security pact with Australia, with U.S. President Joe Biden requesting early talks with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron.

The announcement of the

defence alliance, and Australia's related decision to tear up a deal to buy French submarines in favour of American nuclear-powered vessels, sparked outrage in Paris, with Mr. Macron recalling France's Ambassa-

ington. But on Sunday British Prime Minister Boris Johnson tried to downplay France's concerns about the deal, saying the pact was "not meant to be exclusionary... it's not something that anybody needs to worry about and particularly not our French friends". Mr. Biden has requested a

dors to Canberra and Wash-

phone call with Mr. Macron, French government spokesman Gabriel Attal said, which would happen "in the coming days". "We want explanations," Mr. Attal said. adding that the U.S. had to like a major breach of trust". En route to New York on Sunday, Mr. Johnson told reporters that Britain and France have a "very friendly relationship", which he described as being of "huge importance". "Our love of France is ineradicable."

Although France has not recalled its Ambassador to Britain, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian's explanation for why was stinging. "There is no need. We know their constant opportunism. So there is no need to bring our Ambassador back to explain," he said

Hotel Rwanda' hero gets 25-year prison term

Paul Rusesabagina, the "Hotel Rwanda" hero who became a government critic, was sentenced on Monday to 25 years in prison on terror charges after what his supporters labelled a politically motivated show trial. He was convicted by a court in Kigali of forming a rebel group blamed for deadly gun, grenade and arson attacks in Rwanda in 2018 and 2019. "He founded a terrorist organisation that attacked Rwanda, he financially contributed to terrorist activities," the court said. AFP

Afghan women outraged by Taliban restrictions on work

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Fears were mounting in Afghanistan on Monday as the Taliban tightened their grip on women's rights, slashing access to work and denying girls the right to secondary school education.

After pledging a softer version of their brutal and repressive regime of the 1990s, the Islamic fundamentalists have been stripping away at freedoms one month after seizing power.

"I may as well be dead," said one woman, who was sacked from her senior role at the Foreign Ministry.

"I was in charge of a whole department and there were many women working with me... now we have all lost our jobs," she said.

The acting Mayor of the capital Kabul has said any municipal jobs currently held by women would be filled by men.

Many women fear they will never find meaningful employment. Although still marginalised, Afghan women have fought for and gained basic rights in the past 20 years, becoming judges, pilots and police officers, though mostly limited to large cities. Hundreds of thousands have entered the workforce - a necessity in some cases as many women were widowed or now support invalid husbands as a

result of two decades of con-

flict. But since returning to power on August 15, the Taliban have shown no inclination to honour those rights.

When pressed, Taliban officials say women have been told to stay at home for their own security but will be allowed to work once proper segregation can be implemented. "When will that be?" a woman teacher said. "This happened last time. They kept saying they would allow us to return to work, but it never happened."

"The Taliban told us not to come to work and to wait for their second announcement. But it seems like they don't want women to work again," said a lawyer in the capital's High Court.

Trudeau future on the line as Canada votes in pandemic poll

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE OTTAWA

Voters lined up on Monday to cast ballots in Canadian elections that are headed for a photo finish, with liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's bid for a third term threatened by rookie conservative leader Erin O'Toole's strong challenge.

Mr. Trudeau, 49, called the snap election hoping to parlay a smooth COVID-19 vaccine roll-out – among the best in the world - into a new mandate to steer the nation's pandemic exit, without having to rely on Opposition party support to pass his agenda. But the contest, after a bumpy five weeks of campaigning and COVID-19

Big wins for Kate Winslet, Olivia Colman at Emmys

Besides Olivia, Gillian Anderson and Tobias Menzies bag awards for their roles in *The Crown*



Justin Trudeau

cases again resurging in the country due to the Delta variant, appears set for a repeat of the close 2019 general election that resulted in Mr. Trudeau clinging to power, yet losing his majority in Parliament.

After six years in power, Mr. Trudeau's administration is showing signs of fa-

tigue, and it's been an uphill battle for him to convince Canadians to stick with his Liberals after falling short of high expectations set in his 2015 landslide win. "The main ballot box question at the start of this campaign was whether the Liberals deserved to have a majority government," said Daniel Beland, a politics professor at McGill University. "But now the question is whether they deserve to stay in power."

An estimated 27 million Canadians are eligible to vote to select 338 Members of Parliament. To keep his job, Mr. Trudeau's Liberals must win a plurality of seats and take at least 170 for a

warns China, U.S. to avoid ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN chief

Warning of a potential new Cold War, the head of the United Nations implored China and the United States to repair their "completely dysfunctional" relationship before problems between the two large and deeply influential countries spill over even further

into the rest of the planet. Speaking to the The Associated Press this weekend, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the world's two major economic powers should be cooperating on climate and negotiating more robustly on trade and technology even given persisting political fissures about human rights, economics, online security and sovereignty in the South China Sea.

"Unfortunately, today we only have confrontation," Mr. Guterres said on Saturday. "We need to reestablish a functional relationship between the two powers," he said, calling that it was "essential to address the problems of vaccination, the problems of climate change and many other global challenges that cannot be solved without constructive relations within the international community and mainly

He added that two rival geopolitical and military strategies would pose "dangers" and divide the world. Thus, he said, the foundering relationship must be repaired - and soon. "We need to avoid at all cost a Cold War that would be different from the past one, and probably more dangerous and more difficult to manage," Mr. Guterres said.

among the superpowers".

Pfizer says COVID-19 jab safe for children aged 5-11

Firm to seek regulatory approval soon

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Pfizer and BioNTech on Monday said trial results showed their coronavirus vaccine is safe and produces a robust immune response in children aged five to 11, adding that they would seek regulatory approval shortly.

The vaccine would be administered at a lower dosage than for people over 12, they said. "In participants five to 11 years of age, the vaccine was safe, well tolerated and showed robust neutralising antibody responses," U.S. giant Pfizer and its German partner said in a joint statement.

