



In bid to woo farmers, Adityanath announces hike in sugarcane prices



Prime Minister visits site of new Parliament building



Taliban ask airlines to resume international flights to Afghanistan

Jadeja swings it CSK's way, Harshal's hat-trick helps RCB stun MI

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IN BRIEF

CJI backs 50% quota for women in judiciary

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Sunday backed 50% representation for women in judiciary. "It is your right. It is not a matter of charity... Enough of this thousands of years of suppression," Chief Justice Ramana said.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 8

SMART SELF STUDY PLAN

EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ PAGE 2

Maoist influence down from 96 to 41 districts: Home Ministry

Shah chairs meeting of CMs, officials of 10 States to review Left Wing Extremism

VIJAITA SINGH NEW DELHI

The geographical influence of Maoists has contracted to only 41 districts in the country, a sharp reduction from 96 such districts in 10 States in 2010, according to data provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to Chief Ministers and other officials at a meeting held on Sunday.

"These miscreants have been pushed to a few pockets with only 25 districts accounting for 85% of the LWE (Left Wing Extremism) violence in the country," the Ministry said in a statement.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the meeting to review the security



Security check: Home Minister Amit Shah arriving for a meeting with Chief Ministers, in New Delhi on Sunday. • PTI

and other developmental aspects in the LWE-hit States.

The Chief Ministers of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Maharashtra and Odisha were present,

while Chattisgarh, West Bengal and Kerala were represented by Directors-General of Police and Chief Secretaries. Andhra Pradesh was represented by its Home Minis-

ter. Addressing the meeting, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren accused the Centre of slashing the number of LWE-affected districts in the State that could avail ₹33 crore under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) and Security Related Expenditure (SRA) scheme for infrastructure-related projects.

Mr. Soren said the MHA had raised a bill of ₹10,000 crore against Jharkhand (for deployment of forces) and requested that the bills be written off and the "Government of India take a decision not to send such bills to State governments in the future."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Avoid shifting goalposts, **Indian envoy** tells China

ANANTH KRISHNAN

India's envoy to China has called on Beijing to "avoid shifting goalposts" by conflating the immediate challenge of managing disputed border areas with the longer term negotiations to resolve the boundary dispute, saying both sides needed to follow past agreements and pursue both objectives on parallel tracks.

Underlining the obstacles that India-China relations currently face, Ambassador to China Vikram Misri said, "The first is to avoid shifting goalposts."

Friction areas remain

He was speaking at a Track Two dialogue held by Indian and Chinese institutes last week and the transcript was made available by the Indian Embassy in Beijing on Saturday.

Mr. Misri said both sides continued to have conversations about resolving the crisis on the Line of Actual Control, and following disengagement at Galwan Valley, the north and south banks of Pangong Lake, and most recently at Gogra last month, were now taking up remaining friction areas.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

TRAVEL BAN UNSCIENTIFIC,

A technocrat's push for Indian manufacturing

Pawan Goenka is driving an unusual public-private alliance

VIKAS DHOOT NEW DELHI

Before the pandemic started, the major players in India's room air conditioner market had no plans to invest in larger manufacturing operations, relying instead on convenient imports for over 80% of ACs.

Over the past week, despite COVID-19 denting AC sales, global brands like Hitachi as well as domestic majors like Voltas, have announced investments of about ₹5,000 crore to reverse the reliance on imported parts from 80% to 20% over the next five years.

SPECIAL

The seeds for this aboutturn, driven partly by a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, were sown from a third-floor corner office of an auto major in Worli, Mumbai.

Pawan Goenka, the Mahindra group's managing director till this April, is drivunusual public-private partnership that is informing and helping finetune policy changes leading to outcomes on the ground already in sectors like air conditioners. For instance, when domestic and global AC players conveyed that India's ₹25,000-crore AC market didn't necessitate larger manufacturing



Cool strategy: About ₹5,000 crore is likely to be invested in AC component manufacturing. • GETTY IMAGES

investments to replace established import supply chains, Mr. Goenka tapped his deal-making skills to arrive at an attractive formulation. His solution: convince the MNC to make more compressors in India by getting the domestic player to buy from them instead of importing, thus adding up volumes that justify fresh investments and repeat this idea for various AC components with both domestic and foreign players stepping up to invest for each.

Over the 18 months, Mr. Goenka has been spending two days a week deep-diving into sectors like ACs to recommend practical strategies and policy tweaks - to scale up manufacturing, boost exports, reduce import dependence and expand domestic demand.

REVIVAL POLICY ▶ PAGE 9 **INTERVIEW** ▶ PAGE 9

7 new faces in as Punjab CM expands his Cabinet



New team: Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit swearing-in Rana Gurjit Singh in Chandigarh on Sunday. • PTI

Eight Ministers from Amarinder's team retained

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Sunday expanded his Cabinet by inducting 15 Ministers, including seven fresh faces.

The expansion came days after the Congress high command cornered former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh in-

State. Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office and secrecy to the legislators at Raj Bhavan.

was three-time MLA from Kapurthala Rana Gurjit Singh, despite opposition from a few party leaders over his alleged involvement in a sand mining scam. The Cabinet includes Randeep Singh Nabha, Raj Kumar Verka, Sangat

The eight Ministers retained from Mr. Singh's Cabi-

Singh Gilzian, Pargat Singh,

Amarinder Singh Raja War-

ring and Gurkirat Singh Kot-

li, all fresh faces.

net are Brahm Mohindra, Manpreet Singh Badal, Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Aruna Chaudhary, Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, Razia Sultana, Vijay Inder Singla and Bharat Bhushan Ashu.

Nitish to hold all-party meet for caste census

Move follows Centre's affidavit in SC that such an enumeration will not be feasible

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish that conducting a castebased census in the country is the "need of the hour". Mr. Kumar said he would be holding an all-party meeting after the Central government informed the Supreme Court that conducting such a census was not feasible.

Last month, leaders of 10 political parties from Bihar, led by Mr. Kumar, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to demand a caste census.

Gulab crosses

Kalingapatnam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Cyclone Gulab crossed the

north Andhra Pradesh and

south Odisha coast about

20 km north of Kalingapat-

nam on Sunday evening,

triggering widespread rain

"The cyclonic storm,

'Gulab', crossed north

Andhra Pradesh-South Od-

isha coasts, about 20 km

north of Kalingapatnam

with maximum wind speed

of 75-85 km per hour bet-

ween 7.30 p.m. and 8.30

p.m.," the India Meteoro-

40,000 people in six southern districts ahead of

the storm. "We have not

yet received reports of any

major damage caused by

the cycloneWe are expect-

ing the wind speed to be

around 50 km per hour

when the cyclone passes

over Odisha," said Pradeep

Kumar Jena, Special Relief

During the day, Chief Mi-

nister Naveen Patnaik re-

viewed the situation through videoconferenc-

28 TRAINS CANCELLED ▶ PAGE 8

ing from New Delhi.

Commissioner of Odisha.

logical Department said. Odisha evacuated about

in the region.

coast near



Nitish Kumar

"Caste-based census is a legitimate demand and need of the hour. The Central government should think over it as it is pro-development and will help policy makers

SHUBHAM KUMAR

take place. We'll hold an allparty meeting again over this issue in Bihar," he told media persons in Delhi after attending a high-level meeting on Left Wing Extremism.

On Saturday, Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, wrote to 33 non-BJP leaders seeking a caste-based census in the country. "The ruling party does not have a single rational reason against conducting a caste-based cen-

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10 IN TOP 10 SELECTIONS

IN CSE 2020

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frame targeted welfare polisus," Mr. Yadav said in his cies for the backward class. two-page letter. The RJD It [caste-based census] must leader earlier served a threeday ultimatum to Mr. Kumar to reveal the next step after the Centre's refusal. On September 23, the

Centre told the Supreme Court that a caste census was not feasible as it was "administratively difficult and cumbersome, and excluding such information from the purview of census is a conscious policy decision".

HEMANT SOREN MEETS **AMIT SHAH** ▶ NEWS 9

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PLAN

syllabus and divided my time for all subjects

lmportant -**Continuance and** WHAT'S IMPORTANT

demotivation of failure.

AND WHAT'S NOT

MAINS

During preparation for Mains, I faced time problem. To overcome this I used to put

alarms for specific intervals everyday and tried to complete practice paper of Ambition Law

My Brother, Teachers, **Entire Team of Ambition** Law Institute, My Seniors & God for the success.

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Judicial Services.

my journey.

When I was pursuing LL.B., one of my seniors cracked this exam. That was the time I determined myself to prepare for

I joined Ambition Law Institute, FIRST STEP Delhi which I consider to be my first step towards

Definitely, while I was in TIME

Ambition Law Institute, Alok MANAGEMENT Sir always told us to focus on answer writing. Answers should be specific and must also be done in a time bound manner.

In Ambition Law Institute, we used to get a topic daily for answer writing, which certainly helped me during Mains preparation because through that I did daily exercise of answer writing.

My parents, they constantly supported me throughout my journey. I believed that

Credit Goes

God has been very kind to us. I would also like to

thank Ambition Law Institute for guiding me through this journey.

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TOPPER'S ANSWER BOOKLETS

to resigning and chose Mr. Channi to head the government in the poll-bound

Among those inducted

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8 YOGI EXPANDS CABINET ▶ PAGE 9

PREETI JHA Speaks of her preparation plan

I went through the **PREPARATION**

which I had to read together. Ambition's Bare Act proved beneficial for Prelims & Mains, both.

dedication. Not important - distraction &

STRATEGY

Institute in that time from only.

Credit goes to Papa, Maa,

LAW 283/500

eft unemployed as restaurants were one of the first sectors to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several waiters who had migrated to the city went from serving food to growing food to earn a living as they headed back home in March 2020.

Looking back, they say it was a blessing in disguise that the restaurant industry shut before others as the week-long window before the nationwide lockdown allowed them to head home comfortably and not get stranded in the Capital. Others, who stayed back in the city, say they spent their time picking up skills that could help them with alternative career choices like becoming a DJ or harness the home-delivery boom by becoming a food valet.

Radhe Shyam, from Siddharth Nagar district in Uttar Pradesh, who works at an eatery in Patel Nagar says that almost every body who comes to the city looking for a job has family and some agricultural land in the village and there was a rush to head home as it was the safest place to be.

"Since the 1980s, I have sent all the money I make back home every month. Apart from by bad habit of chewing tobacco, I don't really have any needs as my employer provides me food and accommodation. My family was happy to have me home and work in the fields when I was out of job. It was time for them to repay me," says Mr. Radhe. He adds that returning to rural life was a welcome change and with limited expenses, it was easy to get by as the country shut down.

Back to the farm

With schools also closing early, Gajendra Negi who works at a restaurant in Connaught Place, says that he moved back with his family to his village in Tehri and started helping out in the fields. "With school declaring holidays, we left immediately for home and did not get stuck in the city as the atmosphere was better back home. We were not stuck within four walls. I did not think it will be for this long but thankfully, I was not unemployed during the lockdown as I earned an income from farm-

FOOD SERVERS TURN FOOD

With the restaurant industry in tatters due to COVID-19. many out-of-work waiters used the down time to learn new skills or find alternative means of livelihood



People having lunch at a restaurant in Connaught Place in the heart of Delhi. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ing and my children attended classes online. As soon as restaurants opened, I got a call from my employer and was back. If restaurants had not closed early, we would have been in a different situation," says Mr. Gajendra.

Some waiters like Vishal Kumar, who works at a club, took the opportunity to learn a skill so that they could seek better opportunities once things opened.

"I am back to being a waiter now but I used the lockdown wisely. I would see people paying so much money to hire DJs. I am always in touch with the latest songs, as my friend who used to rent out sound equipment taught me. I have a mixing app on my phone and keep practising. I am waiting for the wedding season to start so that I can launch my new career,"

Mr. Vishal said.

He added that the going was tough during the lockdown but the time spent out of work gave him hope and the opportunity to better

Delivering food

Within the hospitality sector, the push towards getting food, groceries and medicines home delivered, gave the opportunity to many to become valets with food delivery apps. Soham Rawat said that while life was initially tough, he applied and became a delivery rider. "I had to care for my family and find employment. It was tough as there were few openings. It worked well for me that many of my colleagues went home so when restaurants started with home delivery, I jumped at the opportunity. What

difference did it make? Earlier, I used to serve people at the table, now I started serving people at their home," says Mr. Soham.

With the restaurant business back in full swing, and the city witnessing a trend of "revenge dining" as COVID-19 cases remain low, HarendraYadav from Aligarh, who works at a restaurant in Connaught Place, says he is happy to be back to work as sitting at home was very boring. "I like doing my job as I interact with different people every day. COVID-19 made this difficult as I felt lonely trying to run my family's readymade garment business at home. I am happy to be back and thankful that I worked in a sector that shut early and did not have its employees trying to walk home when the lockdown was announced."

HC rejects plea of ex-IAF pilot seeking disability pension along with arrears

Petitioner approached court after a delay of over 35 years

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has rejected the plea of a former Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot, who was invalidated out of service in 1981 following a motorcycle accident that rendered him permanently unfit to fly aircraft, seeking grant of disability pension along with arrears.

A Bench of Justice Manmohan and Justice Navin Chawla rejected the petition filed by Ex-Flight Lieutenant Sanjiv Dewan, noting that he has decided to bring up the issue only in 2016, that is, after delay of more than 35

The High Court said that the finding of the Court of Inquiry (CoI) into the accident, held way back in 1977, found the injury suffered by Mr. Dewan to be not attributable or aggravated by service. He was invalidated out of service in 1981 and disability pension was denied to him in 1981.

Even prior to the rejection of the claim for disability pension, the Invaliding Medical Board (IMB) had

opined that the disability suffered by Mr. Dewan was 'neither attributable to nor aggravated' by the Air Force Service, the High Court said.

Motorcycle accident

Mr. Dewan, had in his plea, stated that after successfully completing pre-commission training, he was granted commission in the IAF in the rank of Pilot Officer. After about five years and eight months of service in Air Force, on September 22, 1977, while on duty with the 15th Squadron in Bagdogra, Mr. Dewan, while riding to an official briefing on a motorcycle driven by his colleague met with a serious accident and suffered severe head injuries, resulting in his hospitalisation.

Despite sustained treatment of about three years, Mr. Dewan could not recover completely and kept reporting of frontal headache. He was finally declared unfit for air crew duties in 1980 and was advised to opt for change of branch from flying to a non-flying branch. However, as Mr. Dewan had refused to opt for change of his branch, he was invalided out of service in 1981.

Over three and half decades later in 2016, Mr. Dewan moved the Armed Forces Tribunal against the order of the Air Force denying him disability pension.

The tribunal, in its last year's verdict, rejected Mr. Dewan's plea noting that the primary evidence related to the circumstances of his injury in a motorcycle accident as available in CoI have already been destroyed. "Hence the mere contention of the applicant [Mr. Dewan] is not conclusive to record a finding that his disability was either attributable to or aggravated by military service," the tribunal held.

Explain why illegal construction was allowed at graveyard, HC asks SDMC

Court issues notice to Delhi govt., civic body and Waqf Board

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has told the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) to explain why unauthorised construction and encroachment were allowed to come up in and around a graveyard at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg here.

Justice Najmi Waziri also issued notices to the Delhi government, SDMC and Delhi

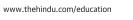
Waqf Board on a petition seeking contempt action against the authorities for allegedly not complying with the court's order to look into the grievances ventilated by petitioner Yuva Sangharsh Samiti.

"Let the Deputy Commissioner of the SDMC file an affidavit explaining why the unauthorised construction and encroachment were allowed to come up in the first place and fix responsibility upon the officers, who may be found derelict in their duties. The affidavit shall also explain as to why the abovementioned order [of Division Bench] has not been complied with," the court said.

It was of the view that the photographs placed on record showed encroachment upon Delhi Waqf Board land.

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EDUCATIONPLUS



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Take a hard look at soft skills.

They are not just about increasing the employability quotient but also help lay the foundation for attitudes to learn to co-exist with others

SARASWATHY RAMAMOORTHY

The tidal shift to the online mode has made soft skills more important than ever. Crisp clear online verbal communication and presenting oneself appropriately in the virtual visual medium matters immensely. Soft skills are relevant not only for working professionals but also for students in online classes. So, how do we ensure our children acquire skills such as teamwork, empathy, good communication, problem-solving, and mental agility? By ensuring that our education system actively teaches them.

First, what's the right time to introduce soft skills? Contrary to popular belief, soft skills should not be regarded as a finite set of skills to be learned only in young adulthood to increase employability quotient. Soft skills are life skills that form the foundation of children's personality and their attitudes towards learning and co-existing successfully in society and in the world.

Given the criticality, they should ideally be inculcated from the foundation years of education to achieve

holistic growth. Early childhood programmes and preschools that base their pedagon appropriate child-development foundations and developmentallyappropriate practice inculcate these through turn-taking, sharing, active listening, and assigning children responsibilities in the classroom. All this builds critical soft skills such as empathy, flexibility, teamwork, problem solving and ethics. Here are five ways to incul-

Modelling

cate soft skills:

With so much power to influence young minds, teachers need to be the primary role model of soft skills. If teachers model these skills and also explain their benefits, students are far more likely to make these behaviours a way of life.

Role-playing Successfully working with

others depends more on abstract aspects such as nonverbal cues and body language. Role-playing helps elucidate and put these into practice. It can be built into the teaching-and-learning cycle by using it during debates and discussions and as a tool for students to demonstrate their learning. Roleplaying must always be followed by an active debrief and discussion time during which students are asked

Group projects

These are ideal to build teamwork, leadership, collaboration, problem solving, and time management. They motivate introverted stu-

specific questions to guide

their analysis of body lan-

guage and communication.

They should ideally be inculcated from the foundation years of education to achieve holistic growth

dents to find their voice, and others with varying skills and abilities to find their niche, and reinforce self-regulation, discipline and time-on-task. They broaden horizons of thinking as one's perspectives evolve through engaging with others. Plus, students learn to negotiate and manage various personali-

Active listening

The ability to focus on the speaker to understand not just their words but also their non-verbal cues and body language, comprehend the information, and respond thoughtfully is rudimentary to being an excelcommunicator. Teachers can foster active listening by using literature to develop empathy and different perspectives among

students. Using model vide-

dents activities based on these videos will foster active listening and thoughtful responding.

Video diaries As online meetings and re-

mote working become the norm, it's important to know how to present oneself very well on a digital platform. Video diaries are recordings of individuals sharing their thoughts, opinions, ideas and feelings. This promotes self-reflection, critical thinking, awareness of body language, and communication. Students can be asked to record themselves explaining a topic or a project, teaching a concept, or simply sharing their opinions.

The term 'soft skills' is a misnomer. For these are the skills that truly strengthen and complete one's perso-

os where actors demon-The writer is the co-founder of strate how to and how not to Learning Matters communicate and giving stu-

Make a career

Uncertain about vour career options? Low on self-confidence? This Q&A column may

OFF THE EDGE

NANDINI RAMAN

I completed my graduation in Civil Engineering recently but I don't want a career in this. I wish to take the Civil Services Exam and also want to get a diploma in creative writing. What is the way to - Samyak

Dear Samyak,

professional coaching class for the Civil Services exam. Also, identify and plan a second and a third option. ple. I cannot even change my from a qualified stranger will. There are many courses available on- track now and feel like I will Check out Henry Harvin Education, Please help. - Dikshita The British Council India, Coursera, Udemy and IIM Skills, that have wellplanned and not very expensive how you must feel without being in counsellor and a trainer. Send

I am a Class X student wish- stress. Please do not do anything ex- subject line 'Off the edge'.

ing to pursue humanities. I ings; become proactive, take charge am particularly fascinated by of your life and become accountable history. What are my career options? - Pragya

Dear Pragya,

Becoming a historian, a story tellvices are some options. You could also get into the travel trade and work with some hand-picked locations

I am a second year student of Hashim B.Sc. Maths, which I am pursuing as a non-collegiate. My parents' dream is that I

Dear Dikshita

I am so sorry. I can only imagine contact with your friends, becoming an introvert and living with all this

treme, as your life is precious. Get some help urgently and see a theranist to evaluate your mental health Guilt and suffering are reactive feelfor your actions. It's time to be assertive and and have the difficult conversation with your parents.

er, an archaeologist, an educator, an My son is a Class 12 student academician, or joining the civil ser- and his ambition is to become a computer software professional. Unfortunately, on special in-bound/out-bound tours he is always engaged in games and chats with friends that offer great history (stories), in- along with attending online sights and learning to interested tra- classes. How can we convince him about preparing for the competitive exams? -

Dear Hashim,

Get him to meet a career counsellor who can motivate and encourage should clear the UPSC in my him to get his act together. He needs first attempt just after grad- to get a reality check of what it takes reach both these milestones? uation. But they ask me ran- and costs (beyond the fees) to get an dom questions from anywhentry and a foothold into a college of ere and then demotivate me. I repute and understand the difficulty feel like dying everyday. I cut level of the entrance exam. Your ad-Set yourself a timeline. Enrol in a off contact with my friends. I vice and instructions will not work as was once a very social person much as speaking with a professionbut now cannot talk to peo- al and hearing/reading the truth

Disclaimer: This column proline in Creative Writing that you can spend my entire life in this vides advice, and suggestions immediately sign up for and com- loop of guilt and suffering and is not a substitute for longplete at your own time and pace. and end up doing nothing. term therapy. Some issues may need medical intervention.

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Platform for educators

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Timings **DELHI**

MONDAY, SEP. 27 RISE 06:12 SET 18:12 RISE 22:13 SET 11:43

TUESDAY, SEP. 28 RISE 06:13 SET 18:11 RISE 22:59 SET 12:37

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 29 RISE 06:13 SET 18:10 RISE 23:50 SET 13:31

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City 25 Safdarjang

Delhi Palam Today 33°C One or two spells of rain or thundershower with gentle winds likely at some places Slight warm and humid day would prevail.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 33°C A spell of light rain or thunderstorm may occur with cloudy sky at some places and

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IN BRIEF

Delhi records 29 fresh **COVID** cases, zero deaths

The Capital recorded 29 new COVID-19 cases and zero deaths, the Delhi government on Sunday. It said 62,546 COVID-19 tests had been conducted with a positivity rate of 0.05%. There are 371 active COVID cases in the city out of which 118 are under home isolation. The bulletin said that 2,09,860 beneficiaries had been vaccinated in past 24 hours.

Over 5,000 trees to be felled for construction

NEW DELHI Over 14 hectares of forest land in east and north-east Delhi having 5,104 trees is proposed to be diverted for the construction of a stretch of a six-lane highway. The NHAI has sought permission from the Delhi forest department for the development of a 14.75-km stretch of the six-lane access controlled Delhi-Saharanpur highway, according to official

HEMANI BHANDARI NEW DELHI

ficer Rakesh Asthana joined as Delhi's Commissioner of Police, one of his first initiatives was to integrate the Police Control Room (PCR) unit with the district police and to separate law and order and investigation teams, to ensure prompt response and increase operational efficiency.

On the ground, the move has been appreciated by officers across ranks, but they believe that for the plan to be successfully implemented, more personnel need to be deployed at police stations that do not have adequate staff.

What does it mean to integrate the PCR unit with the district police? In the earlier set-up, whenever a call was received, a PCR van would reach the spot first but not take necessary legal action till the police station staff arrived. Now, an officer from the police station is attached with the PCR staff at all times. This, in turn, ensures swift action right at the spot without the PCR staff having to wait for personnel from the police station to arrive to take over legal proceedings, if required.

"While this looks like a good move, it will only be successful at police stations that have adequate staff. For instance, at our police station there are only three sub-inspectors, so this scheme, in many ways, cannot be successful," said an SI-rank woman officer on condition of anonymity.

