

V.M. Sudheeran quits AICC, plunging Cong. in Kerala into new crisis



Cyclone Gulab leaves trail of destruction in north coastal A.P. page 8



Social Democrats narrowly beat Merkel's party in German polls

Roy, Williamson power SRH past RR; Samson's knock in vain

page 13



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IN BRIEF

**HC** stays order directing govt. to fulfil 'rent vow

NEW DELH The Delhi High Court on Monday stayed its July 22 order directing the Delhi government to decide on implementing Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's promise on payment of rent to poor tenants who are unable to do so during the pandemic.

**CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

#### Two arrested for inciting violence during eviction

The Criminal Investigation Department of the Assam police has arrested two persons for allegedly inciting violence during the eviction drive near Sipajhar in Darrang district on September 23. The two arrested are Hasmat Ali, former president of the Bajnapathar panchayat, and Shan Mahmood, president of the Sanowa panchayat. **STATES** ▶ PAGE 4

#### **Upper castes dominate Uttar Pradesh Cabinet**

On Sunday, on being inducted as a Minister, Jitin Prasada became the sixth Brahmin in the Cabinet of the Yogi Adityanath government of Uttar Pradesh and the 11th name from the influential community to feature in the Council of Ministers.

**NEWS** ▶ PAGE 9

## Bandh hits road, rail traffic in many States

Unprecedented response to protest call: farmers' body

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Farmers blocked highways and rail lines, shut down markets and institutions in some cities and States and held mass rallies across the country in response to the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM)'s nationwide strike call on Monday, exactly a year after the President gave his assent to the three contentious agricultural reform

The SKM is a platform of farm unions which joined hands to protest against the laws, whose members, in thousands, marched to the borders of Delhi 10 months ago to demand that the three laws be repealed. Their call for a Bharat Bandh between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday was supported by major parties including the Congress, Left parties, Akali Dal, YSR Congress Party, Trinamool Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

Trade unions and transport unions backed the bandh in some parts of the country, though some declined to shut down business even while offering "moral support" to the farmers.

The SKM termed the res-'unprecedented' around midday. Bharatiya



Highway blocked: Farmers blocking the Delhi-Meerut Expressway at Ghazipur on Monday. • к.v. мооктну

Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait declared the bandh 'successful', telling an online students' parliament that it proved the farmers had support from labourers and youth, and the agitation was active across the country, not just in a few States.

"Farmers are on the streets for 10 months, but the blind and deaf government neither sees nor hears anything. In a democracy, there is no other option but to protest. We insist that if there is Bill wapsi [repeal of the laws], then only there will be ghar wapsi [return home]," he said.

Vehicular movement was disrupted on national and State highways in most parts of Punjab and Haryana. Shops and commercial establishments were closed in many parts of the two States which make up the largest mass of the protesting unions, though the situation was normal in their joint capital Chandigarh.

#### 25 trains affected

Train tracks were blocked at more than 20 places in the northern zone, with the Railways saying at least 25 trains were affected in the morning. There were also reports of train tracks being blocked at some locations in Bihar and West Bengal.

In the national capital, there were massive traffic snarls at Gurugram and Ghazipur as Delhi's borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh saw increased security due to the farmers' protests. The Delhi police instituted intensive checks of vehicles entering the city.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

## Clashes mar Bhabanipur campaign

#### Electioneering ends: BJP blames Trinamool for row

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

The last day of campaigning for the crucial Bhabanipur byelection on Monday was marred by violence, with BJP vice-president Dilip Ghosh being manhandled. Supporters of the Trinamool Congress tried to prevent the BJP MP from campaigning by raising slogans and even pushing and shoving him. Mr. Ghosh's security personnel were finally seen brandishing firearms to keep the crowd at bay.

After losing in Nandigram in the Assembly election ear-



constituency in Kolkata on Monday. • PTI

lier this year, Chief Minister and Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee has returned to contest from her old constituency of Bhabanipur. She is pitted against the BIP's Priyanka Tibrewal and Left

Front nominee Sriiib Biswas. "If there is no campaign, if we cannot reach the voters, then what is the point of holding elections," Mr. Ghosh said. Repeated requests for security appeared

to have been ignored by the Election Commission of India (ECI), he said, seeking postponement of the September 30 byelection.

#### **ECI seeks report**

Earlier in the day, BJP MP Arjun Singh was also prevented from campaigning in Bhabanipur. He alleged that four BJP supporters were injured in violence during the day.

The ECI has sought a report on the incident from the Office of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal. Later, a BJP delegation met the CEO and demanded that the election be held under prohibitory orders in the entire constituency.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

## Jobs up 29% since 2013, says survey

27% of 10, 593 firms reported pandemic-related retrenchment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey, in a report released on Monday, said that the overall employment numbers had increased by 29% from the base year of 2013-14. However, in the first quarter of this fiscal (April-June 2021), 27% of the establishments surveyed reported pandemic-related retrenchment.

The report, released by Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav, covered 10,593 firms that em-

ployed more than 10 workers and were spread over nine sectors that account for 85% of the total employment in such establishments. Overall, employment stood at 3.08 crore in the first quarter, up from 2.37 crore as reported in the Sixth Economic Census (2013-2014). All but two sectors trade and accommodation & restaurants - saw an increase in employment over the period.

The report said the IT/ BPO sector had the most impressive growth (152%), followed by health (77%), transport (68%), financial services (48%), construction (42%), education (39%) and manufacturing (22%).

Manufacturing was found to account for 41% of the establishments, followed by education (22%) and health (8%).

There was a decline in employment in trade (25%) and accommodation and restaurants (13%), which Mr. Yadav said could be attributed to the second wave of the pandemic that was at its peak during the survey.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

### PM launches health ID for every citizen

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission on Monday. "It has the potential of bringing a revolutionary change in India's health facilities," he said.

Under the mission, every citizen would get a digital health ID and their health records would be digitally protected, a release issued by the Centre

**FULL REPORT ▶** PAGE 10

## Faleiro resigns as Cong. MLA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Former Goa Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Luizinho Faleiro on Monday resigned as party MLA and is likely to join the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

He said the country needed a leader like West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"It's Mamata who has given a tough fight to Narendra Modi and their [BJP's] juggernaut. Narendra Modi *ji* had 200 meetings in Bengal, [Home Minister] Amit Shah maybe had 250 meetings. Then there was the ED, the CBI and everybody. But the Mamata formula has won. She has been able to stand, she is a street fighter," Mr. Faleiro told reporters in Margao.

Mr. Faleiro's decision to become the face of the TMC in Goa will not only be significant for the State Assembly election that usually witnesses a fractured mandate and smaller parties with two or three MLAs deciding government formation, but also carries national implications.

"I would like all the Congress parties [which have split from the Congress] to come together and fight the next parliamentary election," he said.

With election strategist Prashant Kishor frequently meeting Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar apart from advising the TMC president, the poll could be the first occasion where regional players could work together to assert their importance.

CM YK

## Right to govt. aid not fundamental right: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The right of an institution, whether run by a majority or minority community, to receive government aid is not a fundamental right. Both have to follow the rules of choose to accept the grant the aid, the Supreme Court with the conditions or go its

held in a ruling on Monday.

The Bench said if the government made a policy call to withdraw aid, an institution cannot question the decision as a "matter of right". An institution is free to

own way, it said.

The judgment came in an appeal against a decision of the Allahabad High Court to declare unconstitutional a provision of the Interme-



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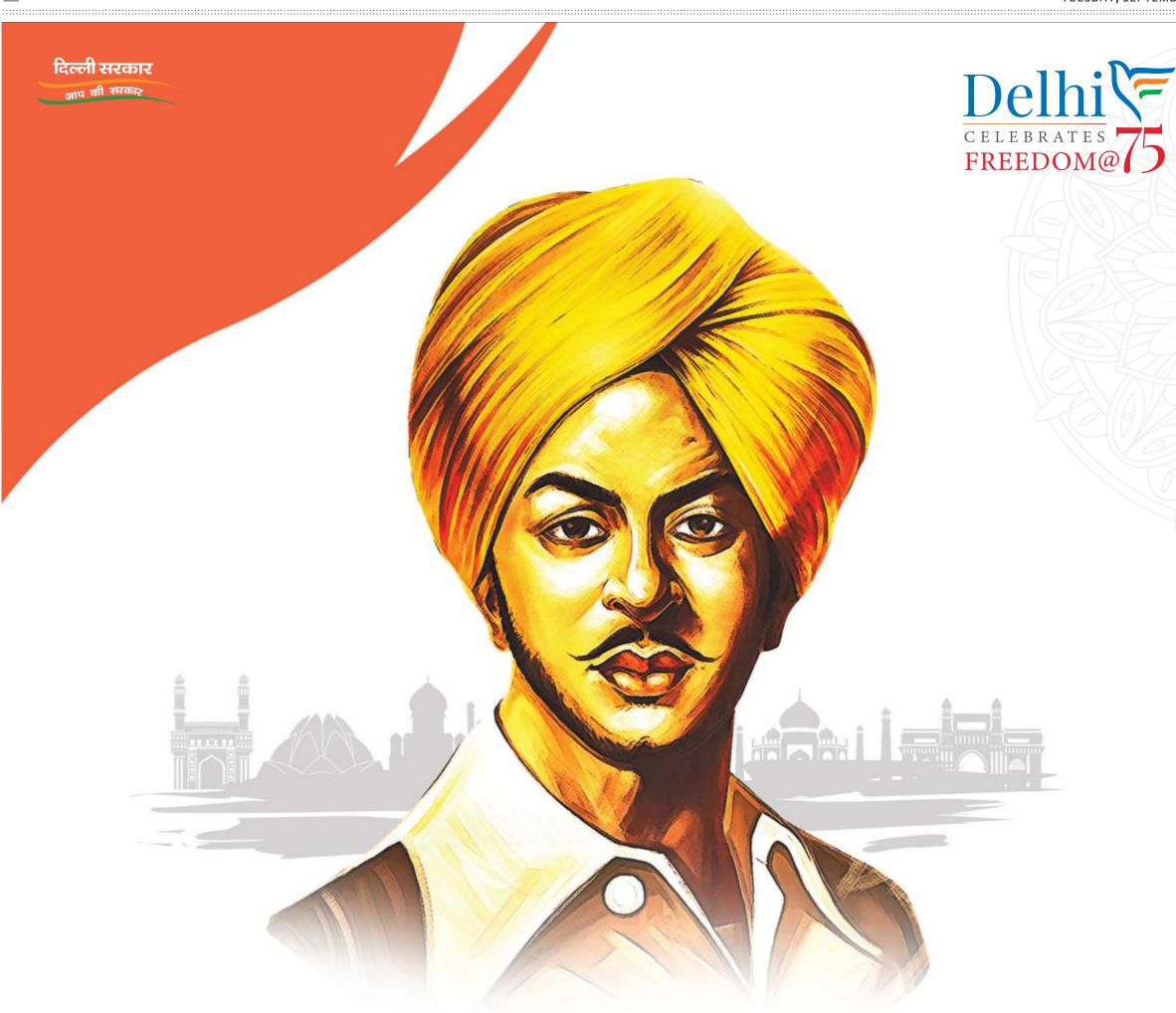
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TUESDAY, SEP. 28 RISE 06:13 SET 18:11 RISE 22:59 SET 12:37 WEDNESDAY, SEP. 29 RISE 06:13 SET 18:10

RISE 23:50 SET 13:31 THURSDAY, SEP. 30

RISE 06:14 SET 18:09 RISE 00:00 SET 14:20

**Delhi Weather** Delhi City Safdarjang

Delhi Palam Today 34°C A mostly dry weather to continue. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow** 35°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day is likely to be warm and humid. Night will be slight warm. Thunderstorm is

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019

#### IN BRIEF

#### Ruckus in EDMC House, 20 members suspended

New Delhi East Delhi Mayor Shyam Sunder Aggarwal on Monday said he has suspended 20 AAP members of the EDMC for 15 days for allegedly creating ruckus during the proceedings of the House. The issue that led to chaotic scenes was related to an old temple in east Delhi, he said. PTI

#### Gahlot pushes to speed up ex gratia disbursal

Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot chaired a meeting to expedite the disbursal of ex gratia under Mukhvamantri COVID-19 Parivar Arthik Sahayta Yojana on Monday. Till date, around 9,643 applications have been received for grant of ex gratia of which 6,995 applications have been approved.

#### CM pays homage to freedom fighters

CM Arvind Kejriwal paid homage to freedom fighters - Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru – on the birth anniversary of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, at the Legislative Assembly. He said Bhagat Singh made the supreme sacrifice of his life for the country and the Delhi government will continue to uphold his legacy and values.

#### Govt's SoSEs welcome first batch of students

The 20 new Schools of Specialized Excellence (SoSEs), run by the Delhi government, welcomed its first batch of students on Monday. Around 2,200 of the 14,245 students who appeared for the aptitude test have been given admission in different fields.

## Bandh effect: chaos on city roads as borders closed for traffic

Vehicular movement on key routes hit as police place barricades to stall protesters

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi on Monday morning witnessed heavy traffic jams in several areas as borders were closed for movement following the Bharat Bandh call by farmers protesting against the three farm reform laws. The traffic situation eased later in the day.

Showing solidarity with the farmers, Delhi Congress chief Ch. Anil Kumar visited the Ghazipur border and joined the protesters. Mr. Kumar said the farmers have been sitting on protest for the past 10 months but Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "who has time to visit the construction site of the Central Vista project, has no time to listen to their demands".

"Farmers are educated and they understand the long-term implications of the three anti-farm laws. In the long run, the laws will edge farmers out of the farming sector, with a select few corporate houses dictating terms to them," Mr. Kumar said. He added that the governments of Prime Minister Modi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal were res-

Taekwondo

arrested for

snatchings

STAFF REPORTER

said on Monday.

Ms. Goel said

gold medallist

A 28-year-old gold medal-

list in taekwondo has been

arrested for his alleged in-

volvement in several cases

of snatching, the police

said the accused, Surai alias

Fighter, is a bad character

of Ranhola and involved in

over 30 criminal cases re-

gistered in different police

stations. "Suraj, a two-time

national gold medallist in

taekwondo, also participat-

ed in Indian Idol Season 4,"

On September 22, dur-

ing patrolling duty, a team

intercepted a person on a

scooty and found that the

vehicle was stolen. He was

then identified and during

his search, one country-

made pistol with one live

He confessed to over 100

cases of snatching and rob-

bery with his accomplices.

cartridge was recovered.

DCP (West) Urvija Goel



A massive traffic jam near Anand Vihar-U.P. border due to the Bharat Bandh called by farmers on Monday. • R.V. MOORTHY

ponsible for the massive traffic jams in the Capital, as they had "consistently refused to listen to the farmers' demands". "The farmers had no other option but to call an all-India bandh to awaken the sleeping governments," he said.

#### **Traffic diversion**

The Delhi traffic police said they had closed both carriageways at Dhansa border, Chhatta Rail and Subhash Marg. Movement was also not allowed near the Red Fort. The Ghazipur border was closed for movement from both sides due to the

protest and traffic was impacted on NH-9 and NH-24. "Commuters moving to and from Uttar Pradesh can use DND, Vikas Marg, Signature Bridge, Wazirabad road etc. Traffic on NH-24 and NH-9 has been diverted to Road Number 56 to take Maharaj-

pur border, Apsara border

and Bhopura borders for

U.P.," they said in a state-

ment in the morning. Parag Jain, a chartered accountant working in a firm in Gurugram, said it took him nearly three hours to reach office where his attendance was mandatory on Monday.

stalled barricades at many points due to which I reached office in almost three hours. This is by far my worst experience ever while travelling to office," he said.

The protests also led to massive traffic snarls on the Delhi-Gurugram Expressway with the Delhi police erecting barricades to check the vehicles entering the national capital. The police allowed only two lanes for vehicles to pass through the barricades, causing bumper-to-bumper traffic extending for several hundred metres in the Millennium City. Several motorists took to Twitter to post the pictures of the snarl and expressed their anger and helplessness. While some described it as "insane", others said "it was the mother of all traffic jams".

The Gurugram police said the traffic jam was caused due to the barricades placed by the Delhi police. There were no traffic-related updates on the Gurugram police's Twitter handle. The traffic situation improved in the afternoon after the police removed the barricades and the Bharat Bandh drew

## HC stays order directing Delhi govt. to deliver on 'rent promise'

"The Delhi police had in-

CM had assured to pay rent for poor in the wake of pandemic

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday stayed its July 22 order directing the Delhi government to take a decision on whether to implement the promise made by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal last year in which he said his government will pay rent for those who are unable to do so in the wake of the CO-

VID-19 pandemic. A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jvoti Singh said irreparable loss would be caused to the Delhi government if an order of stay is not passed.