They plan to submit their data to regulatory bodies in the European Union, the United States and around the world "as soon as possible".

The trial results are the first of their kind for children under 12, with a Moderna trial for 6-11 year olds still ongoing. Both the Pfizer and Moderna jabs are already being administered to adolescents over 12 in several countries, as well as to adults around the globe. Children in the 5-11 age

group received a two-dose regimen of 10 mg in the trial, compared with 30 mg for older age groups, the companies said. The shots were given 21 days apart. The side effects were

"generally comparable to those observed in participants 16 to 25 years of age", it added. Among the most commonly reported side effects in the past have been pain and swelling at the injection site as well as headache, chills and fever.

LOS ANGELES

REUTERS

Olivia Colman and Josh O'Connor won the top television Emmy Awards for drama actors on Sunday, on a banner night for British talent, dominated by The Crown and comedy Ted Las-Colman and O'Connor,

who played Queen Elizabeth and Prince Charles, in the lavish saga of the British royal family were named best drama actor and actress.

An exuberant Kate Winslet was named best actress for her turn as a troubled detective in the limited series Mare of Easttown, while Ewan McGregor won for playing fashion designer Halston.

After a season that focused on the unhappy marriage of Prince Charles and





porting actors Gillian Anderson (as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher) and Tobias Menzies (the late Prince Philip), as well as for writing and directing.

Princess Diana, The Crown

also brought wins for sup-

"We're all thrilled. I am very proud. I'm very grateful. We're going to party," said Peter Morgan, creator of The Crown, at a gathering in London for the cast and crew. Jason Sudeikis, the star

and co-creator of Ted Lasso,



was named best comedy actor and the show brought statuettes for Britons Hannah Waddingham and Brett Goldstein for their supporting roles in the heart-warming tale of a struggling English football team.

tors and teachers and this show's about teammates. And I wouldn't be here without those three things in my life," Sudeikis said on accepting the award. COVID-19 concerns But it was not all plain sail-

"This show is about fami-

ly. This show's about men-

Ted Lasso lost the comedy writing and directing awards to Hacks, about a fading stand-up woman comedian played by Jean Smart, who got a standing ovation when she was named best comedy actress.

Concerns over the Delta variant of the coronavirus forced Sunday's ceremony to move to an outdoor tent in downtown Los Angeles, with a reduced guest list and mandatory vaccinations and testing.

Varun and Russell leave Royal Challengers shellshocked

The two combine to bundle out the Bengaluru side for 92; Kohli fails to fire in his 200th IPL game; Gill and Venkatesh star in Knight Riders' chase

IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

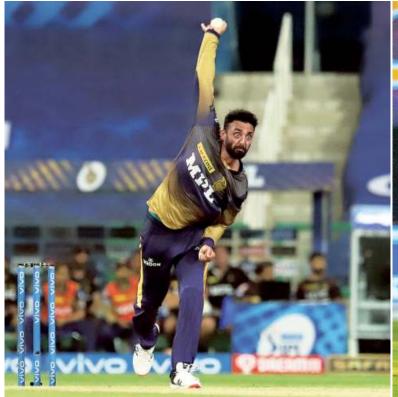
 $\mathcal I$ olkata Knight Riders Whipped Royal Challengers Bangalore in their opening match of the second leg of the IPL, recording a ninewicket victory at Abu Dhabi on Monday.

On a pitch which held no demons, RCB folded up for 92 and KKR reached the target in just 10 overs.

KKR opener Venkatesh Iyer (41 n.o., 27b, 7x4, 1x6), making his IPL debut, impressed with a couple of glorious drives off Mohammed Siraj in the opening over. Venkatesh also walked down the track to Kyle Jamieson, smashing the pacer for a stunning six. Venkatesh's opening partner Shubman Gill helped himself to a classy 34-ball 48.

Virat Kohli, playing his 200th IPL match, failed with the bat, falling leg-before to pacer Prasidh Krishna for five. Devdutt Padikkal (22, 20b, 3x4) could not get going. The southpaw tried to glide a quick ball from Lockie Ferguson to third man, but ended up feathering it to 'keeper Dinesh Karthik.

In a surprise move, RCB promoted wicketkeeper-bat-



Knight Riders' day out: After Varun spun a web around the RCB batsmen, debutant Venkatesh showcased his potential. •sportzpics/ipl

sman K.S. Bharat ahead of Glenn Maxwell and AB de Villiers. The gamble failed, as Bharat struggled to raise the tempo. Padikkal and Bharat could not make use of the early fielding restrictions, scoring only 41 runs in the first six overs. A frustrated

Bharat (16, 19b, 1x4) skied a short ball from Andre Russell to square-leg.

De Villiers was sent back for a golden duck, courtesy a fiery yorker from Russell which thudded into the stumps. Maxwell was uncharacteristically out of sorts.

Finger spinner Sunil Narine had Maxwell in a bind, even as the Australian made futile switch-hit attempts to break free. Maxwell was cleaned up for a 17-ball 10, swinging wildly across the line to a length ball from spinner Varun Chakravarthy. The slow bow-

ler struck off his very next delivery, trapping Sri Lankan Wanindu Hasaranga in front. Varun nearly recorded a hattrick, but his leg-before appeal against Jamieson was turned down. Varun and Russell stood out with three

Innings scan									
RCB	<u> </u>	KKR							
62	Dots	24							
8	Fours	13							
0	Sixes	2							
41/2	PP	56/0							
4.84	RR	9.40							