She said attaching the PCR staff with police stations - at least three PCR vehicles with one police station – has its own benefits but at the moment, on the ground, it was not helping much. "A constable-rank officer from the police station goes with the PCR staff to attend to calls. But the officer can handle only non-heinous crimes, like a brawl. If





A Police Control Room vehicle on patrol in Delhi. • R.V. MOORTHY

SMART POLICING

Earlier this month. Delhi Police merged the PCR unit with the district police and separated law and order and investigation duties. Though the

move has been appreciated by officers across ranks, not all police stations have been able to reap its benefits due to inadequate staff

a robbery or murder is reported, the constable has to call the emergency officer (assistant sub-inspector and above-rank officers) from the police station," she said.

There are three sub-inspectors at a police station, the officer said, which means that if one is on leave and the other has to attend to court matters, the third will have to be present at the police station.

Two sections formed

"Under the new scheme, two sections have been formed at police stations investigation and law and order. Police stations, which have more senior staff, can make up to six-seven teams for investigation and law

and order each and work in shifts. But at a police station, like ours with less staff, this shift system does not work. If I am on emergency duty today, it's possible that I get

the same duty tomorrow again," the officer said. One of the solutions the SI suggested was to fasttrack departmental inquiries against officers who are good at investigation. There are officers, she said, who were being wasted in other non-performing units because the departmental inquiries against them have not been completed. Talking about the benefits, another SI said with PCR vans being attached with police stations, they now have more vehicles at their

disposal. "This increases visibility and the vans also reach the spot faster," he

Another advantage, he said, was that those in the investigation team will not have to do picket duty, which they earlier had to do for three hours irrespective of the work load. "Investigation teams do not have to get involved with law and order unless the situation is dire. For instance, if I have a murder case to work on and am ordered to perform arrangement duty the next day, there is a possibility of missing crucial evidence immediately after a crime is committed. That situation may be prevented now," he said.

A head constable posted on law-and-order duty in South West District said the initiative has ensured that he gets time with his family and it has also improved his mental health. "The work load has been reduced. Seven teams have been formed for law and order and they work in 12-hour shifts. Now. we hand over duty after our shifts. Earlier, we would come to the police station every morning and there was no specific time for returning home. Now, that's not the case. After our 12hour shift, we are only called 24 hours later," he said. The head constable said he was able to see his family regularly and take care of their needs. "People in the police force are sometimes depressed because of work pressure and lack of time with family. This has helped us," he said.

Delhi Metro earned ₹19.5 crore from the sale of carbon credits

Over 3 million such credits collected from 2012-2018

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro on Sunday said it has earned ₹19.5 crore from sale of 3.55 million carbon credits collected over a period of six years from 2012 to 2018, in its bid towards gaining greater energy efficiency.

In 2007, Delhi Metro became the first Metro or Railway project in the world to be registered by the United Nations under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which enabled it to claim carbon credits for its Regenerative Braking Project. The CDM is a projectbased Green House Gas (GHG) offset mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol allowing the public and private sector in high-income nations the opportunity to



In 2007, the Delhi Metro became the first metro project in the world to be registered by the United Nations under the Clean Development Mechanism. • FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

purchase carbon credits from greenhouse gas emissions-reducing projects in low or middle-income nations as part of their efforts to meet international emissions targets under the Kyoto protocol, the DMRC said. CDM projects generate

emissions credits called Certified Emission Reductions (CERs), which are then bought and traded. One CER is equal to one ton of CO2(eq) emission reduced. The CDM helps to deliver sustainable development benefits to the host country.

IIT-D launches centre on quantum technologies

Research across various domains will come under one umbrella

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi on Sunday said it has established a Centre of Excellence (CoE) on quantum technologies to bring research activities occurring in various domains of Quantum Technologies at IIT-Delhi under a single umbrella.

The CoE will bring synergy and coherence in the activities being carried out at the institute and will support the Principal Investigators to pitch in for more significant projects from the

DST and other funding agencies, the institute said. It added that the field of quantum technology holds immense promise for significant breakthroughs in the coming years and that the Centre has also announced a commitment worth ₹8,000 crores in the area of

Rajendra Singh, Head, School of Interdisciplinary Research (SIRe), IIT Delhi said in the past 100 years or so, Quantum Physics has impacted society in an unprecedented way and the second quantum revolution is now round the corner.

Quantum Technology.

"The CoE on Quantum Technologies at IIT-D will focus on select thrust areas," Mr. Singh said.

Awareness campaign on legal services

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Over a month-long legal awareness campaign will be run by the District Legal Services Authority, Gurugram, from October 2-November 14 as part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" – an initiative of the government to celebrate 75 years of progressive India.

Lalita Patwardhan, Chief Judicial Magistrate and Secretary, DLSA, Gurugram, said the main objective of the programme was to reach out to all the people to ensure that every person in the district gets the benefits of all legislaand beneficial schemes made for them.

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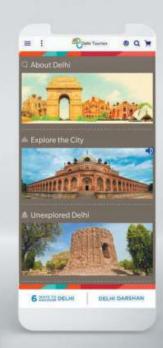
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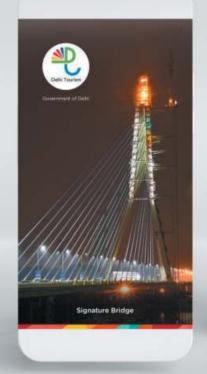
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3 more held in Dombivli gang-rape case

RAINA ASSAINAR NAVI MUMBAI

The Manpada police has arrested three more accused in the Dombivli gang-rape case, taking the total number of arrests to 32.

Meanwhile, the victim, who was in a hospital since Wednesday, was discharged on Saturday and was under police protection. One more accused is yet to be arrested.

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The police said that a WhatsApp group named 'friends', of which the accused were members and a video of the victim was circulated, is also under the

"We are verifying the number of people who circulated and are also part of the WhatsApp group. The mobile phones have been sent for forensic examina-

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tion," a police officer said. The police have visited all the spots where the incidents took place.

Of the 32 arrested, two are minors. All the accused are aged between 16 and 23 and are either students or daily wagers. A Special Investigation Team has been formed, led by Assistant Commissioner of Police (Administration) Sonali Dhole.

new party in Tripura Senior leaders

skip reception of new PCC chief SYED SAJJAD ALI

AGARTALA

Infighting in the Tripura Congress, which has been hit by the recent exodus of leaders and workers to the Trinamool Congress, was further exposed with senior party leaders not attending the reception accorded to the newly appointed PCC president, Birajit Sinha, on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Pujan Biswas, who had earlier resigned as the interim president of the State youth Congress and also from the primary membership of the party, said they would soon make an announcement on the formation of a new political 'platform'.

To ally with TIPRA

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Pujan said they will ally with the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA) floated by the State's royal

Kishore scion Pradyot Debbarman.

Cong. dissidents to form

Mr. Pujan's father, Pijush Biswas, who has been replaced by Mr. Sinha as the PCC chief, is likely to head the new political party. Sources said some dissatisfied Congress leaders met TIPRA leadership at the Uijayanta Palace over the past two days to discuss alliance plans.

Party veteran and former MLA Tapas Dey, reportedly very close to the royal family and who a few weeks ago resigned as the PCC vice-president, is expected to join the new party which would essentially focus on areas under non-tribal general assembly constituencies. Meanwhile, senior Con-

gress leaders gave a slip to an event to accord reception to newly appointed PCC president Mr. Sinha. He was a Minister during the Congress led coalition government between 1988-1993. Former Chief Minister Samir Ranjan Barman, former PCC president Gopal Roy and several other senior leaders were absent

Amid eviction unrest, Assam starts farm project

AIKS team to visit Dhalpur where two people were killed

GUWAHATI Less than 48 hours after an eviction drive led to the death of two persons, including a minor, in police firing, the Assam government has begun its ambitious farm project in the areas freed from the settlers.

BJP MLA Padma Hazarika, who heads the committee set up for implementing the government's Gorukhuti farming project, said seeds of various crops have been sown in 4,000 bighas made encroachment-free.

"We have begun with black gram, coriander and spinach. We intend to extend the cultivated area to 10,000 bighas soon," he told The Hindu from Darrang district's Gorukhuti.

He said the project will not be restricted to Dhalpur No 1, Dhalpur No 3 and Dhalpur No 3 areas only. Dhalpur 3 was where the two Bengali-speaking Muslims were



Himanta Biswa Sarma •

shot dead by the police on September 23.

The Gorukhuti project, carried out under police protection, entails farming for the indigenous youths on 77,000 bighas of land that the government claims had been taken over by "illegal migrants".

The settlers said the BJPled government has been legitimising the eviction drive by portraying them as Bangladeshis despite documents showing they are Indians who have been living in the area for decades.

croached land used to be government-notified grazing land for their cattle.

Meanwhile, the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) has decided to send a team to Dhalpur where the "BJP government killed poor, landless farmers". The delegation is expected to visit the place on October 4.

'CM must go'

"We protest the State-sponsored violence aimed at communal polarisation and demand the resignation of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma," AIKS president Ashok Dhawale said.

"If the State government was actually promoting a policy of community farming, it could have involved the 800 families who were cultivating the area for decades instead of evicting them and destroying their religious structures," he

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person whose name, residence and family is unknown, about 30 years of age was found dead at Hanuman Mandir, Near Police Booth, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 19.09.2021. In this regard **DD No.** 55A dated 19.09.2021 has been registered at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

The description of the UIDB is as under:

Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Oval, Wearing: White linedar shirt and Grey colour pajama.

If anyone has any information about this UIDB, kindly inform



Sex: Male, Age: 30 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion:

the SHO/Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi DP/1539/N/2021 Ph. No.: 011-23968730, 23967889

3 schoolboys drown in Brahmaputra, 4th missing

They had posted their fun time in river

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Three schoolboys drowned and a fourth went missing soon after one of them posted their 'fun time' in the Brahmaputra on social media.

The incident happened at Guwahati's Pandughat after the four friends were returning from their tuition classes on Sunday morning.

Four teams of the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force fished out the

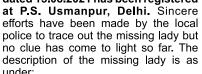
bodies of Abhinash Das, Jeet Das and Doyal Sheikh from a depth of 40 ft of the river.

The rescue teams were searching for the fourth student, Deep Sarkar, feared to have been washed away.

Their families said none of them knew swimming. In a video posted by one of the boys on his social media account showed the other three diving into the river. Mobile phones found in their schoolbags showed all of them had clicked selfies and groupies.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a lady Aarti Pathak, W/o Bhawani Shankar R/o H.No. B-15, Tilak Gali, First Pusta, New Usmanpur, Delhi has been missing since 14.08.2021 from her house. In this regard, DD No. 52-A dated 15.08.2021 has been registered at P.S. Usmanpur, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing lady but



Name: Aarti Pathak, Gender: Female, Age: 22 years. Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: T-shirt, lower and slippers on her feet. If anyone has any information regarding this missing lady kindly inform SHO/Usmanpur, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639

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S. No	Name of Work	Estimated cost (in Lacs)	Cost of TD (in Lacs)	Time of completion.	Class of Contract	Accord of Administrative Approval
1	Design, construction, testing and successfully commissioning of construction 0.15 fac galons RCC OHT, pump house cum operator quarter, sluice chamber, chain link fencing around structures, Anchor blocks/Saddle Blocks, approach path, development of premises & providing laying of GJ/DJ. pipes, including conducting complete necessary survey, soil tests as required at selected site, as per the Parameters/ specifications. Electrical/Mechanical-works, Construction of Gravel Packed/ODEX Type Production Tube Well, installation of 140 FHTCs for WSS Karewalvalangpora (JJM) including free trial run of three months after completion of all the components of scheme in all aspects and there after maintenance for a period of one year which includes 6 months DIFC.	218.63	5500	6 Months	AAY	Available
2	Design, construction, testing and successfully commissioning of 0.40 lac gallons RCC OHT, Pump house, Chowkidar quarter, Sluice chamber, Chain Ink tencing around structures, Approach path, Retaining well Breast wall, Leveling dressing, Anchor/saddle blocks, Providing laying of Intelligence (a)I/D1 pipes, including complete necessary survey, soil tests as required at selected site, as per the Parameters' specifications, Electrical Mechanical works, Construction of Gravel Packed/DDEX Type Production Tube Well, installation of 292 FHTCS or WSS Lonepora Defarpora (JMM) including free trial run of three months after completion of all the components of scheme in all aspects and there after maintenance for a period of one year which includes 6 months DLP	339.53	5500	6 Months	AAY	Available
3	Design, construction, testing and successfully commissioning of 0.35 lac gallons RCC OHT. Pump house . Operator guarter. Sluice chamber.	311.37	5500	6	AAY	Available

galons RCC OHT, Pump house, Operator quarter, Sluice chamber Chain link fending around structures, Approach path, leveling dressing Anchor/saddle blocks, Providing laying of G.ID.1 pipes, including conducting complete necessary survey, soll tests as required at selecter site, as per the Parameters' specifications, Electrical Mechanical works Construction of Gravel Packed/ODEX Type Production Tube Well installation of 165 FHTCs for WSS Rakin Chidran (JJM) induding free trial run of three months after completion of all the components of scheme in all aspects and there after maintenance for a period of one year which includes 6 months DLP.

Desirian construction, testifica and successfully commissioning of 0.551ac

Includes 6 months DLP.

Design, construction, testing and successfully commissioning of 0.55 lac galons RCC OHT. Pump house cum Operator quarter, Skine chamber, Chain link fencing around structures, Approach path, Leveling dressing, Providing laying of G.I/DI. pipes, including conducting complete necessary survey, soil tests as required at selected site, as per the Parameter's specifications, Electrical Mechanical works, Construction of Gravel Packed/ODEX Type Production Tube Well, installation of 118 FHTCs for WSS N. C. Bonura (J.MI) including free trial run of three months after completion of all the components of scheme in all aspects and there after maintenance for a period of one year which includes 6 months D.P. months DLP.

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IN BRIEF



Gandhi to lead the party

HYDERABAD The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has appealed to Rahul Gandhi, the party's former national president, to take over the reins once again to lead the fight against the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union government and also to galvanise party workers across the country. A request was made by several leaders to adopt a resolution on this at the first meeting of the Political Affairs Committee of the TPCC.

Leopard sightings in Tirupati create flutter

Reports on the sightings of a leopard on the campuses of the S.V. Veterinary University and the S.V. University in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, on Saturday created a flutter. even as Forest Department officials said they could not find pugmarks or images in the camera traps. Divisional Forest Officer (Tirupati Wildlife Management) Pawan Kumar said reports of a leopard surfaced in early September and special teams had been deployed.

Telangana hospitals see rush for death proof

HYDERABAD Government hospitals in Telangana have been witnessing a steady flow of applications for the death summary of those who succumbed to COVID-19. With the National Disaster Management Authority recommending an ex gratia of ₹50,000 to the kin of COVID-19 victims, the rush for the document is expected to intensify. In the procedures currently in place, the cause of death is only mentioned in the 'Death Summary' issued by a government hospital upon application.

CM YK

'Fake antique' racket busted in Kerala

Vlogger Mavunkal held on charges of conspiracy, cheating and forgery

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Crime Branch (CB) in Kerala has arrested a selfstyled antique collector and amateur archaeologist on the charges of palming off recently handcrafted cheap knock-offs as authentic relics to uninformed, over-enthusiastic and well-heeled persons with a zeal for acquiring rare artefacts.

Officials identified the suspect as Monson Mavunkal, an alleged confidence trickster who moved about in celebrity circles in Kochi posing as a Germany-trained cosmetologist and member of the World Peace Council. He is also a vlogger with a

social sizeable following.

An investigator claimed Mavunkal was "a fabulist who wilfully blurred the line between fact and fiction for personal gain".

For one, Mavunkal had allegedly claimed to own the "staff of Moses", silver pieces received by Judas Iscariot for betraying Jesus Christ to Roman soldiers, and other imaginary rarities from the mythical world.

The accused allegedly claimed to own the throne of Tipu Sultan, a copy of the first edition of the Holy Bible, and books and parchments from the libraries of Mughal Emperor Auranga-



Web of lies: Presspersons outside the residence of Monson Mavunkal in Kochi on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

zeb and iconic Maratha King Chhatrapati Shivaji. Mavunkal also allegedly claimed to have original and hitherto unknown works of Raja Ravi Varma and Pablo Picasso.

The suspect has denied the charges. He reportedly

told investigators that he had clarified to his customers that the items he sold to them were replicas of historical artefacts and not the original antiques.

Nevertheless, the police said the alleged racket came to light when they started investigating a set of complaints accusing Mavunkal of financial fraud. Some of the petitioners claimed that Mavunkal owed them sizeable amounts of money.

The CB used the services of law enforcers proficient in tracking down looted antiquities to verify the authenticity and provenance of Mavunkal's collection, much of it displayed at his private residence in Kaloor.

Investigators claimed they traced many of the artefacts to a set of handicraft makers in Cherthala. They suspect that actors and other celebrities were also victims of the racket. The police are scheduled to produce the suspect in a court in Kochi on Monday on the charges of conspiracy, cheating and forgery.

T.N. exceeds target by over 9.85 lakh doses

24,85,814 persons inoculated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tamil Nadu used 9.85 lakh more doses than it had targetted at the third mega CO-VID-19 vaccination camp held on Sunday, with the number of doses delivered topping 24 lakh.

Health Department officials said the State had set a target of 15 lakh doses for the camp.

By the end of the 12-hour exercise that began at 7 a.m., 24,85,814 persons were inoculated.

While 14,90,814 persons aged above 18 received their first dose, 9,95,000 persons were administered the second dose.

The State administered 9,85,814 more doses than it had planned, an official release said.

As per the data provided by the Health Department at 8.30 p.m., the most number of beneficiaries were in Chennai (2,13,763); followed by Cuddalore (1,15,590); Coimbatore (1,13,618); Tiruchi (1,06,156); Madurai (1,06,018); and Thanjavur (1,04,011).

Officials said the number could vary for some districts based on further update.

So far in September, 1,38,60,328 persons have been vaccinated.

In the morning, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inspected the camps held at Central Railway Station; Dakshinamurthi wedding hall at Pattalam; Chennai High School, Strahans Road, Ayanavaram; and Nehru marriage hall and Bethel School also at Ayanavaram.



Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Odisha, Madhya Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu; heavy rainfall at isolated places over east Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar islands, Gujarat, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Lakshadweep.

	IVALIN	IVIAA	IVIIIV	CITI	IVALIN	IVIAA	IVIIIV
gartala	. 52.0	.35.8	.24.8	Kozhikode	–	.32.6	25.9
hmedabad	. 11.0	.32.1	.25.2	Kurnool	–	–	–
izawl	0.2	–	.21.5	Lucknow	–	.33.6	25.1
llahabad				Madurai	–	.34.2	.25.2
engaluru	. 12.2	.27.0	.20.1	Mangaluru	–	.29.9	.23.7
hopal	2.0	.31.4	.23.0	Mumbai	. 10.0	.29.7	.24.8
hubaneswar	2.0	.33.2	.25.0	Mysuru	3.0	.29.0	.21.4
handigarh	–	–	.26.3	New Delhi	–	.33.7	.25.5
hennai	. 12.0	.32.0	.24.6	Patna	–	.35.6	.28.0
oimbatore	–	.31.8	.23.4	Port Blair	8.0	.29.2	.23.8
ehradun	0.5	.33.5	.21.0	Puducherry	. 64.0	.36.8	.20.3
angtok	–	.24.2	.17.2	Pune	–	.29.6	.21.3
oa	–	.30.7	.24.8	Raipur	. 11.0	.31.6	.24.6
uwahati	–	.36.8	.25.0	Ranchi	–	.31.8	.23.8
ubballi	–		–	Shillong	. 19.0	.26.6	.16.9
yderabad	. 45.0	.28.9	.21.4	Shimla	–	.24.0	.15.2
nphal	–	.31.2	.19.9	Srinagar	–	.29.8	.14.0
aipur	0.4	.33.3	.25.1	Thiruvananthapuram			
ochi	–	.30.2	.25.4	Tiruchi	–	.34.6	.26.4
ohima	. 31.0	.29.6	.18.2	Vijayawada	–	.33.6	.25.2
olkata	–	.32.9	.28.2	Visakhapatnam	. 25.0	.28.4	.24.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

...99 ...52 .118 ...96 Visakhapatnam .10 .76 52

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AOI) SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters 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, lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature

Karnataka police file FIR after man fined for entering temple

Eight, including priest, booked for September 16 incident

STAFF REPORTER KALABURAGI

The police on Saturday filed a suo motu first information report (FIR) against eight persons, including a priest, for collecting a fine from a man belonging to a Scheduled Caste after he entered a temple at Naganakal village on the outskirts of Karatagi in Koppal district, Karnata-

Mareppa, 24, belonging to the Sindolli community (Scheduled Castes) from Rajiv Gandhi Nagar in Karatagi, entered the Mahalakshmi temple in Naganakal village and offered puja on September 16.

When he was coming out of the temple, the priest and other villagers took objection to it.



They subsequently held a meeting and demanded a ₹5 lakh fine for conducting special pujas and abhisheka for purifying the temple, which they claimed was polluted by the entry of a Scheduled Caste man

Later, ₹11,000 was collected from the man.

As the news reached the administration, the Karatagi police filed a suo motu FIR on Saturday against eight persons, including temple priest Basavaraj Badiger and villagers Revanayyaswamy, Shekarappa, Sharanappa, Prashanth, Basavaraj, Kadappa Nayak and Durugesh.

DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM JAMMU Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir Wishes Happy World Tourism Day 2021 🔘 🛩 @ jammutourism 🗗 @ jammutourismofficial 🖊 🖾 dirtsmjmu@gmail.com 🖟 www.jammutourism.gov.in

Back in the game

India must cooperate with U.S. on vaccines, trade, and leverage Quad for regional stability

rime Minister Narendra Modi's summit meeting with U.S. President Joe Biden, and his first in-person meet of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue mark an important step forward in India's engagement with major global powers as it seeks to revive its economy and strategic role in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis. At the heart of the two leaders' meeting was the issue of vaccine availability - and a critical victory for the Biden administration as it received Mr. Modi's assurance that as the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, India would resume supplies to the global COVAX pool under its 'Vaccine Maitri' programme. The breakthrough comes after turmoil in this space earlier this year, when India halted exports after facing criticism for domestic supply bottlenecks as it contended with a devastating second wave of COVID-19. Around the same time the U.S. also invoked its Defense Production Act, effectively preventing the export of raw materials for vaccine manufacture in a bid to prioritise domestic production. With both countries now moving forward on their domestic vaccination programmes, albeit with the U.S. still struggling to overcome vaccine hesitancy in certain States, the summit provided them a timely opportunity to take up long-pending conversations on trade, defence ties and more. At the confluence of those two areas was the reaffirmation by Mr. Biden that India remained a 'Major Defence Partner', making it a key nation with which Washington could share information and strengthen cooperation in advanced military technologies, including, for example, a recent project to codevelop air-launched unmanned aerial vehicles.

Issues of global concern, including the ongoing pandemic, climate change, technology cooperation, supply chains and security, and preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific were themes that came up at the Quad gathering. Following on the heels of the first virtual summit of the four leaders in March 2021, this meeting builds upon the intention of the Quad member nations - India, the U.S., Australia, and Japan – to ensure an Indo-Pacific region "free from coercion and disputes... solved in accordance with international law". While India has sought to disassociate its role as a member of the Quad from the recently announced Australia-U.K.-U.S. (AUKUS) partnership, there is little doubt that the creation of a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines for Australia under the AUKUS framework will have significant and positive implications on India's strategic calculus regarding the Indo-Pacific region. From New Delhi's perspective, health concerns and economic revival remain at the very apex of the policy agenda. This is a time for India to rapidly deepen cooperative initiatives with the U.S. regarding vaccines and trade and continue engaging vigorously with the Quad for regional stability. That is the optimal strategy to navigate the uncertain global ecosystem that it now finds itself in.