There is a prima facie case in favour of the appellant [Delhi government]. Balance of convenience is in favour of the appellant and irreparable loss shall be caused. We stay the operation, implementation and execution of the order of the single judge till the next date of hearing," the Bench said



while posting the case for further hearing on November 29.

On July 22, the HC Bench of Justice Prathiba M. Singh had directed Mr. Kejriwal to live up to his promise made in a press conference last year. "The promise/assurance/representation given by the CM clearly amounts to an enforceable promise, the implementation of which ought to be considered by the government," Justice

Singh had ruled. Justice Singh had said the CM cannot first make a "clear and unequivocal oral assurance" and then fall si-

lent when it comes to its implementation. The judge had directed the Delhi government to take a decision within six weeks whether to implement the promise made on March 29, 2020, bearing in mind the larger interest of the people. If a decision is made to implement the prothe government should frame a clear policy, the court had said.

In its appeal against Justice Singh's order, the Delhi government claimed that, "no indiscriminate and unconditional assurance for payment of rent by the GNCTD during the lockdown was made by Mr. Kejriwal".

The government, represented by counsel Manish Vashisht, claimed that a "fervent appeal" was made by Mr. Kejriwal to the public at large not to coerce the tenants into paying rent. However, the same was "found to be a sort of a promise" by Justice Singh.

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## Kejriwal launches tourism app

Entertainment, food and hospitality sectors will get a boost

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal on Monday launched a Delhi tourism mobile app Dekho Meri Dilli. This puts Delhi on the list of a select few cities of developed countries to have such an app, the CM said.

The app was launched at the Delhi Secretariat on the occasion of World Tourism Day. From helping tourists learn about Delhi, its top destinations and its hidden gems to booking tickets to heritage monuments, the app will facilitate a range of services with a single click.

Heritage walks Exclusive heritage walks can also be booked in addi-

tion to special food tours to

Arvind Kejriwal at the launch

event in Delhi on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

the city's top culinary hubs. It also provides information on all shopping destinations and city markets, accommodation, entertainment and leisure options. There are sections dedicated to Delhi For Kids, Delhi Delicacies, Food Tours and Health Walks.

"This app will be extremely useful to people who come to Delhi from all over the world," the CM said, adding that the app has a unique feature that allows one to browse through monuments, eating joints, entertainment and recreation sites within a 5-km radius of one's location.

Tourism is expected to get an enormous boost from the app, which will in turn benefit all sectors, including food and beverages, entertainment and hospitality, said Mr. Kejriwal.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who holds the tourism portfolio, said the average tourist spends 1.5 days in Delhi."We hope to increase this to 2.5 days. We wish to give tourists options and make their experiencebetter," he added.

## 'Filing PILs has become career in itself'

Solicitor General defends Asthana's appointment by Centre

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on Monday said that filing of public interest litigations (PILs) has become an "industry and a career in itself", while defending the Centre's decision to appoint Guiarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as the Delhi Police Commissioner.

The Solicitor General, representing the Centre, argued that Mr. Asthana was appointed as Delhi Police chief after following the due procedure, as applicable to the national capital.

Mr. Mehta said there was a plethora of Supreme Court judgments, which state that a PIL is not maintainable in service matters.

The Solicitor General argued, "If an officer or officers feel that they were better suited for the post, nothing prevented them from espousing their own causes".

#### 'Fulfil one's desires'

"Some citizens of this country have a desire to run the administration. Not being capable of facing democratic election, and running the government, they fulfil their desire by filing such PILs asking questions such as why this appointment is made, why this decision is taken, how this policy is made," Mr. Mehta said.

During the hearing, senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi, representing Mr. Asthana, said the petitioner was "a proxy for somebody who does not want to come in the front" and holds "personal vendetta". "People are always aggrieved if some peer or someone in the same service is selected. But here there is no [such] challenge. They are people who are educated, at the pinnacle of their career," Mr. Rohatgi said.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh after hearing arguments from all the parties reserved its judgment on the plea challenging Mr. Asthana's appointment.

### Delhi riots: man wanted in five cases arrested

He was on the run since Feb. last year

STAFF REPORTER

A 29-year-old man wanted for his alleged involvement in five cases of rioting during the north-east Delhi riots has been arrested after nearly 19 months, the police said on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Rajesh Deo said Mohammed Salman alias Chand Babu, a resident of Yamuna Vihar, was declared a proclaimed offender in several cases of

rioting. The accused was identified through witness statements, video footage and disclosure statement of co-accused, the police said. He was apprehended from Bulandshahr in U.P.

During interrogation, the police said Salman had "disclosed he was in a state of aggression due to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens". "He perceived the law to be against the Muslim community," the DCP said.

## Youth killed in 'gang war'

NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old man was shot dead in a suspected gang war in Dwarka on Monday, the police said.

DCP (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena said multiple rounds were fired at the victim, Tinku Kharab, by three men. The police said information was received regarding a firing incident at Khaira Road. On reaching the spot, they found a youth dead inside a car. A countrymade pistol was found on the road.

Tinku was driving when he was followed by another vehicle, which had three persons in it. The car intercepted Tinku's vehicle after which two persons came out of it and started shooting at him. At least eight rounds were fired. A murder case has been registered and further probe is under way.

The incident comes three days after gangster Jitender Mann was shot dead inside a courtroom. It's suspected that he was killed by his rival Tillu gang.



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## 'Stop illegal migrants from committing crimes'

Madras HC directs Union Home Ministry to consider framing appropriate laws

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.

The Madras High Court on Monday directed the Union Home Ministry to consider framing appropriate laws, in three months, to prevent illegal immigrants from committing petty crimes, repeatedly, just to stay back in the country. Expressing shock over some illegal immigrants managing to even obtain Aaadhar cards, the court impressed upon the need to deport every foreigner residing illegally in the country.

Justice M. Dhandapani ordered that Foreigners Registration Offices and Immigration Check Posts on land borders should share details regarding the entry of foreigners into the country with the State law enforcing agency on a fortnightly basis. The State police, in turn, must track the



movement of foreigners by establishing special wings in every district and identify those who overstay their visa period without valid extensions.

Foreigners who have overstayed their visa period or have entered the country illegally without requisite documents must be sent to detention camps/holding centres until they get repatriated to their countries as per guidelines issued by the Home Ministry. Foreigners lodged in prisons on being convicted

for criminal offences must be deported immediately after the completion of their sentence, the judge ordered.

The orders were passed while

**Shocking revelation** 

disposing of a batch of bail petitions filed by Sri Lankan, Nigerian, Chinese, Iranian and Bangladeshi nationals. booked for various criminal cases. The judge was taken aback to learn that over 13,000 foreigners were residing illegally in Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tiruchi alone. He also could not believe that some of them were residing illegally in the country for over 10 years, and no steps had been taken to de-

Observing that the lack of coordination between Central and State agencies was the reason why illegal immigrants

continued residing in the country and indulged in nefarious activities, the judge said the State police was the fulcrum of the set up, since it had to identify illegal immigrants and take action to apprehend them and bring them to the notice of authorities, so that deportation can be taken

"It has also come to the attention of the court that illegal migrants, with a view to circumvent deportation and to continue their stay in the territory of India, resort to certain subterfuge like committing petty crimes and serving simple sentences and come out and do the same once over," he said.

After directing the Centre to consider bringing in a law to curb such practices, he ordered the listing of the matter again on January 4.

## 2 arrested for inciting violence during Assam eviction drive

BJP-led government ruling State through the barrel of guns, says Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department of the Assam police has arrested two persons for allegedly inciting violence during the eviction drive near Sipajhar in Darrang district on September 23. The two arrested on Sunday are Hasmat Ali, former president of the Bajnapathar panchayat, and Shan Mahmood, president of the Sanowa panchayat.

"They were arrested for instigating the people to attack the police during the eviction drive. They are being kept at the Sipajhar police station," a district police officer said.

Delhi HC seeks

'special need'

STAFF REPORTER

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Centre's reply on



Villagers protesting against the eviction drive in Darrang district. • FILE PHOTO

Cancer patient seeks permission to mix jabs

Two persons, including a minor, were killed in police firing and a dozen others were injured during the evic-

Nine of the injured were

security personnel. Chief Minister Himanta

Biswa Sarma blamed the violence on the Popular Front of India, a radical Islamic organisation. He also requested the Centre to ban the organisation.

The State Congress accused the BJP-led government of ruling the State through the barrel of a gun since the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in December 2019. State Congress chief Bhupen Kumar Borah also demanded action against the Darrang Deputy Commissioner and the SP.

"We are not against the eviction of encroachers but the killing of farmers cannot be accepted. Nothing can justify the shooting of people in cold blood," party spokesperson Partha Pratim Bora

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NOTICE is hereby given that Mr Viiav Kumar (hereinafter referred to

as the said Mortgagors/Borrowers), is purchasing Plot No. JH-07, adm. 450 Sq. Mtrs., Sector 143B, Village

Jhatta, Noida (hereinafter referred to

"said property") from Mrs. Chuari Mrs. Savitri, Mr. Sher Singh & Mr Jaswant Singh, who are it's absolute

owners vide Lease Deed dated 16.03.2012 bearing Document No. 1873 read with Mutation Letter dated 17.06.2021. The Borrowers will create mortgage in respect of the

said property in favour of our clients IDFC First Bank Limited, 2nd

Floor, Express Building, 9-10 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg New Delhi-110002. Any person, body, individual

nstitution having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said

property by way of sale, exchange lease, lien, mortgage, charge encumbrance, gift, trust, easement

maintenance, inheritance

testamentary deposition o

otherwise or having in their custody any title documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our

address within 10 days from the ublication of this notice with

ocumentary evidence in support nereof, failing which all the claim, of uch person shall be considered to

iave been waived and/oi

bandoned. Any objections raise after the completion of the 10 days

hall not be binding upon the said

P.K. Sinha (Advocate

Contact: +91-9667070233

Plot No. E-56 (LGF)

hrinfo436@gmail.com

least 2 Years CSE Mains.

employer and encourages

 $oldsymbol{22}$  Students in Top  $oldsymbol{100}$  with Total



Heartiest Congratulations to all Triumph IAS

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SITUATION VACANT WE NEED Geography & Sociology Fac-

Forum IAS We Are Hiring

Responsible for developing ontent. Must have appeared at least twice for Civil Services Examination, Must possess impeccable written

Expected CTC: 3.6 to 5.5 LPA (L20) ACADEMIC ASSOCIATE

Responsible for managing products, creating and viewing content. Must have at least two CSE Mains

Responsible for end-tomanaging products,

at least two CSE Interview experiences.





Trust in Mentorship of Vikash Sir for Sociology Optional &

97678628820 @ www.facebook/triumphias

(L19) JR. ACADEMIC ASSOCIATE

Expected CTC: 6 to 8.4 LPA

eviewing content. Must have Expected CTC: 7.2 to 9.6 LPA

#### Monday asked the Centre to respond to a petition by a

cancer patient seeking permission to take Covaxin as the second dose as advised by the doctors instead of Covishield which was administered to him as the first

The Delhi High Court on

dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Justice Rekha Palli asked the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to submit its stand on the petition while considering it a case of special need. "He is a cancer patient

and has special needs. Experts should also consider this," the High Court said while posting the case for further hearing on October

Madhur Mittal, in his plea, said that in September last

year, he was diagnosed with cancer (stage four renal cell carcinoma) and was advised urgent operation for removal of the infected organs, that is, kidney and lymph nodes. In October 2020, he underwent the operation.

Covishield as first dose

On March 13 this year, he got his first dose of Covishield vaccine, and soon after, he developed a severe reaction and had to be hospitalised for four days.

Mr. Mittal said he has been advised to get himself checked from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, New York, U.S.A., for cancer treatment and he approached the institution for an appointment.

Mr. Mittal said he wanted to get both the doses of the COVID-19 vaccination, and as per the doctor's advice and prior complications of Covidshield vaccine, he wants to take Covaxin as the second dose.

#### **HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Bangana Division Distt Una H.P on behalf of Governo of H.P invites the online bids for item rate, in electronic tendering in 2 Cover System for the below mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with

|            | THE Populations.  |                  |        |                |                      |                                    |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------|---|------------------|--------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Sr.<br>No. | Name of Work  | Estimate<br>Cost | EMD    | Time<br>Limit  | Cost<br>of<br>Tender | Eligible<br>class of<br>contractor |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1.         | M/T link road fromUpper Thana to Kut Chatrar to Alshan Harijan Basti Bhiambi and village Lower Thana from km. 0/0 to 6/615 (SH: Formation cutting, C/o R/wall, B/wall, CD work, U & V-Shape drain, Parapets & P/L GSB, WMM and Premix carpet with seal coat in km. 1/500 to 2/500) Under NABARD RIDF-XXVI |                  | 88000  | Nine<br>Months | 2000                 | Class-D                            |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.         | M/T link road fromUpper Thana<br>to Kut Chatrar to Alshan Harijan<br>Basti Bhiambi and village Lower<br>Thana from km. 0/0 to 6/615   |                  | 212000 | One<br>year    | 5000                 | Class-C                            |  |  |  |  |  |

V-Shape drain, Parapets & P/L GSB, WMM and Premix carpet with seal coat in km 3/855 to 5/640) Under NABARD RIDF-XXV M/T link road fromUpper Thana 9632530 **193000** One 2000 to Kut Chatrar to Alshan Harijan Basti Bhiambi and village Lowe Thana from km. 0/0 to 6/615 (SH: Formation cutting , C/c R/wall. B/wall. CD work. U & V-Shape drain, Parapets & P/L GSB, WMM and Premix carpet with seal coat in km. 5/640 to 6/615) Under NABARD

RIDF-XXVI 1. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website https://hptenders.gov.in. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: https://hptenders.gov.in Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in thi

| - | (ey Dates:   |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Date of Online Publication                             | 06.10.2021 11:00 HRS  |
| 2 | Document Download Start and End Date                   | 06.10.2021 11:30 HRS<br>16.10.2021 upto 17:00 HRS                                 |
| 3 | Bid Submission Start and End Date                      | 06.10.2021 11:30 HRS<br>16.10.2021 upto 18:00 HRS                                 |
| 4 | Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document | 18.10.2021 upto 10.30HRS  |
| 5 | Date of Technical Bid opening                          | 18.10.2021 11:00 HRS  |
| 6 | Evaluation of Technical Bid.                           | Evaluation of technical Bid will be followed after verification of the documents. |
|   |  |   |

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Covers i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility

Information ii) Cover2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer

SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in O/c Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Bangana H.P as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 5

Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on 18.10.2021 at 11:00 HRS in the office Executive Engineer, Bangana Division HPPWD Bangana H.P. by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderers are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the

The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

Distt Una H.P on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh THE HINDU

an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THO PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher 8

## 2/Track/2021 Dated 24.09.2021

On behalf of the President of India Principal Chief Engineer, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following E-Procurement Tenders from RDSO approved vendors: S.No. 1 Open Tender No./Due on: 3T215041 Due on 29-10-2021, Description o materials :For Manufacture and Supply of Glued Insulated Rail joint with 6 mm thick end post for B.G. 60 Kg. as per RDSO drawing No. RDSO/T-2572 with Alt.-3, conforming to IRS specification refer "Manual for (1998)" with addendum & corrigendun slip no. 7 of Feb'2020. Consigneewise Qty.: SSE/Pway/TD/IZN, 58 Nos. SSE/PWay/TD/GD,442 Nos., Delivery period: 10 Months, Estimated ender value (Rs.): 7266834.32 Earnest Money (Rs.) : 145340.00 Note:- 1.0 The complete information along with tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available in website on https://ireps.gov.in up to 11.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. **2.0** Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted agains above Tenders. For this purpose venders are required to get themselve registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3.0 In case of any difficulty elpdesk available on the website of IRÊPS may be approached. CPRO/W-191 N. E. Railway, Gorakhpur

"Never travel on roof and foot boards

### Last accused in Dombivli gang-rape case arrested

RAINA ASSAINAR

The Manpada police have arrested the last accused in the Dombivli gang-rape case. He has been remanded in police custody till September 30.

Of the 33 accused, 22 are in custody till September 29, two are juveniles and the remaining nine are in custody till September 30.

"As of now, all the accused named by the victim have been arrested. If during the investigations more accused are named, they too would be arrested," senior police inspector Dadabhari Choure of the Manpada police station said.

The phone of the last accused also has been sent for forensic examination. Forensic reports of all the other phones are awaited. The police are also looking into the WhatsApp group of the accused, said the police.