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Virat Kohli lbw b Prasidh 5 (4b, 1x4), Devdutt Padikkal c Karthik b Ferguson 22 (20b, 3x4), K.S. Bharat c Gill b Russell 16 (19b, 1x4), Glenn Maxwell b Varun 10 (17b), AB de Villiers b Russell O (1b), Sachin Baby c Rana b Varun 7 (17b), Wanindu Hasaranga lbw b Varun O (1b), Kyle Jamieson run out 4 (12b), Harshal Patel b Ferguson 12 *(10b, 2x4)*, Mohammed Siraj c Varun b Russell 8 (10b, 1x4), Yuzvendra Chahal (not out) 2 (6b); Extras (lb-2, w-1, nb-3): 6; Total (in 19 overs): 92.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-10 (Kohli, 1.4 ov), 2-41 (Padikkal, 5.6), 3-51 (Bharat, 8.1), 4-52 (de Villiers, 8.4), 5-63 (Maxwell, 11.4), 6-63 (Hasaranga, 11.5), 7-66 (Baby, 13.4), 8-76 (Jamieson,

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING Varun 4-0-13-3, Prasidh 4-0-24-1, Ferguson 4-0-24-2, Narine 4-0-

15.3), 9-83 (Harshal, 16.3).

20-0, Russell 3-0-9-3.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS Shubman Gill c Siraj b Chahal 48 (34b, 6x4, 1x6), Venkatesh Iyer (not out) 41 (27b, 7x4, 1x6), Andre Russell (not out) 0 (Ob); Extras (w-4, nb-1): 5; Total (for one wkt. in 10 overs): 94.

FALL OF WICKET RCB BOWLING

2-0-12-0, Jamieson 2-0-Hasaranga 2-0-20-0, 2-0-23-1, Harshal

Toss: RCB; MoM: Varun. KKR won by nine wickets with 10 overs to spare.

Next assignment

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

POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR			
Chennai Super Kings	8	6	2	12	1.223			
Delhi Capitals	8	6	2	12	0.547			
Royal Challengers	8	5	3	10	-0.706			
Mumbai Indians	8	4	4	8	-0.071			
Kolkata Knight Riders	8	3	5	6	0.110			
Rajasthan Royals	7	3	4	6	-0.190			
Punjab Kings	8	3	5	6	-0.368			
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	1	6	2	-0.623			
After the KKR-RCB match on Sept. 20								

Royals clash with Kings

SPORTS BUREAU

 □ rtune hasn't been kind Γ to Rajasthan Royals this season. It has to play the remaining matches of the tournament without its superstar trio from England -Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler and Jofra Archer. So how will the Royals

cope with their absence? We will find out on Tuesday, when they take on Punjab Kings at Dubai.

The Royals are placed fifth in the table and Punjab Kings sixth. Both teams are on six points, but the men from Jaipur have played a game less.

Few sights in world cricket are more pleasing than K.L. Rahul or Sanju Samson

TODAY'S MATCH



Played: 22 PBKS 10 | RR 12 In 2021 Played 1 | PBKS 1 | RR 0

STAR SPORTS 1 & SS SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

in full flow. While the Punjab captain has had a good tour of England, his counterpart is smarting from the T20 World Cup snub.

Samson would be keen to come up with some good knocks as Royals try to move up the ladder.

RCB may look at the auction for Kohli's successor

ASHWIN ACHAL

Who will take over captaincy duties at Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) after Virat Kohli steps down at the end of IPL 2021?

With no obvious successors in the squad, RCB might view the 2022 IPL mega auction as a chance to revamp leadership et al. – and march in a new direction. Kohli himself hinted at the

likely change in landscape, stating that RCB is set to go through a transitional phase after the auction next year. The player list for the auc-

tion is not known yet, but RCB could set its sights on signing a new captain. If available, proven skippers like Kane Williamson, Steve



Sought after: Steve Smith would be on RCB's radar as the team seeks a new skipper ahead of next season. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Smith and Eoin Morgan, and a budding leader like K.L. Rahul will interest the RCB management.

RCB has not groomed a strong deputy for Kohli has contributed to this uncertain situation. A.B. de from international cricket, is not an ideal long-term option. Australian Glenn Maxwell, who was signed by RCB at the start of this season, is only now finding his feet.

Among the Indians, Devdutt Padikkal and Washington Sundar are calm and mature, but they do not possess enough experience to command authority.

RCB is also hindered by the fact that it does not have a strong core group of Indian players – so crucial in giving franchises a settled feel.

Mumbai Indians has the Pandya brothers, Jasprit Bumrah, Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan to support Rohit Sharma. When Delhi Capitals' regular skipper Shreyas Iyer was out with an injury, Rishabh Pant was happy to pick up the pieces. Despite recent reversals, Chennai Super Kings has trusted M.S. Dhoni, Suresh Raina, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ravindra Jadeja, Ambati Rayudu, Shardul Thakur and others to do the job.

RCB, on the other hand, has just one regular India international - Mohammed Siraj – in the squad, apart from

For too long, RCB has invested tremendous energy on superstar Kohli. Now with Kohli set to slip into the background, the franchise should look past outstanding individual talent and focus on building a well-rounded

England pulls out of Pakistan tour

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

England cricket chiefs on Monday cancelled the upcoming men's and women's tours of Pakistan days after New Zealand abandoned their series over security concerns.

The men were due to play two T20 Internationals on October 13 and 14, with the women playing three ODIs after that. All the matches were

set to take place in Rawalpindi.

Playing best team is ideal preparation for WC: Mithali



Harmanpreet... ruled out of first ODI. ■FILE PHOTO

India's

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

dented winning streak.

team would rather not reflect on Australia's streak.

side before the World Cup

ODIs

Matches

Most Runs

Mithali Raj

Most wickets

Tests

Matches

Most Runs

Rajani Venugopal

Shubhangi Kulkarni 6

-----> Australia **10**

Inns

13

Inns

12

Sept. 24: Harrup Park, Mackay (10.40 a.m.)

Drawn

India

6

Sept. 26: Harrup Park, Mackay (5.35 a.m.)