Needless row

Rajasthan's law does not validate child marriages, but helps rights of underage brides

The controversy over the recent amendment to the Rajasthan Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act is unnecessary, as it clearly does not amount to validating or legitimising child marriage. However, the issue made by the Opposition and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights may occasion a reconsideration of the legal framework dealing with child marriages that continue to take place despite a statutory prohibition. The Rajasthan law enacted in 2009 provided for compulsory registration of all marriages. It is largely similar to the enactments in other States, and is based on the Supreme Court's verdict in Seema vs Ashwani Kumar (2007), which directed that all marriages in India should be registered. The original law itself did not exclude registration of child marriages, and all that the amendment does is to change the age at which the obligation to register shifts from the parents or guardians to the parties to the marriage. Earlier, it was the duty of the parties to the marriage to submit a memorandum on their marriage to the registrar if they were both above 21 years; and if younger, it was the duty of the parents or guardians. The amendment changes this age limit to 21 for men and 18 for women. It is difficult to see this change authorising the bride herself to participate in the marriage registration after the age of 18, as one that permits child marriage.

Under the law, child marriages are not void, but only voidable at the instance of one of the parties, who may approach the court for nullifying the marriage within two years of attaining majority. Registering such a marriage may help establish the legal rights of the underage party and those of any children born and deter any attempt to deny the marriage later. It may even help prosecution of those solemnising child marriages and implement provisions relating to maintenance and residence of the girl whose marriage is invalidated later. Nothing prevents the marriage registrar from alerting the child marriage prohibition officer after registering the marriage. One must note that there was never any specific prohibition on registering child marriages. Even the Supreme Court observed that even though registration itself could not be proof of a valid marriage as such, it would have "great evidentiary value in the matters of custody of children, right of children born from the wedlock of the two persons whose marriage is registered and the age of parties to the marriage". As a fallout of this controversy, Parliament ought to consider the Law Commission's recommendation to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, to make child marriages below 16 years void, and those solemnised when either party was between 16 and 18, voidable.

These investigations are a face without a heart

There is no longer any respect for the citizen's rights but only a single-minded assertion of unaccountable authority



MADAN B. LOKUR

¬ asping for breath − that is how our investigating agen-Jcies leave our citizens and now the press. Two recent cases clearly demonstrate that our investigating agencies are a face without a heart.

On September 10, 2021, officers of the Income-Tax Department visited the premises of NewsClick and Newslaundry. According to the Editors Guild of India, NewsClick and Newslaundry are news websites. The visit by the officers was styled as a survey and this was confirmed by the Department to a private news channel. A survey by officers of the IT-Department is governed by Section 133A of the Income-Tax Act

Entry that is limited, specific

Section 133A authorises an income-tax authority to enter premises where a business or profession is carried on. The purpose of entry is limited and specific – to inspect books of account or documents, check or verify the cash, stock or other valuable article or thing which may be found in the premises and furnish such information that the authority may require. A survey is not a fishing expedition. A survey can be carried out only during the time the premises are open for conduct of business or profession.

A statement released by Newslaundry indicates that the officers came to its premises at about 12:15 p.m. and left the next day at 12:40 a.m. Similarly, a statement released by NewsClick suggests that the officers came at about noon and left around midnight. The first question: are the premises of

these news websites usually open for business at midnight with the same staff? If not, the officers violated the law in continuing the survey till the witching hour, without any compunction.

Some side issues also arise. For example, what do the officers do for lunch, dinner and snacks when a survey takes place for 12 hours? Do they carry their tiffin boxes and water bottles? What about the people in the premises – can they go out for a bite or are they expected to remain hungry? Can they even inform their family that they have been locked up for several hours and cannot come home?

Section 133A authorises the officers to inspect the books of account, place identification marks on them, and on other documents, and even make copies. They may impound the books of account or other documents inspected by them, for reasons to be recorded in writing. They are also entitled to make an inventory of the cash, stock or other valuable articles verified by the officers. Finally, they are authorised to record the statement of any person in the surveyed premises, though not on oath.

Court's view

The Orissa High Court has taken the view that the primary objective of a survey is to inspect and if impounding is necessary, specific reasons (not general reasons) must be recorded: the reasons must be recorded at the time of impounding and not even a day later, otherwise the impounding would be bad in law.

Section 133A contains a specific prohibition that the officers "shall, on no account, remove or cause to be removed from the place... any cash, stock or other valuable article or thing". How much more prohibitory can it get?

The legal Lakshman rekha having been delineated, what is it that transpired during the survey on



September 10, 2021? The version of the I-T Department is not in the public domain, so it is not known, and perhaps might never be known.

The two cases

In its statement, Newslaundry informs us that its CEO was not allowed to use his phone to contact his lawyer. In fact, he was asked to hand over his phone to the officers. He was asked to comply with on-the-spot directions without taking legal advice. Even a criminal is entitled to contact his or her lawyer and family. Second question: Under what authority of law was the CEO asked to hand over his phone and refrain from contacting his lawyer? Books of account may be impounded, but prohibiting use of a mobile phone, even tem-

The personal mobile phone, laptop and office machines (presumably desktops) were taken control of and the data on them or in them was downloaded. Ordinarily, a search warrant is required for this. Apart from anything else, this is a classic case of invasion of the fundamental right of privacy. The CEO was not given a copy of the downloaded data, which is his property and he is entitled to it as of right. On the contrary, he was asked to delete his personal data from his mobile phone within one hour so that they could take it away (which they did). Third question: Why should he delete his personal data?

The I-T Department has accepted before the Delhi High Court

that it has "seized" material (including perhaps his mobile phone and laptop) and it is in safe custody. Under which law is not explained. Fourth question: Are officers of the I-T Department entitled to violate the law with imand punity without accountability?

The sequence of events clearly suggests that the staff of Newslaundry was subjected to some sort of a house arrest or office arrest, cut off from the world for 12 hours and denied their constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights. Is this permissible?

The fate suffered by NewsClick is no better. NewsClick issued a statement to the effect that 30 employees and support staff were 'locked up' (so to speak) for the duration of the survey, that is for 12 hours and their phones seized. If any family member had faced an emergency during those 12 hours, bad luck. To make matters worse, they were prevented from accessing their computers and indeed from working. Why? And under which law? It seems quite clear that the employees and staff underwent office arrest, something akin to house arrest. Fifth question: are the fundamental rights of speech, freedom of the press and privacy suspended during a survey of books of account by the I-T Department? Surely, our fundamental rights are not that

meaningless. The phone of the Editor-in-Chief was also impounded containing private, personal and confidential data. It appears that the fundamental right to privacy is stillborn in respect of some people, particularly journalists. He may have received information from a source that he does not desire to disclose. In law, he cannot be compelled to disclose the source, being privileged information, but a well-planned survey can achieve that purpose. Journalists beware or don't care - the Supreme Court of India

Loose papers were taken away from the surveyed premises. It appears that no list was prepared of these papers and no copy of the loose papers supplied to the employees concerned. E-mail dumps were taken of the Editor-in-Chief and the Editor. Sixth question: was the survey a facade for some other purpose? Nobody will know until the next 'raid'.

More the norm now

So many questions arise from these two surveys and they provide obvious answers, but nobody cares. The issue is not what Newslaundry and NewsClick have done or not done, in terms of adhering to and complying with the law. The issue is whether there is a rule of law prevailing and how easy it is for the authorities to harass citizens if they want to. The other issue is that government officers can get away with just about any abuse of their powers, including unlawful house or office arrest, and this is becoming the norm rather than the exception. There is no longer any respect for the citizen's rights, including journalists: only a single-minded assertion of unaccountable authority.

One last question. Are the authorities accountable for their actions at any point, or should journalists resign themselves to defenselessly watch the erosion of their rights? Harassed journalists and vulnerable targets may seek the path of least resistance. After all, they have families to feed. They did not set out to be test cases for democratic resilience. Constitutional offices, on the other hand, have a duty to not look away. Have officers forgotten that citizens of India, journalists included, deserve humane treatment under the law or is it that they do not have a heart?

Madan B. Lokur is a retired judge of the

Flood management that cannot be watered down

For a lasting solution to the India-Nepal floods, an intergovernmental panel must be formed with local representation



ATUL K. THAKUR

ver the years, many of Bihar's districts have been facing serious challenges with recurrent and massive flooding. This year too, it has been a double whammy - of flooding and the novel coronavirus pandemic. It is the right time to look at some of the key aspects of India-Nepal flood management under the existing arrangements of India's federal system that offers enough room for better coordination between the Centre and State governments. The background: some of Nepal's biggest river systems originate in the Himalayan glaciers which then flow into India through Bihar. During the monsoons, these river systems flood causing many problems for Bihar. It is a necessity that there is process-driven coordination between the Centre and the Government of Bihar to handle the flooding in Nepal's Terai and North Bihar (largely the Mithilanchal region).

Still pending

As part of the long-term measures to address the problem of massive and recurrent floods in Bihar, the Joint Project Office (JPO), Biratnagar, was established in Nepal in August 2004 to prepare a detailed project report to construct a high dam on the Nepal side (on the Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati rivers). The

Government of Bihar has raised the matter at regular intervals. The Central Water Commission (CWC). Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), Government of India, convened a special meeting of the joint team of experts (India side) on February 10, 2020 at New Delhi to ascertain the status of the detailed project report. A group of officers formed by the CWC has to work on various aspects of the detailed project re port and propose an action plan for its early completion. The Water Resources Department, Bihar has repeatedly requested the MoJS (most recently, through Letter no. 295, dated August 2, 2021) to expedite the progress of the detailed project report. Despite the best efforts made by the Government of Bihar, the task remains unaccomplished even after 17 years.

The Minister of Water Resources Department, Bihar, Sanjay Kumar Jha, met the Minister of External Affairs, S. Jaishankar, in September 2020 to highlight longstanding water sharing issues with Nepal. The crucial matter of water sharing with Nepal has been flagged by India officially as well. What is evident is Nepal's lack of prompt reciprocation. It is essential that Nepal shows the required will to find a long-term solution with India in ending a perennial

Flood protection work

As in the existing India-Nepal Agreement on water resources, the State government is authorised to execute flood protection works up to critical stretches inside Nepal territory along the India-Nepal border. In recent years,

all such flood protection works

face of increasing local resistance. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar, was intensively engaged at two levels: with local Nepalese authorities and through appeals to the Central government for carrying out flood protection works in 2020. After sustained coordination between the Centre and the State (Bihar) and expedited interventions by India with Nepal, Kathmandu gave its conditional permission for manpower and machinery operation in the Nepal area of Kosi basin. Accordingly, 21 out of the 22 works could be completed. Also, some progress was made to facilitate the smooth movement of manpower, machinery and flood control materials across the Gandak and Kamla rivers situated on the Nepal side to carry out flood protection work during the flood period of 2020.

But despite the requisite permission for movement on the Kosi barrage and associated embankments, the movement of departmental vehicles and work activities did not draw the attention of the Kosi Project Authority, Biratnagar, for various reasons. Since bilateral cooperation remains the fulcrum of water sharing and water management between the two countries, Nepal must play its part in ensuring a sustainable way

As in the figures shared by the Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar, a total of four new flood protection works in the Gandak basin area were proposed before the floods of 2020. A reiest was made on June 22, 2020 by the Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar, to the Government of India for entry into the Nepal region for execution of these flood protection works and for maintenance works of the Gandak Barrage Structure located in Valmikinagar. After receiving conditional permission from Nepal, maintenance work of the structure and components of the Gandak barrage (Valmikinagar), top regulator gates, Right Afflux Bund, and three of the proposed works in the Gandak basin were completed.

During the strengthening work proposed on the right marginal bund on the Lalbekia river, the local Nepali administration claimed that the said bund area fell in no man's land. This is notwithstanding the fact that the embankment was built by India 30 years ago and there has not been any dispute regarding its maintenance all these years. Breach closure/protective work of right guide bund of the Kamla weir remains incomplete due to the lack of permission. However, resolution of the impasse is awaited. This is another important matter to be looked at.

Aware of the operational impasse during the flood season in 2020, Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish

Kumar visited the Jainagar weir site in Madhubani, and upon sensing the seriousness of the situation, instructed the Water Resources Department to explore converting the weir on the India-Nepal border into an efficiently operated barrage. It is evident that Nepal's attitude towards mutual issues (water sharing, flood control, etc.) has been short of collabora-

An alternative paradigm

In the best spirit of friendship, Nepal and India should restart the water dialogue and come up with policies to safeguard the interests of all those who have been affected on both sides of the border. It is time the two friendly countries come together and assess the factors that are causing unimaginable losses through flooding every year. Optimisation of the infrastructure will be decisive in finding an alternative paradigm of flood management. Moreover, it is also linked to how the Himalayan glaciers and the green cover are managed.

Water cooperation should drive the next big India-Nepal dialogue, and despite the challenges, wisdom should prevail to turn the crisis into an opportunity, for the sake of development and environmental protection. Water resources are priceless assets. By controlling the flooding and using the water resources for common developmental uses such as hydroelectricity, irrigation and waterways, India-Nepal relations can strengthened even further.

Atul K. Thakur is a policy analyst and

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

UNGA speech

It was a proud moment to hear the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, deliver his speech at the United Nations General Assembly on Saturday. By calling India the mother of all democracies (Page 1, September 26), Mr. Modi has only forcefully reminded the world there are sane voices and that the international community must unite as one on core issues such as countering terrorism, tackling climate change and poverty, protecting human rights, encouraging women's education in Afghanistan

and even taking on COVID-19. The august assembly is sure to have lent its ears to one of the best speeches delivered for the welfare of the international community. S. SESHADRI

■ It is baffling that whenever the Prime Minister goes out of India he talks highly of democracy and its principles, but what is happening in India is just the opposite; his government accords scant respect to democratic procedures. In the country which is said to be the "mother of all

democracies", parliamentary democracy is hardly followed. Very often, Bills are passed without any debate or discussion, autocratically, and based on the whims and fancies of the Government. D. SETHURAMAN,

■ I strongly disagree with the Prime Minister's speech. The fall in India's rank in the democracy index, the tag of electoral autocracy, the crackdown on civil liberties, mounting pressure on human rights groups, frequent Internet shutdowns, rising attacks on journalists and intolerance towards

minorities underline the worsening state of democracy in India. MAHESH RALLABHANDI, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh

■ The gentle hint by United States Vice-President Kamala Harris to India on the need to preserve democratic principles and human rights is an indication that the Prime Minister's rhetorical flourish about Indian democracy is likely to be taken by the international community with a pinch of salt. The intolerance towards dissent, misuse of official machinery against political opponents, and the rise in

human rights violations cannot go unnoticed internationally. India should put its house in order to recapture its moral stature. MANOHAR ALEMBATH, Kannur, Kerala

Social mosaic of Kerala It is quite saddening to note the recent developments in Kerala following misguided and hateful remarks made by the Bishop of Pala. Kerala has been a State that has always promoted tolerance between various religions since time immemorial.

Ours is a land that hears the call of the muezzin complement the pealing of

To read more letter: the bells of a temple and a church. It is indeed grievous

by distrust. If our ancestors could overcome efforts to introduce tears in the social fabric, can we hope to further their legacy by looking past constructs such as religion and caste in this modern age? The challenge lies in getting ourselves to endorse and appreciate our collective identity and our

innate oneness.

ABHISHEK SURESH,

Kozhikode, Kerala

to note how we have evolved

to a situation that is marred



Stopping short of social justice

The Justice Rajan Committee report does not provide answers to the crucial questions it engages with



The one unequivocal finding in the 165-page Justice Rajan Committee report is that the National Eligibilitycum-Entrance Test (NEET) has adversely impacted the chances of less privileged students in gaining admission to government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu. Several parameters have been used by the Committee to assess privilege (or the lack of it), such as studying in a Tamil medium school, studying in a government school, being a first-generation graduate, and belonging to a household with an income of less than ₹2.5 lakh. Every one of these criteria demonstrate that the already abysmal share of the less privileged in medical education became even more abvsmal after NEET was introduced. One needs no other reason to accept that admission based on higher secondary marks serves the cause of equity better.

School education is inequitable

But a caveat is necessary here: admission based on higher secondary marks is by no means equitable. The number of government school students who were able to gain admission to government medical colleges in the pre-NEET era was around 38 per year. This came down to three or four post-NEET till the 7.5% quota for government school students was introduced. The number then rose to 336 in 2020-21 (page 55). The repeated assertion by the Committee that NEET coaching skews the results of the medical exam is true, but the Committee ignores the fact that the results of the State Board examinations can also be skewed through coaching. The domination of medical admissions from coaching schools in Rasipuram in the pre-NEET area clearly demonstrated this. The blunt truth is that school education in India, including in Tamil Nadu, is grossly inequitable. There is a spectrum of inequity in education with the government schools catering to the most underprivileged and a range of private



Students study for NEET in Vyasarpadi, Chennai. • B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

schools catering to various strata of the privileged. Unless this inequity is addressed, all talk of coaching is

Logical fallacies

If one were to delve into the report for answers to questions that the Committee engages with, such as what type of student should be selected for medical education, what mode of selection will ensure that such students are selected, and how we can best reconcile the perceived social needs of medical education with the aspirations of individual students, one will be deeply disappoint-

Furthermore, one can appreciate the descriptive statistics, but the inferential statistics are terribly flawed. The entire document is peppered with logical fallacies. For example, on page 26, the report says: "The analytical section of this report, in the later pages, also vindicates that the ever present socio economic disadvantages and other educational, geographical and linguistic backwardness facing the students of the Tamil Nadu state do not favour the practice of a common entrance exam

as it causes injustice to the disadvantaged majority people of the state." Do these disadvantages not cause "injustice" in the result of the 12th Standard exam?

Further, on pages 83 and 84, the Committee compares the Higher Secondary School marks with the marks obtained in NEET and says, "Now, the question remains before us is who is meritorious (in terms of percentage marks) - those who secured '98.16 % (HSc)' or those who secured '89.05% (HSc)' and simultaneously 49.65% (NEET)'? Surely, it is 98.16% is the answer." Recognising that this argument sounds rather silly, the Committee then says, "Comparison between the HSc and the NEET scores is like comparing orange with apple, but it is not in the wisdom of this Committee to compare this way, however, the Committee has to do so in response to the arguments of the critics of HSc who argue that NEET is the best assessor of students' standard and abilities, because of its assessment and syllabus superiority." To refute one logical fallacy with another is hardly good policy.

The greatest disappointment with

the report comes from its failure to engage with the most inequitable of all factors in medical education: the insurmountable barrier placed by the very high financial commitment required in private medical education, said to be in the order of ₹1 crore and more. The opaque admission methods and extremely high charges incurred in private medical education was the cause for repeated challenges in the courts, which finally resulted in the NEET. Abolishing NEET without addressing this problem will be a farce, with little real benefit. The statistical prowess of the Committee does not extend to revealing the fees and other charges being collected by these institutions, the background of the students in these institutions, how many of them serve in rural areas, and so on - all of which are criteria that the Committee uses to say that NEET will be detrimental to social justice. Private medical education now accounts for around 50% of seats. The remarkable silence of a Committee, whose terms

The way forward

disappointing.

The experience of the NEET has highlighted the grossly inequitable school system in Tamil Nadu. The number of government schools has greatly increased but learning outcomes are very poor. An article in this paper by Kalaiyarasan A. ("Dravidam 2.0 as a time to reflect, for action") pointed out that Tamil Nadu scored the lowest among the southern States in the Performance Grading Index in 2019-20.

Using the higher secondary marks for admission to medical colleges will help a few of the most disadvantaged students get admission to government medical colleges. But it will do nothing to advance the cause of social justice which requires, in the short term, access to the 50% of medical seats in the private sector which are now reserved for the extremely wealthy, by virtue of the high financial commitments required, and in the long term, a vast improvement in the quality of education imparted in government schools. Anything short of this is mere window-dressing.

Dr. George Thomas is an Orthopaedic

Public reason leads to progress

Kerala's soul cannot survive via vote-bank politics or identity politics, but only by building a rational public sphere



Since the Catholic Bishop of Pala in Kerala, Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, raised the issue of 'love jihad' and 'narcotic jihad', various groups have sprung into action taking sides. Since this concern has been voiced since 2018 on a few occasions, a well-meaning government has the responsibility to clear the air by establishing whether it is a bogey or part of an organised crime by groups within or outside the country. The government must also prevent preconceived anti-Muslim prejudices from surfacing and spoiling the secular fabric of the State. That vote-bank politics is in full play is evident from the visits of different political parties to the Bishop's house. This article tries to bring home the need to build a reasoned public sphere in Kerala and elsewhere in India.

Democracy based on public reason

Development scholars generally acknowledge that Kerala's social achievements in education, health, land reforms, public distribution system, social security and so on are the outcome of its renaissance tradition and public action. Even so, you cannot sustain this progressively unless you build a genuine democracy based on public reason. From the second half of the 20th century, the idea of democracy as the public use of reason gained great significance. Jürgen Habermas and several outstanding thinkers on democracy consider the public sphere as the result of a process in which individual citizens are made capable of demanding from the ruling class not only public accountability but also moral justification for their actions. In a genuine democracy, not only the government, but the Opposition, social leaders and the media too will have to morally and scientifically justify their statements.

The moot question that many may ask at this point is why people enthusiastically work up or support apparently irrational issues while several burning problems such as growing inequality, poverty, unemployment, marginalisation of women, alcoholism, the declining quality of higher education and research, endemic rent-seeking, an alarming suicide rate, ecological overkill, and the blatant disregard for the rule of law stare us in the face. Why is 'narcotic jihad' more important than the COVID-19 pandemic which has claimed so many lives and des-

PACKED

SCHEDULE

After the

ICC Men's

T20 World

scheduled

at least six

series until

July 2022

■ India is

for a full

scheduled

South Africa

tour in Dec.-Jan. 2021/22

with three

Tests and

ODIs each

Between

2022 (after

the Men's

T20 World

Cup) and July

2021, India is

scheduled to

play at least 21 T20Is,

nine ODIs

and seven

and four

to feature in

international

Development is not only freedom, as Amartya Sen famously conceptualised, but also democracy at its practical best. But this can be realised only through reasoned public debates, or what Habermas calls communicative rationality. When Ayyankali, a 'low caste' social reformer of Kerala, said in the early 1930s that his dream was to see at least 10 members of his community acquire a BA degree, it was public reasoning par excellence, although for many upper castes, it was irreverence and irrationality. If the youth of Kerala do not have the capability and freedom to choose their life partner, food, clothes and question injustices, the public sphere is in decay. The communicative rationality of several religious groups is also suspect. Are Christian girls as vulnerable to drug trafficking as is widely alleged? We seem to be in deep unfreedom.

Showing compassion

I would like to place here two universal issues that the Bible has famously thrown at us. First, am I my brother's keeper? This is a counter question posed by Cain, the first son of Adam and Eve, who killed his brother Abel, to God (the supreme wisdom) who asked him where his brother was. Indeed, the message is loud and clear that human beings have a moral responsibility towards one another. When Athens of 5th century BC, hailed as the cradle of democracy, declared that its goal was for people to live in freedom together, in a way the city was taking forward this vision. Second, who is your neighbour? This was asked by a rich lawyer who apparently obeyed the Ten Commandments and wanted to enjoy eternal life. The young man asked the question because Jesus wanted him to love his neighbour. The famous parable of the Good Samaritan was Jesus's reply to the question. A priest simply walked past a wounded man on the road. A Levite also quietly avoided him. But a Samaritan, a low-caste person, took care of the wounded man and showed abundant mercy. Today, your neighbour is a Hindu, a Muslim or a Christian or a heathen. What makes the difference in the parable is compassion and not upholding caste hierarchy. The world is missing this great value and continues preaching hatred on the strength of religious texts.

On many grounds, Kerala is at a crossroads. Its democracy is on trial and faces deep crises. Kerala's soul cannot survive via vote-bank politics or identity politics, but only by building a substantive rational public sphere.