#### **Online Tender** GOVT. OF GUJARAT (R&B) DEPARTMENT Tender Notice No. 10 of 2021 - 2022

In the name and on behalf of Governor of Gujarat State the Executive Engineer, City (R&B) Division, Near Raopura Police Station, Vadodara (2439100) invires online tender for Additional Bar Association Building work (Est. cost Rs. 253.00 lakh) from registered contractors in Sp. Cat-III (Bldg.) with 'B' class or above. Last date of online submission for the work is **Dt. 20/10/2021 18:00 hrs**. Tender is available on website <a href="https://rnb.nprocure.com">https://rnb.nprocure.com</a>, Tender notice also available on Information Department's website www.statetenders.gujarat.gov.in The corrigendum will be

**SEARCH FOR MISSING** 

General public is hereby informed that a

girl namely Anisha D/o Santosh R/o C-

784, JJ Čamp Suraj Park, Samaypur

missing girl is as under:

(INF-VAD-757-21-22)

### SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON



General public is here by informed that this person Namely: Manoj, S/o Subhash, R/o H. No. 43-44, B Block, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. Age: 25 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Wearing: Red Colour T-shirt and Black Colour Lower has been missing since 01.08.2021 at

about 11.00 AM from the area of PS. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 46A dated 02.08.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: http://cbi.nic.in Fax: 011-24368639

P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi Ph. 011-27811933, 7065036328 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/1244/0N/2021

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



SHO

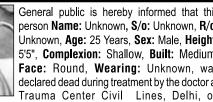
General public is hereby informed that this person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 25 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Face: Round, Wearing: Unknown, was declared dead during treatment by the doctor at Trauma Center Civil Lines, Delhi, on 10.09.2021

Dead Body has been preserved in Sabzi Mandi Hospital Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours for identification. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

In this regard a FIR No. 347/2021, dated 10.09.2021 U/s 279/337

IPC has been registered at P.S. Civil Lines, North District, Delhi. The

P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi Ph.: 011-23810633, 23815444 DP/1543/N/2021(UIDB)



Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform the following. SHO

#### date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond his control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender

The copy of EPF No/GST No must be attached. **Executive Engineer** HPPWD Division Bangana HIM SUCHANA
HP / 4388/21-22 AVAM JAN SAMPARK

#### Badli, Delhi has been missing since 24.08.2021 from the area of her house. In this regard, FIR No. 630/2021, dated 25.08.2021 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS Samaypur Badli, **Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the

Name: Anisha, Gender: Female, Age: 13 years, Height: 4'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Red colour suit-salwar. If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl,

kindly inform SHO/ Samaypur Badli, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 DP/1273/ON/2021

P.S. Samaypur Badli, Delhi. Ph. No. 011-27852123, 27854799

## KPCC on the back foot as Sudheeran quits AICC

Tariq Anwar calls on veteran Congress leader, efforts on to placate him

G. ANAND

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Congress leader V.M. Sudheeran conveyed his "intense disillusionment" with the "imperious" style of functioning of the incumbent Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) leadership to All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Tariq Anwar, who called on him at his house here on Monday.

Mr. Sudheeran's resignation in close succession from the AICC and the KPCC's Political Affairs Committee (PAC) had prompted Mr. Anwar's placatory visit after a day of dilly-dallying.

Mr. Sudheeran's move has arguably cast the helmsmanship of KPCC president K. Sudhakaran and Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan under a cloud.

IN BRIEF

'Dharma Patham'

Andhra Pradesh Chief

an initiative by the

culture and health

Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan

Reddy on Monday virtually

launched 'Dharma Patham',

**Endowments Department to** 

revive ancient temple-centric

culture. The idea was to give

programmes that used to be

conducted by temples. The

department also planned to

conduct training camps in

yoga and health. Mr. Reddy

asked the officials to take a

Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD)

the management of temples.

and adopt best practices in

cue from the Tirumala

a push to traditional art,

VIJAYAWADA

It was also interpreted as an oblique criticism of AICC general secretary, organisation, K.C. Venugopal, who purportedly headed an emergent triad of the three leaders in Congress politics in the State.

Mr. Sudheeran's position also resonated with the organisational line of party veterans Oommen Chandy, Ramesh Chennithala, and Mullappally Ramachandran.

The political calculus behind the reconcilement bid was that the Congress could ill afford to lose a leader of Mr. Sudheeran's stature, given the slew of recent highprofile defections to the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Mr. Anwar, who is in charge of Kerala, remained closeted with Mr. Sudheeran for over an hour.

The new leadership had initially instilled a feeling of hope. However, they soon dampened expectations by adopting a non-consultative style of functioning alien to the Congress

Mr. Sudheeran commanded no party faction. However, his clean politician image and single-man social campaigns had endeared him to party workers. He had also captured the public imagination to some measure by pointedly refusing to contest elections despite having savoured repeated success at the hustings. Mr. Sudheeran said his path forward would hinge on whether the AICC would resort to course correction. There should be some tangible result on the

ground, he said. 'The new leadership had initially instilled a feeling of

hope. However, they soon dampened expectations by adopting a non-consultative style of functioning alien to the Congress," he said. The authoritarian trait was evident in the arbitrary nomination of DCC presidents, he

When pressed about the possibility of withdrawing his resignation, Mr. Sudheeran said he rarely retracted his decisions. He was a congenital Congress person who adhered to the Gandhi-Nehruvian school of thought. He hankered after no post and had flagged the issue purely in party interest.

## The ethical face of Congress in Kerala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

V. M. Sudheeran, a former KPCC president himself, was for long the ethical face of the Congress in Kerala. Of late, the veteran leader

had a series of run-ins with the current KPCC leadership over the appointment of DCC presidents and lack of consultation within the party. Mr. Sudheeran had pointedly rejected the neoliberal economic outlook of the Manmohan Singh era recently. Instead, he argued for a return to Nehruvian socialism, a political line that could endear him to the

Notably, Mr. Sudheeran's resignation from the AICC had come at an ominous

time when defection to the CPI(M) was in vogue among disgruntled Congress lead-

Some of Mr. Sudheeran's critics in the KPCC felt that the veteran had created unnecessary political theatre for getting accommodation at the party's national level. They also blamed him for his "inflexible stance" on prohibition that arguably precipitated the "bar bribery" case that undermined the stature of the Oommen Chandy government in

Mr. Sudheeran had made his mark as Speaker, Health Minister, MP and legislator. He had the backing of Church on prohibition

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Assam, Mizoram, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Marathwada and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

| CITY        | RAIN | MAX  | MIN  | CITY          |
|-------------|------|------|------|---------------|
| Agartala    | –    | 35.8 | 25.1 | Kozhikode     |
| Ahmedabad   | 1.7  | 31.8 | 25.7 | Kurnool       |
| Aizawl      | 0.5  | –    | 19.2 | Lucknow       |
| Allahabad   | –    | 35.1 | 26.6 | Madurai       |
| Bengaluru   | 0.4  | 27.0 | 20.2 | Mangaluru .   |
| Bhopal      | –    | 31.8 | 23.6 | Mumbai        |
| Bhubaneswar | 9.9  | 30.2 | 25.1 | Mysuru        |
| Chandigarh  | –    | 35.8 | 25.2 | New Delhi .   |
| Chennai     | –    | 33.8 | 26.7 | Patna         |
| Coimbatore  | –    | 29.1 | 22.8 | Port Blair    |
| Dehradun    | 2    | 34.0 | 22.3 | Puducherry    |
| Gangtok     | –    | 22.2 | 16.1 | Pune          |
| Goa         |      | 30.2 | 24.1 | Raipur        |
| Guwahati    | –    | 37.0 | 25.9 | Ranchi        |
| Hubballi    |      | 27.0 | 21.0 | Shillong      |
| Hyderabad   | 3    | 25.0 | 23.8 | Shimla        |
| Imphal      | 0.6  | 30.4 | 20.9 | Srinagar      |
| Jaipur      |      | 33.0 | 25.0 | Thiruvanantha |
| Kochi       |      |      |      | Tiruchi       |
| Kohima      |      |      |      | Vijayawada    |
| Kolkata     | 4    | 33.3 | 26.5 | Visakhapatn   |

18 291 214 . 80....29.1. ....-....34.0....23.2 108....27.8....24.6

#### (Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

#### Pollutants in the air you are breathing .46 .55 .24 .81 ... 21 ... 52 ...6 .10 .56 ...64 .20 .10 ...-133 179 109

Visakhapatnam .20 .31 .25 ...14 ...31

dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death

observation made at 4.00 p.m., Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded ar overall air quality index (AQI) score of 180

level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI) 502: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air

particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and prematur death in people with heart or lung disease

### Enrica Lexie case: crew seek compensation

Boat owner seeks time from SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The owner of the fishing boat which came under fire from two Italian marines detailed aboard the Italian flagship Enrica Lexie in 2012 off the Kerala waters sought more time in the Supreme Court on Monday to reply to his crew who wants a share of the ₹2 crore compensation he got from the Italian government.

Ten of his crew members have approached the apex court, saying they have every right to get their share from boat owner Fredy's compensation.

The crew members said they too had suffered "moral harm" and trauma after escaping death narrowly.

These 10 survived while two fishermen on the boat died that day from the bullets. Italy paid the families of the two men ₹4 crore Appearing before a

Bench led by Justice Indira Banerjee, the 10 survivors had complained that they had not got even a penny from the ₹10 crore compensation paid by the Republic of Italy. In fact, they were not even made parties in the case. They said they wanted their share of the compensation from the ₹2 crore given to Mr. Fredy. In August, the apex court had stayed the disbursement of Mr. Fredy's

compensation.

## Karnataka directed to release 'some quantity' of water to T.N.

Tamil Nadu told to clear deficit in receipt by Puducherry

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Monday directed Karnataka to immediately release "some quantity" of water towards making good the shortfall in realisation of the latter's share of Cauvery

per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's decision of 2007, which was modified by the Supreme Court in

The release should be as

Disclosing this, S.K. Haldar, chairman of the Central Water Commission, who is also the head of CWMA, told The Hindu over phone that the situation would be reviewed at the next meeting, scheduled to be held early October. He added that Tamil Nadu too had been asked to clear the deficit in the receipt of water by Puducherry for irrigation in the Karai-

The authority will meet again on October 7, said a member of the Tamil Nadu team of Water Resources Department officials, adding that the State had agreed to release half a thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) of wa-

kal region.

According to a release issued by the Tamil Nadu gosation is 33.7 tmc ft. Till September 26, Karnataka has supplied 85.8 tmc ft, since June 1, against the prescribed quantity of 119.5 tmc ft. "Karnataka has not followed the judgment of the Supreme Court on water sharing for Tamil Nadu properly," the release said. It said the neighbouring State, despite being told by the authority to release water at the previous meeting, did not "fully implement" it.

vernment later in the day,

the present shortfall in reali-

Mr. Haldar refused to get drawn into specifying any quantity of water to be released by Karnataka.

## Bandh near-total in Kerala; mixed response in A.P., Telangana

In Karnataka, farmers stage protests in Bengaluru, Hubballi, Belagavi, Mysuru

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The dawn-to-dusk hartal in Kerala on Monday, expressing solidarity with the Samyukt Kisan Morcha's nationwide strike call against the contentious farm laws, and backed by the ruling Left Democratic Front and the opposition United Democratic Front, was near-total but largely peaceful.

Normal life was disrupted with shops and business establishments remaining shut and public transport keeping off the road. Private vehicles plied. Attendance was low in government offices.

The hartal was marked by isolated incidents of violence. In Kozhikode, the staff of an Asianet broadband franchise were allegedly manhandled by hartal supporters. Near Pallichal, Thiruvananthapuram,

supporters allegedly mantrol pump.

The heavy rainfall which lashed several districts on Monday also prompted the public to stay indoors. Across the State, trade unions organised protests demanding the Centre to withdraw the contentious farm In Andhra Pradesh, the

bandh was peaceful and evoked a mixed response. While the bandh was total

in Chittoor and East Godavari districts, it evoked good response in Srikakulam, Vizianagarm, Ongole and Nellore districts. The protest saw a mixed response in Kurnool, Anantapur disticts.

Commuters faced a harrowing time as the APSRTC withdrew bus services. However, autorickshaws plied in many parts of the State.



Expressing solidarity: Several trade Union's jointly organised a march at Palakkad in Kerala on Monday, as part of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha's nationwide strike call. • K.K. MUSTAFAH

Educational institutions

Leaders of the Left parties and trade unions took out protest rallies across the

Daily life unaffected Meanwhile, daily life remained largely unaffected in Karnataka, including Bengaluru, during the "Bharat

Though most businesses remained open and all forms of public transport ran as usual, the State witnessed multiple protests by farmers. Bengaluru, Hubballi, Belagavi, Mysuru and other major cities saw protests by thousands of farmers demanding

withdrawal of the farm laws. Farmers were joined by the trade unions, Dalit and Kannada organisations in their protests. Protesters tried to picket bus stands and block highways in Kalaburagi, Mysuru and other districts. However, all disruptions were brief and soon dispersed by

hakaran by claiming that he

was a German-trained cos-

metologist. Mr. Sudhakaran

admitted that he had sought

out Monson's service as a

stylist. He was not a party to

Monson's financial dealings.

passed off peacefully in the State without any untoward incident, senior police officials said. In Telangana, the Bharat

Bandh organised by the Congress and Left parties evoked mixed response

The fleet of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation, cab services, autorickshaw and other transport services operated as usual in State capital Hyderabad, but the buses were obstructed in districts.

A scuffle ensued between the police and the agitators when they tried to stop buses coming out of the Hanamkonda depot. Over 800 buses were off the roads in the Mahabubnagar erstwhile district. Telangana Congress Committee president A. Revanth Reddy and his followers were arrested near the Uppal bus depot in Hydera-

(With inputs from Vijayawada, Bengaluru and Hyde-

## JD(S) continues tirade against Siddaramaiah

'We will hit back strongly in 2023 polls'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

As political parties start gearing up for the 2023 Legislative Assembly elections, Congress leader Siddaramaiah and Janata Dal (S) leaders are back to attacking one another over their "secular credentials".

A day after Mr. Siddaramaiah described the JD(S) as a party without secular principles and one unable to form a government on its own, former Prime Minister and JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda hit back at his former party colleague.

Four-day workshop Mr. Gowda accused him of "spreading misinformation" and sought to remind him of

his origins in the JD(S). "We will respond to those humiliating us [now] in the 2023 elections," the former

workshop to revitalise the regional party. The JD(S) has set a target of winning 123 Assembly seats to form the government on its own in 2023. Former Chief Minister

Prime Minister told party

workers on Monday after in-

augurating Janata Parva I.O

and 'Mission 123', a four-day

H.D. Kumaraswamy, who had attacked Mr. Siddaramaiah on Sunday, continued his tirade on Monday

"The Congress has been responsible for the growth of the BJP. We did not allow the BIP to implement its hidden agenda when the JD(S) formed the government with it. The Congress backstabbed the JD(S) and tried to break the party. Congress called us the B-team of BJP only to cover its lapses," Mr. Kumaraswamy said.

## Telangana govt. plans B-Hub for life sciences

Aim is to double the industry size: KTR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Telangana government is actively working on setting up a Biosciences Hub (B-Hub) with essential focus on life sciences sector on the lines of the T-Hub as it has the potential to grow significantly in the coming

The development follows the government's resolve to double the industry size from the existing \$50 billion to \$100 billion in the coming 10 years. The city is already in the forefront as the bulk drug capital of the country providing 33% of the vaccines consumed internationally, Industries and IT

Minister K.T. Rama Rao said. Discussions were held with major players like Ki-



ran Mazumdar Shah of Biocon and she was convinced to make investments in life sciences segments in the State, he said, participating in a short discussion on "progress of industries and IT sectors in the State" in the Legislative Assembly on

He said the government focused on 14 core sectors.

## Fraudster's arrest in Kerala puts politicians, officers in a fix

Their photos in the company of 'fake antique dealer' go viral

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Several politicians and top police officers in Kerala were reportedly left red-faced after photographs and videos showing them in the company of alleged fake antique dealer and "debt-dodging confidence trickster" Monson Mavunkal went viral on mainstream and social media on Monday.

Monson had fallen into the police dragnet on Sunday on the charge of palming off recently handcrafted cheap knock-offs as authentic relics to wealthy, unin-

formed and eager collectors. The suspect's social media account showed him in endeared himself to Mr. Sudthe company of an astonish-



ing number of rich, famous and influential people, including Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president K. Sudhakaran, MP, actors and the police top brass. Monson had reportedly

Sudhakaran sees plot Mr. Sudhakaran said the Chief Minister's Office had hatched a plot to discredit him and Monson had come handy for conspirators. The police said Monson

had lured investors to part with crores of rupees as an advance fee for vast interestfree loans later. Officials said Monson often blurred the line between fact and fiction for "personal gain."

## Another varsity to seek no-dowry declaration

KU follows Calicut and MG universities

K.S. SUDHI

Kerala University (KU) will amend its statute to insist on a declaration from students that they will not violate the Dowry Prohibition Act for issuing their certificates.