-----> Australia f 4

Metricon Stadium, Carrara, 10 a.m.

392

Wkts

11

Runs

175

Wkts

9

THE 2021 SCHEDULE: Sept. 30 to Oct. 3 (day-night):

THE 2021 SCHEDULE: Sept. 21: Harrup Park, Mackay (5.35 a.m.)

was the best preparation.

"We are looking forward to playing our best cricket because we understand we are playing undoubtedly one of the best sides in the world on their home turf and it's going to be a challenging series," she said.

that we're in Australia, playing an Australian team. It's not going to be an easy series. In every game we have to bring our top game against them."

India has suffered a set-

INDIA'S VICTORIES

2009 | *Sydney* | Won by **16 runs**

2009 | Sydney | Won by 3 wickets

2016 | Hobart | Won by 5 wickets

SR

Econ

100s

0

3/0

0

30.15 | 60.21 |

35.18 3.59

Avg.

The only Test the Indians

have drawn in Australia

was at Sydney in 1991.

Perth (1977), Adelaide

and Melbourne (both 1991), and Adelaide

6/99 47.7

58

The losses have come at

2

HS

89

BBI

3/6

back even before a ball was bowled in the series.

"Harmanpreet Kaur is injured and will not play in Tuesday's match, according

Hit on the thumb

"(For the) next ODI, we will take a call according to her pain management and

About Shafali Verma, the teenage batting sensation, Powar said she deserved to

get some breathing space.

"Mithali, (batting coach) S.S. Das, and I had conversations with her," he said.

Knows her role

"She has played the Hundred, so she has got some confidence from there. She knows her role and what is expected of her.

"We don't (want to) push a 17-year-old who is very expressive in her batting.

"We don't want to curtail her game. Das is working on her game and mental as-

BCCI hikes match fees for domestic cricketers

Apex Council also ratifies India's crammed home schedule

AMOL KARHADKAR MUMBAI

While raising match-fees across the board in domestic cricket, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has introduced graded match-fees payment structure for senior men's domestic cricketers.

The decision was made by the BCCI apex council during its meeting on Monday. The council also approved 50% compensation for the cricketers who featured in 2019-20 Ranji Trophy season for the cancelled 2020-21 edition due to COVID-19.

Talking point

domestic cricket.

Besides, the apex council felt that it will also push rookies who earn Indian Premier League contracts to also strive harder in domestic cricket to earn better

However, at least in the short-term, more than half of the domestic cricketers will end up making lesser than they did in the last Ranji Trophy season. When the match-fees was ₹35,000 per match-day in 2019-20, each team was assured of at least eight league-stage games.

Revised match fees for domestic cricketers

MEN Seniors (Ranji and Vijay Hazare Trophy)

Existing: ₹35,000 per match-day New: ₹40,000 (1 to 20 caps); ₹50,000 (21 to 40 caps); ₹60,000

(40-plus caps) Under-25 and 23 Existing: ₹17,500 New: ₹25,000 Under-19 **Existing:** ₹10,500

New: ₹20,000

five, thus leading to lesser



Under-25, 23, 19 and 16 New: ₹10,000

Reserves to be paid half for each category

■ Match fees for T2Os half of respective category, wherever

India's home international fixtures

> Nov. 19 (Ranchi): Nov. 21 (Kolkata)

Dec. 3-7 (Mumbai) WEST INDIES

ODIs: Feb. 6 (Ahmedabad); Feb. 9 (Jaipur): Feb. 12 (Kolkata) T20Is: Feb. 15

(Cuttack); Feb. 18

(Visakhapatnam); Feb. 20 (Thiruvananthapuram) Tests: Feb. 25-March 1

March 5-9 (Mohali) T20Is: March 13 (Mohali); March 15 (Dharamsala);

OUTH AFRICA T20Is: June 9 (Chennai): June 12 (Bengaluru); June 14 (Nagpur):

March 18 (Lucknow)

June 15 (Rajkot); June 19 (New Delhi)

A ND-NDE

middle-order needs to fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The under-fire middle-order will be expected to deliver when India takes on mighty Australia in the first ODI here on Tuesday.

The teams (from): India: Mithali Raj (capt.), Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Punam Raut, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Sneh Rana, Yastika Bhatia, Taniya Bhatia, Shikha Pandey, Jhulan Goswami, Meghna Singh, Pooja Vastrakar, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Poonam Yadav, Richa Ghosh and Ekta Bisht.

Australia: Meg Lanning (capt.), Rachael Haynes, Darcie Brown, Maitlan Brown, Stella Campbell, Nicola Carey, Hannah Darlington, Ashleigh Gardner, Alyssa Healy, Tahlia McGrath, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Georgia Redmayne, Molly Strano, Annabel Sutherland, Tayla Vlaeminck, Georgia Wareham. Match starts at 5.35 a.m.

(IST).

Australia's women cricketers are on an unprece-

a row, beating the game's international record set in team (21 wins).

At an online media conference, the Indian captain

They have won 24 ODIs in

2003 by the Australian men's Mithali Raj on Monday, the eve of the first ODI at Mackay, said that the Indian

said playing against the best

Not going to be easy "Every player understands

to coach Ramesh Powar.

"Unfortunately, some days back she got hit on the thumb and she is not available for the first ODI," he said.

fitness."

pects," Powar added. The Indian women will play three ODIs, a day-night Test and three T2OIs in Australia.

Tour quide The Indian women will play three ODIS, a day-night is A look at the visitors' record and the top performers This is an important series in the run-up to the World Cup and we want to see all the girls get enough game time. (But) the 50s/100s bottom line is we play to win. That is also important – not just to try and give chances MITHALI RAJ India cap

T20Is Matches 9 ---> Australia 5 **2020** | *Sydney* | Won by **17 runs**

INDIA'S VICTORIES 2016 | Adelaide | Won by 5 wickets **2016** | *Melbourne* | Won by **10 wickets** 2020 | Melbourne | Won by 7 wickets

Most Runs Runs SR 50s/100s 2/0 Smriti Mandhana 8 242 66 126.04 2/18 7.39 Raieshwari Gavakwad 7 10 0 THE 2021 SCHEDULE: Oct. 7: Metricon Stadium, Carrara, 2.10 p.m.; Oct. 9 and 10: Metricon Stadium, Carrara, 1.40 p.m.