M.A. Oommen is Honorary Fellow at CDS and Distinguished Fellow at GIFT, Thiruvananthapuram

Identity and public policy

Identity-based public policy may not be as effective as one based on a universalist approach

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN & ROHITH UNNIKRISHNAN

Some political parties have demanded that caste be enumerated in the Census. Actually, the demand amounts to one of counting the Other Backward Classes, for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes are already counted. The demand has been accompanied by the argument that the efficacy of public policy for enhancing well-being across the population is tied to the enumeration of Indians by their caste. One approach to assessing this argument would be to compare development outcomes in States where political parties have adopted caste-based mobilisation with those in States where political programmes for ending deprivation have taken the social democratic route, without resorting to identity politics. Tamil Nadu would be an example of the former, while Kerala would be an example of the latter. A comparison of the developmental experience of these States

Findings along three variables

would therefore be instructive.

As the availability of data across social groups is limited, we focused on three variables. These were adult literacy, infant mortality and consumption. Each of these indicators is related to one of the three components of the United Nations Development Progamme's Human Development Index. Having chosen the development indicators of interest, there are two ways in which we may assess the difference made to the condition of the least well-off in a population, in this case the SCs, by differently driven social programmes. For any indicator, we may focus on either the impact made in terms of its distribution among groups or the absolute level achieved by a cohort.

In a comparison of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, for consumption - a proxy for income – the gap between the general population and the SCs is greater in Kerala than it is in Tamil Nadu but smaller when it comes to the other two indicators. However, when it comes to the absolute level achieved, the SCs of Kerala are better-off than the SCs of Tamil Nadu on

they are also better off than the general population of India, i.e., they have superior consumption, literacy and infant mortality outcomes. This is striking. At the same time, the exercise also revealed a hazard when focusing on relative standing alone. We found that for more than one indicator, the distance between the SCs and the general population is far lower for the country as a whole than it is in at least one of the two States considered, even though the State concerned registered a superior level for the same indicator. This leaves us veering towards the maximin principle in evaluation, according to which that policy is preferred which maximises the position of the worst off in a society. Now, Kerala will be chosen as better performing, for the most disadvantaged have higher indicators there. Though we could do with more analysis and the use of controls to arrive at a definite conclusion, this evidence at least suggests that identity-based public policy may not be as effective as one based on an identityless or universalist approach that is the hallmark of a social democracy.

Women's empowerment

Though we are already in a position to say something about the potential of information on the caste status of individuals in the elimination of deprivation, we take our investigation to another field before concluding. It has been known for decades that gender inequality exists in India. Knowledge of low literacy and high infant mortality among females has, however, done little to spur counteracting public policy that will ensure women's empowerment. Returning to the two States of our study, Kerala greatly disappoints when it comes to women's empowerment, and lags behind Tamil Nadu on labour force participation, the proportion of female legislators and judges, and crimes against women. Counting the number of women through a census has proved insufficient to eliminate the deprivation and inequality they face. Politics and not the availability of information drives public policy.

Pulapre Balakrishnan teaches at Ashoka University, Sonipat and Rohith Unnikrishnan works at IIM Kozhikode

DATA POINT

Kohli as T20 captain - the IPL anomaly

ICC Men's T20 World Cup and as skipper of the Bangalore IPL franchise after the current IPL season. Data show that he is among the world's best T20 captains in terms of win % and has an impressive batting record as skipper. However, his record as a skipper in the IPL leaves much to be desired. His recent batting form in both Tests and ODIs has taken a hit with his Test averages in 2020 and 2021 among the poorest in his career. With a packed schedule ahead, it remains to be seen whether the move will end his batting slump in the other formats. By **Sumant Sen**

AS T20I CAPTAINS | The chart plots the number of matches a player captained against an international side and the win % (won/ played) in T20Is. Only those players who have led the team in at least 15 matches and are from the top 10 T20I ranked teams at present have been considered. Seven skippers, including M.S. Dhoni

While Dhoni scored the sixth-highest runs as captain, his strike rate in the format is and Virat Kohli, feature among the elite (shaded region) 80 --Rohit 70 du Plessis 60 50

Pollard 160 Morgan Kohli Babai 140 Dhoni ₹120 40 Williamson ¥ 30 Asgha 15 25 35 55 75 400 800 1600 MATCHES AS CAPTAIN **RUNS SCORED AS CAPTAIN**

LEADING IPL SIDES

While Kohli has a commendable record leading India in T20Is, his record as IPL captain is relatively poor. While he has been captain in the second-most number of matches (after Dhoni) in the IPL. his win % is relatively low. Only seven captains feature among the elite (shaded region), with Dhoni leading the chart. Kohli does not make

Dhoni 50 Gilchrist 40 -The chart plots the number of 30 matches a player has played 40 80 120 160 200 MATCHES AS CAPTAIN

Finch

BATTING PERFORMANCE

The chart plots the runs scored by a

T20I captain and his batting strike

captains, including Kohli and Rohit,

feature among the elite (shaded region).

rate (runs per 100 balls). Only six

DIPPING FORM | In 2020 and 2021, Kohli's batting form has been poor compared to his lofty standards, particularly in the longer formats. His Test averages for the years are among the worst in his career and his ODI average has also fallen. Interestingly, his T20I form in 2020 and 2021 has not suffered

Year	Test average	ODI average	T20I SR
2008	-	31.8	-
2009	-	54.2	-
2010	-	47.4	123.8
2011	22.4	47.6	117.3
2012	49.2	68.4	132.7
2013	56.0	52 . 8	131.8
2014	44.6	58.6	133.7
2015	42.7	36.6	157.1
2016	75.9	92.4	140.3
2017	75.6	76.8	152.6
2018	55.1	133.6	122.0
2019	68.0	59.9	147.9
2020	19.3	47.9	141.8
2021	29.8	43.0	147.1
Source: ESPN		45.0	147.1

The Ma Findu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 27, 1971

'Put pressure on Pak, for a solution'

Mujibnagar, Sept. 26: The acting President of the People's Republic of Bangla Desh, Syed Nazrul Islam, yesterday appealed to different countries of the world to put pressure on the Islamabad regime for a solution of the Bangla Desh issue. The basis for such a solution should be (1) unconditional release of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, (2) recognition of the Bangla Desh Government, (3) withdrawal of the "occupation forces" from Bangla Desh and (4) adequate compensation for the war damage caused by the Pakistani army. In the absence of such a solution, the liberation movement of the 75 million people of Bangla Desh would continue in a more intensive form, Syed Nazrul Islam told a people in a broadcast from the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra on the completion of six months' fight against the Yahya Khan regime.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 27, 1921

Travancore students' strike

The official and non-official versions of the events on the 21st in connection with the Travancore students' strike differ in so many vital particulars that it seems necessary to institute a searching enquiry into the whole incident. For one thing, the non-official version suggests that the students were amenable to the persuasion of the District Magistrate and that the Police and the Military engaged the "mob" in spite of the District Magistrate's order by sign of hand not to charge the students. The official version on the other hand seeks to make out that the Police Commissioner was not aware of the wishes of the District Magistrate, if not indeed of his presence and that, in any case, the Police Commissioner was not the person that ordered the forces to charge. In this material particular, the Government account is flatly contradicted by the non-official account whose signatories are, some of them, eye-witnesses and all certainly responsible citizens. Nor is this the only serious difference in the accounts. The Press Communique attempts to suggest that sharp weapons were not used and seeks support for this theory in the statement that there were no such serious wounds among student casualties as to require treatment in the Hospital. Not only is this suggestion diametrically opposed to the non-official version which mentions casualties and points to blood stains, but it also stands challenged by the statement of a correspondent published elsewhere that student casualties were refused admission in the hospitals.

all the three indicators. Interestingly,

FROM PAGE ONE

Maoist influence down to just 41 districts: govt.

As per norms, State governments have to reimburse the amount incurred on deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in a

Mr. Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken a decision to bring down the fixed expenditure of States on deployment of CAPFs and the expenditure by States has reduced by about ₹2,900 crore in 2019-20 as compared to the 2018-

Soren also said Maoists have made an inaccessible place called Budha Pahar their sanctuary and a large portion of this area falls in Chhattisgarh and sought the neighbouring State's cooperation for conducting a joint operation.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik demanded that the Union Home Ministry should conduct a study on how many children from LWE affected areas across the country are able to clear national level exams such as NEET, IIT-JEE. "If our systems continue to bypass these areas, it is not going to help the cause of people of LWE affected areas," Mr. Patnaik said.

Mr. Shah said in the past two years, a successful effort has been made to increase the security camps in areas where security was not stringent, especially in

Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Odisha.

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China's continuing travel ban that has barred travell-

ers from India, including

thousands of students, from

going to the country for

more than one year reflected

an "unscientific approach"

from the Chinese authori-

ties, India's Ambassador to

China Vikram Misri has said.

difficult state of bilateral rela-

tions in a dialogue held by

Indian and Chinese insti-

tutes last week, Mr. Misri

said, "Far less complex is-

sues, which have a purely

humanitarian context and

are not connected to bilater-

al diplomatic stances, such

as facilitating the movement

of students, businesspersons

and stranded family mem-

bers from India to China for

over a year and a half now,

await a more balanced and

"I might add here that India

sensitive approach."

Indian stand

Speaking on the current

Mr. Shah said those who want to give up arms and them," he said.

According to the ministry, there has been a gradual decline in the number of LWE incidents in the last decade. The incidents have reduced from 2,258 in 2009 to 349 incidents till August 31 this year. The number of deaths reduced from 908 to 110 during the same period.

been identified as potential locations for emergence of this phenomenon. To arrest the expansion plan of the CPI (Maoist) and also to restrict them to bounce back in the areas recently taken away from LWE influence, 8 districts have been categorized as 'District of Concern'. The revised categorisation is a more realistic representation of current LWE scenario," the ministry stated.

7 new faces in as Punjab CM expands his Cabinet

The Ministers from the earlier Cabinet who have been left out include Balbir Singh Sidhu, Sunder Sham Arora, Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi, Sadhu Singh Dharamsot and Gurpreet Singh Kangar. Mr. Balbir Singh Sidhu and Mr. Kangar have questioned the rationale behind being left

They told reporters that they were unaware of any reason for not being included.

Earlier this week, Mr. Channi took oath as the Chief Minister of Punjab. Two Deputy Chief Ministers – O.P. Soni and Sukhjinder sworn in.

Ahead of the expansion, a few Congress leaders had written to State Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu against including Rana Gurjit Singh in the Cabinet over his alleged involvement in a sand mining scam.

The Aam Aadmi Party has condemned the inclusion of certain MLAs in the Cabinet who were facing allegations of corruption. Leader of the Opposition

and AAP leader Harpal Singh Cheema said the inclusion of "tainted Ministers" in the new Cabinet made it clear that the new Chief Minister was no different from his predecessor. "Mr. Channi and the Congress State president Navjot Singh Sidhu should clarify their views on Rana Guriit.' said Mr. Cheema.

basis of established agree-

ments, protocols and me-

chanisms to resolve it. As we

do so, any attempt to con-

fuse border affairs with the

boundary question is a dis-

service to the work of those

in

He said this was why In-

dia had been "consistently

saying that the current issue

is about restoring peace and

tranquillity to the border

areas and is not about the

resolution of the larger

boundary question, on

which our stance has not

changed, despite what hap-

pened last year," referring to

the crisis in eastern Ladakh.

ments have justified Beij-

ing's mobilising of thou-

sands of troops along the

LAC last summer by citing

China's territorial claims, in-

cluding to the Galwan Val-

ley, and accusing India of in-

China's unilateral actions

went against the four border

agreements that govern the

behaviour of troops in dis-

puted areas. The agree-

ments also acknowledge

both sides' differing claims

sides to address the other's

cooperate on issues includ-

ing tackling the pandemic,

concerns about terrorism in

the region and the situation

Mr. Misri called on both

He said both had space to

to the LAC.

sensitivities.

in Afghanistan.

Indian officials have said

fringing on those claims.

Chinese officials in state-

involved

solutions."

finding

Don't shift goalposts, Indian envoy tells China

"For long, the Indian and Chinese sides have adhered to a well-understood distinction between resolving the boundary question and managing border affairs," he said.

"The 1988 understanding between our leaders was precisely for keeping the resolution of the boundary question on a track separate yet parallel to the bilateral relationship, with maintenance of peace and tranquillity as the prerequisite," Mr. Misri said.

Specific mechanisms

"The Special Representatives mechanism, the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles of 2005 and the three-phase framework were all designed to work on the boundary question, which we agreed was a complex and sensitive issue requiring time to work through," he added.

"On the other hand," he said, "for managing border affairs on a daily basis, we evolved a mechanism, consisting of instruments such as the WMCC [Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on border affairs] and a succession of agreements, protocols and CBMs, to govern behaviour on the ground and ensure peace and tranquillity. A serious violation of peace and tranquillity in the border areas naturally requires us to apply our minds on the join mainstream are heartily welcome, but those who take up arms and hurt innocent people and the police, will be given the same response. "The root cause of dissatisfaction is that development has not reached there in last six decades since Independence and now to deal with it, it is very essential to ensure accessibility to fast-paced development so that common and innocent people do not join

"Few new areas have

has also attempted to keep our trade and commercial es. Most are in medical derelationship insulated from grees, and are concerned current differences, for inthat online programmes arstance by continuing to issue ranged by their universities visas to Chinese businessperwill not adequately prepare sons to visit India," Mr. Misri them especially in hands-on

said, according to remarks

China's continuing travel ban

on Indians 'unscientific': envoy

Vikram Misri highlights problems faced by students, businessmen, exporters

Far less complex issues, which have a purely humanitarian

context and are not connected

of students, businesspersons

year and a half now, await

a more balanced and

INDIA'S AMBASSADOR TO CHINA

sensitive approach

and stranded family members

such as facilitating the movement

made available on Saturday by the Indian Embassy in Beijing. "However, we are disap-

pointed to see an unscientific approach with regard to several problems currently being faced by Indian students, businessmen, marine crew and exporters, to name a few," Mr. Misri said.

As The Hindu reported in July, many of the close to 23,000 Indian students enrolled in Chinese universities remain in India and are unable to return to their cours-

Their pleas to Chinese authorities for more than one year have made no headway. In June, 3,000 students under the banner of "Indian Students in China" sent a letter via email to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking clarity on a possible date of return and noting that they were willing to undergo vaccination, testing and quarantine protocols as required.

No visa being issued

China's Embassy in India has largely not been issuing any visas since a travel ban imposed in November last year. The Embassy has since March this year also effectively barred even Chinese nationals in India from returning home by denying them health codes that are needed to board flights to China.

The ban includes even family members, leading to many cases of families being split up for over a year. Several Chinese nationals in India told The Hindu some have not seen their children for over a year and have even been unable to visit ailing relatives, while some families are meeting in third countries such as Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the UAE.

India has been issuing visas to Chinese citizens to enable them to visit their family in India, although if they visit they face the prospect of being unable to return to China. Mr. Misri pointed out India was now also issuing visas to Chinese businesspersons to enable their travel to India.

All travellers to China face up to 21 days in quarantine. However, even those willing to undertake the required testing and complete the quarantine are not being issued visas or health codes. China has so far offered no timetable as to when it will

Beijing-Lhasa key road link completed

Part of China's infra push in Tibet

DINAKAR PERI NEW DELHI

Continuing its infrastructure build-up in Tibet, China has completed a key section of the Beijing-Lhasa expressway, a 295-km stretch from Lhasa to Nagqu. This section is located at an average altitude of 4,500 metres above sea level, which Chinese state media have termed the world's highest expressway.

In a separate development opposite the Central sector in Uttarakhand, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has set up surveillance equipment and cameras opposite the Kio Dhura pass, according to intelligence inputs.

"Yellow balloon-shaped surveillance equipment are co-located with a windmill and solar panel at the site." according to inputs.

The Lhasa-Nagqu section is part of the G6 Beijing-Lhasa expressway and is the first expressway linking Lhasa, the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region to north Tibet. It also connects the PLA's Central Theatre Command with the Western Theatre Command which is responsible for the border with India, an official source

"An important stretch of the expressway between Nagqu to Yangbaijain of Lhasa-Nagqu section was put into operational trial on August 21. On completion of Lhasa-Naggu section, the driving time between Lhasa and Nagqu has reduced from six hours to three hours," an official source said.

The completed expressway will pass through seven major cities of China including Beijing, Hebei, inner Mangolia, Ningxia, Gansu, Qinghai and Lhasa with an approximate length of 3,710 km, the official added.

In June, China had launched a high speed bullet train connecting Lhasa with Nyingchi, a strategically located Tibetan town located close to Arunachal Pradesh.

Continuing regular exercises in the area, the PLA has conducted two live firing exercises under its Xinjiang Military District (XMD in the first week of September, officials said. The Artillery regiment of 8 Mountain Infantry Division conducted live firing exercise employing PCL-181 155mm vehicle mounted howitzer guns in the high altitude plateau, an

28 trains cancelled, many diverted ahead of cyclone

Andhra Pradesh, Odisha on alert as Gulab crosses coast

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The East Coast Railway (ECoR) cancelled 28 trains, diverted five trains and rescheduled eight as Cyclone Gulab made landfall in Kalongapatnam affecting north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha. Eleven trains were regulated in South East Central and South Central Railway jurisdictions.

"In view of forecast of heavy rain with cyclonic wind, all necessary precautions have been taken by ECok. Intensive and extensive patrolling in areas forecast to be affected are being ensured and monitored. Stawatchmen have been deployed where heavy rainfall is likely. Bridges are kept under watch. Appropriate steps have been taken for electrical and signalling



Leaden skies Fishermen bringing back their boats to safety in Visakhapatnam. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

in a statement.

cyclonic storm caused significant damage in eight mandals close to the coast in Srikakulam district of A.P. Life was thrown out of gear since morning as several places experienced hea-

Hundreds of trees were uprooted in several man-

installations," the ECoR said dals. Power supply was affected in many areas in the Tekkalı division as electrical poles fell off. Roads too were badly damaged.

Heavy rain was reported at Sandipeta, Rajapuram, Bhavanapadu, Devunaltada and other villages when Gulab made landfall.

(With inputs from Visakhapatnam Bureau)

Modi back from U.S., Nadda calls him a 'global leader'

Party workers, people line up outside the airport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was given a warm welcome by BJP leaders, including party chief J.P. Nadda, after his arrival from the U.S. at the Palam airport here on Sunday.

Mr. Modi, who walked for nearly two kilometres meeting party workers and the people lined up along the road outside the airport, thanked them for welcoming him.

Lavishing praise on the Prime Minister upon his arrival in the country from the United States, Mr. Nadda hailed him as a "global leader" who had made India a "global player".

Citing Mr. Modi's meetings with U.S. President Ioe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris, besides his participation in the Quad meet and address at the UN-



across strongly and frankly global issues and also India's views over threats like terro rism and expansionism. Folk artistes from different States in their tradition-

al costumes greeted Mr. Modi playing different kinds of drums and musical instruments, Delhi BJP vice-president Virendra Sachdeva said.

Senior BJP leaders, in-

cluding party national general secretaries Arun Singh and Tarun Chugh, former Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, Delhi unit presi dent Adesh Gupta, MP Ramesh Bidhuri were among those who welcomed Mr. Modi at the airport.

Mr. Modi's three-day trip was packed with meetings as he attended 20 of them during the around 65 hours he spent in the country, government sources said





Flights of fancy: IAF jets turning the Srinagar skies into a canvas on Sunday. • NISSAR AHMAD

Ripples over Dal Lake: Air Force planes inspire awe with a stunning show

The show, opened by Manoj Sinha, was named 'Give wings to your dream'

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

After a gap of 14 years, the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Sunday mesmerised locals in Srinagar with its jets performing aerobatics and aweinspiring manoeuvring in the skies.

Hundreds of students from different schools in the Valley enjoyed watching the IAF jets skilfully navigating and synchronising while hovering over the famous Dal Lake on the lawns of the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre.

The IAF show, which was inaugurated by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, was named "Give wings to your dream". It was organised as part of the ongoing celebrations commemorating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

"It was organised to inculbition depicting the history cate the spirit of nationalism among the Kashmir youth," the spokesman said.

play, IAF symphony orches-

"I witnessed a spectacular air show by the IAF showcas-The show saw a display by ing the capabilities and skills of the Indian Air Force, the the IAF's Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team, Paramotor and audience was treated to powered hang-glider dissheer excellence," Srinagar play, flypast by MiG-21 Bison Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu and aerobatics by Su-30 air-The routes heading tocraft. It also included the

Akashganga skydiving diswards the boulevard in Srinagar were closed to traffic tra display and a photo exhifor the past two days.

CJI backs 50% quota for women in judiciary

'It is your right, not a matter of charity'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Sunday backed 50% representation for women in judiciary.

"It is your right. It is not a matter of charity... Enough of this thousands of years of suppression," Chief Justice Ramana said.

The CJI paraphrased Karl Marx to say, "Women of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains."

Speaking to women judges and advocates of the Supreme Court at an event organised to felicitate him and the nine new apex court judges, the CJI said women constituted only about 30% of the subordinate judiciary.

"In High Courts, women judges constitute 11.5%. Here in the Supreme Court, we currently have four women Justices out of the sitting 33. That makes it just 12%. Of the 1.7 million advocates, only 15% are women. Only 2% of the elected representatives in the State Bar Councils are women... There is no woman member in the Bar Council of India. This needs urgent correc-

tion," Chief Justice Ramana

Full physical hearings likely after Dasara

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Sunday expressed hope that the Supreme Court may be able to open up for physical hearings after Dasara. The CJI said the Supreme Court judges had no objection to holding physical hearings, but the court is worried about the health of lawyers and their clerks who would be exposed to crowds. The court began hybrid physical-virtual hearings from September 1.

said. "I am also forcing the Executive for applying necessary correctives... I am happy to have colleagues in the Collegium who are progressive and determined to bridge the gap in the higher judiciary," the CJI said.

He highlighted the need to increase gender diversity in legal education. "I strongly advocate reservation of a significant percentage of seats in law schools and universities for women, as a first step. Ultimately, inclusion of women judges and lawyers will substantially improve the quality of justice delivery," the CJI said.

Govt.-industry panel drives policy to revive manufacturing

Pandemic spurred effort to end import dependence, ensure value addition

A meeting between industry captains and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goval soon after the national lockdown was announced in 2020, has led to the setting up of the Steering Committee for Local Value Addition, Manufacturing and Exports, or SCALE, aimed at navigating Indian manufacturing away from the import-dependence pitfalls exposed by the pandemic.

Noting that many of them had more time on their hands due to the lockdown, Mr. Goyal had suggested that the CEOs put on their thinking hats and come up with ideas to tap the global sentiment against China and strengthen Indian manufacturing. The Minister asked Pawan Goenka, the Mahindra group's managing director till April 2021, to drive this introspection.

The group is now working on such ideas for 17 sectors – from toys, textiles, furniture and e-cycles to drones and even fisheries.

The SCALE includes the top brass from the industry bodies CII, FICCI and Assocham and three representatives from government, with member secretary Manmeet Kaur Nanda from the Depart-



For air conditioners, industry players have vowed to take domestic value-addition to 80% in five years. ■ FILE PHOTO

nous reports – all its propo-

sals are laid out in a presen-

tation at best. Second, it

doesn't just gather up ideas

from various sectoral players

and splash them together for

the government to consider,

as usual industry representa-

process of consultations to

align different factions of in-

dustry with varying agendas

at multiple levels and tries to

nudge an alignment of inter-

ests where differences seem

intractable, before it takes

up the relevant issues with

dies come to government

and say, 'Give me this, Give

me that'," Dr. Goenka told

"My first sentence to them

"Generally, industry bo-

Third, it follows a rigorous

tions tend to be.

the government.

ment of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPI-IT), and three industry honchos, including JSW Steel joint managing director and group CFO Seshagiri Rao MVS, and Salil Singhal, chairman emeritus. PI Industries.

