

Timings DELHI table showing sunrise and sunset times for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Delhi Weather table showing max and min temperatures for Delhi City, Safdarjung, and Palam.

Delhi Palam Today 34°C A few spells of light rain or thundershowers may occur with moderate winds at some places.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 33°C Light to moderate rain or thundershowers may occur with moderate winds at some places.

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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 Act.

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-year-old 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 statement.

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

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.

BJP's Kirit Somaiya detained at Karad railway station

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

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE PUNE

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Kirit Somaiya was detained at Karad railway station in 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 BJP MP.

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 Aghadi (MVA) government.

"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.

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 ill-informed 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 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 Fadnis-led BJP-Shiv Sena coalition government.

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS. Tender No. T20P131284: Face lifting to control room building and Boundary wall at 220 KV substation Kanjhawala and construction of Cable Trench in the Control Room of 220 KV substation Pappankalan-I.

8-foot-long crocodile rescued from pond. KENDRAPARA (ODISHA) 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.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

THIRD ANNIVERSARY

N. RAMAMOORTHY, B.Com, B.L., FCA 28-05-1963 - 21-09-2018 "Forever in our Hearts & Souls" Father - Mother - Wife - Son - Daughter-In-Law - Brother - Sisters

IN MEMORIAM

G. Kasturi 17-12-1924 - 21-09-2012

DEATH

Smt. Manonmani Sundararaman 11.06.1944 19.09.2021 Deeply mourned by Family Members and Disciples. Ph: 99527 44002

IN MEMORIAM

Called into God's Eternal Rest She fought the good fight, She finished the race, She kept the faith Henceforth for Her there is laid up a Crown of Righteousness. - 2 Timothy 4:7

Lita Newton Devashayam W/o Late Mc Newton Devashayam I.P.S. (Retd) Former I.G. of Police, Tamilnadu. Vice President (1969-2021) Children's Home of Hope, Madhavallay, Chennai.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact: 011-43579797 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com

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.

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 Bengal, 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 following. Website: http://cbi.nic.in E-mail Id - cbi@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-2436838, 24368641 SHO Fax No. 011-24368639 PS Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi DP/264/RLY/2021 Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871302

COVID-19 cases dropping in Maharashtra

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE PUNE

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. Pradeep 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 reported 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 5,588.

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 DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper.

IN BRIEF



Rajath, Austin discuss bilateral matters... Ahead of the first in-person meeting of the Quad leaders...

Bodies of two boys who drowned recovered

MUMBAI The bodies of the two boys who had drowned on Sunday night during the Ganesh idol immersion at Versova beach...

ED arrests MD of Usher Agro Limited

NEW DELHI The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested the managing director of Usher Agro Limited and other group companies...

SC seeks details on jobs for the disabled

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

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

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...

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and B.V. Nagarathna issued notice on a petition filed by the non-governmental organisation Evara Foundation...



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.

President honours Brig. Saraswati

Efforts in nursing, training commended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

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...



Brig. S.V. Saraswati

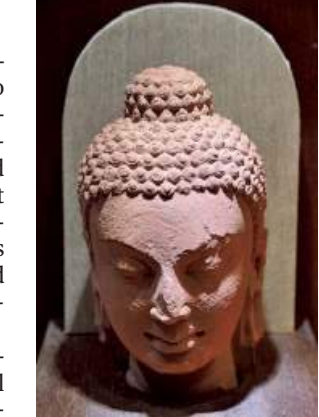
The award is the highest national distinction a nurse can achieve for selfless devotion and exceptional professionalism. "As a renowned operation theatre nurse, Brig. Saraswati has assisted in more than 3,000 lifesaving and emergency surgeries..."

Buddha collection on display soon

Artefacts of the National Museum will be showcased in new locations

DAMINI NATH NEW DELHI

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.



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

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 the museum itself has moved to the North and South Block. However, the plans for these projects and timelines have not been announced.

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

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.

Freedom struggle In addition, the gallery on the freedom struggle from 1857 onwards was being developed by the National Museum.

Western Ghats offer major additions to flora

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

SHIV SAHAY SINGH KOLKATA



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

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,

2,961 lichens, 15,504 fungi, 8,979 algae and 1,257 microbes.

ry for the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the havoc it caused and still continues in 2021. This overwhelming addition of 267

plant taxa to Indian flora, which were discovered as either new species or as new 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 Survey of India.

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 (Syzygium anamalaianum) from Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu and fern (Selaginella

odishana) were recorded from Kandhamal in Odisha. 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 Eastern 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 NEW DELHI

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.