ALL TIMES IST | SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

The biggest talking point remained the supposed steep hike in match-fees. The revised match-fees structure -₹40,000 per match-day (1 to 20 matches), ₹50,000 per match-day (21 to 40 matches) and ₹60,000 per match-day (40+ matches) – incentivises the First Class regulars in

livelihood.

From this season onwards, the assured group games have been reduced to

pay for a majority of cricketers. Meanwhile, the apex council also ratified India's AGAINST NEW ZEALAND

crammed home internation-T20ls: Nov. 17 (Jaipur); al season, including 14 T20Is, four Tests and three ODIs against four different Tests: Nov. 25-29 (Kanpur); oppositions. The apex council during

its virtual meeting also ratified the BCCI's new initiative of introducing the Prevention of Sexual Harassment policy. While the apex council finally brought good news for domestic cricketers men and women, juniors and seniors alike – the match officials were left waiting for their compensation package. More than 500 officials –

match referees, umpires, scorers and video analysts have been been waiting for more than a year for the CO-VID-19 compensation package. It is understood that the matter will be placed in the AGM later this year.

TV PICKS

Zealand Women: 2nd ODI, Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m. IPL 2021: Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.



Aditi ends 73rd; Ko wins

Sandhu falters in final round; Sharma is T-27

with a 75 and was 77th. PTI

Rutuja Bhosale fails to qualify in singles

OSTRAVA (CZECH REPUBLIC) with Shuai Zhang of China.

Dinesh Laungani + in last eight

Academy on Monday.

want Datta bt Puneet Kathpa-Chaturvedi bt Paramjeet Sihaq 6-0, 6-0.

Over-45 (pre-quarterfinals): 6-0. 6-0: Sunil Lulla bt Shahnawaz Zafar 6-2, 6-0: Dinesh Laungani bt Ashish Pant 6-3. A Kumar Purohit 6-0, 6-1;

Over-55 (first round): Nishit Pandey bt U Lingam 6-4, 6-1; Bharat Phukan bt Diganta Bordoloi 6-3, 6-3; L Lakpa Sherpa bt D Chudhary 6-3,

EURO LEAGUES

Real Madrid moved to the

top of LaLiga on Sunday af-

ter scoring twice in two mi-

nutes to pull off an incredi-

ble late comeback against

Valencia looked set for

victory at Mestalla when Hu-

go Duro scored against his

former club in the second

half but the in-form Vinicius

Junior equalised in the 86th

minute before Karim Benze-

ma headed home in the 88th

Real Madrid remains un-

beaten this term, having

now won five and drawn one

of its first six matches in all

competitions under return-

ing coach Carlo Ancelotti.

for a 2-1 away win.

Valencia.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Lakshya upsets Sumit, in title clash

Akash overpowers Sachin Siwach; Sachin goes down fighting

NATL. BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI VIJAYNAGAR

Twenty-year-old Lakshya shocked Olympian Sumit Sangwan in an 86kg semifinal match of the National boxing championships at the Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS) here on Monday.

Taller than the lanky Sumit, Lakshya recorded a 4-1 win to be among the 11 Services men who reached the

Using jabs to good effect Even as Sumit relied on his powerful combinations, Jaipur boy Lakshay – a twotime Khelo India champion and a Youth National cham-

pion who joined the Army in

February 2020 – used his

left jabs effectively from a

long range. His counter punches, in-

cluding a beautiful right hook, and defence fetched him a memorable victory.

Akash, another young Services boxer, rode on his power and accuracy to upset the nimble-footed former World youth champion Sachin Siwach of Railways 4-1 in a 54kg semifinal bout.

In 57kg, World youth champion Sachin of Haryana fought valiantly before going down to the experienced Services man Mohammad Hussamuddin 1-4.

Other results (semifinals): 48kg: Kuldeep Kumar (Chd) bt Ravi (Kumar (UP) 5-0, Govind Sahani (RSPB) bt Barun Singh (SSCB) 5-0; 51kg: Deepak Kumar (SSCB) bt Ajay Pendor (Mah) 5-0, Ankit (Har) bt Ruchir Srivas (MP) 5-0.

54kg: Rajpinder Singh (Pun) bt Sanjay Kumar (Utk) 5-0; 57kg: Rohit Mor (Del) bt Ashish Kumar (HP) 5-0; 60kg: Varinder Singh (RSPB) bt Harivansh Tawari (Mah) 3-0, EtashKhan Muhammed (SSCB) bt Vijay Kumar (Pun) 5-0.

63.5kg: Dalveer Singh Tomar (SSCB) bt Abinash Jamwal (HP) 4-1, Shiva Thapa (Asm) bt Abhishek Yadav (UP) 5-0; 67kg: Akash (SSCB) bt Dinesh (RSPB) 5-0, Aditya Pratap Yadav (UP) bt Amit Sheoran (Raj) 4-1.

71kg: Nishant Dev (Kar) bt Yashpal (Har) 5-0, Amit Kumar (DDNH) bt Hemant Yadav (Del) 5-0; **75kg:** Sumit (SSCB) bt Nikhil Dubey (Mah) 5-0, Rohit Tokas (RSPB) bt Buntee Singh (Del) 5-0. 80kg: Vinit (Har) bt Rahul Rathi

(Del) 5-0, Sachin Kumar (SSCB) bt Harpreet (Chd) 5-0; 86kg: Prayag Chauhan (RSPB) bt Gowtham Palani (TN) 5-0; 92kg: Naveen Kumar (Har) bt Raghav Chaudhary (Pun) 5-0, Sanjeet (SSCB) bt Harsh Kaushik (Del) 5-0.