India has seen multiple similar committees over the past two decades to enhance the share of manufacturing in the economy, with recommendations either gathering dust, scuttled by inter-ministerial and intra-industry crossfire, or leading to botched policies like the non-starter National Manufacturing Investment Zones

The SCALE group is different for a few reasons.

First, it has no deadlines and drafts and no volumiin SCALE interactions is, "It should be 'I am going to do this, and this is the help I need.' And if you don't have an 'I am going to do this', then let's not even talk," he

Industry commitment

Consequently, none of its presentations have had policy suggestions without an equal commitment from the industry, in terms of investments and job creation, if those suggestions were accepted.

In fact, in the case of air conditioners, one of the first sectors it began working on, the industry players actually gave a letter of commitment to Mr. Goyal that they will invest more and take domestic value-addition to 80% from the present 20% in five years, even before the government notified the PLI scheme for the sector.

"This was signed off by the industry and is almost a contract," Dr. Goenka said, adding that air conditioners, was considered a sunset sector with no scope for a change in status quo.

The panel's ideas for other uninteresting sectors, including fisheries and TVs, are also at advanced stages of deliberations within the INTERVIEW | PAWAN GOENKA

'India's big problem is lack of scale'

SCALE chief denies that lower labour costs make manufacturing competitive

VARGHESE K. GEORGE

Industry players largely want to do what is good for India, even if there may be some exceptions, believes SCALE Chairman Pawan Goenka. While the committee is fleshing out sectorspecific policy advice, it has also identified 'horizontal enablers' that India needs to fix to become more competitive across the board, including the cost of doing business. Steep logistics costs and import duties on raw materials and machines, along with over-regulation, are also areas of concern, he says. Edited excerpts:

What are the big challenges ailing Indian manufacturing?

 Our primary focus is on how to make Indian manufacturing competitive in terms of cost. There is a misnomer that because of lower labour costs, Indian manufacturing is very competitive. That's a misnomer, because there are many factors that offset that advantage and make our manufacturing non-competitive.

There are a few overall themes that run across almost all the sectors... We are putting it under the umbrella of cost of doing business. We talk a lot about ease of doing business, but the big-

gest problem India has is the lack of scale. Industry needs to come forward and invest for large scale and the government needs to facilitate that with a viability gap. But primarily, the foot is on the industry end on how to invest on a large scale as China did. Second is the cost of land – which is one of the most expensive industrial land in the world – and power, which is the most expensive industrial power in the world, part of which is the cross subsidy. But now, in the competitive world, Indian manufacturing industry cannot afford the cross subsidy burden. Third is the cost of capital. If you leave aside the current low cost of capital because of COVID-19 and low interest rates, the cost of capital in India is 20% to 30% higher than cost of capital in most other countries which are exporting. These

are our factor costs. The third area which is well acknowledged, but we have not been able to make much headway is logistic costs. India's average logistic cost by government data is 13% of the revenue when the global average is 8%. So India has a 5% disadvantage because of logistic costs. Obviously that disadvantage cannot be made up by industry in labour costs. The fourth area is labour produc-

But primarily, the foot is on the industry end on how to invest on a large scale as China did

tivity and skill which is primarily industry's responsi-

The fifth area is to strengthen the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) sector because while the scale will be created by the large companies, they cannot do everything themselves without a strong MSME sector. The government's focus always has to be on making MSMEs stronger, working together with industry. It's not about giving some sort of financial benefit... That doesn't make them strong, but a good technology and skill base will. Though we have improved the ease of doing business, for manufacturing, we still need a lot of things to be

How has your interaction

with different Ministries worked out?

The personal involvement of the Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goval has been intense even after he set up the committee. He has spent at least two hours with us at over 15 such meetings pertaining to different sectors. I recall one meeting where we had six or seven ministers participating for over two hours to go through all the all the details of the recommendations. Goyal has also personally taken up matters with other ministries to get traction for our ideas and create a buy-in

Committed champions across sectors have helped tremendously in diagnosing and addressing challenges for instance, in ACs, we had Panasonic India CEO Manish Sharma, FICCI and DPIIT additional secretary Anil Agrawal, combining to deliver re-

for changes in policies and

rules.

The DPIIT, in fact, does a lot of the critical background work to co-ordinate with other ministries. The contribution of all the SCALE committee members who are devoting significant personal time to this effort on a voluntary basis cannot be ignored either.

> (Read full interview at bit.ly/pawangoenka)

Mamata urged to address meet virtually

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Italian organisation that invited West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is "highly prestigious," said former Indian Ambassador to Italy K.P. Fabian. His comments came in the backdrop of allegations by Ms. Banerjee that the Ministry of External Affairs denied her permission saying that Sant'Egidio, the Rome-based organisation, did not deserve such high-level participation.

Sant'Egidio is a highly prestigious international organisation and it has mediated for peace in different locations across the world, including in Algeria, and their conferences are attended by leaders and religious heads," said Mr. Fabian, who served as the Indian envoy in Rome.

Earlier on Sunday, Ms. Banerjee said the Central government had repeatedly denied her permission to attend prominent international conferences.

Mr. Fabian suggested, Ms. Banerjee may consider addressing the conference virtually. "The presence of Pope Francis and German Chancellor Angela Merkel makes it a really important event," Mr. Fabian said.

Modi greets Manmohan on his birthday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted his predecessor Manmohan Singh on his birthday on Sunday, wishing him a long and

headed the United Progressive Alliance coalition government between 2004 and 2014, turned 89 on Sunday.

"Birthday greetings to our former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji. I pray for his long life and wonderful health," Mr. Mo-

The Congress, on its official Twitter handle, posted, "A visionary. A devoted patriot. A man of his words. Dr. Manmohan Singh, you are the leader

7 new faces in U.P. Ministry

Six belong to numerically significant non-Yadav OBC, non-Jatav Dalit castes

With less than six months left for the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, the BJP government led by Yogi Adityanath on Sunday expanded its Council of Ministers, inducting seven fresh faces, including six from the numerically significant non-Yadav OBC and non-Jatav Dalit castes, whose support has been the key to the BJP's success in the State in the last few elections.

Iitin Prasada, Brahmin leader and former MP who full the Congress and Joined the BJP in June, was rewarded with a Cabinet berth as the BJP tries to consolidate its grip over the influential

The remaining six, who were administered oath as Ministers of State by Governor Anandiben Patel, comprise three OBCs and three Dalits, including one from



Deft move: Governor Anandiben Patel and CM Yogi Adityanath with the newly sworn-in Ministers on Sunday. • PTI

the Scheduled Tribe community. It was widely speculated that Nishad Party president Sanjay Nishad, an ally of the BJP, would find a place in the Cabinet expansion but that did not happen. However, later his name along with Mr. Prasada featured among the four leaders nominated to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council. Three out of the four are OBCs. Others nominated to the MLC posts are Chaudhary Virendra Singh

and Ram Gopal alias Gopal Anjaan.

Kurmi caste

Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar, who took oath, is an MLA from Baheri in Bareilly district and belongs to the Kurmi caste, traditionally assowith ciated farming. Sangeeta Balwant, an MLA from Ghazipur, is a Bind, an OBC, part of the riverine backward caste communities in the State. She held the

post of a district mantri of the BJP in 2016 before going on to win her first Assembly election in 2017. Dharmveer Singh Prajapati, an OBC MLC from Agra, also took oath.

Out of the three Dalit Ministers, two belong to the Khatik community, a Scheduled Caste found across the State.

The non-Yadav OBCs and the non-Jatav SCs make up over 40-45% of the votes and it has been a part of the BJP strategy to polarise these smaller communities against the Yadavs and Jatavs to alienate the SP and the BSI which rely heavily on these

This is the second Cabinet expansion by Mr. Adityanath. In the first expansion in August 2019, 'upper caste' and leaders with RSS background were favoured.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said the Cabinet expansion was a deception.



Taking stock: Narendra Modi inspecting the work on the new Parliament building in New Delhi on Sunday. • PTI

Modi visits site of new Parliament building

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday visited the construction site of the new Parliament building, which is expected to be completed

in the second half of 2022. Mr. Modi spoke to people involved in the construction as he inspected the ongoing work, official sources said. The building is part of the Central Vista project, which has taced criticism from the Opposition.

Government have said that Parliament's winter session in 2022 will be held in the new building. The new Parliament building will have an area of 64,500 square metres. It will also have a grand Constitution Hall to showcase India's democratic heritage.

Shah seeking caste census SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Soren meets

NEW DELHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, leading an all-party delegation from the State, met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday to demand a castebased census and handed over a memorandum for Prime Minister Modi.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar also reiterated that a caste-based census is the "need of the hour", and said he would hold an all-party meeting after the Central government informed the Supreme Court that conducting such a census was not feasible.

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Adityanath announces hike in sugarcane prices

U.P. CM tries to pacify farmers with income and security

In a bid to woo disgruntled farmers in western Uttar Pradesh ahead of the 2022 Assembly polls, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday announced a hike in cane prices for farmers and stated that the move would lead to a rise in the income of the agrarian community by around 8%. The BJP leader used the double plank of income and security to appeal to the farmers, especially those in the western parts of the State where some agrarian outfits have been protesting against the government's three new farm laws for a few months.

Muzaffarnagar violence

Linking the law and order situation in the State to the interests of farmers, Mr. Adityanath also recalled the communal violence in Muzaffarnagar in 2013, and stressed that the "sons of farmers" had died then.

Mr. Adityanath accused the previous Samajwadi Party government of 'honouring rioters' as he claimed



Timely aid: The BJP believes the move will "bring a change" in the lives of over 45 lakh farmers. ■FILE PHOTO

that not a single riot had taken place in Uttar Pradesh since the BJP came to power.

Addressing a Kisan Sammelan, Mr. Adityanath said his government had increased the rates of usual variety sugarcane from ₹315 per quintal to ₹340 while the price (State advisory price) for the early variety had been increased from ₹325 per quintal to ₹350.

This would "bring a change" in the lives of over 45 lakh farmers and lead to an addition to their income by 8%, said Mr. Adityanath. Mr. Adityanath also told

farmers that his government

had initiated steps to withdraw cases lodged against them for burning stubble. Claiming that buffaloes

and cows would get easily stolen from dairies and dairy farmers under the previous government, he said now the farmer was safe, and so were his buffalo cart and motor used in farming. Sudhir Panwar, Samajwa-

di Party leader and Professor in Lucknow University, said the hike of ₹25 per quintal of sugarcane was disproportionate to increase in input cost on account of diesel, power, labour, insecticide and pesticides.

AAP's promise of quota in private jobs questioned

'Move aimed at expanding party base'

ANUJ KUMAR

The Aam Aadmi Party's electoral promise of quota for locals in private jobs in States has sparked reactions with political parties, scholars and activists questioning the practicality of tickling the nativist sentiments of the electorate. Some described it as "competitive chauvinism" while others dubbed it a "vote-catching phrase" that has not been thought through.

On Sunday, Rashtriya Lok Dal president Jayant Chaudhary commented on the AAP's promise of an 80% quota to locals in private jobs in Goa. "Can no one see the slippery slope we are setting up? If every State were to enact similar legislation, what would happen to internal migrations that create efficient labour markets? How will industry compete?" he tweeted.

The AAP, working on spreading its footprint outside Delhi, has made similar promises in Punjab and Uttarakhand as well, touching an emotional chord.

Last week, its national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal

made a promise in Haldwani that the party would provide 80% reservation for Uttarakhand residents in the

In the past, Mr. Kejriwal had made a similar promise in Punjab.

With an eye on the districts of western Uttar Pradesh that share boundaries with Delhi, observers say, the AAP's outreach with jobs and free electricity up to 300 units, is going to directly affect the RLD. The AAP is not alone in

pitch. The Shiromani Akali Das promised that it would provide 75% quota to locals in private jobs. Anoop Nautiyal, founder

raising the son of the soil

of the Dehradun-based Social Development For Communities Foundation, said such promises had also been made in the past but could not be practically implemented. "Unemployment is a real-

ity in Uttarakhand but it is also true that Uttarakhand trains high quality hospitality professionals who work in many States. It seems like a vote-catching phrase in the election season," Mr. Nautiyal said.



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प्रोत्साहन)/2021-22 राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सडक योजना (वित्तीय प्रोत्साहन) अनुसार कुल 06 पैकेजो के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में

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Manmohan Singh, who

di tweeted.

India truly deserves."



Antibodies in 73.5% of Odisha population: study

A sero-survey conducted jointly by the Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar and State Health and Family Welfare department has found community sero-prevalence at 73.5% in Odisha. This means close to three-fourth of the population surveyed in 12 districts of Odisha have developed anti-bodies against SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Carcass of tiger found in **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve**

LAKHIMPUR KHIRI (U.P.) A tiger was found dead in the Mailani range of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve on Sunday, officials said. It is estimated to be around two years old and the carcass was found alongside the Gola-Pilibhit road, Field Director of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve Saniay Kumar Pathak said All vital organs were intact, he said, adding that there were some abrasion marks. "The tigress might have died in a road accident or due to fighting, Mr. Pathak said. PTI

2 militants killed in Jammu and Kashmir

SRINAGAR

Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants were killed and a militant of The Resistance Front (TRF) was arrested in two separate anti-militancy operations in J&K on Sunday. The police identified the slair militants as Abid Rashid Dar alias Haqani and Azad Ahmed Shah. Two AK-47 rifles were recovered from the site.

Chidambaram takes a swipe at Modi's address

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidamabaram on Sunday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) pointing out that very few seats were occupied and none applauded the speech. "India's Permanent Mission at the U.N. has goofed up massively," he tweeted.

Assam's rice wine Judima recognised with GI tag

Judima, the wine brewed by the Dimasa community in Assam, has been awarded the geographical indication (GI) tag. This wine made from rice and a certain herb is the first beverage from the north-eastern region to earn the honour.

Correction

The authors of the Open Page Web article "A policy note that renders POCSO Act vague" published on September 26 are Nancy Thomas and Alamu R., and not as mentioned in the "More on the Web" pointer on Open Page in print. The error is regretted.

Going digital for better 'India needs 4-5 more banks like SBI' health solutions: Centre

PM Digital Health Mission will be rolled out today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM) on September 27 via video conferencing. Currently, the PM-DHM is being implemented in a pilot phase in six Union Territories. According to a release is-

sued by the Central government, the PM-DHM will create a seamless online platform through the provision of a wide range of data, information and infrastructure services by leveraging open, interoperable, standards-based digital systems, while ensuring the security, confidentiality and privacy of health-related personal information.

The Centre said the project will enable access and exchange of longitudinal health records of citizens with their consent. The mission aims to create interoperability within the digital health ecosystem, similar to the role played by the Un-



Online repository: Doctors across healthcare systems will be able to access records after patient consent. ■ FILE PHOTO

ified Payments Interface in of all healthcare providers revolutionising payments, said the release, adding that people can access health facilities more easily.

Unique id

"The key components of PM-DHM include a health ID for every citizen that will also work as their health account, to which personal health records can be linked and viewed with the help of a mobile application; a Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) and Healthcare Facilities Registries (HFR) that will act as a repository

across both modern and traditional systems of medicine. This will ensure ease of doing business for doctors/ hospitals and healthcare service providers," the release added. PM-DHM Sandbox, created as a part of the Mission, will act as a framework for technology and product testing that will help organisations, including private players intending to be a part of the National Digital Health Ecosystem, become a 'Health Information Provider' or 'Health Information

Finance Minister says access to banking should be improved through technology

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said India would need four or five more banks like the SBI support economic growth.

"The way in which the economy is shifting to a different plane altogether, the way in which industry is adapting, so many new challenges keep arising. To address these challenges, we need not just more, but bigger banks," she told bankers at the 74th Annual General Meeting of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) in Mumbai. A video of her speech has been released by the Press Information Bureau.

Exhorting the banking industry to imagine how banking has to be in the immediate and long-term future, she said, "If we look at post-COVID scenario, India's banking contour will have to be very unique to India, where there has been an extremely successful adoption of digitisation."

Underlining the importance of seamless and interconnected digital systems in



Money matters: Union Bank of India MD Raikiran Rai G. presents a memento to Nirmala Sitharaman during the 74th annual general meeting of Indian Banks' Association. • PTI

creating a sustainable future, she said: "The longterm future of Indian banking is going to be largely driven by digitised processes."

She urged the IBA to improve access to banking in every district through a rationalised approach and optimal utilisation of digital technologies.

To achieve this, she advised the IBA to carry out digitised location-wise mapping of all bank branches for every district.

"Almost two-thirds of nearly 7.5 lakh panchayats have optical fibre connection. The IBA should consider this and conduct an exercise and decide where banks should have a physical presence and where we are able to serve customers even without a physical branch,"

Financial inclusion

she said.

"The IBA should take the initiative and complement government's efforts for financial inclusion and enhancing access to financial services, especially in unserved and under-served areas."

Stressing on strengthening the UPI, the FM said: "In the payment world today, Indian UPI has actually

made a very big impression. A RuPay card which was not as glamorous as a foreign card is now accepted in so many parts of the world, symbolic of India's futuristic

digital payment intentions." "FinTech understands that UPI is its backbone. You have to give it its flesh and blood, you have to strengthen UPI," she said.

The FM commended the banks for executing amalgamation even during the pandemic, without causing disruption in services to customers.

Lauding the efforts of the IBA for having come together for establishment of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. and India Debt Resolution Company Ltd. she said the NARCL was not a bad bank. "It is a formulation which is intended to clean up banks' assets and dispose of NPAs in a speedy manner. Banks are now able to raise money from the market. Hence the burden on the government to recapitalise banks will be less, this is how we want banks to function - a lot more professional, with a changed mindset," she said.

GoM set up to rationalise GST rates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Setting the stage for an overhaul of the multiple tax rates under the Goods and Services Tax regime, the government has tasked a Group of Ministers (GoM), led by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S. Bommai, with proposing a rationalisation of tax rates and considering the merger of different tax slabs within two

Currently, the GST regime has five broad tax rate slabs of zero, 5%, 12%, 18%

and 28%, with a cess levied over and above the 28% on some goods, and special rates for items like precious stones and diamonds.

Mr. Bommai's sevenmember group constituted by the Finance Ministry on Friday includes West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra and Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal, as well as GST Council members from Goa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

"The GoM shall review the current tax slab rates and recommend changes in

the same as may be needed to garner required resources (and) review the current rate slab structure of GST, including special rates, and recommend rationalisation measures, including merger of tax rate slabs, required for a simpler rate structure in GST," the terms of reference for the GoM stated.

Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar has been made the convenor of another GoM on GST System Reforms, which will look at tapping IT tools to minimise tax evasion and make compliance easier for taxpayers. This group will subsume two existing ministerial groups on IT challenges and revenue mobilisation owing to the overlap in their mandates, the Ministry said. The GoM includes seven

other Ministers, including Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Haryana and Delhi Deputy CMs Dushyant Chautala and Manish Sisodia, as well as Ministers representing Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Assam in the

Carcass of tusker found in Odisha river

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHUBANESWAR

Odisha forest department on Sunday recovered the carcass of an elephant which appears to be the tusker that went missing from Mundali barrage near Cuttack two days ago, an official said.

Two persons, including a TV journalist who was covering the rescue operation, died after their boat capsized on Friday.

No one should be left out of 'circle of safety': Modi

Vaccinate and follow norms, says PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged Indians to continue following COVID-19 related protocol and ensure high levels of vaccination against the disease ahead of the festival season.

In his monthly radio broadcast, 'Mann ki Baat' Mr. Modi said that while record levels of vaccination were taking place in India, the efforts should be kept up and no one should be left out of the 'circle of safety' of vaccination.

The broadcast had been recorded before the Prime Minister's trip to the United States, a fact shared by him.

"Team India is creating several records daily on this front. Several records have been created in the vaccination drive that are being discussed globally," he said, adding, "We not only have to get the vaccine administered when it's our turn, but we also have to ensure that no one is left out of this circle of safety."

Even after getting vaccinated, the necessary protocol had to be followed, Mr. Modi said, adding that he hoped once again that Team India would keep the flag flying high in this fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

He made special refe-

FAITH

Several records have been created in the vaccination drive that are being discussed globally NARENDRA MODI

rence to the festival of Dasara, and the festival season as well. "The whole country is also going to celebrate the festival of victory over untruth by Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram. But during this festival we have to remember about one more fight - that is the fight against corona. Every Indian has an important role in this fight," he said.

Clean rivers

A large part of Mr. Modi's address was reserved for world Rivers Day, and ne called for collective efforts to keep rivers pollutionfree.

He mentioned the Namami Gange project for the cleaning of the Ganga and the e-auction of gifts given to him, the proceeds of which will accrue to the pro-

He also called for setting a record in sale and purchase of Khadi products on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary on October 2, and gave a push for the continuation of the Swachch Bharat Mission, for cleanliness in public spaces.

Proportion of all cancer cases higher in men: study

ICMR releases report on status in the country

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN NEW DELHI

The proportion of all cancer cases was higher in men (52.4%) than women (47.4%), noted the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) 'Clinicopathological Profile of Cancers in India: A Report of the Hospital Based Cancer Registries, 2021' released on Sunday.

In women, gynaecological cancers, including breast cancer, comprised over half of all cancers. Childhood (0-14 years) cancers constitute 7.9% of all cancers.

The report said that can-

THERE // argo nage link/iinTh

Cancer prevalence Leukaemia (cancer of the blood and bone marrow) accounted

for nearly half the cases of cancer among children aged zero

Type of cancer	Boys	Girls
Leukaemia	47.4	45.1
Malignant bone tumours	7.1	9.5
Lymphomas and reticuloendothelial neoplasms	16.6	7.8
Central nervous system and miscellaneous intracranial and intraspinal neoplasms	6.2	7.3
Soft-tissue sarcomas	5.9	6.9
Renal tumours	3.7	4.7
Sympathetic nervous system tumours	3.4	3.9

one third (31.2%) of the can-

cers among men.

ported in the 45 to 64 years age group, except for prostate cancer in men, which

96 hospitals under the National Cancer Registry Pro-

cases were registered from

were included for analysis, based on the completeness

out of the 6,10,084 cancers, 3,19,098 (52.4%) cancers were reported in men, and 2,90,986 (47.6%) in women. Cancers in sites associated with tobacco use comprised 48.7% of cancers among men

The relative proportion of site-specific cancers was higher in men than women, except for thyroid cancer men) and gallbladder cancer (3.7% in women versus 2.2 % in men)," the report said. The report stated that ov-

er one-third of patients with cancers of the tongue, larynx, thyroid, corpus uteri, kidney, bladder and retinoblastoma had localised disease at the presentation. "Chemotherapy was the

most typical treatment modality for many cancers regardless of the clinical extent of disease at presentation, including cancers of the liver, gallbladder, stomach, lung and childhood cancers. Regardless of the organ site and clinical extent, most cancer patients were initiated on cancer-directed treatment within 8 to 30 days of diagnosis," stated the report.

Lord's birth in unique night

Andal, in Her Thiruppavai, refers to the night on which Krishna was born as "Or iravu,' meaning it was a unique night. What made it unique? It was the night when the One without birth was born, elaborated V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. Krishna said in the Bhagavad Gita that for those who seek moksha, He is the only hope. The One who gave us this promise was born on that rainy night, thus making it unique. Sage Parasara, in his Vishnu Purana, refers to Krishna's birth as the night on which the Sun that dispelled the darkness of the world made His appearance. So, on this night, one can say that the Sun shone at midnight!