The KU syndicate will deliberate on the steps to be taken against the students in case of violation of the declaration.

Incidentally, Calicut and Mahatma Gandhi universities had decided to insist on undertakings from students and their guardians that the degree or admission of students shall be withdrawn if they violate the Act provi-

The guardians also need to give an undertaking that

dowry directly or indirectly from the parents or guardians of the bride or bridegroom, as the case may be.

they will not demand any

The institutions had also made those joining its service sign an undertaking that the violation of the Act will make them liable for disciplinary action.

According to KU Registrar K.S. Anilkumar, Chapter Six of the first statute of the KU dealing with the powers of Syndicate will be amended within a fortnight to incorporate the provisions related to dowry. The modalities for implementing the declaration and related matters will be decided soon. The university decided on amendments after getting legal opinion.

### HC sets aside govt. ban on online rummy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Kerala High Court on Monday set aside the State government's ban on online rummy played for stakes by including it in the Kerala Gaming Act, 1960.

Justice T.R. Ravi passed the verdict while allowing a writ petition filed by the companies engaged in the business of developing and offering online games, challenging notification.

The petitioners contended that the notification issued in 1976 had exempted rummy from the provisions of the Act. However, the government, by notification issued on February 23, 2021, had brought "online rummy played for stakes" under the Act.



### Words and deeds

PM Modi did well to commit India to its democratic traditions at UN General Assembly

or the third consecutive year in a row, and his fourth such speech since he was elected in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the UN General Assembly, outlining his outlook on India's place in the world. Referring to India's large population, he said that the world grows when India grows, and transforms when India reforms, pointing to examples of the country's progress and impact: in the area of vaccines and pharmaceuticals, particularly to counter COVID, green technology and the promise of 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030, and poverty alleviation. He also enumerated how many Indians had been provided water connections, banking access, insurance coverage, health services and homes, although his claim that these "all-inclusive" development goals had been achieved only in the "last seven years", struck a politically partisan note that was out of place. Moving to regional matters, Mr. Modi pointed to the contrast between India's actions and those of Pakistan and China in veiled references. In an apparent message to Pakistan, he linked events in Afghanistan, where the Taliban have taken control, to the problem of "regressive thinking" that leads to the use of terrorism as "a political tool". He also called for safeguarding the maritime sphere from the "race of expansion and exclusion" and referred to the need for investigating the "origins of the coronavirus", subjects China is sensitive about. Addressing the UN directly for its own shortcomings, the PM said that time waits for no one, urging the UN to speed up the reforms process that has been flagging for more than a decade, which would include an expanded Security Council. This, he explained, is the only way to restore the credibility of global governance institutions.

Mr. Modi's strongest words came at the beginning of his speech, where he launched a defence of the state of Indian democracy, which has come in for some criticism over the past few years. He said India had been named the "mother of democracy" for its adherence to democratic values, symbolised by its diversity, pluralism, inclusivity, and equality, that allowed someone like him, who had once worked at his father's tea stall, to become the country's leader. The PM's words appeared to be a response to comments made during his Washington visit, where U.S. President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris stressed the need to strengthen democratic processes internally. Even as he addressed the UN, protesters outside criticised his government for actions against activists, NGOs, the laws on agriculture and citizenship, and incidents of lynching and mob violence. While the PM's commitment to India's "great tradition of democracy" was heartening, it will be measured not by words at the world body, but by answers and actions on the ground in India.

### High water

India must create a social safety net to manage the fallout of cyclonic storms

ropical cyclones laden with moisture and accumulated energy pose a growing challenge, as they have the propensity to inflict heavy damage to lives and property. As the annual monsoon retreats, thousands are left assessing the impact of cyclone Gulab, a rare event for September, on coastal Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and other areas inland. This weather system, with a gusting wind speed of 70 knots at landfall, appears to have been less intimidating than cyclones Yaas and Tauktae, although it continued to keep the seas unsafe for fishermen all along the coastline north of Andhra Pradesh, after moving overland. There have been some distressing deaths and inevitable material losses for many, and the focus must now be on relief and rehabilitation; in the recovery phase of COVID-19, the weather system has upended life for many, disrupting key inter-State road links and leading to the cancellation or diversion of several trains. The imperative is to reach out to those affected by Gulab with food, shelter and health-care support, deploying the many administrative capabilities acquired during the pandemic with the same alacrity. The welcome concern for public health and economic security must lead to stronger institutional responses to natural disasters too.

The northern Indian Ocean, of which the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal are a part, experiences only a minority of tropical storms annually, at about 7% of worldwide events, but their destructive impact on the subcontinent is severe due to a dense population and poor capacity to absorb large quantities of rainfall dumped in a short period over cities and towns. Financial arrangements to insure the population against material losses also remain weak, and as the experience in West Bengal with cyclone Amphan demonstrated last year, relief measures can easily fall victim to corruption. The influence of climate change on cyclone characteristics in a world that is heating up due to accumulation of greenhouse gases is an ongoing topic of study. The IPCC, in its scientific report on 1.5° C warming, said with a high degree of confidence that changes in the climate system, including the proportion of tropical cyclones, would experience a larger impact from increasing warming. Research evidence shows more cyclones forming over the Arabian Sea when compared to the Bay; overall there were eight storms of concern to India in 2019, and five last year, Amphan being a super cyclone. The Centre and all States cannot afford to allow large-scale losses to communities to continue each year, and, going beyond disaster response, must put in place institutional structures and insurance systems for financial protection. Cities must prepare to harvest every deluge that brings vast quantities of water, so vital to sustain mass populations.

## The Quad could end up running out of steam

It has too many items on its agenda, and with the announcement of AUKUS, faces the danger of becoming a talk shop



HAPPYMON JACOB

oming on the eve of the first in-person Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) summit in Washington DC, the new Australia-U.K.-U.S. (AUKUS) trilateral security partnership appears to be sending a subtle message to the Quad: shape up or become irrelevant. The announcement of the AUKUS and the recent outcome of the Quad summit indicate that AUKUS will go on to form a key security arrangement of the Indo-Pacific region, thereby potentially forcing the Quad to recede to the background in a struggle for attention, political will, and resources. But before we get to the implications of AUKUS on the Quad, let us briefly examine how AUKUS is also useful to the Quad.

#### A reassurance to allies

Still reeling under intense international criticism in the way the United States withdrew its forces from Afghanistan resulting in a humanitarian disaster, AUKUS seeks to unambiguously signal U.S. President Joe Biden's commitment to U.S. allies especially in the Indo-Pacific.

In some ways, AUKUS helps reassure its allies of the U.S.'s security commitments and underlines Washington's pivot to the Indo-Pacific. Second, the deal and particularly the sharing of American nuclear submarine technology with Australia will help Canberra overcome past hesitations about taking on China with more conviction. Third, notwithstanding the point that AUKUS may set alarm bells ringing for the Quad, AUKUS is still a shot in the arm for the larger Indo-Pacific agenda of which India, the U.S., Japan, Australia, among others, are key partners. In other words, AUKUS

will help the Quad's declared aim of keeping the Indo-Pacific region free, open and inclusive thereby contributing to its core agenda.

#### No replacement, but...

AUKUS may not replace the Quad and yet it appears that AUKUS has ventured where the Quad has been reluctant to make forays into - the military domain. More so, AUKUS also exposes the inherent, also self-imposed, limits of the Quad, i.e., its inability and lack of desire to give itself any military role. The focus of the recently-held Washington summit, on challenges ranging from COVID-19 to climate shows that the Quad is unlikely to take a security-dominated turn; that is precisely the vacuum AUKUS seeks to fill.

The larger question then is whether the Quad is losing its steam. For sure, the Quad seems to offer no clear purpose which, as a result, leads to too many items crowding the agenda. It neither has a secretariat or a charter, like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), nor a clear set of activities such as AUKUS. The evergrowing list of focal areas of the Quad will eventually make it a less

than useful deliberative forum. Put differently, with too many items on its agenda, the Quad faces the danger of becoming a talk shop with very little actual work. What is ironic is that all the Quad members have security/military considerations in mind vis-à-vis China while engaging the Quad platform, but no one seems to be keen on framing it in such a manner, as is evidenced by the summit's joint statement (North Korea and Myanmar find mention in the statement though, not China). There is little interest in properly institutionalising the Quad nor has the objective for 'Quad Plus' been purposefully pursued.

Let me put this somewhat differently: Indo-Pacific remains a grand strategic vision, AUKUS has the potential to become a major military/security arrangement in



the Indo-Pacific, and the Quad/ Quad Plus could end up becoming a talk shop within the Indo-Pacific.

#### **New Delhi's hesitations**

New Delhi has taken the stand that "there is no link between the AU-KUS and the Quad" just as it had argued earlier that there is no link between the Malabar naval exercises and the Quad even though the Quad membership is replicated in the Malabar exercises and two-thirds of the AUKUS form 50% of the Quad.

Technically, New Delhi's stand is accurate – just because there is a striking similarity in the membership of these forums, they are not the same institutional architecture. And yet, if one were to go beyond such technicalities, it is evident that these groupings share a larger vision about the Indo-Pacific, i.e., addressing the challenge from China, and the desire for an open and free Indo-Pacific. Be it AUKUS, which enables Australia to stand up to Chinese bullying or provides the United Kingdom – its aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, the flagship of the U.K.'s Carrier Strike Group, is in the region with a more prominent, and desirable, role in the Indo-Pacific or the annual Malabar exercises which focus on the Indo-Pacific or the Quad, their common geopolitical theatre is the Indo-Pacific. So while they are not technically related to each other, there is a broader reality that unites them all. There is no point in refusing to accept that self-evident reality.

There is also little doubt today that the Indo-Pacific is of great importance to India for a number of reasons. For one, given the conti-

nental challenges it faces including from the new developments in Afghanistan, New Delhi would do well to shift some attention to the maritime sphere. Second, at a time when India is continentally pressed against a rock and a hard place, an opportunity has presented itself for India – in the form of growing global interest in the Indo-Pacific – to be at the centre of a new geopolitical churning which it must make use of for its own security and prosperity. Third, it is also a major way of bringing together like-minded states to check Chinese hegemony in the region.

Given this context, if AUKUS potentially overshadows the enthusiasm around the Quad, it would be disadvantageous to India's interests in the Indo-Pacific region. Other Quad counties are either on the AUKUS or are alliance partners; India is neither. Eventually, therefore, the Quad faces the potential challenge of becoming a talking shop without an actionable mandate. More so, bereft of any defence arrangement, the material returns from the Quad over time would also be minimal.

**Indo-Pacific engagement** This situation is made worse by India's hesitation about joining major regional economic frameworks. India, for instance, is neither a member of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership nor can its trade relations with the Indo-Pacific countries rival those of China. So, given our rather weak economic influence and performance in the Indo-Pacific region, what might help the country is being part of a security arrangement which can take care of its regional defence/security concerns. Even before AUKUS, India's current engagement of the Indo-Pacific was neither capable of contributing to its national security nor promoting its economic influence in the region. And now, AUKUS may have further shrunk the potential space available for the Quad, and India, to play a serious role in the region's security architecture.

### Sources of India's hesitations

Even though it is not just New Delhi which is hesitant about the Quad venturing into the security/ military domain. India has been hesitant about the Quad moving beyond the non-military issues. So, what are the sources of New Delhi's hesitation regarding a robust role for the Quad in the security/military domain? One could advance two hypotheses in this regard. One, India's traditional reluctance about military alliances and the desire to maintain strategic autonomy. New Delhi fears that militarising the Quad could undo this jealously guarded tradition. It is, however, possible to explore military utility for the Quad without making it a formal military alliance. More so, exploring mutually beneficial military and security cooperation within the Quad framework need not contradict the principles of strategic autonomy. The operative part of 'strategic autonomy' is autonomy, not strategic.

The second hypothesis has to do with domestic political considerations: The Narendra Modi government is keen to avoid any military overtones for the Quad due to potential Chinese reactions to it. Recall how India and Australia had for many years soft-peddled the forum for fear of provoking China. Australia seems to have overcome its hesitation, but has India done so? For the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government, any heat on the Line of Actual Control with China in the run-up to crucial State elections next year and then the 2024 parliamentary election would be unwelcome. This seems, therefore, to be a case of domestic political considerations trumping the pursuit of strategic necessities.

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## The curious case of the Punjab Congress

Even with 'operation Captain' over, the party has hurdles to cross if it is to emerge successful in the Assembly elections



The installation of Charanjit Singh Channi as the new Chief Minister of Punjab may be viewed as an important landmark in the State's political history in terms of the politics of 'presence'. Mr. Channi is the first Chief Minister from the Dalit community in the political history of Punjab, going back to its pre-Partition days when governments were formed after the 1937 and 1946 provincial elections. Even the key portfolios in successive governments never went to the community in the past despite it constituting one-third of the population in Punjabi Suba, since its reorganisa-

tion in 1966. It is the Jatt Sikh community that consistently got disproportionate representation in successive Assemblies and in the governments. Giani Zail Singh, a Sikh OBC, was the lone exception, as the Chief Minister of the State (later the President of India). Jatt Sikhs qualify as the 'dominant caste', going by the noted sociologist M.N. Srinivas (1972) formulation, as they are numerically strong, land-owning and not very low (middling) in the caste

The change is a major gamble Considering the extremely narrow social basis of political power in the State, it is obvious that the Congress high command, a euphemism for the Gandhi family, has ta-

ken a gamble, even if done reluctantly, by anointing a non-Jatt Sikh, and from a Dalit community. Landless Dalits, being farming labourers in rural Punjab, have historically shared an uneasy relationship with Jatt Sikhs.

The high command has also made a gamble by indicating that wants Navjot Singh Sidhu, a late entrant to the party, as the face of the Assembly election campaign as clearly indicated by Harish Rawat, the Congress party's Punjab affairs-in charge. Though it was denied later after protests, the position of the Chief Minister has already come under cloud. Mr. Sidhu being the first choice of the high command in case of an electoral win, is making it obvious in the way he has been allowed to play the role of king-maker. He has reportedly vetoed the chief ministerial chances of Sunil Jakhar and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and is currently influencing key administrative decisions. His lovalists such as Pargat Singh have been included in the Channi cabinet. If the high command actually takes such a drastic step, it is going to be in a spot facing another round of dissidence from Sidhu detractors within the party. The party shall also lose the Dalit community support base in the State and elsewhere

The third gamble the party high command has taken is by abruptly replacing a long-term powerful Chief Minister (Captain Amarinder Singh), less than three months before the election code of conduct comes into effect. This is probably for the first time in the history of the Grand Old Party that the high command has moved so recklessly; there was no such development even during the Indira Gandhi-Raiiv Gandhi era. There are not many



parallels in other parties except the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) replacing Sahib Singh Verma with Sushma Swaraj just before the 1998 Assembly elections in Delhi, which did not work.

'Social balancing' is a risk The 'historic' appointment of Mr. Channi is being hailed as a 'master stroke'/'game-changer'. The running argument is that purported 'social balancing' would fetch electoral dividends for the incumbent party as the 'Channi factor' would consolidate and galvanise the Dalit community. However, the community has historically been divided along regional, religious, linguistic and caste lines. Scheduled Castes as in other States have never voted en bloc for any party if one is to go by surveys by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and a field-based study by Kanchan Chandra (2004).

In fact, the Congress should instead be wary of a brewing counter-mobilisation among the Jatt Sikh community which may be sensing a loss of power and blaming it on the internecine war among its power-hungry community leaders such as Mr. Sidhu. A 'humiliated' Captain, a royal from a former Sikh princely State and a senior Jatt leader with a five-decades long career, is most likely to accentuate this sense of loss. Capt. Amarinder has enjoyed considerable support among his fellow community due to his bold stands visà-vis the Centre on panthic issues, by getting the Punjab Termination of Water Agreements Bill passed as the Chief Minister in 2004 that resulted in the annulment of the pact entered into by the State in on the contentious farm laws issue. Whether a rebellious captain would try to damage the Congress's prospect by forming a regional outfit or joining another party is another issue.

### **Unfulfilled promises**

It is questionable whether removal of Capt. Amarinder would be sufficient to address the anti-incumbency factor. After all, it was not only about the leadership of Capt. Amarinder, however unpopular he might have become of late – as being projected by citing surveys. It has mainly been due to the nonfulfilment of the promises made by the party in 2017, after it won, about creating new jobs, bringing industries back, rejuvenating the farming sector and improving the power sector that made party legislators and workers restless and wary of facing voters.