92+kg: Sagar (Chd) bt Reynold Joseph (Mah) RSC-R1, Narender (SSCB) bt Sagar Chhikara



Tactics pay off: The taller Lakshya, right, used his left jabs and defence effectively to take out Sumit. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Santosh Trophy final round in Kerala

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN

 \mathcal{F} erala will host the final round of this season's Santosh Trophy in Manjeri.

This was announced by Kerala Sports Minister V.Abdurahiman here on Monday after signing a MOU with All-India Football Federation (AIFF).

The MOU was signed by State Government and AIFF to promote and develop the game in the State.

The minister said that the State was in process of opening up different sectors and by hosting Santosh Trophy it will provide opportunity to revive the interest in sports especially football.

The Sports Minister said that the mushrooming football turfs and private academies in the State were clear indications that the game was in a healthy state in Kerala. The minister said that

the priority of the State government was to tap the talent by organising tourna-

ments and leagues with the help of the AIFF. The minister said the State Government with AIFF's help will promote

women's and beach football

in the State. The State will also play host to national camps of various Indian teams and will also be venue of future international football tourna-

The minister said as a beginning the year long national camp for Indian under-17 teams will be held in

The State Government along with AIFF will develop grass root football in the State. The AIFF will conduct AFC license courses apart from refresher courses which will be beneficial to coaches from the State.

Sachin Siwach's singular problem

Y.B. SARANGI VIJAYNAGAR

For an 18-year-old, it is a unique problem. But Sachin Siwach, the reigning World Youth champion in 56kg, accepts the reality with a

In an amazing coincidence, Sachin has an identical name, including the surname, as that of a Railways boxer. Both come from Mitathal village, near Bhiwani, of Haryana and both have won World Youth titles!

The basic difference is the senior Sachin, who won his World youth title in 2016 and is a 21-year-old now, competes in 54kg, while the junior Sachin takes part in 57kg in the ongoing National championships here. Incidentally, both have managed to land bronze medals!

Not a bad result The bronze medal on debut

is not a bad result for the junior Sachin, who upset Worlds bronze medallist



Aiming high: Current World youth champ Sachin Siwach with uncle Pawan, left, and coach Anil Tekram. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gaurav Bidhuri before losing to Commonwealth Games hammed Hussamuddin in a close semifinal bout.

"I have learnt a lot. I need to work on my strength and defence," Sachin told *The* Hindu on Monday. "The World Youth title

has instilled a lot of confidence and I am fighting with less fear now," he said. Sachin is lucky to have the

constant guidance of his un-

cle Pawan Siwach, who put him into boxing, and his first coach at village Anil Tekram. "Within a few months of

starting boxing in 2015, Sachin got a silver in (under-14) National school championships. Next year he got a silver in the National junior and kept on improving," said Pawan.

Now, Sachin wants to make the most of his time at the National camp and emerge as a better boxer.

Incredulous takes honours in feature

Incredulous (N.B. Kuldeep up) claimed the S. Rangarajan Memorial Cup, the feature event of Monday's (Sept. 20) races here. The winner is owned by Mr. C. Nanda Kumar, Mr. Polkumpally Saikumar & Mr. Donald Anthony

1. MOUNT PLEASANT PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): BURANO (Ashad Asbar) 1, Thanks (Trevor) 2, N R I Sport (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Able Love (B. Nikhil) 4. 2, 1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m, 12.91s. ₹25 (w), 15, 23 and 16 (p). SHP: 71, THP: 73, FP: 222, Q: 191, Tanala: 1,664. Favourite: Burano. Owner: Mr. Aditya P. Thack ersey. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy. 2. POP MARCOOLYN PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m), 4-y-o & upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): FOREVER BOND (P. Trevor) 1, Bedazzled (Kuldeep Singh) 2, N R I Gift (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Sun Dancer (C. Umesh) 4. 1-1/2, Sh and 1-1/4. 1m, 26.98s. ₹20 (w), 14, 75 and 26 (p). SHP: 317, THP: 75, FP: 685, Q: 485, Tanala: 5,004. Favourite: Forever Bond. Owners: Mr. Champaklal Zaveri rep. Zaveri Stud Farm Private Limited, Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri, Miss. Niti N. Desai & Miss. Harsha N. Desai. Trainer: L.V.R.

3. MOUNT PLEASANT PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): BOLD BIDDING (Akshay Kumar) 1, Bandit King (B.R. Kumar) 2, Inside Story (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Joy O Joy (P. Trevor) 4. Not run: Isra and Pre-

cious Gift. 1, Hd and 2. 1m, 15.46s. ₹35 (w), 14, 15 and 26 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 80, FP: 110, Q: 59, Tanala: 1,191. Favourite: Bandit King. Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Evvuni Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

4. KUNIGAL PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): GREEN TURF (Gaurav Singh) 1, Rapid Fire (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Red Snaper (C. Umesh) 3 and Explosive (R. Ajinkya) 4. 4-3/4, 1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 14.13s. ₹27 (w), 12, 15 and 22 (p). SHP: 65, THP: 60, FP: 149, Q: 78, Tanala: 653. Favourite: Green Turf. Owner: Mr. Maddali Sai Kumar. Trainer: G. Shashikant. 5. MAKE WAY PLATE (1,400m),

rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): MAX-IMUM GLAMOUR (Akshay Kumar) Star Dancer (Kiran Naidu) 2, River Song (P. Trevor) 3 and Thunder Road (Kuldeep Singh) 4. Not run: Healthandhappiness. 6-1/2, 2 and 1. 1m, 27.14s. ₹16 (w), 11, 17 and 10 (p). SHP: 49, THP: 67, FP: 106, Q: 74, Tanala: 236. Favourite: Maximum Glamour. Owners: Mr. Donald Anthony Netto, Mr. Veeramachaneni Bharat & Mr. Srikanth Badruka. Trainer: D. Netto. 6. KUNIGAL PLATE (DIV. I)