The Supreme One is a parent to all. Yet He was born as a child to human parents on this night, thereby making it unique. That night the doors of the prison opened of their own accord; chains binding Vasudeva fell off; except for a chosen few, the rest of the world was asleep. In his Yadavabhyudaya, Vedanta Desika devotes several verses to describing this night. The child that was born that night was unique too. He spoke as soon as He was born! Devaki saw that her child had four hands, and lotus-like eyes. The latter is a de-

fining feature of the Supreme One. Even when the Lord took the Varaha avatara, His eyes looked like lotuses, thus making Him the only boar ever heard of that had lotus-like lovely eyes. Alavandar says Purushottama's most distinguishing features are His lotus-like eyes. Suka refers to the newborn Krishna as adbhutam baalakam – the amazing boy. But why say balakam, when he could have just said baala, which also means boy? 'Ka' refers to Brahma. When Krishna was born, Brahma was seated in the navel of the baby! So Suka uses the word baalakam to refer to baby Krishna to indicate Brahma's presence.

M ND-NDE

ACROSS

- 1 A flask first, intend to get a jug (6)
- 4 Chinese women not seen cooking this dish (4,4) 9 American bibles? Yes, distributed in places of worship (6)
- 10 Organs of poor sold cheaply (3,1,4)
- 12 End of Carlson, snake around Chess board? It's true (4,4) 13 Delight as husband takes short time (6)

Type of cancer	Boys	Girls
Leukaemia	47.4	45.1
Malignant bone tumours	7.1	9.5
Lymphomas and reticuloendothelial neoplasms	16.6	7.8
Central nervous system and miscellaneous intracranial and intraspinal neoplasms	6.2	7.3
Soft-tissue sarcomas	5.9	6.9
Renal tumours	3.7	4.7
Sympathetic nervous system tumours	3.4	3.9

Display keystrokes of genius.

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

15 Harry chose network to be well informed (4,3,5)

21 ... all the movement is dangerous (6)

22 Tax collection breeds corruption (4,4)

24 'Terrier' - this beer's lost most of the fizz (8)

25 One of those who tend to fall in succession (6)

26 Ran as a gunman giving protection died (8)

27 He left his country before, took a plane (6)

2 He dumps a piece of cloth outside (8)

8 Complaint from flower covered girls (6)

11 Stuck to supplement, brought in here (7)

14 Colour that kept Lewis in place (7)

5 Round up the bear (4)

7 Sexy boy has to go up (6)

1 Sally Lunn, say, gets some meat for the party (8)

3 Get upset knowing it's end of half the rum (3,3,3,6)

16 Diving lad not allowed in wading pools, perhaps (8)

17 He wrote volumes on loose woman and middlemen (8)

19 Evacuated, yes... half turned out to be a pollutant (3,3)

20 First human settlement in America – maybe true (6)

23 Controversial usage - at both ends it's lead (4)

6 Set thermostat where you can come out unscathed (7,3,5)

18 Trimmer gets cut rose, the nightly spectacle... (6,6)

cers of the head and neck region accounted for nearly

The highest proportion of cancer from all sites was rewas higher in those over 65

A total of 13,32,207 cancer

SCAN TO PLAY

gramme (NCRP) during 2012-Of these, 6,10,084 cases

and quality of data. **Site-specific cancer** The report further states that

and 16.5% among women.

(2.5% in women versus 1% in

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13361 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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After polls, German parties on tenterhooks

Surveys show Laschet's CDU-CSU alliance with 24-25% of the vote, just behind Scholz's SPD with 25-26%

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and centre-left Social Democrats were running neck-and-neck in Sunday's vote to decide her successor, exit polls showed, in one of the most unpredictable elections in Europe's biggest economy in recent decades.

Surveys published on public television after polling stations closed at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT) found Ms. Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) with around 24-25% of the vote, nearly tied with the Social Democratic Party, known by the German acronym SPD, on 25-26%.

Two men are jostling for Ms. Merkel's job – Finance Minister and Vice-Chancellor Olaf Scholz, 63, of the SPD, and Mr. Laschet, 60, of the CDU-CSU bloc.

Given the high proportion of voters who mailed in their



New phase: CDU leader Armin Laschet and wife Susanne

ballot, the final results could still turn up surprises in the course of the night.

With the race in deadheat, the SPD swiftly staked its claim with general secretary Lars Klingbeil saying his party "clearly has the mandate to govern".

With the conservatives staring down the barrel of their worst result since the

Laschet casting their vote in Aachen on Sunday. • REUTERS Second World War, CDU secretary Paul Ziemiak admitted that the "losses are bitter compared to the last elec-

tion" in 2017, when the CDU-

CSU notched up 33%. But Mr. Laschet warned that the jury was still out on which party triumphed, as he said that he would "do everything we can to build a government led by the (con-

servative) Union". Sunday's epochal election ushers in the end of 16 years in power for Ms. Merkel and thrusts Germany, a byword for stability, into a new period of political uncertainty.

Forming coalition govt.

With the CDU-CSU and the SPD each seeking to form governing coalitions in a race for power, Germany was up for a rocky few months that could blunt it on the international stage for some time.

The SPD, Germany's oldest party, were polling so badly just a few months back that many had written off the possibility that it may even be in the next government.

But Mr. Scholz, a colourless but competent former Mayor of Hamburg, now stands a chance of becoming the first SPD Chancellor since Gerhard Schroeder, who lost to Ms. Merkel in a close contest in 2005.

The conservatives, meanwhile, could be headed for their worst post-war score even though their candidate Mr. Laschet went into the race in the summer as the clear favourite to grab the top job in Europe's biggest

But his popularity began to wane after a series of blunders over the summer, including being caught on camera laughing in the background during a tribute to the victims of devastating floods in Germany.

In the meantime, Mr. Scholz saw his ratings begin to rise as he avoided making such embarrassing mistakes.

With polls predicting a devastating defeat for Mr. Laschet, the conservatives trotted out their biggest asset -Ms. Merkel. Her involvement in the campaign helped the CDU-CSU stem a drop in popularity in the last days of the campaign.

In letter to Taiwan Opposition, Xi warns of 'grim' situation

He urges KMT to collaborate under a 'shared political vision'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Chinese President Xi Jinping warned that relations between Beijing and Taipei were "grim" on Sunday, urging the island's main Opposition party to help seek "unification of the country."

China views self-ruled democratic Taiwan as part of its territory and vows to retake it one day, by force if

Mr. Xi has become the most bellicose leader since Mao Zedong, describing the seizure of the island as "inevitable."

New leader

In a congratulatory letter to Eric Chu – the newly elected leader of the Beijing-friendly Kuomintang (KMT) party Mr. Xi said the Chinese Communist Party and the KMT



Xi Jinping

should collaborate under a 'shared political basis."

"In the past our two parties insisted on '1992 consensus' and opposing 'Taiwan independence'... to promote peaceful developments in cross-strait relations," Mr. Xi said in the letter released by the KMT.

"At present the situation in the Taiwan Strait is complex and grim," he said, urging the parties to jointly seek peace and "the unification of the country."

Ties between Taiwan and China improved markedly under former president Ma Ying-jeou of the KMT between 2008 and 2016, culminating with a landmark meeting between Mr. Xi and him in Singapore in 2015.

The KMT has sidestepped frictions with China by accepting the so-called 1992 consensus – a tacit agreement that there is only "one China" without specifying whether Beijing or Taipei is its rightful representa-

In response, Mr. Chu said in a letter to Mr. Xi that the two sides should "seek common ground and respect their differences" to promote peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

Over 50 dead in Yemen fighting

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

At least 50 Houthi rebels and Yemeni pro-government troops have been killed as fighting intensifies for the city of Marib, a key battleground of the sevenyear conflict, military sources said on Sunday.

Hundreds of fighters have died this month alone after the Iran-backed rebels renewed their campaign for Marib, the government's last stronghold in the oil-rich north.

"In the past 48 hours, 43 Houthi fighters were killed, mostly in coalition airstrikes", a source said.

Taliban ask airlines to resume international flights

Government promises full cooperation, says all problems at the Kabul airport have been resolved

REUTERS

The Taliban government in Afghanistan appealed on Sunday for international flights to be resumed, promising full cooperation with airlines and saying that problems at Kabul airport had been resolved.

The statement from the Foreign Affairs Ministry comes as the new administration has stepped up efforts to open up the country and gain international acceptance following the collapse of the Western-backed government last month.

A limited number of aid and passenger flights have



Ready for landing: A plane arrives with medical aid from the UAE at the airport in Kabul on September 15. • AFP

been operating from the airport. But normal commercial services have yet to resume since it was closed in the wake of the chaotic evacuation of tens of thousands of foreigners and vulnerable Afghans that followed the Taliban's seizure of the capital. The airport, which was

damaged during the evacuation, has since been reopened with the assistance of technical teams from Qatar and Turkey.

While some airlines, including Pakistan International Airlines, have been offering limited services and some people have been able to get places on flights, prices are reportedly many times higher than normal.

Afghans stranded

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi said the suspension of international flights had left many Afghans stranded abroad and also prevented people from travelling for work or study. "As the problems at Kabul

International Airport have been resolved and the airport is fully operational for domestic and international flights, the IEA assures all airlines of its full cooperation," he said, using an abbreviation for Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the Taliban's term for their new government.

Since taking power, the Taliban have grappled with a severe economic crisis and have faced pressure on issues ranging from girls' education to allegations of reprisals against former officials and others associated with the previous government.

Israeli troops kill five Palestinians in gun battle

Raids on Hamas cell spark gunfight

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli troops conducted a series of arrest raids against suspected Hamas militants across the occupied West Bank early on Sunday, sparking a pair of gun battles, in which five Palestinians were killed and two Israeli soldiers were seriously wounded.

It was the deadliest violence between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants in the West Bank in several weeks. The region has seen an increase in fighting in recent months, with tensions fuelled by Israeli settlement construction, heightened militant activity in the northern West Bank and the aftermath of a bloody war between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip last May.

'Immediate threats'

Israeli officials said they had been tracking the Hamas militants for several weeks and that the raids were launched in response to im-

mediate threats. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said the militants were about to carry out attacks "in real time." He praised the Israeli forces. saying they acted "as expected. They engaged the enemy and we back them completely."

Lt. Col. Amnon Shefler, an Israeli army spokesperson, said Israeli forces came under fire while carrying out the arrest raids. He said at least four Hamas operatives were killed and several others were arrested in the overnight operation.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said two Palestinians were shot dead near the northern West Bank city of Jenin and three others were killed in Biddu, north

itary said an officer and soldier suffered serious injuries during the arrest in Burqin, near Jenin, and were airlifted to a hospital for medical treatment. Hamas confirmed that

of Ierusalem. The Israeli mil-

four of the dead were members of the Islamic militant group. Palestinian officials said a 16-year-old boy was also among the dead, though it was not immediately known if he was a militant.

The Palestinian Authority, which administers semiautonomous areas in the West Bank, condemned the killings and said the Israeli government was "fully and directly responsible for this bloody morning and the crimes committed by the occupation forces."

But Hamas also criticized the Palestinian Authority, which maintains security coordination with Israel in a shared struggle against the Islamic group.

Hamas spokesman Abdulatif al-Qanou said that recent meetings between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli officials "encouraged the occupation again to pursue the resistance."

Lawmaker released

Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip after seizing it from the Palestinian Authority in 2007, praised those killed as "heroic martyrs."

Also on Sunday, Israel released Khalida Jarrar, a prominent Palestinian lawmaker, after nearly two years in prison. Mr. Jarrar, a senior figure in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has been in and out of Israeli prisons for years – often without being charged.

The PFLP has an armed wing and is considered a terrorist group by Israel.

+ Swiss voters say big 'yes' to same-sex marriage

64% back the move, on a 52% turnout

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Nearly two-thirds of Swiss voters backed the government's plan to introduce same-sex marriage in a referendum held on Sunday, with campaigners calling it a historic day for gay rights in Switzerland.

With results in from 20 of the wealthy Alpine nation's 23 cantons, 64% of voters backed the move, on a 52%

Switzerland was one of the last countries in western Europe where same-sex marriage remained illegal.

The government's "marriage for all" proposals were challenged by opponents, who successfully triggered a referendum.

"The Swiss have dropped a massive 'yes' into the ballot box," Olga Baranova, a spokeswoman for the "yes" committee, said.

She was at a restaurant in the Swiss capital Bern hosting the "yes" campaign's celebrations – decked out in balloons in the rainbow colours - where drag artist Mona Gamie sang Edith Piaf's "Hymn to Love" to rapturous applause. "Today does not change my country," Ms. Baranova said.

"Today reflects the change of mentality over the last 20 years. It is really the reflection of a very broad and very important acceptance of LGBT people in society."

Switzerland decriminalised homosexuality in 1942, but numerous local and regional police forces continued to keep "gay registers", some into the early 1990s.

Same-sex couples can already register a civil partnership, with around 700 established each year.

Fuel rush



Panic-buying: Motorists queue to refuel their cars outside a petrol station in London on Saturday, after oil firms reported a shortage of drivers to transport petrol. Transport Minister Grant Shapps urged Britons to behave normally when buying petrol, saying there was no shortage. The government says it will issue short-term work visas to bring in foreign lorry drivers. • AFP

Iceland elects Europe's first women-majority Parliament

A day after the general election, ruling left-right coalition secures a majority; PM's future in doubt

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

REYKJAVIK

Iceland on Sunday became the first country in Europe to have more women than men in Parliament, a day after a general election that saw the left-right coalition win a clear majority.

Of the 63 seats in the Althing parliament, 33 were won by women, or 52%, projections based on the final results showed on Sunday.

No other European country has had more than 50% women lawmakers, with Sweden coming closest at 47%, according to data compiled by the World Bank.

Around the world, five other countries currently have Parliaments where women hold at least half the seats, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union: Rwanda (61%), Cuba (53%), Nicara-



Women to the fore: Iceland's PM Katrin Jakobsdottir speaking to the media persons on Saturday. • AFP

gua (51%) and Mexico and the United Arab Emirates

No quota

Unlike some other countries, Iceland does not have legal quotas on female representation in Parliament, though some parties do require a minimum number of candidates be women.

The Nordic country has long been a pioneer in gender equality and women's rights, and has topped the World Economic Forum's ranking of most egalitarian countries for the past 12

Iceland was the first country to elect a woman as President in 1980.

While Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir's left-right coalition won a majority in Saturday's vote, it remained to be seen whether the three parties would continue to govern together.

The coalition has brought Iceland four years of stability after a decade of political crises, but Ms. Jakobsdottir's Movement Left-Green emerged weakened after losing ground to its right-wing partners, which both posted strong showings

The Left-Green Movement, the conservative Independence Party and the centre-right Progressive Party together won 37 of 63 seats in Parliament, up from the 33 they held before the

But the Left-Green Movement itself won only eight

seats, three fewer than in 2017, raising questions about Ms. Jakobsdottir's future as Prime Minister.

Eyeing the top job

The largest party remained the Independence Party, whose leader Bjarni Benediktsson - the current Finance Minister and a former PM – has been eyeing Ms. Jakobsdottir's job.

It won almost a quarter of votes and hung on to its 16 seats. However, the election's big winner was the centre-right Progressive Party, which gained five seats to

After four years of concessions on all sides to keep the peace within the coalition, it is conceivable that the two right-wing parties may want to try to form a government without the Left Greens.

Myanmar military blames rebels for Internet blackouts

It says protesters destroyed communication towers

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BANGKOK

Myanmar's junta has denied suspending the Internet in conflict-wracked regions, blaming a recent spate of data blackouts on anti-coup protesters who had destroyed military-owned communications towers.

The Southeast Asian country has been in chaos since the military toppled Aung San Suu Kyi's government in February, triggering huge democracy protests.

Some in the anti-coup movement formed local "people's defence forces" in their townships to fight back, and in recent weeks destroyed several communications towers belonging to military-owned Mytel in western Chin state.

Reports of an Internet and data blackout – particularly in regions where local defence forces and the military are locked in conflict emerged soon after.

The junta's Foreign Ministry on Saturday denied that the State was responsible. "In fact, the recent Internet connections were disrupted due to the terrorist acts, such as destroying of communication towers by terrorist groups," the Ministry

"The Ministry urged some foreign missions in Yangon to thoroughly verify information before making statements."

said.

stranger to Internet blackouts, with the junta imposing one in the early hours of February 1 as soldiers arrested Ms. Suu Kyi and other top politicians from her National League for Democracy par-A nationwide mobile data blackout was also imposed

Post-coup Myanmar is no

powergrab. On Sunday, anti-coup fighters told AFP that tele-Pinlebu, Kawlin and Wuntho townships in northern Sagawith the military have been

during the nighttime hours

in the weeks following the

communications services in ing region – where clashes fierce – were down since the early hours of the day.

ASK US

N. SREE KANTH

Q. A relative of mine, a senior citizen and a family pensioner, has interest income from post office small savings schemes such as Post Office MIS. FD. NSC and Senior Citizens Savings Scheme. I am told she is not eligible for standard deduction but that she can deduct 33% from her pension. I am also informed that exemption of interest up to ₹50,000 is applicable only to bank deposits and not to investments made by my relative. Please clarify.

T. K. KANNAN

A. In case of family pension, standard deduction is not available. However, 1/3rd portion of the family pension received or ₹15,000, whichever is less, will be treated as

The remaining portion of the family pension will be taxed under the head 'Income from Other Sources.

TDS is not required to be deducted by banks, co-operative societies and post office if the interest payable to such senior citizen is less than ₹50,000 in one assessment year.

Further, in the case of banks and co-operative societies, the limit of ₹50,000 will be available for each branch in cases where deposits are maintained in different

Q. I purchased a plot of residential land during the FY 2004-05 for ₹8 lakh. I sold the same plot in October 2020 for ₹1.57 crore. The purchaser deducted TDS of 0.75% on the sale value. How much will be the capital gains on this transaction?

If I invest the capital gains amount in a bank's capital gains account, can I claim refund of the TDS amount deducted on the sale proceeds?

I purchased a flat for ₹20 lakh in 2007 and I do not have any other property in my name.

A. Sale of immovable property in the form of land will be termed a 'Capital Asset' and the ensuing gain/loss from the sale transaction is termed as 'Long Term Capital Gain/Loss' as

the period of holding is above 24 months. The capital gains is computed in the following manner — the

first limb will consist of selling price less brokerage. Also, if the selling price is lesser than the guideline value, then the guideline value is to be replaced with the selling price.

Kindly check with the registrar's office in order to ascertain the guideline value of the property for the corresponding address/survey number.

The second limb will consist of purchase cost plus registration costs which is to be adjusted with inflation (indexation). This is to be done with the aid of Cost Inflation Index (CII) released by the I-T department every assessment year. If you have incurred any cost of improvement, then the same can also be added along with the purchase cost (adjusted with CII, if applicable).

If the difference between the first and second limbs is positive, it is Capital Gains and if not, it is Capital Loss, Long Term Capital Gains attract 20% tax plus applicable surcharge and cess. In case of loss, the same can be carried forward for 8 assessment vears and be adjusted with any future Long Term Capital Gains.

The TDS so deducted by the buyer can be adjusted with the corresponding tax payable. You may choose to avail exemption under Section 54F (reinvestment in house property) or 54EC (investment in capital gains bond scheme); in case the value of the investment under the aforementioned exemptions are higher than the Capital Gains, you may claim the refund of the TDS, if you do not have any other source of income. You may also choose to deposit the proceeds into a Capital Gains Deposit Scheme and invest the proceeds within the time limits prescribed under the respective exemption provisions and claim the refund of the TDS deducted for this assessment year in case you do not have any other source of income.

Q. My wife and I are aged 70 and 72 respectively. We are both individual income tax assessees and have a single medical insurance policy having an equal sum insured. Since mine happens to be the first name in the policy, the policy and Section 80D certificates are issued in my name. Suppose my wife, whose name is second in the policy, pays the insurance premium, is she eligible to claim the deduction under Section 80D, even if the 80D certificate is issued in my name?

As both are senior citizens, can she deduct up to ₹1,00,000 under Section 80D or is it restricted to ₹50,000 even if the premium in this case is say, ₹65,000? Please clarify.

L. PARAMAHAMSAN

A Under Section 80D of the Income Tax Act, 1961, senior citizens are allowed a deduction of up to ₹50,000 towards the medical insurance premium paid by them for themselves and their family (spouse and dependent children).

Deduction with respect to medical insurance paid by your wife can be claimed by her at the time of filing her ITR. You may also request your insurer to provide an 80D certificate in your wife's name.

A maximum amount of ₹50,000 can only be claimed as deduction as the limit prescribed is for self, spouse and dependent children in case of senior citizens. You may from the next financial year take individual policies for each other and make payments individually in order to claim a maximum

deduction of ₹50,000 in each case. (N. Sree Kanth is partner, GSS & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

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



Avalanche effect

Focus on information, action

Investors must sift from the info avalanche to home in on the right decision

JOYDEEP SEN

We all have our personal finance and investments to manage, and with that at the back of our mind, we take in information that is relevant for our purposes, or we think is relevant.

Especially in today's age, we receive a plethora of information. It comes through newspapers, television channels 'breaking news,' various apps on our mobile phones, social media, people we meet or talk to and the like. The fast pace of and multifarious sources of information available to us is a benefit bestowed by technology.

When a filter is key

However, the overdose also means that we have to apply a filter somewhere. Applying a filter does not mean we have to close ourselves to the benefit that technology is bringing to us; we have to keep our eyes and ears open. But, there is a limit to which we can retain data, process it and apply it usefully. Unless you are a fund manager, analyst or other professional associated with finance or invest-

ments, you have limited time

and energy bandwidth for data

relevant for your investments. You have to decide which data points are relevant for you, and hence declutter your mind space. Data becomes useful information only when you put it to productive use. To make sense of the various financial data hitting us, let us bucket these into categories.

One is information that comes every day e.g. Nifty and Sensex movement, 10-year government security yields and oil price movement. Next, events that happen from time to time in the market, economy, governments and corporates. Then, there are views and opinions voiced by experts and sometimes, non-experts, in media. The other bucket of data is where you get to receive deeper or analytical pieces of information, such as company balance sheets, corporate earnings growth and the government's fiscal situation. The other aspect to consider for bucketing data into relevant and not-sorelevant is your set of goals.

Assuming you are not a finance professional, it all comes down to (a) whether you are doing the analysis yourself (DIY) or have given it to a professional fund manager such as a mutual fund or PMS (b) whether you are taking inputs from a professional adviser (c) how much time and bandwidth you have for tracking and analysing the data and (d) to what extent or depth you want to analyse.

If your funds are managed by a professional or if you are or advised by one, you need to track only the broad developments just to be aware which way the economy and market is going and you are in a position to understand the background

of the advice and ask the right questions of your adviser.

Next come data points. There are events that happen from time to time. These are not in your control; what is, is your portfolio. While you absorb all the news, your perspective should be whether it is so significant to warrant a change in your investments or does it serve as another point of awareness. It is not about the 'headline' which is designed to make it sound earth shattering, but about the real import.

Relevance to context

As an illustration of the data and discussion points mentioned above, till March 2020, the fashionable point of discussion was economic slowdown. In a simple and real sense, economic slowdown refers to the economy slowing down. Even then, GDP growth rate was positive, only that the growth rate was slower than earlier. In the quarter ended June 2020, GDP actually contracted significantly i.e. it was a slowdown in the real sense. It was not slower growth, it was a shrinkage of the actual economy. However, between April and June 2020, too few discussed the slowdown as the experts changed their priority to the medical emergency and how to manage

Even if you had soaked in the intellectualisation of the 'slowdown' till March 2020, apart from engaging discussions and viewpoints, how did it impact vour investment portfolio?

the pandemic better.

There would have been impact, but as an action point on your part, it would have been limited to minor tweaks in the portfolio. If your money is with mutual funds, or you are taking inputs from a professional adviser, they would be doing the tweaks anyway, based on their reading of the situation.

Net-net, when you come across the multiple data points, events and opinions, initially approach it with an open mind, but then apply filters. The first filter is, whether it is relevant or not. If not, do not burden your head with it. That is noise.