Capt. Amarinder may be held culpable in the public eye for his inability to show urgency in acting against those responsible for sacrilege and the subsequent police actions (the incidents relate to the desecration of a religious text and subsequent police firing that took place at Faridkot in 2015). However, greater failures such as bringing an end to the drug menace and flourishing land, sand and transport mafias may not be viewed as Capt. Amarinder's sole responsibility As Aam Aadmi Party leaders have been alleging, it is not only Akali Dal leaders but also many Congress leaders who have been under scrutiny for being complicit in wrong-doings.

#### A lot to mind ahead

With 'operation Captain' over, the 1981 on the sharing of Ravi and onus now is on incumbent Mr. Sid-Beas river waters with Haryana hu and fellow rebel Jatt Sikh leadonly in one region – to not only secure their community vote but also those from other communities and the other electoral regions. The direct and visible role played by the Gandhi siblings (Rahul Gandhi and Privanka Gandhi Vadra) means that they have to take greater responsibility in keeping dissidence in check and ensuring the party's success. A tall order for them.

Already, the 'revelation' by loyalist Ambika Soni that a non-Sikh should not be appointed as a Chief Minister in the Punjabi Suba, reportedly to deny space to senior leader Sunil Jakhar, has brought back the contentious Hindu-Sikh question that might be to the electoral advantage of the beleaguered

Finally, the Channi cabinet, with six first-time Ministers, would need the whole-hearted support of the State's higher bureaucracy, undergoing large-scale transfers at the moment, to fulfil at least some of the unfulfilled promises. The higher bureaucracy may not be too willing to cooperate fully as elections are round the corner and with the Centre watching things intently. The paucity of time, the empty treasury and high indebtedness are also going to be huge

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

Marx and social justice It is refreshing to find the Chief Justice of India citing Karl Marx and saying women have nothing to lose but their chains (Inside pages, "CJI backs 50% quota for women in judiciary", September 27). Interestingly, E.M.S Namboodiripad was punished for citing Marx in justification of his statement that courts are instinctively with the rich

and against the poor. The then Chief Justice of India, Justice M. Hidayatullah, said that EMS had not read Marx properly. The statement of the present Chief Justice of India has to be taken seriously and Marx's works should be made a compulsory part of the legal curriculum so that courts become an instrument of social justice. The Chief Justice of India has made many more

insightful statements in recent times which have to be read and implemented. This is the only way of breaking the shackles. N.G.R. PRASAD.

#### **Facing NEET**

I would not go as far as terming Tamil Nadu's case against the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) as tilting at windmills because there is some merit in the argument that the test leaves out a large reservoir of poor students, especially those schooled in public-funded schools. At the same, the right diagnosis needs the right solution, and more so because other States also share the problem. Trapping the losers in victimhood or exempting them from the test will disempower future generations. Instead of

demanding scrapping of NEET or diluting its standards, the Government should ensure that teachers walk the extra mile, raise their standards of teaching and equip the students to compete in the national test with confidence. V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,

Candid Bishan Bedi While the entire cricketing world knows Bishan Singh

Bedi to be the magician of left-arm spin bowling, the spinner is equally well known for his candid views about the game. Even today, the genial spinner venerates cricket and feels distressed if someone tampers with the purity of the game. He has also had issues with the IPL. R. SIVAKUMAR,

Chennai





## 'Leave that crown in the garage'

Indra Nooyi on leading a white male-dominated PepsiCo and also being a mother, wife and daughter



INDD A NOOVI

In November 2009, the CEO of Pepsi-Co, Indra Nooyi, found herself standing between U.S. President Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Mr. Obama began the introductions. When he got to her, Dr. Singh exclaimed, "Oh! But she is one of us!" Without missing a beat Mr. Obama responded, "Ah, but she is one of us, too!" In her new book, My Life in Full: Work, Family, and our Future, Ms. Nooyi says she belongs in both worlds. She writes: "I am still the girl who grew up in a close family in Madras... I am also the woman who arrived in the U.S. at age twenty-three to study and work, and somehow, rose to lead an iconic company, a journey that I believe is possible only in America." An excerpt from the book:

The phone rang again. This time, it was a recruiter asking if I'd interview for the position of senior vice president of corporate strategy and planning at PepsiCo, the beverage, snack, and restaurant company. The role included overseeing fifty high-potential executives, new hires who came into the planning department for eighteen months or so and were then rolled into management jobs throughout the company. Mentoring and training were to be a big part of the job.

I thought twice about going into a consumer business. Much as I knew I could learn anything, after eight years at Motorola and ABB, I was steeped in engineering, technology, and massive infrastructure projects. When I heard that PepsiCo also owned KFC, Taco Bell, and Pizza Hut, I wondered if the job was really for me. I don't eat meat. How could I relate to these restaurants?

Shortly, both GE and PepsiCo were pressing me with attractive job offers. I was weighing my options with Raj [Nooyi] and my friend Orit Gadiesh, the chairman of Bain and Company, as my sounding boards. Preetha and Tara were rooting for PepsiCo after we received a large gift basket of goodies and T-shirts. Ron-



nie Miller Hasday, the head of corporate hiring, knew exactly how to capture the family's interest.

#### An outsider

I pulled up to PepsiCo to begin my new job on March 30, 1994. White American men held fifteen of the top fifteen jobs at PepsiCo when I walked in. Almost all wore blue or grey suits with white shirts and silk ties and had short hair or no hair. They drank Pepsi, mixed drinks, and liqueurs. Most of them golfed, fished, played tennis, hiked and jogged. Some hunted for quail together. Many were married with children. I don't believe any of their wives worked in paid jobs outside their homes.

I am not detailing these characteristics to focus on these particular men. My colleagues were smart, creative, dedicated people and shouldered tremendous responsibility and stress. They built a beloved enterprise. The fact is that PepsiCo's leadership mirrored almost every senior-executive suite in corporate America in 1994. Even the most accomplished women were still milling around in middle management. The number of female CEOs among the five hundred biggest companies that year was zero.

On the CEO floor of PepsiCo when I arrived, no one was expected to be a deeply engaged parent, let alone a great mother and wife. Dealing with teachers, doctors, dentists, groceries, clothing, cooking, cleaning, laundry, home décor, gardening, houseguests, birthdays, holidays, and vacations was just not their area. Maybe they were engaged - just a bit - in the emotional health, academic success, and general good behaviour

available to step in to help when needed. Raj's parents also helped out whenever we asked them to.

Preetha missed me a lot in these years. She was an adolescent, and much of what she saw was a busy, stressed-out mother. I was loving and present during difficult times but not really there day-to-day. Her angst was expressed by verbal outbursts, and I struggled to cope with them.

Tara was a calmer, quieter child, who once wrote me a note, which I still keep in my desk drawer, that lays bare the emotions of these years. On a big sheet of construction paper, decorated with flowers and butterflies, she begs me to come home. "I will love you again if you would please come home," the note says. In her sweet, crooked printing, the word please is spelled out seven times.

#### 'The news can wait...'

My Life in Full: Work, Family, and our Future

Hachette India

Indra Nooyi

Even if they were interested in any

Importantly, the men I worked

with didn't judge one another on

how their work and family lives came

together. They were plenty competi-

tive but also caring and supportive of

one another through crises, includ-

ing divorce, illness, or troubles with

None of this crossed my mind

when I met them. I was well aware

that I was an outsider: I was still the

eighteen-year-old girl at IIM Calcutta;

the Indian immigrant in the polyes-

ter suit at Yale; the vegetarian, expec-

tant mother in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

At BCG, I had been inside many in-

dustries, but I'd never encountered a

From 1994 to 1999, I worked and

worked and worked. Whatever toll

my work life took on my role at

home, I still had the lifeboat of Raj.

He was now a partner at a consulting

firm, working and travelling like cra-

zy, yet a steady source of support. We

also had a housekeeper, who drove

and cooked for us, and a nanny, and

they kept the house running and the

children safe. My mother was spend-

ing more time with my sister's and

brother's families in New York in

these years, although she was always

of these things, these guys just didn't

of their children.

have time.

their kids.

female client.

I was in my office late on Friday on December 1 [2000], when Steve [Reinemund, then CEO of PepsiCo] called me from Dallas to share the news that I would be named president of PepsiCo and join the board. I was over the moon. I packed up at work immediately.

I drove home. It was about 10 p.m., and the wintery roads were peaceful and dark. I entered our house through the kitchen door and dropped my keys and bag on the counter. I was bursting with excitement - so eager to tell everyone. Then my mother appeared. "I have the most incredible news!" I exclaimed.

"The news can wait," she said. "I need you to go out and get milk." I picked up my keys, went back to the car, drove to the Stop & Shop a mile away, and bought a gallon of whole milk. When I walked into the kitchen again, I was hopping mad. I slammed the plastic bottle on the counter.

"I've just become president of PepsiCo, and you couldn't just stop and listen to my news," I said loudly. "Listen to me," my mother replied. "You may be the president or whatever of PepsiCo, but when you come home, you are a wife and a mother and a daughter. Nobody can take your place. So you leave that crown in the garage."

Excerpted with permission from Hachette India

## Measuring regional diversity

The National Institute Ranking Framework's calculation of regional diversity in educational institutions is inaccurate



HUSAIN AANIS KHAN

The National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) is a methodology adopted by the Ministry of Education to rank higher educational institutions in India. On September 9, the Education Minister released the sixth edition of the NIRF rankings. The NIRF formulates the ranking on the basis of five parameters. Each of these has one to five subparameters. This article discusses one of the sub-parameters (Region Diversity) of the parameter named Outreach and Inclusivity.

#### **Problematic formula**

The NIRF calculates regional diversity inaccurately because it takes into account only the percentage of students enrolled from other States and countries at that particular institution. The formula that it applies is this: RD =  $25 \times$  fraction of total students enrolled from other States + 5 × fraction of students enrolled from other countries. This formula calculates the regional diversity of States not on the basis of State-wise representation by students at the institution, but on the basis of the percentage of total students enrolled from all States except the State the institution is located in. This is problematic. Let's say that there are 100 students in total at an institution in New Delhi of whom 99 belong to Uttar Pradesh. The formula will show that the institution is extremely diverse because 99% of the students are from 'other' State(s), which is misleading.

To improve accuracy, the NIRF should ask two questions. One, from how many States have students come to study at the institution? The answer to this will give us what we can term as horizontal regional diversity. Here, we take a bird's-eye view of the geographical area of India and then we count the States represented by one or more students studying (or enrolled) at the institution. However, this alone will not help comprehensively assess regional diversity. Even if all 29 States are represented at the institution, we won't know how many students are from towns and villages, how many are from non-metropolitan big cities, and how many are from metropolitan cities.

Horizontal regional diversity can be more comprehensively assessed by asking a second question: what is the size of the hometown of the students? This can be termed as vertical regional diversity. Its calculation will show us how many students have come from Tier I, Tier II, Tier III cities and towns, and villages from within each State.

#### **Comparing two institutions**

For a clearer understanding of horizontal and vertical diversity, let us compare the demographic data of the Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, and of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru.

Under 'Region Diversity' in the NIRF rankings, Jamia scored 17.75 out of 30 and NLSIU scored 27.04. At Jamia, there were students from 15 States. Of them, 76% came from U.P. (44.7%), Delhi (16.1%) and Bihar (15.25%). No student came from Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu or Telangana. Only 1.4% of the students were from south India (comprising five States, Puducherry and Lakshadweep). Clearly, horizontal regional diversity is weak. On the other hand, Jamia's performance on vertical regional representation is impressive because 43% of the students came from small cities, towns, and villages, though only from 15 States.

At NLSIU, only 18% of the students came from small cities, towns, and villages. The institution is primarily accessible to students from metropolitan and non-metropolitan big cities, though the students came from 24 States. Thus, it performs well on the horizontal front but weakly on the vertical.

How does the NIRF intend to calculate such diverse regional diversities? Even if the concept of vertical and horizontal diversity is incorporated into the parameter, the NIRF cannot brush under the carpet the methodological challenge of determining what place (city, town, village) a student comes from – should it be the place at which the student was born, the place of current residence, the place where high school was completed, or the place at which the student's father/mother was born?

The NIRF rankings make the positional goods the institutions have to offer more transparent to students, parents, funders, and the government. Incidentally, on the basis of the five parameters, the ranking creates a transparent hierarchy of higher educational institutions in India. The least we can therefore ask for is more accurate parameters. The policy questions above must be answered by the NIRF. This article intends to only evoke scholarly scepticism about the accuracy of regional diversity, as calculated by the NIRF. And ideally, it should also lead readers towards asking how other parameters can be made more accurate.

Husain Aanis Khan is a lawyer and Research Fellow at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, New Delhi

## **Revitalising PM-KUSUM**

We can unlock the scheme's promises in many ways

SHALU AGRAWAL & ANAS RAHMAN

The Union Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy recently reviewed the progress of the PM-KU-SUM scheme and reaffirmed the gocommitment accelerating solar pump adoption. Launched in 2019, PM-KUSUM aims to help farmers access reliable daytime solar power for irrigation, reduce power subsidies, and decarbonise agriculture. But pandemic-induced disruptions, limited buy-in from States, and implementation challenges have all affected the scheme's roll-out. How can we unlock the opportunities it promises?

#### Barriers to uptake

PM-KUSUM provides farmers with incentives to install solar power pumps and plants in their fields. They can use one of three deployment models: off-grid solar pumps, solarised agricultural feeders, or grid-connected pumps. Off-grid pumps have been the most popular, but the nearly 2,80,000 systems deployed fall far short of the scheme's target of two million by 2022. Barriers to adoption include limited awareness about solar pumps and farmers' inability to pay their upfront contribution.

Progress on the other two models has been rather poor due to regulatory, financial, operational and technical challenges. Only a handful of States have initiated tenders or commissioned projects for solar feeders or grid-connected pumps, according to our study. Yet, both models are worth scaling up for they allow farmers to earn additional income by selling solar power to discoms, and discoms to procure cheap power close to centres of consumption.

We propose five steps for tackling the myriad challenges linked to PM-KUSUM's implementation. First, extend the scheme's timelines. Most Indian discoms have a surplus of contracted generation capacity and are wary of procuring more power in the short term. Extending PM-KUSUM's timelines beyond 2022 would allow discoms to align the scheme with their power purchase planning.

Second, create a level playing field for distributed solar plants. Selling surplus power to discoms is one of the main attractions of grid-connected models. Yet, discoms often find utility-scale solar cheaper than distributed solar (under the scheme) due to the latter's higher costs and the loss of locational advantage due to waived inter-State transmission system (ISTS) charges. To tackle the bias against distributed solar, we need to address counter-party risks and grid-unavailability risks at distribution substations, standardise tariff determination to reflect the higher costs of distributed power plants, and do away with the waiver of ISTS charges for solar plants.

Third, streamline land regulations through inter-departmental coordination. Doing so will help reduce delays in leasing or converting agricultural lands for non-agricultural purposes such as solar power generation.

Fourth, support innovative solutions for financing farmers' contributions. Many farmers struggle to pay 30-40% of upfront costs in compliance with scheme requirements. Further, they cannot access bank loans without collateral. We need out-of-the-box solutions like Karnataka's pilot of a farmer-developer special-purpose vehicle to help farmers install solar power plants on their farms.

Fifth, extensively pilot grid-connected solar pumps. Current obstacles to their adoption include concerns about their economic viability in the presence of high farm subsidies and farmers' potential unwillingness to feed in surplus power when selling water or irrigating extra land are more attractive prospects. Further, the grid-connected model requires pumps to be metered and billed for accounting purposes but suffers from a lack of trust between farmers and discoms. Adopting solutions like smart meters and smart transformers and engaging with farmers can build trust. But piloting the model under different agro-economic contexts will be critical to developing a strategy to scale it up. The scheme, if implemented successfully, can generate thousands of jobs, reduce the carbon footprint of agriculture, and result in oil import savings.

Shalu Agrawal is Senior Programme Lead and Anas Rahman is Programme Associate at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water

#### DATA POINT

## Where women stand in legislatures

On Sunday, Iceland seemed set to have its first elected women-majority Parliament, with 33 out of the 63 seats in the country being won by women. However, a late recount left women candidates with 30 seats. Despite the downward revision, the 48% share of women in Iceland's Parliament is currently the highest share of women legislators among all European nations. As of September 1, only six countries in the world had a higher share of women in their Union Legislatures. The share of women MPs in the current Indian Lok Sabha is significantly lower at 14%. The share is poorer in State Assemblies. The share of women MLAs on average in the past decade did not touch 14% in any of the States By Sumant Sen



60

30

SEATS HELD BY WOMEN 0 0

80

60

40

RWANDA

With 61% women legislators, Rwanda has the highest proportion of women Parliamentarians globally

1. WOMEN IN CENTRAL LEGISLATURES | The graph plots the

number of seats in the lower house of a Parliament against the

share of women legislators, in European countries ( ), India ( )

**SWEDEN** 

SPAIN

YEMEN

300

2. WOMEN IN LOK SABHA | The graph shows the share of women

lawmakers in the Lok Sabha from the first election till 2019. The

percentage of women parliamentarians has gone up significantly

STRENGTH OF WOMEN IN LOK SABHA (%)

NO. OF WOMEN MEMBERS ELECTED

200

in the last three terms of the Lower House

TOTAL SEATS

■ The share of women MPs

from the 2009 election

went past the 10% mark only

In 24 out of the 52 European countries

legislators in Parliament was more

than one-third of the total strength

analysed, the share of women



CUBA

-INDIA

■ Between 1952 and 2019, a

total of 661 women have been

elected to the Lok Sabha

GERMANY

**Only 78** out of the 543 elected members in the current Lok Sabha are women



In 24 out of 31 States/UTs, the average share of women MLAs between 2012 and 2021 is less than 10%

3. WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES | The table shows the average share of women MLAs in State Legislatures in three 10-year periods between 1992 and 2021. In 30 of the 31 States/UTs analysed, the average share of women MLAs between 2012 and 2021 was more than 1%.