6. KUNIGAL PLATE (DIV. 1) (1,200m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): SUBLIME (Ajit Singh) 1, Angel Tesoro (B.R. Ku-mar) 2, Sacred Lamp (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Four One Four (Deepak Singh) 4. 1-1/2, Nose and Nk. 1m, 16.22s. ₹100 (w), 23, 23 and 37 (p). SHP: 93, THP: 127, FP:

1,064, Q: 550, Tanala: (c/o). Favourite: Linewiler. Owners: Mr. Sudarshan Singh Rathore Kanwar & Mr. Rishiraj Singh Rathore. 7. S. RANGARAJAN MEMORIAL CUP

(1.200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): INCREDULOUS (N.B. Kuldeep) 1, Maxwell (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Her Legacy (Kiran Naidu) 3 and Xfinity (Afroz Khan) 4. Hd, 1-1/4 and Sh. 1m, 14.69s. ₹94 (w), 23, 19 and 37 (p). SHP: 53, THP: 106, FP: 875, O: 395, Tanala: 6,208. Favourite: Days Of Reckoning. Owners: Mr. C. Nanda Kumar, Mr. Polkumpally Saikumar& Mr. Donald Anthony Netto. Trainer: D. Netto. 8. POP MARCOOLYN PLATE (DIV.

II) (1,400m), 4-y-o & upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): SHELDON (G. Naresh) & ICE BERRY (C.P. Bopanna) 1, That's My Speed (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Lorena (Deepak Singh) 4. Not run: Air Sa 29.46s, 15 and 81 (w), 18, 28 and 16 (p). THP: 52, FP: 361 and 576, Q: 403, Tanala: 2,569 and 7,194. Favourite: Stark. Owners: *Sheldon:* Mr. Mukund Kakani & Mr. Mohit Jaju; *Ice Berry:* M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Chartiable Trust. Trainers: Sheldon: K.S.V. Prasad Raju; Ice Berry: K. Satheesh

Jackpot: 70%: ₹59,557 (4 tkts.) & 2,38,231 (1 tkt) and 30%: 13,613 (15

(107 tkts.), (iii) 18,512 (3 tkts.). Mini Jackpot: (i) 507 (80 tkts.), (ii) 8,559 (5 tkts.), 42,795 (1 tkt).

Preyesh and Vishruth triumph

Yoo snaps Praggs' streak

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

R. Praggnanandhaa's aweinspiring nine-game winning streak ended after he ran into USA's Christopher Yoo in the 10th round of the Hou Yifan Challenge online rapid chess tournament on Monday.

In an irrepressible form, Praggnanandhaa (9 points) won all four rounds on Sunday. He beat rising American star Awonder Liang, Russia's Volodar Murzin, Poland's Oliwia Kiolbasa and Azerbaijan's Gunay Mammadzada. He stays in the lead despite the first loss.

Aditya Mittal, in the joint fourth spot, reached six points after beating USA's Abhimanyu Mishra, the world's youngest GM. Leon Mendonca stayed on five points while R. Vaishali moved to four points after +

Osaka drops to eighth

Barty remains on top, Halep down to 14

WTA RANKINGS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Naomi Osaka slipped out of the top-five in the WTA rankings released on Monday while Simona Halep, another former World No. 1, continued her slide by also dropping three places.

champion Osaka fell from fifth to eighth as Halep tumbled down to 14th. Ashleigh Barty remains

on top while French Open

52nd after capturing her second title of the year in Luxembourg.

Italy's Jasmine Paolini

Draw with Milan leaves Juventus rooted to the bottom three

strong start under new

coach Jose Bordalas but

leaves hugely disappointed

not to have taken three

points from this game, let

alone one. Madrid sits two

Juventus was left strug-

ahead of Atletico Madrid.



jumped from 87th to 64th following her first WTA title at Portoroz, Slovenia.

(Aus); 2. Aryna Sabalenka (Blr); 3. Karolina Pliskova (Cze); 4. Elina Svitolina (Ukr); 5. Barbora

(Esp); 10. Petra Kvitova (Cze).

Real Madrid pulls off incredible comeback

Clinical: Alvaro Morata's early goal was not enough for

Juventus as its poor start to the season continues. • AFP

BRIDGE

Team Urbane, represented by Abhishek Sarkar, Akash Saha, Soham Charaborty and Sanjay Chakravarty beat Crackerjax in the Team of Four Bronze final by 12.67 IMPs in the HCL International Bridge Championship.

The two teams, competing virtually on the Real Bridge platform, played three sessions of eight boards each, after topping the league featuring nine

Urbane Gaming won the HCL Rising Stars Trophy and a cash prize of ₹15,000. The runner-up got ₹10,000. Dhanu and Vagabonds finished

contest, the team of Arun Jain topped the league with

lan ended the weekend in se-

cond place on goal diffe-

rence behind city rival Inter.

two points from four games

with only Cagliari and Saler-

Meanwhile, in the Pre-

mier League Chelsea came

out on the top in the London

derby when it overran Tot-

tenham 3-0 in Sunday's late

The results: LaLiga: Real Socie-

dad O drew with Sevilla O: Real

Betis 2 (Willian Jose 41, Fekir

45+4) drew with Espanyol 2

(Aleix 16. Cabrera 90+7); Va-

drew with AC Milan 1 (Rebic

nitana propping it up.

Iuventus is 18th with just

136 55 VPs from 54 teams Russia (131.80 VPs), Texan (128.11), Podram (125.92), Formidables (122.58), Leslie (121.20), Shree Cement (120.65) and Aristos (118.78) were placed second to eighth.