If relevant, question whether it only raises awareness or helps raise queries to your adviser. This is useful information. If there is some truly significant development, it may impact your investment portfolio and may be a call to action.

However, such developments do not occur so frequently that you have to tweak your portfolio every day. Your investments are for the long term and some event or the other will happen every day. For your daily purposes, you have to choose data points that will populate your indicator panel. While driving, you can only focus on so much and you change course when the event is a key one.

(The writer is a corporate trainer and author)

THINK INVESTOR: KEEPING PACE WITH MARKET RETURNS

Has your financial well-being improved?

Appreciate the increase in your wealth that a favourable market has made possible

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

The stock market has seen unprecedented levels since the crash last March. But has your financial well-being improved? By financial well-being, we mean your state of happiness based on the level of your wealth. In this article, we discuss why a stock market that is trending up does not automatically translate into improved financial well-being.

Relative wealth

Absolute levels of income matter till our basic needs are met. Thereafter, how happy we are with our lifestyle and income levels depend on how where we rank in the pecking order with our friends and relatives. This behaviour, perhaps, also explains our continual desire to chase returns.

You prefer active funds, not passive funds, even though

your objective is to achieve a goai and not chase returns. Si milarly, you want high interestincome products, not relatively stable low-return bank deposits. Cryptocurrencies would certainly be one of your favourite if not for the lack of regulation in that market. This kind of behaviour has a bearing on our financial well-being.

10,000 points since February; that is nearly 130% return on the Nifty index. If you are a typical person, your wealth may not have kept pace with this unprecedented rise.

The stock market has moved

Why? You may have taken quick profits each time the market rallied in the fear that it may decline. Then, there is the possibility that your returns pale in comparison with those of your friends and relatives. For these reasons, you could suffer regret, despite earning more profit than you did in the earlier



Smile, please: If money does not improve happiness, then you are not spending it right. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

years! And that could adversely impact your financial well-being. So, what should you do?

Reducing stress

One side to your financial wellbeing is your actual wealth. The other side is what you do with it. True, savings are important

Interest Rates (%)

Rates as on September 21

to protect your financial wellbeing in the future. But savings need not come at the cost of denying yourself some pleasure in the present. If you have earned more profit than you expected on your trading portfolio, then

spend some to improve your fi-

nancial well-being. If the mo-

Axis Bank

HSBC Bank^^^

South Indian Bank

Karur Vysva Bank

Karnataka Bank

Federal Bank

piness, you are not spending it right. Many opine that spending on experiences is better than spending on material goods. That is because the experience stays with you for long. The same is not the case with material goods, the argument goes. You get used to deriving hap-

ney does not improve your hap-

piness from your recent phone or car or even colonial furniture. This argument is based on a concept called hedonic adaptation. You 'adapt' to your new acquisition and, therefore, your level of happiness (hedonic) stabilises after a while.

But there is a flip side to this argument. You could spend on passion assets - collectibles such as art, paintings and antiques. These assets combine the buying experience (online auctions, for instance) with the pleasure of owning material goods. In any case, spending on experiences may not be possible because of the pandemic-related travel restrictions.

Conclusion

Markets that are trending upward can be very unnerving. The emotional stress of not keeping with the market returns can hurt your financial well-being.

The feeling of not keeping up with your peers and friends can be even more harmful. Sure, you can buy luxury products and services and acquire more passion assets to improve your financial well-being. But you also must work hard to be able to afford such spending.

This, perhaps, explains why having more wealth does not necessarily bring happiness; the happiness from spending is, perhaps, neutralised by the need to do work that you may not necessarily enjoy.

Yet, if money is important (and it certainly is for most of us), our perception needs to change. Shifting the frame of reference from peers to our past self could help.

So, appreciate the increase in your wealth because of the favourable market. That could be a step towards improving

your financial well-being. (The writer offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal invest-

Bank fixed deposit rates

Interest Rates (%)

Bank Name	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FI	NANCE E	BANKS		
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.25	6.00	6.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.50	7.00	6.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.00	6.50	6.25
Jana Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.25	6.50	6.50
Equitas Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.35	6.35	6.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	6.75	5.60	6.25	6.75
ESAF Small Finance Bank	6.25	6.25	5.75	5.25
AU Small Finance Bank	6.00	4.85	6.00	5.75
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.25	6.00	6.00	6.00
PRIVATE S	ECTOR	BANKS		
DCB Bank	5.95	5.55	5.95	5.95
RBL Bank	6.30	6.00	6.30	6.30
SBM Bank India	7.25	6.50	6.50	7.25
IndusInd Bank	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Nainital Bank	5.35	5.10	5.35	5.35
IDFC First Bank	5.25	4.75	5.00	5.20
Karur Vysya Bank	6.00	5.25	5.50	5.75
CSB Bank	5.75	5.00	5.25	5.25
Axis Bank	5.75	5.10	5.40	5.75
South Indian Bank	5.65	5.40	5.50	5.65
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	5.60	5.50	5.25	5.25

5.60 5.20

Karnataka Bank

5.50

5.50

Highest 1-year 3-year 5-year Dhanlaxmi Bank 5.50 5.15 5.30 5.40 5.50 5.50 5.25 ICICI Bank 5.50 4.90 5.15 5.35 DBS Bank 5.50 4.25 5.50 5.50 5.30 5.10 5.30 5.30

Union Bank of India	5.50	5.00	5.50	5.40
Canara Bank	5.35	5.10	5.25	5.25
State Bank of India	5.40	5.00	5.30	5.40
Punjab & Sind Bank	5.30	5.05	5.30	5.30
Indian Bank	5.25	5.00	5.25	5.25
Bank of Baroda	5.25	4.90	5.10	5.25
IDBI Bank	5.40	5.05	5.40	5.25
Punjab National Bank	5.25	5.00	5.10	5.25
Indian Overseas Bank	5.20	5.15	5.20	5.20
Bank of India	5.05	5.00	5.05	5.05
Bank of Maharashta	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90
FORE	IGN BANK	(S		
Deutsche Bank	6.25	3.85	4.50	6.25
HSBC Bank	4.00	3.10	4.00	4.00
CitiBank	3.50	2.75	3.50	3.50

Home loan interest rates

Name of Landon	Loan Amount (Rs.)								
Name of Lender	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh						
			(In %)						
PUBL	IC SECTOR	BANKS							
Punjab & Sind Bank	6.65-7.60	6.65-7.60	6.65-7.60						
State Bank of India#	6.70-7.50	6.95-7.65	7.05-7.75						
Bank of Baroda	6.75-8.10	6.75-8.10	6.75-8.10						
Union Bank of India	6.80-7.60	6.90-7.65	6.90-7.65						
Punjab National Bank	6.55-7.50	6.55-7.65	6.55-7.75						
Central Bank of India	6.85-7.30	6.85-7.30	6.85-7.30						
Bank of India	6.85-8.35	6.85-8.35	6.85-8.35						
Canara Bank	6.90-8.90	6.90-8.90	6.90-8.90						
UCO Bank	6.90-7.00	6.90-7.00	6.90-7.00						
Bank of Maharashtra	6.90-8.05	6.90-8.40	6.90-8.40						
IDBI Bank*	6.95-10.05	6.95-10.05	6.95-10.05						
Indian Bank**	6.80-7.30	6.80-7.30	6.90-7.40						
Indian Overseas Bank	7.05	7.15	7.30						
PRIV <i>i</i>	TE SECTOR	R BANKS							
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.50-7.25	6.50-7.25	6.50-7.25						
ICICI Bank ^^	6.75-7.30	6.75-7.45	7.10-7.55						

7.65-7.70

GIC Housin			
Repco Hon	6.95-10.05	6.95-10.05	6.95-10.05
Indiabulls	6.90-7.40	6.80-7.30	6.80-7.30
	7.30	7.15	7.05
Aditya Birl			
Reliance H		BANKS	TE SECTOR
*10 bps co	6.50-7.25	6.50-7.25	6.50-7.25
Conditions a	7.10-7.55	6.75-7.45	6.75-7.30
**Interest r	6.90-11.50	6.90-11.50	6.90-11.50
^^ HLBT	6.90-7.00	6.90-7.00	6.90-7.00
amount, wit	7.25-10.00	7.25-10.00	7.25-10.00
^^^ HLBT	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35
# A premiu	7.50-8.85	7.50-8.75	7.50-8.75

7.70-7.75 7.75-7.80

Loan Amount (Rs.) Dhanlaxmi Bank 7.85-9.00 7.85-9.00 7.85-9.00 Tamilnad Mercantile Bank 8.25 8.25 8.25 Bandhan Bank 8.50-11.75 8.50-11.25 8.75-11.25 10.20-12.80 10.20-10.70 9.50-10.00

HOUSING FIR	NANCE COM	PANIES (HFO	CS)
LIC Housing	6.66-7.60	6.66-7.80	6.90-7.90
HDFC Ltd.***	6.75-7.50	7.00-7.75	7.10-7.85
Bajaj Finserv	6.75-8.25	6.75-8.25	6.75-8.25
Tata Capital	>=6.70	>=6.70	>=6.70
PNB Housing	7.35-9.35	7.35-9.55	7.70-9.55
GIC Housing Finance	>=7.90	>=7.90	>=7.90
Repco Home Finance	>=7.50	>=7.50	>=7.50
Indiabulls Housing	>=8.65	>=8.65	>=8.65
Aditya Birla Capital	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50
Reliance Home Finance	9.75-13.00	9.75-13.00	9.75-11.00

oncession for women borrowers under limited period offer.

apply. rate of 6.85%-7.00% p.a. offered under IND AWAS Scheme interest rate range of 6.75%-7.55% p.a. for any loan ith repayment from ICICI Bank Account

offered at an interest rate of 6.55% p.a. ium of 15 bps will be added to the Card Rate for Non-Salaried Customers. Source: Paisabazaar.com

M ND-NDE



Masterstroke: Ravindra Jadeja dealt some meaty blows to control the outcome of a match that could have gone

Super Kings pull off a thrilling last-ball victory

Jadeja's power-hitting saves the day after the Knight Riders bowlers muscle their way in to disrupt a smooth chase

IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

n a thrilling last-ball finish, Ravindra Jadeja's eight-ball 22 (2x4, 2x6) helped Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by two wickets in the Indian Premier League match at Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

Chasing 172 for victory, openers Ruturaj Gaikwad and Faf du Plessis set the platform for CSK with a 74run stand before the chase lost momentum.

Twist in the tale

The Chennai side was cruising at 101/1 after 11 overs when Prasidh Krishna removed du Plessis.

The wicket brought KKR back into the game strongly thanks to a few tight overs from Varun Chakaravarthy (1/22), leaving CSK needing 26 off the last two overs.

Prasidh, who had given just 19 runs from his first three overs, started the 19th

over well with two yorkers to left-handers Jadeja and Sam Curran that went for a single each. But inexplicably, he changed plans with a short ball on leg-stump that was hit over square-leg by Jadeja.

The bowler then crumbled under pressure as Jadeia found another six and two more boundaries to leave CSK needing just four runs off the last over.

Despite Sunil Narine scalping Curran and Jadeja in the final over, CSK managed to limp across the line off the last ball to go on top of the points table.

Tripathi clicks again

Earlier, electing to bat, Rahul Tripathi's 45 at the top, followed by cameos from Nitish Rana (37) and Dinesh Karthik (26) helped KKR post a strong total of 171/6.

Tripathi came out with a clear plan as he stepped out regularly to the mediumpacers and helped KKR get to 50 in five overs.

However, CSK pulled back

things during the middle overs with some brilliant bowling from Shardul Thakur (2/ 20) and Jadeja (1/21).

Just when CSK felt it had a chance to restrict KKR to a modest total, Rana and Karthik came good as 44 runs came off the last three overs.

Curran's nightmare

CSK made one change for this match with Sam Curran replacing Dwayne Bravo, but it proved costly as the English all-rounder went for 56 runs in his four overs.

POINTS TABLE

Team	М	w	L	PTS	NRR
Chennai Super Kings	10	8	2	16	1.069
Delhi Capitals	10	8	2	16	0.711
Royal Challengers	10	6	4	12	-0.359
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	4	6	8	0.322
Punjab Kings	10	4	6	8	-0.271
Rajasthan Royals	9	4	5	8	-0.319
Mumbai Indians	10	4	6	8	-0.551
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	9	1	8	2	-0.637
After the RCB-MI match on Sept. 26					liminated

nal say.

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS too went after the young left-Shubman Gill run out 9 (5b, arm medium-pacer, picking 2x4). Venkatesh Iver c Dhoni b up 17 runs in the 19th over, as Shardul 18 (15b, 3x4), Rahul Trithe Kolkata side finished pathi b Jadeja 45 (33b, 4x4, strongly. However, it was 1x6), Eoin Morgan c du Plessis b Super Kings who had the fi-Hazlewood 8 (14b), Nitish Rana (not out) 37 (27b, 3x4, 1x6), Andre Russell b Shardul 20 (15b, 2x4, 1x6), Dinesh Karthik c Dhoni b Hazlewood 26 (11b, 3x4, 1x6), Sunil Narine (not out) 0

FALL OF WICKETS

(1b); Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-5, nb-1):

8; Total (for six wkts. in 20

overs): 171.

I-10 (Gill, 0.6 ov), 2-50 (Venkatesh, 5.1), 3-70 (Morgan, 9.1), 4-89 (Tripathi, 12.2), 5-125 (Russell, 16.4), 6-166 (Karthik, 19.4).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING

Deepak Chahar 4-0-32-0, Sam Curran 4-0-56-0, Hazlewood 4-0-40-2, Shardul 4-1-20-2. Jadeja 4-0-21-1.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Ruturai Gaikwad c Morgan b Russell 40 (28b, 2x4, 3x6), Faf du Plessis c Ferguson b Prasidh 43 (30b, 7x4), Moeen Ali c Venkatesh b Ferguson 32 (28b, 2x4, 1x6), Ambati Rayudu b Narine 10 (9b, 1x4), Suresh Raina run out

11 (7b, 1x4), M.S. Dhoni b Varun 1 (4b), Ravindra Jadeja lbw b Narine 22 (8b, 2x4, 2x6), Sam Curran c sub (Nagarkoti) b Narine 4 (4b), Shardul Thakur (not out) 3 (2b), Deepak Chahar (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-2, w-2, nb-1): 5; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 172

FALL OF WICKETS

1-74 (Ruturaj, 8.2), 2-102 (du Plessis, 11.3), 3-119 (Rayudu, 14.2), 4-138 (Moeen, 16.4), 5-142 (Raina, 17.1), 6-142 (Dhoni, 17.3), 7-168 (Curran, 19.1), 8-171

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING Prasidh 4-0-41-1, Ferguson 4-0-33-1, Varun 4-0-22-1, Narine 4-0-41-3, Russell 3-0-28-1, Venkatesh 1-0-5-0.

Toss: KKR; MoM: Jadeja.

CSK won by two wickets off the final delivery.

Innings scan						
KKR		CSK				
36	Dots	40				
17	Fours	15				
4	Sixes	6				
50/2	PP	52/0				
8.55	RR	8.60				

Harshal performs the 'trick as Royal Challengers trump Mumbai Indians

Dismisses Hardik, Pollard and Chahar to start MI's slide; Kohli, Maxwell power Bengaluru side to 165

SPORTS BUREAU

either way. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Tarshal Patel scalped a f I hat-trick to power Royal Challengers Bangalore to a 54-run victory over Mumbai Indians in an IPL clash at Dubai on Sunday.

Pacer Harshal struck big in the 17th over of the chase, taking out Hardik Pandya, Kieron Pollard and Rahul Chahar. The dream over ended MI's hopes of chasing the 166-run target

Harshal started the over with MI needing 61 runs from 24 balls

The procession

Hardik skied a slower ball to Virat Kohli at cover, while Pollard lost his stumps after walking too far across. The hat-trick was sealed with a third slower ball, which trapped Chahar on the pads.

For MI, only openers Rohit Sharma (43, 28b, 5x4, 1x6) and Quinton de Kock (24, 23b, 4x4) contributed, while none of the other batters even reached double

Harshal finished with four wickets, while leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal picked up

Earlier, after being put in, RCB rode on crisp knocks from skipper Virat Kohli (51, 42b, 3x4, 3x6) and Glenn Maxwell (56, 37b, 6x4, 3x6).

Kohli took centrestage after fellow opener Devdutt Padikkal was dismissed for a duck by Jasprit Bumrah. One-drop K.S. Bharat (32, 24b, 2x4, 2x6) was not particularly fluent, save for a couple of clean slog-sweep

Kohli's 10,000 in T20s

Kohli chugged along quietly, and recorded his second consecutive fifty. He received a life on 37, when Hardik put down a regulation catch at point. During the

course of his essay, Kohli completed 10,000 runs in T20 cricket.

Maxwell came to the party with typical flair. He got going with a switch hit to left-arm spinner Krunal Pandya, which sailed well beyond the deep point fence. Milne met the same fate later, when Maxwell used a reverse scoop to hit a six over third-man.

Bumrah took the vital wickets of Maxwell and de Villiers in the 19th over, finishing as the most successful MI bowler with three for 36.

■ Harshal's hat-trick is the 20th recorded in the IPL

Next assignment

Verstappen goes from last to second

MI: Sept. 28 vs PBKS, Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST RCB: Sept. 29 vs RR,



Over the moon: Harshal celebrates his three-in-three.

SCOREBOARD

After Andre Russell took

14 runs off Curran, Karthik

Next assignment

KKR: Sept. 28 vs DC,

Sharjah, 3.30 p.m. IST

CSK: Sept. 30 vs SRH,

Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Virat Kohli c sub (Anukul) b Milne 51 (42b, 3x4, 3x6), Devdutt Padikkal c de Kock b Bumrah O (4b), K.S. Bharat c Suryakumar b Rahul Chahar 32 (24b, 2x4, 2x6), Glenn Maxwell c Boult b Bumrah 56 *(37b, 6x4, 3x6)*, AB de Villiers c de Kock b Bumrah 11 (6b, 1x4, 1x6), Dan Christian (not out) 1 (3b), Shahbaz Ahmed b Boult 1 (3b), Kyle Jamieson (not out) 2 (2b); Extras (lb-4, w-6, nb-1): 11; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs):

FALL OF WICKETS

(Bharat, 8.5), 3-126 (Kohli, 15.5), 4-161 (Maxwell, 18.3), 5-161 (de Villiers, 18.4), 6-162 (Shahbaz,

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING Boult 4-0-17-1, Bumrah 4-0-36-3, Milne 4-0-48-1, Krunal 4-0-27-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-33-1

MUMBAI INDIANS

Rohit Sharma c Padikkal b Maxwell 43 (28b, 5x4, 1x6), Quinton de Kock c Maxwell b Chahal 24 (23b, 4x4), Ishan Kishan c Harshal b Chahal 9 (12b, 1x4), Suryakumar Yadav c Chahal b Siraj 8 (9b), Krunal Pandya b Maxwell 5 (11b),

Kieron Pollard b Harshal Patel 7 (10b), Hardik Pandya c Kohli b Harshal 3 (6b), Adam Milne b Harshal O (1b), Rahul Chahar lbw b Harshal O (1b), Jasprit Bumrah b Chahal 5 (6b. 1x4). Trent Boult (not out) 0 (3b); Extras (lb-2, w-4, nb-1): 7; Total (in 18.1 overs): 111. **FALL OF WICKETS**

1-57 (de Kock, 6.4), 2-79 (Rohit, 9.6), 3-81 (Ishan, 10.3), 4-93 (Krunal, 13.1), 5-97 (Suryakumar, 14.1), 6-106 (Hardik, 16.1), 7-106 (Pollard, 16.2), 8-106 (Rahul Chahar, 16.3), 9-111 (Bumrah,

RCB BOWLING

Jamieson 2-0-22-0, Siraj 3-0-15-1, Christian 2-0-21-0, Harshal 3.1-0-17-4, Chahal 4-1-11-3, Max-

Toss: MI. MoM: Maxwell. RCB won by 54 runs.

Innings scan

minings scan						
RCB		MI				
54	Dots	51				
12	Fours	11				
9	Sixes	1				
48/1	PP	56/0				
8 25	RR	6 11				

Royals eye better show

SPORTS BUREAU

It may be a clash between the basement dwellers, but Rajasthan Royals can still afford to dream of a place in the playoffs, unlike its rival Sunrisers Hyderabad, at Dubai on Monday.

RR, however, have to come up with an improved show, especially with the bat, against a team that hasn't much to play for besides pride. Chasing 155, RR had slipped to defeat against DC on Saturday.



Played: 14 In 2021 Played 1 | SRH 0 | RR 1

Sania & Shuai triumph

INDIANS ABROAD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA OSTRAVA (CZECH REPUBLIC) Sania Mirza won her first title of the season as she and her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang beat Kaitlyn Christian and Erin Routliffe 6-3, 6-2 in the women's doubles final of the Ostrava Open here on Sunday.

It was Sania's second final of the season, following a runner-up finish at the WTA 250 Cleveland event in the USA last month with Chirstina Mchale.



Sania and Shuai... winning

smiles. • GETTY IMAGES

Team Europe in control

Team World draws a blank on Day two



Business as usual: Stefanos Tsitsipas set in motion Team Europe's dominant display with victory over Nick Kyrgios. • AP

LAVER CUP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Laver Cup here.

BOSTON

Team Europe took a stranglehold shooting up an 11-1 lead over Team World after Saturday's matches in the

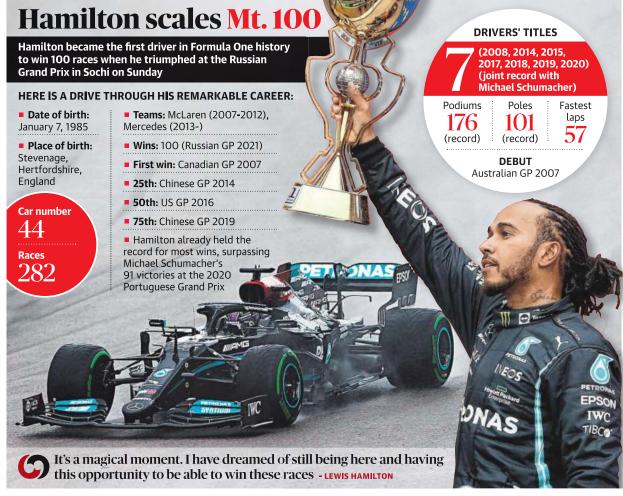
The first side to reach 13 points wins the Laver Cup, so all Team Europe now needs is to win one of the remaining four matches. Each victory is worth one point on Friday, two points on Saturday and three on Sunday. Nick Kyrgios said the

be his last event of 2021. He was beaten by French Open runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-4 before Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Alexander Zverev beat John Isner 7-6(5), 6-7(6), [10-5]. The results: Team Europe

three-day exhibition would

leads Team World 11-1 {Stefanos Tsitsipas bt Nick Kyrgios 6-3, 6-4; Alexander Zverev bt John Isner 7-6(5), 6-7(6), [10-5]; Daniil Medvedev bt Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 6-0; Andrey Rublev & Tsitsipas bt Kyrgios & Isner 6-7(8), 6-3, [10-4]}.

Hamilton back on top with his 100th win



RUSSIAN GP

REUTERS

Lewis Hamilton became the first Formula One driver to win 100 grands prix with a dramatic rain-assisted victory in Russia that sent the Mercedes driver two points clear in the championship on Sunday.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished an impressive second at Sochi's Olympic Park, after starting 20th and last due to engine penalties,

thereby limiting the damage from his rival's fifth win of the season and first since Spaniard Carlos Sainz was

third for Ferrari on a day of hope and ultimate heartbreak for McLaren's Lando Norris as a late downpour dashed his hopes of a first win. The 21-year-old Briton started on pole for the first time in his career, lost out to Sainz at the start but then passed the Spaniard 13 laps later and was still leading when the clouds burst.