However, it was less than 14% in all of them ALL FIGURES IN % 1992-2001 | 2002-2011 | 2012-2021 Rajasthan 11.7 West Bengal 7.6 12.4 Bihar Chhattisgarh 8.7 12.3 Haryana 9.0 M.P. 9.2 11.2 Jharkhand 11.1 10.0 Sikkim 3.0 9.8 4.1 U.P. 6.0 9.5 10.1 A.P. 9.3 5.5 8.5 6.5 Punjab 8.0 Gujarat 4.9 7.9 9.8 Assam Delhi 7.9 7.9 7.9 Tamil Nadu 8.7 9.6 7.8 Telangana 13.0 7.8 Odisha 6.8 7.2 Uttarakhand 6.0 Puducherry 6.8 Maharashtra 4.0 6.7 3.8 Kerala 5.4 5.8 Meghalaya 2.8 5.7 H.P. 3.0 Goa Manipur 1.0 Arunachal Karnataka 2.2 2.8

■ In Nagaland, no woman was elected to the State Legislature between 2012 and 2021 despite many of them contesting

J&K

Mizoram

Nagaland

SOURCE: INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION, ELECTION OF INDIA ATLAS, ECI STATE-WISE DATA WAS COMPILED BY PRATAP VARDHAN

## The Man Tindu. FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 28, 1971

#### An Emperor's Odyssey

Tokyo: Emperor Hirohito set a history-shattering precedent on Monday when he and the Empress left Japan for a whirlwind European tour which will take them to seven countries. Never before in the long centuries that the Emperors have ruled over this country has a reigning monarch left the shores of Japan on a foreign tour for any purpose whatsoever. Till the end of the last war, the Emperors were regarded as living gods – the Imperial Family was popularly believed to have descended directly from the Sun-Goddess, Amaterasu Omikami - and it was unthinkable that such a divine personage should condescend to visit other lands ruled by mere mortals. For Hirohito, this is actually the second time he has left the shores of his country. Just 50 years ago, in 1921, when Europe was still struggling to recover from the ravages of World War 1, Hirohito, then barely 20, was sent out in his capacity as the Crown Prince on a visit to several countries in Western Europe. For the Empress, however, this will indeed be a voyage full of thrills and discoveries for she has never left Japan before. If it is a voyage of discovery for the Empress, it is going to be a journey of re-discovery for the Emperor, for present-day Europe will have little resemblance to the Europe which he saw half a century ago.

#### A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 28, 1921

#### Non-Co-operation in Bengal

The statement made by Sir Asutosh Mukherii before the Senate of the Calcutta University the other day, of which we have already published a telegraphic summary, is significant as showing that the Non-Co-operation movement among the students was not such a failure in Bengal as has been generally thought. The figures given in that statement show that nearly half the students in the colleges and a quarter in the schools of Bengal non-co-operated in obedience to the Congress Resolution. The number of students in the First and Third year University classes fell from 11,270 to as low as 6,580 which means a fall of 42 per cent. The figures for the schools are no less significant. The strength of the schools immediately before the movement began was 2,10,936 pupils, but it fell to 1,63,787 after the movement at which figure it now stands. That is to say, the affiliated secondary schools of Bengal are now poorer by 47,149 students. The effect is also seen in the fall in the prospective examinees at the Matriculation Examination.

## Bandh hits road, rail traffic in many States

The national trade unions held a solidarity protest in Jantar Mantar. Speaking on the sidelines of an event. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urged the Centre to consider the farmers' demands. "Bhagat Singh, [whose birth anniversary is being celebrated], did not fight for freedom for a day when farmers have to sit on the streets and protest for a year to get their demands considered," he said.

#### Shutdown in Kerala

In Kerala, the bandh was complete in most parts of the State with a full shutdown of normal life. There was a more lukewarm response in Karnataka, with some protesters detained in Bengaluru.

Heavy rain in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh dampened protest activities, but ported by most political parties, including the ruling YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh. which suspended the State bus services and declared a school holiday.

the farmers' cause was sup-

Roads blocked in Bihar Farmer bodies staged protests in parts of Tamil Nadu

Markets were shut and public transport stayed off the roads in Odisha and Jharkhand. The RJD and the Congress workers blocked roads and rail tracks in parts of Bihar.

Rallies were held in parts of Rajasthan, with train services affected in border districts. There was little impact on normal life in Mumbai, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Assam or Arunachal Pradesh.

(With inputs from PTI)

## Clashes mar last day of Bhabanipur campaign

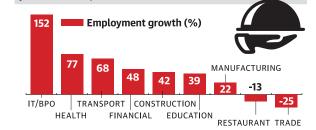
The Trinamool Congress leadership, however, dismissed the allegations of involvement of party supporters in the violence, and said it was a spontaneous reaction of common people.

"@BJP4Bengal HITS A NEW LOW! How DARE a gun be aimed at public in broad daylight? Do people not have the right to protest against leaders they do not support? Such blatant violation of human rights is shameful! This compromises the safety and security of people in Bhabanipur!" the Trinamool Congress tweeted from its official handle after sharing a video of the incident where Dilip Ghosh's security personnel were seen brandishing firearms.

Bhabanipur and two other constituencies Jangipur and Samserganj in Murshidabad district of West Bengal will go to polls on Thurs-

## Jobs increased by 29% since 2013, says survey

**Sector-wise jobs** In comparison to key employment-generating sectors, the trade and accommodation & restaurants sectors recorded sharp dips in jobs between April and June 2021



The number of female workers showed a decline too, from 31% in the Sixth Economic Survey to 29% as of the first quarter of the quarterly employment survey.

Speaking about the importance of the survey, Mr. Yadav said: "Evidencebased policy making and statistics-based execution is the major focus of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi."

He added that this survey and others covering unorganised sectors being conducted by the Labour Surwould help in policy-making.

Mr. Yadav said while 27% of the establishments reported pandemic-induced retrenchment, the silver lining was that 81% of the workers had received their full wages during the lockdown (March 25 to June 30, 2020).

**Useful for policy-makers** Earlier, Labour and Employment secretary Sunil Barthwal said having contemporary data was useful for policy-makers and this survey would help other go-

vernment departments and Ministries as well.

Mr. Barthwal said the survey would help the public as well as they could focus on learning skills that are found lacking in the workforce. He said when the govern-

ment was coming up with COVID-19-related welfare schemes, like the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, the only data available was from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and the Employees State Insurance Corporation, or "administrative data".

"Soon, field surveys will start for the unorganised sector as well," Mr. Barthwal

The Labour Bureau, with the expert group for all-India surveys under Prof. S.P. Mukherjee, is also carrying out surveys on migrant workers and domestic work-

A senior Ministry official said these surveys would be significant in policy-making in general and in framing a "national employment poli-

## Court issues show-cause notice to Javed Akhtar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A magistrate's court on Monday issued a showcause notice against lyricist Javed Akhtar for comparing "Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to Taliban".

Earlier this month, during his interaction with a news channel, Mr. Akhtar had said, "there is an uncanny resemblance between the Taliban and those who want a Hindu Rashtra." He had also commented that "Just like the Taliban want

an Islamic State, there are those who want a Hindu rashtra. These people are of the same mindset – be it Muslim, Christian, Jews or Hindus.'

Soon thereafter, the Shiv Sena in its mouthpiece Saamna had said it was "completely wrong" to compare the two.

Champanerkar, Vivek who filed the suit, said, "Mr. Akhtar's statements were well-planned and calculated and were made to defame the RSS."

## Talks on farmers' blockade stalled, Haryana tells SC

Court had asked States to solve traffic situation due to protests at Delhi's borders

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Nearly a year after farmers started their protest along the inter-State borders of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for the complete withdrawal of three agricultural laws, the Haryana government has indicated to the Supreme Court that hardly any headway has been made in efforts to convince them to remove "blockades" from inter-State and national highways.

The Supreme Court has so far taken a nuanced stand on the issue, recognising the right of the farmers to protest while at the same time advising them against disrupting public movement an equally important right.

The court, in August, had asked the three States to take stock of the ground situation and consult among themselves about the best way forward.

In its affidavit, the Haryana government said it has



Act of persistence: Farmers blocking the Sonipat-Panipat road during their 'Bharat Bandh' in Sonipat on Monday. • PTI

been trying to resolve the issue with the farmers since September 10. A meeting headed by the Chief Minister was also held. A State-level committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary was formed to find a way out of the blockades. A meeting of the Committee scheduled on September 19 was not attended by the farmers' leaders. However, industrialists from Sonipat, the district near the blockade, came to the meeting on their own volition and informed the panel about the "myriad diffi-

culties" faced by them due to

the blockade. "Sincere efforts are being made to remove the blockade from inter-State roads and National Highways and to resume free flow of traffic on those roads for the convenience of the general public by way of persuading the farmers organisations to cooperate. Regular deliberations are being held by local administrations with farmers' organisations from time to time to convince them to remove the blockade as the hardship due to such blockades," the Harvana government said in its affidavit.

In August, the court, however, also conveyed its staunch belief that the solution to end the farmer-government impasse over the three agriculture laws lay with the government.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Monica Agarwal, a Noida resident. She has complained that commuting between Delhi and Noida had become a nightmare due to road blocks because of the farmers' protest.

"The solution lies in the hands of the Union and States. If the protests are on, the traffic should not be stopped in any manner," the Bench had remarked.

In a recent affidavit, the Uttar Pradesh government had also said it had reached out to the farmers about the inconvenience being caused to commuters. It had said that blocking free public movement was illegal

## Gulab leaves trail of destruction in north A.P.

Odisha left largely unscathed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA/ BHUBANESWAR

Cyclone Gulab which made landfall on Sunday evening at Kalingaptnam left a trail of destruction in the north coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, throwing normal life out of gear.

One woman was killed in a wall collapse in Visakhapatnam district while crops in 13,413 hectares across Vizianagaram district were submerged, according to Collector A. Surya Kumari.

A large number of low-lying habitations in various cities and towns were flooded with 253 mandals recording more than 10 cm of rainfall as of 8.30 a.m. on Monday even as rains continued to lash the State.

Thirty-two locations in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts recorded more than 25 cm rainfall during the period. Visakhapatnam airport was marooned. Officials said Vajrapukotthuru Santhabommali mandals bore the brunt of the cy-

Rains also pounded Te-

clone.



A submerged underpass in Visakhapatnam on Monday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

langana on Monday with Bachodu in Khammam district recording 15 cm followed by Wyra with 14 cm by after-

Several parts of Hyderabad also witnessed heavy rains through the day.

Neighbouring Odisha suffered little damage, with widespread rain reported from southern districts on Monday.

Electricity and communication networks were damaged and uprooted trees brought traffic to a halt on many roads in north Andhra Pradesh, leaving several villages cut off.

## 'Set up digital archive of all Cong. questions PM's visit to workers at Parliament site'

PM calls for their health check-up and full vaccination

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after reviewing the construction work of the new Parliament building on Sunday night, said once the project was completed, a digital archive of all the workers involved in it should be set up, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said on Monday.

During his surprise visit that lasted about an hour, he enquired about the progress of the project and emphasised the need for its timely completion.

"He interacted with the workers engaged at the site and also enquired about their well-being. He stressed that they are engaged in a pious and historic work," the



Progress report: Narendra Modi inspecting the work on the Parliament building in New Delhi on Sunday night. •PTI

Prime Minister's Office said. Mr. Modi told officials that all workers should be fullyvaccinated against COVID-19 and monthly health checkups held for them. Apart from an archive of their names, home towns and be given a certificate for their participation in the project, he said.

The new Parliament building, which is coming up adjacent to the existing heritage building, is scheduled to be completed by photos, all workers should November 2022.

## new Parliament building site

Party points out his 'absence' during COVID-19 second wave

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Congress on Monday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inspection of the under-construction Parliament building, part of the Central Vista project, and asked if he had visited any hospital during the peak of the second wave of COVID-19.

On Sunday evening, Mr Modi had visited the underconstruction building that houses the new Parliament.

"I don't know if the Prime Minister was seen visiting a hospital under construction, or an oxygen plant under construction," spokesperson Pawan Khera said at a press conference

Khera said three months ago, people were



supported him if he was visiting some hospital site PAWAN KHERA

losing their loved ones and the country is yet to fully come out of the grief and the pain that everyone went through during the peak of the second wave.

"Three months ago, each

one of us was losing our loved ones, we were trying to save our loved ones and today the Prime Minister goes to visit a ₹20-30,000 crore Central Vista project. The timing of which in any case is hugely questionable," Mr. Khera said.

'Thoughtless gesture'

We would have supported him if he was visiting some hospital site. I am sorry; we can't support a gesture, as thoughtless and as insensitive as this," he added.

In a separate tweet, former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh posted a photo of the Prime Minister at the construction site and tweeted, "The different avatars of the self-styled Sarvagyani. divert attention!".

### High-level U.S. official to visit India in Oct.

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON DO

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman will visit India on October 6 for a series of bilateral meetings and civil society events, the State Department has announced. She will also participate in the India Ideas Summit organised by the U.S. India Business Council.

Ms. Sherman, America's second highest ranking diplomat, is scheduled to visit Mumbai on October 7 where she will hold meetings with the business community and civil society. Her visit comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S.

She will then fly to Pakistan to meet officials in Islamabad, the State Department said. Ms. Sherman is the second highest ranking American diplomat to visit Pakistan in the Biden presidency.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken told U.S. lawmakers weeks ago that Washington would need to re-assess its relationship with Islamabad. Last week, Mr. Blinken met his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi to discuss Afghanistan.

"The Secretary noted that the U.S. appreciates Pakistan's support and assistance," it had said. Earlier this month, CIA head William Burns had also visited Islamabad (he had also visited New Delhi during this trip).

## Spell out safety steps for sexual abuse victim, SC tells DCW

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court has asked the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) to spell out the protective measures it would take for a 19-yearold who suffered sexual abuse from a relative as a

A Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar was hearing a petition filed by the woman, through advocate Akshita Goyal, to transfer her case to Delhi from Ambala.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Defence Research and

Development Organisation

(DRDO) on Monday success-

fully tested a new version of

the Akash surface-to-air mis-

sile Akash Prime from the In-

tegrated Test Range at Chan-

isting Akash System, Akash

Prime is equipped with an

indigenous active Radio Fre-

quency (RF) seeker for im-

proved accuracy. Other im-

provements also ensure

more reliable performance

under low temperature envi-

ronment at higher alti-

tudes," a DRDO statement

A modified ground sys-

tem of the existing Akash

"In comparison to the ex-

NEW DELHI

dipur, Odisha.

She has asked the case to be prosecuted under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

A zero FIR was lodged at Delhi in the case in July. The case was subsequently transferred to Ambala. A zero FIR can be filed in any police station and forwarded to the jurisdictional police station for

further action. During the hearing on Friday, the Supreme Court asked the Delhi police whether they had any objection to taking over the inves-

DRDO tests Akash Prime missile

**Test of prowess:** Akash Prime being tested at the Integrated

craft, the DRDO noted.

Congratulating the team

on the successful flight test,

DRDO Chairman G. Sath-

eesh Reddy said Akash

Prime would further boost

the confidence of the Army

and the Air Force.

Test Range in Odisha on Monday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMEN

system had been used for

In its maiden flight test af-

the flight test, the statement

ter improvements, the mis-

sile intercepted and des-

troyed an unmanned aerial

target mimicking enemy air-

further said.

It can intercept aerial target mimicking enemy aircraft

tigation if the case was transferred to their care.

Ms. Goval, arguing the case, urged the court to direct the DCW to protect her

Counsel appearing for the Delhi Commission for Women told the Bench that the woman had approached the Commission on July 23 and they were willing to rehabilitate her.

"You need to give her protection and basic necessity," the Bench addressed the DCW side.