The advantage for the topseven teams in the pre-quarterfinals, played over four sessions of 10 boards each. was that they could choose their opponents from the teams placed ninth to 16.

The team of Arun Jain opted for Maximus while Russia chose Hope N Prey as their opponents pre-quarterfinals.

In the team of four Silver event, Prayas topped the table in the league from among 67 teams with a score of 135.87 VPs. It was followed by Dr. SSMC (134.60), Talluri (132.27)and Prabhav

Preyesh Suresh Raj and

Vishruth Ramakrishnan

11 titles respectively in the World Table Tennis Youth Contender here on Sun-

The results (finals): U-15:

won the boys under-15 and

Winning performances: Preyesh Suresh Raj and Vishruth Ramakrishnan in action. Preyesh Suresh Raj (Ind) bt Ankur Bhattachariee (Ind) 11-8.

> 15-13, 11-13, 11-9. U-11: Vishruth Ramakrishnan (Ind) bt Amir Essid (Tun) 11-4,

11-3, 11-7.

MRF Tyres team takes



MOTORSPORTS

Dani Sordo and Candido Carrera of Team MRF Tyres took the second place in the Azores Rallye, the fifth round of the FIA European Rally Championship, after a great battle for top posi-

"The second-place finish

SAO MIGUEL (PORTUGAL)

is a great result. We did very well to lead the rally, and

take three stage wins throughout the weekend. We beat our expectations and I am happy with this second place," said Sordo. "Azores is an amazing ral-

ly with amazing stages. To win a legendary stage like Sete Cidades was great for me and MRF Tyres," he ad-

Sharad Kumar admitted to **AIIMS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paralympics bronze-medallist high jumper Sharad Kumar has been admitted to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) after experiencing chest congestion but he is "feeling better" now.

Kumar, who won a bronze in the T-42 high jump event in the Tokyo Paralympics on August 31, is awaiting his test reports after he was admitted to the prestigious medical facility four days back. "I have been here for

four days after feeling chest congestion. I am feeling better now," Kumar "Everyday, there is a test and the doctors are going

to tell (what is future

course of action) in a day

or two," he added. Kumar is a double Asian Para Games (2014 and

2018) high jump champion and world silver medallist (2019).A ND-NDE

third, has also enjoyed a

Valencia, which stays

England Women vs New

IN BRIEF



Portland Classic

PORTLAND (USA) India's Aditi Ashok ended a disappointing week with a six-over 78 that saw her finish 73rd at the 2021 Cambia Portland Classic golf tournament here. Jin Young Ko won by four strokes over Jeongeun Lee and Su Oh. PTI

CROMVOIRT (THE NETHERLANDS) Ajeetesh Sandhu faltered in the final round with an even-par 72 to end tied 22nd at the Dutch Open here. Sandhu slipped seven places from his T-15 position after the third round. He totalled 11-over 299 for the tournament. Shubhankar Sharma, who began the week superbly with 70-66, let it slip over the weekend with 74-70 and finished T-27th. S.S.P. Chawrasia, who had an up-and-down week with a 67 on the second day followed by 82 on third, ended the week just the way he started

Rutuia Bhosale was beaten 6-0, 6-1 by second seed Magda Linette of Poland in the first qualifying round of the \$565.530 WTA tennis tournament here. Rutuja will partner Emily Webley Smith of Britain in the doubles main draw and Sania Mirza has been seeded second along

SPORTS BUREAU

Dinesh Laungani beat fifth seed Ashish Pant 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 in the pre-quarterfinals of the over-45 event in the ITF Seniors tennis tournament at the Singha Sports

Other results: Over-35 (first round): Harvinder Singh bt Sumeet Gupta 6-4, 6-4; Relia 6-0, 6-0; Harinder Sharma bt Jagmeet Singh 6-2, 6-4; Pankaj Ahlawat bt Dinesh Singh Negi 7-5, 7-5; Swarnesh

Monty Roy bt Ulhas Mohile 4-6, 7-5; Himanshu Bhatia bt Sheetal Sharma bt Pavan Gaikwad 6-0, 6-0; Avnish

Chandra Rastogi bt Akhil Mathur 6-1, 6-2.

Four-time Grand Slam

winner Barbora Krejcikova climbed to a career high Danish teenager Clara Tauson rose 18 places to



Naomi Osaka. • AFP

Krejcikova (Cze).

The top-10: 1. Ashleigh Barty

6. Iga Swiatek (Pol); 7. Sofia Kenin (USA); 8. Naomi Osaka (Jpn); 9. Garbine Muguruza

Team Urbane wins

teams.

third and fourth respectively. In the Team of four Gold

Online summit to discuss

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

biennial WC

FIFA has invited football's domestic governing bodies to an online summit on September 30 to discuss its controversial proposal to hold the World Cup every two years instead of four.

Reform

lencia 1 (Duro Perales 66) lost to Real Madrid 2 (Vinicius Junior 86, Benzema 88). Serie A: Juventus 1 (Morata 4)

Bundesliga: VfL Wolfsburg 1 (Weghorst 70) drew with Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Lammers

WTT

SPORTS BUREAU

SPORTS BUREAU

cussed with FIFA's member associations as part of plans to reform the international calendar. "Following invitations to stakeholders, including all

The topic is set to be dis-

confederations, at the beginning of September, discussions are being organised in the coming weeks," FIFA said in a statement on Monday.

second place

Coming good: Dani Sordo and Candido Carrera pose on their Hyundai i20 R5. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

gling in the unlikely sur-76th-minute equaliser as Mi-

roundings of Serie A's bot-

tom three on Sunday after a

1-1 draw with AC Milan kept it

still searching for a first

Alvaro Morata's fourth-mi-

nute goal gave Juve the lead

but Ante Rebic headed in a

league win this season.