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 COVID-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 appeal against Tejpal acquittal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court at Goa on Monday said it would virtually hear on October 27 the Goa government'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 COVID-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. Tejpal 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 harassment.

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.

CROSSWORD puzzle with clues and grid. Includes section for 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' with numbered clues.

SUDOKU puzzle with grid and solution. Includes difficulty rating and a section for 'Solution to yesterday's Sudoku'.

FAITH article titled 'Sareera sareeri concept'. Discusses Upanishads, Ekam eva adviteeyam, and the concept of Brahman and the world.

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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	CHANGE
Adani Ports	748.90	-18.20
Asian Paints	3271.55	-31.50
Axis Bank	795.85	-11.50
Bajaj Auto	3776.05	-46.15
Bajaj Finserv	17018.95	-178.75
Bajaj Finance	7442.45	-13.65
Bharti Airtel	724.95	-3.20
BPL	420.40	-15.85
Britannia Ind	4084.50	-32.65
Cipla	938.10	-15.95
Coal India	154.20	-2.50
Divis Lab	5110.10	-12.70
Dr Reddys Lab	4774.95	-109.60
Eicher Motors	2813.00	-85.55
Grasim Ind	1535.60	-33.20
HCL Tech	1276.15	-12.85
HDFC	2742.50	-83.15
HDFC Bank	1559.85	-22.30
HDFC Life	730.15	-17.60
Hero MotoCorp	2889.50	-42.60
Hindalco	444.40	-28.65
Hind Unilever	2800.35	-78.10
ICI Bank	710.00	-10.15
Indusind Bank	1089.95	-40.05
Infosys	1687.85	-3.45
Indian Oil Corp	114.60	-3.65
ITC	233.75	2.60
JSW Steel	633.20	-49.10
Kotak Bank	2001.45	-6.50
L&T	1704.35	-11.85
M&M	738.05	-16.10
Maruti Suzuki	6950.40	-64.05
Nestle India Ltd.	20322.60	146.90
NTPC	122.70	-1.05
ONGC	128.50	0.75
PowerGrid Corp	177.00	-1.80
Reliance Ind	2394.35	3.80
SBI Life	1177.50	-21.30
State Bank	437.45	-16.65
Shree Cement	30101.90	-457.55
Sun Pharma	756.50	-13.40
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	857.00	-17.15
Tata Motors	298.35	-9.65
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 RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 20

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.54	73.86
Euro	86.09	86.46
British Pound	100.62	101.06
Japanese Yen (100)	67.11	67.43
Chinese Yuan	11.37	11.42
Swiss Franc	78.98	79.33
Singapore Dollar	54.37	54.62
Canadian Dollar	57.25	57.52
Malaysian Ringitt	17.53	17.63

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

JNPT flags off dwarf container train services

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

Bharti to halve carbon footprint by FY31

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

‘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 COVID-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 Nayar, emphasising that high-fre-

quency 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 plateauing.

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, non-oil 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
MUMBAI



M. Rajeshwar Rao

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 longer-term but gradual shift in climate. Such acute physical

risks arise from extreme climate events such as heat-waves, 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 power,” he added.

‘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 non-replacement 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
NEW DELHI

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 financial services firm said.

Software exports rose 2.1% to \$148 bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI
Exports of software services, 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 4% growth,” the RBI said.

“The U.S. was the major destination for software exports accounting for 54.8%; Europe had 30.1% share” it said.

Mills pause sugar export deals as local prices jump

Domestic prices rise 13% to 4-year high

REUTERS
MUMBAI

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.

“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 producer Brazil are expected to decline, and traders were banking on India to compensate for the shortfall.



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.

Job postings in August grew 14% y-o-y: Monster

Bengaluru saw most hirings, by IT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Overall job postings in August grew by 14% year-on-year, while industries such as garments, textiles, leather, gems and jewellery grew 24% between July and August this year with the festive season pushing up demand for seasonal hiring, according to the Monster Employment Index released on Monday.

Metro cities
Most of these hiring activities were reported from Bengaluru (59%), Hyderabad (34%), Pune (40%), Chennai (37%), Delhi-NCR (14%), and Mumbai (16%) and were largely driven by technology, software and hardware sectors.

An August 2020 to August



2021 comparison indicated strong growth in e-recruitment activities in varied industries including IT hardware, software (39%), shipping/marine (37%), and telecom/ISP (36%).

“With India recovering from the second wave of the pandemic, there has been positive stable growth in job postings in the month of August 2021,” said Sekhar Gari-sa, CEO, Monster.com.

Amazon staff under lens in bribery probe

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

Amazon.com Inc. has begun an internal investigation in India after a whistleblower alleged an employee 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.

The source said Amazon 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.

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