## Army trying to fix issues with indigenous guns

It is working with DRDO and OFB

DINAKAR PERI

Improved roads in border areas and induction of Chinook heavy lift helicopters will enable the Army to quickly deploy artillery guns to forward areas, said Lt. Gen. T.K. Chawla, Director General of Artillery on

On artillery modernisation, he said the Army is working closely and doing "lot of hand holding" with Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to resolve issues with the indigenous Dhanush and towed artillery guns to turn them into "robust and reliable' systems.

"Since its design and development project it follows **Preliminary Service Quality** Requirements evolved by DRDO and Army. During the trials some parameters have achieved and some which need further improvement. These concerns have been shared with DRDO," Lt. Gen. Chawla said in an interaction with select journalists on the eve of Gunners Day,

observed on September 28. The Advanced Towed Array Gun System (ATAGS) is a 155mm, 52 calibre heavy artillery gun jointly developed by the DRDO in partnership with Bharat Forge and the

Tata Group. "Firing trials were held recently in July-August in Pokhran. DRDO is working



with its development partners in order to achieve these firing and non-firing parameters," he said while stating that a timeline cannot be given as it was a design and development project.

**Teething troubles** 

On the Dhanush artillery gun being developed by the OFB based on the original drawings of the Swedish Bofors guns, Lt. Gen. Chawla said there are few teething issues which they need to iron out but it is good work

'We as the user are looking forward to it fructifying sooner than later," he stated. As long as they are able to iron out those issues, the Army can do some confidence firing; that is what has been agreed with OFB, he

The Army has already given an indent for 114 Dhanush guns with the OFB. A lot of hand holding has

been done by the Army, both for ATAGS and Dhanush, he added.

#### IN BRIEF



woman Speaker of Gujarat

AHMEDABAD Veteran legislator Nimaben Acharya was on Monday unanimously elected as the first woman Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly, which met for the two-day monsoon session. A three-time B IP MLA and a two-time Congress MLA, Ms. Acharya is one of the seniormost MLAs in the State. The name of the MLA from Bhui was proposed hv Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and the Opposition Congress supported her nomination.

#### **Union Minister Sonowal** elected to Rajya Sabha

Minister for Shipping, Ports, Waterways and Ayush. Sarbananda Sonowal was on Monday declared elected to the Rajya Sabha from Assam uncontested as no other candidate had filed nomination papers for the seat. He collected the winner's certificate from the Assembly Secretariat in the presence of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, State BJP president Bhabesh Kalita and Water Resource Minister Pijush Hazarika

#### **Sushmita Dev elected** unopposed to RS

Trinamool Congress leader Sushmita Dev was on Monday elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal. There was no other nominee for the seat and she was announced the winner. "I will try to raise the issue of Northeast from Assam and Tripura in the Rajya Sabha. Whatever instructions I get from the party, I will raise that in the House," Ms. Dev told journalists after collecting the certificate of election from the Assembly.

#### Sena slams Owaisi for provocative speeches

The Shiv Sena lashed out at All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi for allegedly heightening communal tensions ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election slated next year. It said he was nothing but a "behind the scene facilitator" of the BJP and of the saffron party's successful political journey in the country. In its mouthpiece Saamana, the Sena came down heavily on Mr. Owaisi's "provocative" speeches during the latter's campaigning in Uttar Pradesh. where slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad" were allegedly raised by his supporters.

### Cong. remains rudderless in Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AHMEDABAD

It has been more than six months since Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda and Congress Legislature Party leader Paresh Dhanani resigned from their posts following the debacle in the local body elections but the Opposition party has not been able to find their replace-

Both Mr. Chavda and Mr. Dhanani resigned in the first week of March. Subsequently in mid-May, AICC general secretary in-charge of Gujarat Rajeev Satav died of post COVID-19 complications but the party is yet to name his successor.

party can begin preparations for the crucial As-

"We have requested the high command for the appointments," said Mr. Chavda, who has been helming the unit in the ab-

ths, we have been hearing that a new in-charge will be appointed next week but that week has not come

## Caste data 98% error-free, RGI told panel

However, the Union government has informed the Supreme Court that the 2011 data is 'unusable'

SOBHANA K. NAIR

The Union government last week told the Supreme Court that the caste data enumerated in the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) of 2011 was "unusable", but in 2016, the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India had informed the Standing Committee on Rural Development of Parliament that 98.87% of the data on individual caste and religion was "error free".

In its report analysing the action taken by the government on the recommendations made by the committee on "BPL Survey currently Socio Economic & Caste Census (SECC), 2011", the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, has been quoted as saying that the "data has been examined and 98.87% data on individuals caste and religion is er-

The Office of the Registrar-General of India said that errors had been noticed

As Leader of the Opposition As Leader of the Opposition Bihar Tejashwi Yadav said that the government is stonewalling the whole exercise because of fear of the numbers. The numbers will reveal a tragic story **MANOJ K. JHA** 



**UPA** government was not very enthusiastic about a caste census. However, in the face of a belligerent Opposition, it agreed to conduct SECC which was meticulously done. Since 98% of the data is error-free the government should put it out in the public

in the data of about 1.34 crore individuals out of the total surveyed population of 118 crore.

Govt. stance Taking a diametrically different position, the government, in its affidavit in the Supreme Court filed last week, cited many reasons why the data is "unusable". The government had said that the total number of castes surveyed in 1931 was 4,147, while the SECC figures show that there are more than 46 lakh different castes. "Assuming that some castes may bifurcate into subcastes, the total number cannot be exponentially high to this extent," the affidavit said.

It added that the entire exercise was corrupted because the enumerators had used different spellings for the same castes. In many cases the respondents, the government said, had refused to divulge their castes.

Rashtriya Janata Dal Rajya Sabha member Manoj K. Jha said the error was not in the data, but in the government's judgment.

"As Leader of the Opposition in Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav said that the government is stonewalling the whole exercise because of fear of the numbers. The numbers will reveal a tragic story," Mr. Jha

Former I&B Minister and Lok Sabha member Manish Tewari said if 98% of the data was error-free, as the RGI conceded, there was no reason for the government to withhold it, after taxpayers' money was spent in conducting the SECC.

"The fact remains that the UPA government was not very enthusiastic about a caste census. However, in the face of a belligerent Opposition, it agreed to conduct SECC which was meticulously done. Since 98% of the data is error-free the government should put it out in the public," Mr. Tewari said.

The Narendra Modi government finds itself boxed in a corner over the issue as allies Janata Dal(U) and Apna Dal are repeatedly demanding a headcount of the Other Backward Castes (OBC). It is also facing heat from the Opposition parties, the majority of which support the call. On Sunday, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren led an all-party delegation to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah pressing for a caste census.

The RJD, meanwhile, is planning to begin protests

## T.N. gets four months' time for civic body polls

The State had sought seven months

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the Tamil Nadu State Election Commission (TNSEC) four months to complete the elections to urban local bodies in the

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing the TNSEC, originally sought time till April 2022, that is, seven months, to complete the polls and report back to the court.

However, the senior lawyer immediately agreed to inform the TNSEC about the four-month deadline given by the top court to hold the elections. "I will tell the [State] Election Commission to speed it up," Mr. Rohatgi

Senior advocate P. Wilson, appearing for petitioner S. Shankar, had agreed with the poll body's plea for more time.

"Mr. Wilson, you had

filed a petition for elections...Now you want adjournment?" Chief Justice Ramana asked the senior lawyer.

Mr. Wilson said "everyone wants elections" to the local bodies to be held. The new government, which was sworn in only in May, was working hard to achieve that goal, he added.

Mr. Wilson noted that there were over 600 urban local bodies in the State. He said his petition was originally about the prolonged delay in conducting the delimitation exercise and the elections to local bodies in 9 districts. That objective had been achieved.

During the previous hearing, the TNSEC had informed the court that the polls to the local bodies in the 9 new districts would be completed by October 12. The Commission had said it would then need a few months to prepare for the urban local body elections. considering the COVID-19

## Panchjanya calls Amazon 'East India Company 2.0'

Swadeshi Jagaran Manch flags flipping of Indian unicorns

NISTULA HEBBAR

Increasing concerns are being expressed by organisations associated with the RSS about the corporate sector in the country, not just India Inc but multinational corporations as well. Not only cover stories in

the RSS-associated Panchjanya magazine, which had taken on Amazon this week after attacking Infosys a couple of weeks ago, but also the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM), an organisation that lobbied successfully for India's exit from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), has been raising the red flag over what it terms "flipping" of Indian un-

In its second cover in three weeks, Panchianya dealt with the issue of Amazon and its alleged acts of omission and commission. After hitting out at the Infosys group in a cover story for the snags in India's Income Tax portal and attributing unsavoury motives to the mess-up, calling into ques-



A worker at an Amazon facility in Hyderabad.

tion the group's patriotism, this week, the magazine took on Amazon. The magazine termed the company "East India Company 2.0" for its "marauding, unethical ways", and alleged that the company had bribed In-

Last week, the Union government said it would probe the charges

The SJM, on its part, agreed with the sentiments expressed about Amazon, but had other concerns as well.

Ashwani Mahajan of the SJM said, "Our happiness with regard to our start-ups

is a short-term one, as we find that many have not remained Indian any more. Most of these high-ticket start-ups have been flipped away and are no longer Indian companies in essence."

"In the Sangh [RSS], we are not against wealth creators, but there is a definite nationality to capital, whether you agree or not. This flight of Indian capital and entrepreneurship is not something that has started now. Many changes have occurred in the last 30 years, but there are certain regulatory changes that the government can undertake even now to arrest this trend," he said.

"There is need to overhaul the system from policy, regulations, access to capital to push entities to register in India. The differential policies discriminating indigenous and attracting foreign entities needs to stop. However, to ultimately discourage Indian start-ups to flip, we need to take some tough measures as well, including those who flip, a foreign

## Upper castes dominate U.P. Cabinet

16 of the 24 Ministers belong to the category; seven are OBCs and one is a Dalit

OMAR RASHID LUCKNOW

On Sunday, on being inducted as a Minister, Jitin Prasada became the sixth Brahmin in the Cabinet of the Yogi Adityanath government of Uttar Pradesh and the 11th name from the influential community to feature in the Council of Ministers.

With the induction of seven new faces, the number of Ministers went up to 60. Apart from Mr. Prasada, the six new faces belong to Kurmi, Bind and Kumhar OBC communities, and Khatik Scheduled Caste (two) and Gond Scheduled Tribe (one).

The upper castes continue to dominate in terms of representation, forming the largest block, especially in terms of Cabinet berths and important Ministries.

With 11 names, Brahmins are the largest beneficiary, followed by Thakurs (seven)



Fresh take: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with the newly sworn-in Ministers in Lucknow on Sunday. • PTI

who belong to the traditional 'upper castes'.

The OBCs have 23 representatives, including a Sikh Jat, and Dalits have nine. One is a Shia Muslim.

The State now has 24 Cabinet Ministers. Of these, 16 belong to the 'upper castes', with Brahmins and Thakurs (Kshatriya) having five names each, as per official information. Mr. Adityanath, who is also a priest, was born a Kshatriva and his deputy, Dinesh Sharma, is a

The Cabinet also has three Khatris - Ashutosh Tandon, Suresh Khanna and Satish Mahana - and one each from the Bania (Nand Gopal Gupta), Bhumihar (Surya Pratap Shahi) and Kayasth

Keshav Prasad Maurya, also a Deputy Chief Minister, is among the seven OBCs in the Cabinet. He is joined by Swami Prasad Maurya, Rajbhar MLA Anil Rajbhar, Dara Singh Chauhan, Jat community members Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary and Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, and Mukut Bihari Verma, a Kurmi. The only Dalit in the Cabi-

(Sidharth Nath Singh) castes.

net belongs to the Kori subcaste, Ramapati Shastri. Tweeting after the latest

Cabinet expansion, Mr. Adityanath said it reflected the philosophy of Jan Sangh leader Deen Dayal Upadhayay. "Today's expansion is filled with the intent of providing representation to all sections, feeling of social balance, message of harmony and providing opportunity to the person standing on the last rung," he stated.

### 'Not justified to withhold pension'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Observing that it is not justified to withhold the pension of a freedom fighter, the Bombay High Court has di-

rected the Maharashtra government to reply to a plea by the widow. It was hearing a petition filed by Shalini Chavan, 90, wife of Laxman Ramchandra Chavan.

Phone: +91-145-2644507, Fax:+91-145-2644507, E-mail :- setwavvnl@gmail.com No. AVVNL/SE (TW) /XEN (TW-I)/AEN (III)/NIT /TN-412-424/ D. 864

NIT No. AJD/SE/TW/TN-412 for decide the Labour rate contract ( LRC 2022-23 NIT No. AJD/SE/TW/TN-413 for decide the Chemical Earthing at 500 Nos 33/11

KV GSS under domain of Ajmer Discom.

NIT No. AJD/SE/TW/TN-414 to TN-424 for decide the operation & maintenance of the control of the control

1615 Nos 33/11 KV Substation in domain of Aimer Discom

www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. In future corrigendum/extension, if any sh published only at website www.avvnl.com and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in NIB No. AVV2122A0667

ments.

Local leaders have been pressing the high command for organisational appointments so that the sembly election next year.

sence of a successor.

"For the past two monyet," said a senior leader.

**ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2021** (OJEE-2021)

No: OJEE / 337 Date: 27.09.2021

**NOTICE REGARDING WEB COUNSELLING FOR** B.TECH. / B.ARCH. / B. PLAN / INT. M.SC. PROGRAMMES

OJEE Web-based Counselling process for B.Tech./B.Arch./B. Plan./Int. M.Sc. will start tentatively in the 1st week of October, 2021. Hence, all students having JEE (MAIN) All India Rank (CRL) and interested to take part in OJEE counselling for admission to B.Tech./B.Arch./ B. Plan./Int. M.Sc. courses in any Government or Private colleges of Odisha are to follow the OJEE Counselling process. They can get detailed information regarding counselling schedule, process and seat matrix etc. that will be made available, before commencement of counselling, in OJEE websites (www.ojee.nic.in/www.odishajee.com).

At present, information such as seat matrix, opening and closing ranks of admission pertaining to last year (2020-21) are available in OJEE website for reference purpose.

Further, candidates are advised to obtain and keep ready with them, all necessary documents required like resident/nativity certificate, caste certificate, Income certificate for TFW claim etc. from appropriate authority well in advance to avoid last date rush.

CHAIRMAN, OJEE OIPR-14020/11/0013/2122



#### OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, Rourkela Govt. Hospital, Rourkela

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited from intending agency / firms / Suppliers through Speed Post / Register Post / Courier for supply of Printer, Inverter, Refrigerator & Furniture items for different programme for the year 2021-22. The willing reputed agency / firms / Suppliers are requested to submit sealed tenders to the office of the undersigned on or before 25.10.2021 till 5 P.M. Tender documents can be downloaded / obtained from the district website www.sundergarh.nic.in. This office will not entertain any tender after the due date / time fixed for at any circumstances. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or whole tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Director, Rourkela Govt. Hospital, Rourkela

OIPR-10158/11/0001/2122 =

#### Infrastructure Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Ltd. # RC.No.254/2, 4th Floor, AVSR Bhavan, Kanuru, Vijayawada-520007, A.P. India

SELECTION OF RETAINER CONSULTANT FOR PROVIDING SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF VARIOUS IDENTIFIED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE A.P. STATE Notice No. INCAP/P/Retainer Consultant/02/2021, Dt.25.09.2021 nfrastructure Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Ltd. (INCAP) invite

Proposals from reputed Consultancy firms for the captioned assignmen nterested consultancy firms may download the Request for Proposal RFP) document from the website of INCAP @ www.incap.co.in on 28.09.2021, 11:00 AM onwards. The last date for submission of the proposa s on or before 15:00 hours IST on 11.10.2021. All other details including any date extensions, clarifications, amendments

corrigenda, etc., will be uploaded only to the website of INCAP and will not be published in newspapers. Hence, Applicants may regularly visit the website of INCAP to keep themselves updated.