Norris decided to stay out on slicks, after Hamilton had stopped for intermediates on team advice, with the top two comfortably clear of the rest. He then plunged from first to seventh in the last three laps after slipping, sliding off and finally having to

The results: 1. Hamilton (Mercedes) 1h:30m:41.001s; 2. Verstappen (Red Bull) +53.271s; 3. Sainz Jr. (Ferrari) 62.475; 4. Ricciardo (McLaren) 65.607; 5. Bottas (Mercedes) 67.533: 6. Alonso (Alpine) 81.321; 7. Norris (McLaren) 87.224; 8. Raikkonen

(Alfa Romeo) 88.955: 9. Perez (Red Bull) 90.076: 10. Russell (Williams) 100.551; 11. Stroll (Aston Martin) 106.198; +1 lap: 12. Vettel (Aston Martin); 13. Gasly (AlphaTauri); 14. Ocon (Alpine); 15. Leclerc (Ferrari); 16. Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo); 17. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri); +2 laps: 18. Mazepin (Haas); DNF: Latifi (Williams); Schumacher (Haas). Standings: Drivers: 1. Hamilton 246.5; 2. Verstappen 244.5; 3. Bottas 151; 4. Norris 139; 5. Pe-

Constructors: 1. Mercedes 397.5; 2. Red Bull 364.5; 3. McLaren 234; 4. Ferrari 216.5; 5. Alpine 103.

Arsenal proves too hot for Tottenham

Fati returns to Barca colours in style

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES

Arsenal tore Tottenham apart with three goals in the opening 34 minutes in a 3-1 victory on Sunday that extended its early season recovery and completed a miserable September for its north London rival in the Premier League.

Goals from Emile Smith

Rowe, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Bukayo Saka completed a third successive league win for Arsenal which had lost its opening three games. In LaLiga, Barcelona's Ansu Fati made a perfect re-

turn after 10 months out through injury by scoring in a 3-0 victory over Levante on Sunday. Fati, wearing the No. 10

appearance in November last year. And the 18-yearold came back in style, carrying the ball forward and lashing it into the net in injury time to complete a muchneeded victory for Barca. Important results: Premier League: Arsenal 3

a raucous reception at Camp

Nou, 323 days after his last

(Smith-Rowe 12, Aubameyang 27, Saka 34) bt Tottenham 1 (Son 79); Southampton O lost to Wolves 1 (Jimenez 61). Serie A: Juventus 3 (Dybala 10, Bonucci 43-pen, Locatelli 57) bt Sampdoria 2 (Yoshida 44,

Candreva 83); Udinese O lost to Fiorentina 1 (Vlahovic LaLiga: Real Mallorca 2 (Rodriguez 11, Nino 45+4) lost to Osasuna 3 (Angel 9, Inigo Perez 58, Martinez 88); Barcelona 3 (Depay 7-pen, L. de Jong

14, Fati 90+1) bt Levante 0. On Saturday: shirt previously belonging Ligue 1: PSG 2 (Gueye 14, Draxler 89) bt Montpellier O. to Lionel Messi, came on to

Driving to the podium



Racing away: Jehan Daruvala took the third spot in the feature race of Formula 2 in Sochi on Sunday. He is seventh in the standings with 96 points. • GETTY IMAGES

India stops the all-conquering Australian juggernaut

Ends its 26-match streak; Yastika, Shafali dazzle in visitors' highest-ever successful chase

INDIA IN AUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Young batters Yastika Bhatia and Shafali Verma dazzled at the top with contrasting halfcenturies to power India to a consolation two-wicket victory over Australia in the third women's One-Day International here on Sunday.

India's win ended the home team's 26-match unbeaten streak.

Tricky target

The visitors completed a tricky chase of 265 - their highest-ever - in the last over, gaining some lost ground ahead of the upcoming day/ night Test, after conceding the three-match series in their previous outing.

Chasing a challenging target, India got the start it needed, thanks to a 59-run stand between Shafali (56) and Smriti Mandhana (22) in just under 11 overs.

Ashleigh Gardner broke the partnership when she



Showing their mettle: Yastika once again proved she belonged at the highest level. Right: Shafali Verma battled back pain and exhaustion to notch up her maiden ODI half-century.

had Smriti, who was coming off a fine half-century in the previous ODI, caught by Annabel Sutherland.

Yastika (64) joined Shafali and the two carried on the good work. After 25 overs, India was 131 for one.

Shafali seemed to be battling back pain and exhaustion, but reached her maiden ODI half-century off 86

Playing only her third ODI, Yastika was the aggressor and brought up her first

half-century off 56 balls. She had got a reprieve just before reaching her fifty.

Richa Ghosh fell for a duck to Sutherland, who also accounted for Pooja Vastrakar. Skipper Mithali Raj broke the shackles with a

welcome maximum off Stella Campbell after only six runs came off 20 balls, but the veteran too succumbed to the pressure created by the climbing asking rate.

However, Sneh Rana (30) and Deepti Sharma (31)

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA

Rachael Haynes c Shafali b Jhulan 13 *(28b, 3x4)*, Alyssa Healy run out 35 (47b, 5x4), Meg Lanning c Richa b Jhulan O (4b), Ellyse Perry c Deepti b Pooja 26 (47b, 2x4), Beth Mooney b Sneh 52 (64b, 6x4), Ashleigh Gardner c Mithali b Pooja 67 (62b, 8x4, 2x6), Tahlia McGrath c Richa b Pooja 47 (32b, 7x4), Nicola Carey (not out) 12 (15b), Annabel Sutherland c Deepti b Jhulan O (1b), Sophie Molineux run out 1 (1b). Stella Campbell (not out) O (0b); Extras (b-1, lb-3, w-6, nb-1): 11; Total (for nine wkts.

in 50 overs): 264. **FALL OF WICKETS**

-41 (Haynes, 8.1 overs), 2-41 (Lanning, 8.5), 3-62 (Healy, 17.1), 4-87 (Perry, 24.3), 5-185 (Mooney, 39.6), 6-224 (Gardner, 44.2), 7-260 (McGrath,

quickly added 33 crucial

Earlier, the Indian bowlers once again let Australia off the hook. Struggling at 87 for four in the 25th over, the hosts recovered through a 98-run stand between Ash48.6), 8-261 (Sutherland, 49.2), 9-263 (Molineux, 49.5).

INDIA BOWLING Jhulan 10-2-37-3, Meghna 6-0-37-0, Rajeshwari 9-1-38-0, Sneh 9-1-56-1, Deepti 7-0-

46-0, Pooja 9-1-46-3. INDIA

Shafali Verma b Molineux 56 (91b, 7x4), Smriti Mandhana c Sutherland b Gardner 22 (25b, 3x4). Yastika Bhatia c sub (Strano) b Campbell 64 (69b, 9x4), Richa Ghosh c Gardner b Sutherland O (4b), Mithali Raj b Sutherland 16 (28b, 1x4, 1x6), Pooja Vastrakar b Sutherland 3 (14b), Deepti Sharma c Carey b McGrath 31 (30b, 3x4), Sneh Rana c sub (Darlington) b Carey 30 (27b, 5x4), Jhulan Goswami (not out) 8 (7b, 1x4), Meghna Singh (not out) 2 (3b); Extras (lb-2, w-31, nb-1): 34; Total (for eight wkts. in 49.3

leigh Gardner (67) and Beth Mooney (52). Tahlia McGrath chipped in with a brisk 47 off 32 balls.

For India, medium-pacer Pooja finished with three for 46, while Jhulan Goswami picked up three for 37 runs.

Shahan and Deepak

Making a mark: Shahan Ali Mohsin won two races in the MRF

Formula1600 category. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

notch up a double

overs): 266.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-59 (Smriti, 10.3), 2-160 (Shafali, 29.3), 3-161 (Richa, 30.3), 4-180 (Yastika, 33.5), 5-192 (Pooja, 38.1), 6-208 (Mithali, 40.4), 7-241 (Deepti, 46.2), 8-259 (Sneh, 48.4).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING Perry 5-0-34-0, McGrath 6-0-46-1, Molineux 9.3-1-41-1, Gardner 6-0-30-1, Campbell 9-1-41-1, Carey 7-0-42-1, Sutherland 7-0-30-3.

Toss: Australia

Player-of-the-Match: Jhulan. India won by two wickets with three balls to spare, Australia clinched series 2-1.

Day-night Test: Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, Metricon Stadium, Carrara,

Australia's record run began with a win against India at Vadodara in 2018 and ended with a loss to the same opponent at Mackay in 2021

Smriti, Deepti to play for Sydney Thunder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India cricketers Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma will play for defending champion Sydney Thunder in the upcoming Women's Big Bash League (WBBL). The two are in Australia as part of the Indian team's ongoing tour and will stay back for the seventh edition of the franchise league, starting on October 14.

While Smriti has previously featured in the WBBL, for Hobart Hurricanes and Brisbane Heat, it will be all-rounder Deepti's maiden outing in the tournament.

Sydney Thunder coach Trevor Griffin said his team's title defence had received an extra edge with the addition of the Indians.

Kiran triumphs

SPORTS BUREAU

Kerala's Kiran George, who won the Badminton Asso ciation of India's recent trials to pick the Thomas Cup team, defeated Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh 13-21, 21-14, 21-13 and won the men's singles title in the Polish International here on Sunday.



Wanted to stand up as a senior: Jhulan

Thulan Goswami could not $oldsymbol{J}$ quite finish the job for India with the ball in the previous match. But on Sunday, she did, with the bat. When she danced down the track and lofted Sophie Molineux's third ball in the final over for a boundary at Mackay, it marked the end of Australia's streak of 26 ODI wins as well as India's biggest ever Jhulan, who was named

Player-of-the-Match took three for 37 earlier in the day), said she wasn't aware of either record. She said she wanted to stand up as a senior member.

'Tried to hold my nerve'

ARCHERY

V. Jyothi Surekha collected

an unprecedented third sil-

ver medal at the World ar-

chery championships here

Jyothi, who earlier helped

India bag silver medals in

compound women's team

and mixed team events, took

another silver going down

fighting in the women's indi-

vidual final to top-ranked Co-

lombian Sara Lopez 146-144.

This was the Indian's sixth

The sixth-ranked Jyothi

medal from the event.

SPORTS BUREAU

YANKTON (USA)

on Saturday.

"We were hurt by the loss in the last match, in which a lot of drama happened in the last over, and it was important for me, as the senior



Crucial: Jhulan Goswami was named player-of-the-match for her all-round performance.

member of the team, to come back and deliver when it required most," she told reporters. "I tried to hold my nerve and give my best."

The 38-year-old seamer said she was looking forward to the Day/Night Test against Australia, starting on September 30 at Carrara.

"I want to know what happens with the pink ball when we play cricket at night," she said. "Before I quit, I want to have some experience of playing with the pink ball."

Jyothi Surekha bags an unprecedented third silver medal

Goes down fighting in the women's individual final to top-ranked Sara Lopez of Colombia

Rajeshwar-Keyzad duo triumphs

BRIDGE

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rajeshwar Tewari and Keyzad Anklesaria won the Match Point pairs gold event with 876.94 MPs in the 18th HCL International bridge championship played virtually on the Real Bridge platform on Sunday.

Subhash Gupta and Sapan Desai (813.9) and Anant Vikram Somani and Rahul Khambete (769.25) won the second and third positions respectively.

The champion pair won ₹80,000, while the second and third-placed teams won ₹60,000 and ₹50,000 respectively.

In the Match Point pairs silver event, Swapan Some

and Swapan Kumar De won the title with 856.46 MPs.

They were followed by Sekhar Bandopadhyay and J.B. Sengupta (831.31) in the second second place and the pair of Sandeep Karmarkar and Marianne Karmarkar (791.15) in the third spot.

The top three teams won ₹15,000, ₹12,000 ₹8,000 respectively.

In the IMP pairs event, Swetadri Sinha and Krishna Das Chakrborty triumphed with 94.51 IMPs to pocket a prize purse of ₹40,000.

Paresh Gupta and Anukul Mandal placed second with 87.39 IMPs to bag ₹30,000, while Hasibul Hasan and S.M. Moin took the third place with 76.78 IMPs and

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen-year-old Shahan Ali Mohsin of Agra notched up a fine double in the MRF Formula1600 category that headlined the first round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National Car Racing Championships, which concluded here on Sunday.

Also achieving was Chennai's seasoned campaigner 34-year old Deepak Ravikumar (Performance Racing) in the Super Stock class of the Saloon Cars category while defending champion Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) from Coimbatore and Hyderabad's Anindith Reddy (Rayo Racing) split the honours in the Indian Touring Cars class.

The results (provisional): MRF F1600 (Race-1): 1. K. Suriya Varathan (Coimbatore) 14m, 25.983s; 2. Deepak Ravikumar (Chennai) 14:33.571; 3. Dillon Zachariah (Chennai) 14:37.196. Race-2 (10 laps): 1. Shahan Ali Mohsin (Agra) 17:03.129; 2. Chirag Ghorpade (Bengaluru) 17:08.117; 3. Rishon Rajiv (Bengaluru) 17:10.117. Race-3: 1. Shahan Ali Mohsin (13:40.878); 2. Ashwin Dutta (Chennai) 13:47.046; 3. Chirag

Ghorpade (13:47.567) Formula LGB 1300 (Race-2, 9 laps): 1. Mohit Aryan (Quest Motorsport, Chennai) 17:36.308; 2. Arya Singh (DTS Racing, Kolkata) 17:36.822; 3. Tijil Rao (Momentum Motorsport, Bengaluru) 17:42.901. Best rookie: Ruhaan Alva (MSport, Bengaluru).

Saloon Cars: Indian Touring Cars (Race-1): 1. Arjun Balu (Race Concepts, Coimbatore)

15:10.042; 2. Anindith Reddy (Rayo Racing, Hyderabad) 15:14.040; 3. Jeet Jhabakh (Rayo Racing, Hyderabad) 15:18.511. Race-2 (10 laps): 1. Anindith Reddy (22:46.971); 2. Jeet Jhabakh (22:47.931); 3. Arjun Balu (22:56.702).

Super Stock: Race-1: 1. Deepak ing, Chennai) 16:06.931; 2. R.P. Raja Rajan (Performance Racing, Chennai) 16:07.189; 3. Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts, Bengaluru) 16:12.150. Race-2 (10 laps): 1. Deepak Ravikumar (23:43.580); 2. Divy Nandan (Race Concepts, Bengaluru) 24:01.372; 3. Alisha Abdullah (Race Concepts, Chennai) 24:04.515.

Indian Junior Touring Cars: Race-1: 1. Charan Chandran (Pvt., Coimbatore) 16:53.207; 2. Hatim Shabbir Jamnagarwala (Performance Racing, Chen-

Race-2 (10 laps): 1. Varun Anekar (Race Concepts, Bengaluru) 23:30.019; 2. K. Srinivas Te-(Performance Racing, Chennai) 23:59.409; 3. Charan Chandran (23:59.737).

Volkswagen Polo: Race-1: 1. Aditya Swaminathan (Bengaluru) 14:00.605; 2. Anmol Singh Sahil (Ghaziabad) 14:01.650; 3. Bandyopadhyay (Thane) 14:03.285. Race-2 (10 laps): 1. Pratik Sonawane (Pune) 19:46.949; 2. Ritesh Rai (Chennai) 19:48.035; 3. Sidharth Mehdiratta (Lucknow)

Francis Bacon wins feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer L.V.R. Deshmukh's Francis Bacon (P. Trevor up) claimed the Major Mir Mujtaba Hussain Memorial Cup, the main event of Sunday's (Sept.

The winner is owned by Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey & Mr. M.

. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM PLATE (Div. I) (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): ICICLE (Ashad Asbar) 1, Dream Station (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Quality Warrior (N.B. Kuldeep) 3 and Blue Origin (S. Zervan) 4. 1-1/2, 1/2 and 2. 1m 28.06s. ₹29 (w), 10, 14 and 32 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 61, SHW: 19 and 37, FP: 157, Q: 93, Tanala: 1,079. Favourite: Blue Origin. Owner: Mr. B. E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: D.

2. GREEN HAVEN PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III): ART IN MOTION (Afroz Khan)1, Story Teller (R.S. Jodha) 2, Classy Dame (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Turf Monarch (Surya Prakash) 4. Not run: Jo Malone. 2-1/4, 2 and 2. 1m 14. 88s. ₹114 (w), 23, 11 and 13 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 48, SHW: 23 and 18, FP: 821, Q: 278, Tanala: 3,797. Favourite: Sea Wolf. Owners: Mr. Syed Nawaz Hussain, Mr. G.B.R. Prasad & Mr. L D' Silva. Trainer: L

(Div. II) (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): N R I

4. 1m 28. 20s. ₹37 (w), 14, 12 and 16 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 50, SHW: 24 and 16 (p). FP: 83, Q: 33, Tanala: 449. Favourite: Mireya. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

4. MAKALU PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): LIMONCELLO (Akshay Kumar) 1, Due Diligence (P. Trevor) 2, Advance Guard (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Royal Pal (Aneel) 4. 1-1/4, 3-1/4 and 2. 1m 41. Ols. ₹15 (w), 10, 14 and 20 (p). SHP: 21, THP: 57, SHW: 13 and 10, FP: 32, Q: 26, Tanala: 167. Favourite: Limoncello. Owners: Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy, Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy rep. Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

Laxman Singh.
5. TETRARCH PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): JEAN LAFETTE (R. Ajinkya) 1, Kingston (Nakhat Singh) 2, Ashwa Jauhar (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Flying Jet (Afroz Khan) 4. Not run: Sandown Park 1,1/4, Nk and 3, Im 14, 46s Park. 1-1/4, Nk and 3. 1m 14. 46s. ₹40 (w), 14, 12 and 17 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 45, SHW: 24 and 13 (p). FP: 76, Q: 58, Tanala: 518. Favourite: Kingston. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

6. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM PLATE 6. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM PLATE (Div. III) (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-0 only (Cat. II): ABLE LOVE (Gaurav Singh) 1, Costello (Akshay Kumar) 2, Over Joy (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Sea Of Class (Mukesh Kumar) 4. Not run: Royal Support and Stalwart. 2, 2-1/2 and 8. Im 27. 56s. ₹14 (w), 10, 1 and 21 (m) SHP. 34 THP. 40 11 and 21 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 40,

SHW: 10 and 22 (p). FP: 33, Q: 27, Tanala: 184. Favourite: Able Love. Owners: Mr. Maddali Sai Kumar & Mr. Kunwar Digivijay Singh Singh.

7. MAJOR MIR MUJTABA HUSSAIN MEMORIAL CUP $(1,800\mathrm{m})$, 5-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): FRANCIS BACON (P. Trevor) 1, Dandy Man (Ashad Asbar) 2, Mark My Word (Nakhat Singh) 3 and The Special One (Akshay Kumar) 4. 3-1/2, 1-1/4 and 1/2. 1m 54.49s. ₹18 (w), 11, 13 and 47 (p). SHP: 25, THP: 87, SHW: 11 and 28 (p). FP: 67, Q: 37, Tanala: 1,054. Favourite: Francis Bacon. Owners: Mr. Aditva P. Thackersev & Mr. M. Satyanarayana. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

8. GREEN HAVEN PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III): GOLDEN FORZA (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Hashtag (Gaurav Singh) 2, Win ning Player (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Berkeley (Abhay Singh) 4. 2, 3/4 and 1-1/2. 1m 15. 13s. ₹334 (w), 52, 28 and 19 (p). SHP: 94, THP: 55, SHW: 86 and 68, FP: 6.198, O: 2,884, Tanala: 1,16,528. Favourite: Big Day. Owners: Mr. C.S. Suresh, Mr. Manish Jaiswal & Mr. Sudhir Paramanand Bajaj. Trainer: S.

Jackpot: 70% ₹13,082 (131 tkts.), 30% 84 (2,049 tkts.). Treble: (i) 2,284 (22 tkts.), (ii) 406 (95 tkts.), (iii) 1,247 (64 tkts.). Mini jackpot: (i) 8,069 (6 tkts.), (ii) 4,777 (64 tkts.).



shot a perfect score to beat Amanda Mlinaric of Croatia 150-144 in the quarterfinals and Andrea Becerra of Mexico 148-146 in the semifinals

to make it to her third final. The Colombian gained a one-point lead in the first

end and doubled it in the

third. She had a three-point

Jyothi fought back to score

lead after the penultimate

a perfect 30 and take the fifth end and reduce the margin by one point. Jyothi's latest medal was

India's second individual silver at the World champion-Another compound arch-

er Rajat Chauhan was the first from the country to claim an individual silver at the 2015 World championships in Denmark.

Jyothi had won bronze medals in individual and women's team events in 2019 and a team silver in 2017.

chery, India "has collected the most medals by any country to have never won a world title, appearing in nine title matches and leaving with the silver each time, as well as winning two bronze

According to World Ar-

Abhishek Verma's quest for a compound men's individual medal ended in the quarterfinals as he was edged out by Dutchman Mike Schloesser 148-147.

In a recurve women's individual quarterfinal, Ankita Bhakat lost to American Casey Kaufhold 6-2 to get out of the medal race on Sunday.

USA takes a commanding lead

Johnson on a roll; Rahm and Garcia stay strong for Europe

RYDER CUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KOHLER (USA)

The United States seized a commanding 11-5 lead over Europe at the Ryder Cup on

The US squad, boasting nine of the world's 11 topranked players, needs only 3.5 points in the final day's singles matches to reclaim the Ryder Cup.

Tall order

No team has rallied from more than a 10-6 last-day deficit to capture the Ryder Cup, that coming for Europe in the 2012. The Americans won a

third consecutive session 3-1 in Saturday's foursomes and split four four-ball matches to grab their largest two-day lead in the team golf showdown since 1975.

Second-ranked Dustin



Saving grace: Sergio Garcia has a record 25 match wins now, while Jon Rahm has the most victories ever by a World No. 1 in the Ryder Cup. ■ REUTERS

Johnson rose to 4-0 with US wins in foursomes and fourballs alongside fellow twotime Major winner Collin Morikawa.

The scores: United States 11 leads Europe 5. Foursomes: Brooks Koepka &

Daniel Berger lost to Sergio Garcia & Jon Rahm 3&1; Dustin Johnson & Collin Morikawa bt Paul Casey & Tyrrell Hatton 2&1; Jordan Spieth & Justin Thomas bt Viktor Hovland & Bernd Wiesberger 2-up; Patrick Cantlay & Xander Schauffele bt Lee Westwood & Matthew Fitzparick 2&1 Four-balls: Tony Finau & Harris

English lost to Shane Lowry & Tyrrell Hatton 1-up; Koepka & Spieth lost to Rahm & Garcia 2&1; Scottie Scheffler & Bryson DeChambeau bt Tommy Fleetwood & Hovland 3&1; Johnson & Morikawa bt Ian Poulter & Rory McIlroy 4&3.

Thailand dominates India jeopardising the chances of

SUDIRMAN CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA VANTAA (FINLAND)

The men's pairing of M.R. Arjun and Dhruv Kapila was the only bright spot as India suffered a 1-4 loss to Thailand in its group-A opener, qualifying for knockout stage of Sudirman Cup badminton here on Sunday. India will play defending

champion China on Monday, before taking on hosts Finland in the world mixed team championships on Wednesday.

Nethra bags bronze

SAILING

SPORTS BUREAU

India's Nethra Kumanan (27 points) bagged the bronze medal in the laser radial category of the Europa Cup Hungary in Lake Balaton on Sunday.

sixth in races second and fifth in third and fourth and 19th in Race five and third in the sixth and final race. Australia's Zoe Thomson

In the six races, Nethra

finished eighth in first race,

(5 points) finished first and Rosine Baudet of Switzerland (20) came second.

3. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM PLATE

SPORT (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Mireya (Akshay Kumar) 2, Aryaman (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Reining Queen (Kuldeep Singh) 4. 3-1/4, 1/2 and