For any clarifications please send e-mail to: incapap@incap.co.in

Sd/- Vice Chairman & Managing Director

RWP/Bela Reqt: 100 Nos. [2] 1224 mm dia × 575 mm

**RAIL WHEEL FACTORY** Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560064 TENDER NOTICE No.RWF/S/P1/011/2021-22 dt 27.09.202 On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager invite lectronic Tenders from Interested Vendors for supply of the following item on the Indian Railways E-Portal – **www.ireps.gov.in.** The Tender document and the Corrigenda to the Tenders, if any, will be available on the Portal only SI Tender No Due date Short Description P1211544 08/10/2021 Graphite Powder as per RWF specification P1211545 08/10/2021 Graphite Granules as per RWF Specification 514 MT P1211566A 08/10/2021 Graphite Electrone RWF specification Flake/Granular type Phenol Formaldehyde 212880 F1211547 13/10/2021 Resin as per RWF specification kgs GLOBAL TENDER: Graphite Mould Blanks as per RWF specification [1] 1097 mm dia × 575 mm height – RWF Regt: 45 Nos.

height – RWF Reqt : 635 Nos., RWP/Bela Reqt : 150 Nos eramic Pouring Tubes as per RWF specification RWF Regt: 4532 Nos., RWP/Bela Regt: 1000 Nos Heavy Duty Dry Basic Ramming Mass as per RWF specificati 08/11/2021 RWF Reqt: 163 MT, RWP/Bela Reqt: 188 MT P3211046 DER NOTICE No.RWF/S/P2/002/2021-22 Dated: 21.09.2021 **Short Description** Tender No Due date Qty Tool Positioning Drive Assembly excluding P2215485B | 25/10/2021 | 2 Set Servo Motor and Flexible Coupling to M/s HMT Drawing No.Y 1292 - XXIII 0 consisting of Housing cover, Motor Shaft, Oil Seal Covers, Motor Mounting Housing, Axle, Cluster Gears, Spur Gears, Gear Shafts, Coupling Shafts Bearing Bush, Bearing Housings, Gear Housing, Spline Shaft, Special nut.

Rack, Guide Bush, Pinion Shaft, Friction Disc. MAKE: HMT ONLY.

P3211041

29/10/2021

**Principal Chief Materials Manager** 

### **WALLIAM AJMER VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED** (TURN-KEY WORKS CIRCLE)

E Bids in two parts (Techno Commercial bid and Price Bid) are invited from eligible contractors for tenders enquiry under TN-412-424 for Ajmer Discom.

All the details regarding tender is available at our website www.avvnl.com and

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI Office of the Chief Engineer e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE Adv.No.34/D3/CE/TTD/2021-22 e-tenders invited on e-procurement for Six (06) works of TTD Engineering Dept. End Date & Rs. in Lakhs & Time for **Start Date** for bid Completion Construction of addition 1990.00 29-09-2021 16-10-2021 57/ floors over existing Harin Hostel Block and SE-I/ 12 Months 5.00 p.m. 1.00 p.m. Conversion of rooms in Srinivasa and Gandh 3.00 p.m. 2021 Hostels in SPW College Construction of School 760.00 30-09-2021 | 18-10-2021 SE-I/ Building in S.V.Oriental High 1.00 p.m. School & S.V.Elementa 3.00 p.m. Providing facility 01-10-2021 | 19-10-2021 Open Tender SE-I/ 5.00 p.m. 1.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m. Govindaraja Swamy Choulti (2nd Choultry) & Sr Kodandarama Swam Choultry (3rd Choultry) Superintending Engineer-II 133/ Supply, erection, testing and 28-09-2021 14-10-2021 1.00 p.m. commissioning of package

type compact substation (11, 433 V, 500 KVA) 11 KV VCB 3.00 p.m. heater loads at variou Superintending Engineer-III 546.50 08-10-2021 25-10-2023

2021 etc.,) to SVIMS Hospita 22 Buildings, Tirupati 28/ Supply, erection and SE-III/ commissioning of compound cattle feed milling plant 2021 in cluding annual maintenance for 4 years with 650.00 30-09-2021 18-10-2023 9 Months 5.00 p.m. 1.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m.

Note: For full details log on to the website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. or http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in

27/ Supply, erection and SE-III/ commissioning of safety equipments (sprinklers & fire detection, alaram system 5.00 p.m.

one year warranty period i S.V. Gosamrakshana Shala

1.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m.

Roc.No.PR4/13934/Adv.No.175/PR0/2021/Dated:27-09-2021 EXECUTIVE OFFICER



survey launched: govt.

The Housing and Urban launched the seventh edition of the sanitation survey of cities conducted by the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban as well as a new version of the Swachhta app. Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would launch SBM-U 2.0 and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 on Friday. As a part of the celebrations of 75 years of Independence next year, the sanitation survey would have the theme of "Azaadi@75",

was hiked by 25 paise per litre the third increase since last week — and more rate hikes for both diesel and petrol are in the offing in the coming days as international oil prices have soared to a three-year high. The price of diesel was hiked to ₹89.32 per litre in Delhi and to ₹96.94 in Mumbai, according to a price notification of State-owned fuel retailers. This is the second straight day of increase in diesel prices and the third since September 24 when the State-owned oil firms ended a three-weel

### meets Akhilesh Yadav

Bahujan Samaj Party national general secretary R.S. Kushwaha met Samajwadi Monday, triggering speculation of shifting allegiance ahead of the next vear's Uttar Pradesh the interaction has been described by both sides as a "courtesy meeting". "Former (state) BSP president RS Kuswaha had a courtesy Akhilesh Yadav," the Samajwadi Party tweeted with a picture of both the leaders. PTI

## PM launches health ID for every citizen

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will bring revolutionary change in health facilities, says Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The campaign for strengthening health facilities that had been going on for the past seven years is entering a new phase today, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi while launching the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission via videoconferencing on Monday.

"Today, we are launching a mission that has the potential of bringing a revolutionary change in India's health facilities," he stated.

The Arogya Setu app helped in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 infection, he noted, and lauded CoWIN for its role in making India achieve a record administration of about 90 crore vaccine doses under the free vaccine campaign.

Referring to the use of technology in health, Mr. Modi pointed out that there had been an unprecedented **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** 

Virtual reality: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launching the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission in New Delhi on Monday. • PTI

during the pandemic period. So far, about 125 crore remote consultations had been completed through e-Sanjeevani. "This facility is connecting thousands of countrymen living in far-flung parts of the country every day with doctors of big hospitals of cities while sitting at home," he said.

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission would now connect the digital health solutions of hospitals across

A release issued by the Unwas holistic and inclusive. It ion government stressed that the mission would not only make the processes of hospitals simplified but also in-

this, every citizen would now get a digital health ID and their health records would be digitally protected.

crease ease of living. Under

the country with each other.

Holistic health model The Prime Minister highlighted that India was work-

also stressed on preventive healthcare and, in case of disease, easy, affordable and accessible treatment. Unprecedented reforms in health education was on. A much larger number of doctors

ing on a health model that

"A comprehensive network of All India Institutes of Medical Science [AIIMS] and

and paramedical manpower

was being created now.

tions is being established in the country and work on establishing one medical college in every three Lok Sabha constituencies is going on," he said.

Mr. Modi emphasised strengthening the health facilities in villages. He pointed to the strengthening of primary health centre networks and wellness centres. More than 80,000 such centres had already been operation-

## SC slams govt. for changes in NEET-SS exam pattern

Court lists the hearing for Monday

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday slammed the Union government for making changes at the eleventh hour in the examination pattern of the postgraduate National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Super Specialty 2021 (NEET-SS 2021).

"Young doctors cannot be left to the mercy of insensitive bureaucrats and cannot be treated like football," Justice D.Y. Chandrachud lashed out at the National Board of Examination (NBE) and the National Medical Commission (NMC), besides the Union government.

The NEET-SS is scheduled for November 13 and 14. The exam dates were announced on July 23. The change in pattern was announced on August 31.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna, on the Bench, observed that study

would be according to the pattern of the exam. A sudden change in the exam pattern at the last minute would leave floundering.

'Why the hurry?'

**Justice Chandrachud asked** the government why it was in such a hurry to change the pattern this year itself, and that too after the exam was notified.

"Students prepare for months for such exams... Just because you have power you are wielding power like this. Please speak to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to look at this," Justice Chandrachud said.

The hearing was based on a petition filed by over 40 doctors, who contended that the last-gasp changes were made to favour a particular branch of medicine.

The court listed the case

## Govt. notifies COVID compensation

In a letter to States, Ministry says ex gratia of ₹50,000 will be paid from the SDRF

Following a Supreme Court judgment, the Union Home Ministry has issued orders for an ex gratia of ₹50,000 to the next of kin of those who died of COVID-19.

sons have died of COVID-19 since the onset of the pan-

States, the Ministry said the amount would be disbursed from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

The SDRF is the primary



Family members and health workers with a patient at a hospital in New Delhi.

fund available with the State governments as part of their response to notified disasters to meet expenditure on providing immediate relief to victims.

#### Govt. contribution

The Union government contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States and Union Territories, and 90% for special category States (northeastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir).

COVID-19 was notified as a disaster by the Ministry on March 14, 2020.

gratia was applicable to the deceased, including those involved in relief operations or associated in preparedness activities "subject to the cause of death being certified as COVID-19" as per the guidelines issued by the Health Ministry and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on September

The assistance would be applicable from the date of the first case in the country and continue till the de-notification of COVID-19 as a dis-The Ministry said the ex aster or till further orders.

## Jaishankar in Mexico for Independence celebrations

He is scheduled to meet President, his Mexican counterpart

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is scheduled to meet his Mexican counterpart, Marcelo Ebrard, and President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Monday. Mr. Jaishankar, who is on a three-day visit to Mexico earlier, said in a social media message that he intended to participate in the celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of the Mexican Independence

"Participating in the celebrations of Mexico's 200th anniversary of attaining independence. We are working together in the United Nations Security Council. India is Mexico's ninth largest trade partner," said Mr. Jaishankar on arriving in



Rogelio Ramirez de la O on his arrival in Mexico City. • PTI

Mexico City. He also pointed out that this was the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister in 41 years.

As part of the celebrations, Mexico launched an exhibition titled "La Grandeza de Mexico" on Monday in the presence of foreign dignitaries. The exhibition is meant to showcase cultural and historical artefacts.

India and Mexico are serving as non-permanent members of the Security Council, which is discussing hotspots such as Afghanistan, Yemen,

## 'Only two States sought extra grains'

Telangana, Meghalaya sought allocations to provide rations to migrants: govt.

PRISCILLA IEBARAI NEW DELHI

Telangana and Meghalaya are the only States that have sought additional foodgrains from the Centre in pursuance of the Supreme Court's June order to provide dry rations to migrants without ration cards, according to the Food Ministry's response to a Right to Information (RTI) petition filed by an intervenor in the case. The Centre has not yet al-

located any grains for this purpose, and refused to release its correspondence with States on the issue, claiming exemption under the RTI Act on the grounds of a "fiduciary relationship".

In its June 29 judgment in a suo motu case on migrant workers and unorganised sector workers facing hard-



The Centre has not allocated grains for the schemes, and refused to release its correspondence with States. • v. RAJU

ships due to COVID-19, the court gave States a July 31 deadline to set up a scheme to distribute dry rations and run community kitchens for such workers as long as the pandemic continues, and directed the Centre to provide the needed grains.

On September 17, the Food Ministry said only Meghalaya and Telangana

had sought additional foodgrains for this purpose. It was responding to an RTI request filed by Right to Food

activist Anjali Bhardwaj, one of the intervenors in the Supreme Court case. Asked about the quantity of extra grains the Centre had given the States, the Food and Public Distribution Department said, "So far, no addi-

allocation has been foodgrains made..." "There is complete non-compliance and contempt of the SC direction," said Ms. Bhardwaj. The intervenors also sent legal notices to State governments regarding implementation of the SC order.

Ms. Bhardwaj had also asked for a copy of the correspondence between the Centre and the States regarding additional foodgrains. The Ministry denied the information, stating, "Section 8(1)(e) of the RTI Act 2005 exempts information available to a person in his fiduciary relationship from disclosure unless the competent authority is satisfied that the larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information."

## An institution's right to govt. aid is not a fundamental right: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The right of an institution. whether run by a majority or minority community, to get government aid is not a fundamental right. Both have to equally follow the rules and conditions of the aid, the Supreme Court held in a judgment on Monday.

"Whether it is an institution run by the majority or the minority, all conditions that have relevance to the proper utilisation of the

grant-in-aid by an educational institution can be imposed. All that Article 30(2) states is that on the ground that an institution is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language, grant of aid to that educational institution cannot be discriminated against, if other educational institutions are entitled to receive aid," a Bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and M.M. Sundresh said, referring to the court's T.M.A Pai decision. The Bench said if the government made a policy call to withdraw aid, an institution cannot question the decision as a "matter of right". An institution is free to choose to accept the grant with the conditions or go its own way, it said.

The judgment came in an appeal filed by Uttar Pradesh against a decision of the Allahabad High Court to declare unconstitutional a provision of the Intermediate Education Act, 1921.

## TH CROSSWORD+ 13363

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



Display keystrokes of genius.

20 Second or third seed gets into final, that's bare minimum (5)

**21** Some of it explains ongoing group singing (9)

25 Issue is back – President hasn't finished with his magic cure (7)

26 At home, the way everything's put in place (7)

28 Bird's fed some cheese (7)

1 Same form, half exposed as being unethical (6)

2 Out on a limb, perhaps - boot out old boys (6)

4 Chance to get sick accommodation (6)

5 Official language (8) 6 Hair cut, now no approach (4,4,2)

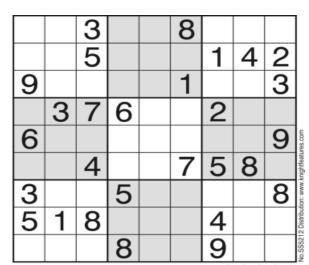
7 Changed mind midway, not to step on it (8)

8 She gets dividends from both sides – workers, they keep the stock (8) 14 Choose to talk to those who vote (10)

**18** Incomplete – I plan to raise this hormone (8)

**27** Active agent provocateur finally nabbed (4)

#### **SUDOKU**



#### Solution to nuzzle 13362

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

| 30 | Solution to puzzle 15502 Solution to yesterday 5 Sudoku |           |   |   |            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|----|---|-----------|---|---|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|
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| В  | 0   | Ν         | Α | F | Ι          | D | Е |   | Т | Τ | R | ı | L | L | П | Ø | / | 2        | 4 | Ш | 3 | 9 | р | 5  |
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## **FAITH**

### Tat Tvam Asi explained

The Bhagavad Gita is held to be the essence of the Ultimate Truth which is the subject matter of the entire Vedas. In a discourse, Swamini Satyavratananda drew attention to the views of interpreters who have shown that the import of the Mahavakya 'Tat Tvam Asi' is made clear in a systematic way in this text. It is customary to view the 18 chapters of the Gita as three shadgams or sections of six chapters each. In each of these sections, three broad topics are dealt with. In the first set of six chapters, the three topics discussed are jiva vichara, the sadana of karma yoga to attain moksha, and the human effort, purusha prayatna, to gain self knowledge.

The second shadgam discusses Ishwara swaroopa, the sadana of upasana yoga or meditation on Saguna Brahman, and Ishwara Kripa. The focus in the third shadgam is on the oneness of Paramatma and jivatma, the sadana of jnana yoga through practices such as sravana, manana, nidhidyasa, etc., and the importance of character building by cultivating worthy qualities and virtues.

It is shown that the first topic in each of the three shadgams, namely jiva vichara, Ishwara vichara and Jiva-Brahma Aikya Jnana, respectively unfolds the explanation of the three terms Tvam, Tat and Asi in the Mahavakya. The 'Tvam' pada refers to the essential nature of the individual soul, the 'Tat' pada is about the nature of the Supreme Brahman and the 'Asi' pada affirms the oneness of Paramatma and the jivatma. The second and the third topics in each of three sections deal with yoga sadanas, karma, bhakti and inana and importance of human effort, God's grace and the cultivation of Daivi sampath or virtues. The practical integration of the Gita teaching in one's life along with faith in Ishwara Kripa is sure to lead one to the state of a jivanmukta.

**9** Dug up within a country – tale of a small town... (7)

11 Give it a different shape — shift more in front, towards left (7)

13 County gets snow – by the way, it's part of film review (9)

10 ... mean time include velocity one more time (7)

**15** Stand topless, showing boredom (5)

ACROSS



#### hiatus in rates. PTI **BSP** leader Kushwaha

Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Assembly election. However, meeting with party president

16 Back without care (4,3)

**19** One eager to follow the last man of cloth (7)

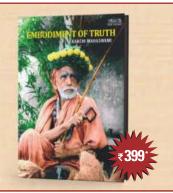
29 Doctor makes boy consume egg (7)

3 Felt bad when told it's abusive (4)

16 Islanders stand outside crease (8) 17 Starts new socialistic movement in characteristic broadcast (8)

22 From Himalayas, lay out another religious doctrine (6) 23 Herb's losing head, rearing an ass (6)

24 Seen regularly during festival — will it provide some lead? (6)



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|           | 27-09-2021 | % CHANGE |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Sensex    | 60,078     | 0.05     |
| US Dollar | 73.83      | -0.20    |
| Gold      | 45,110     | -0.07    |
| Brent oil | 79.48      |          |

| Brent oil         | 79.48       |        |
|-------------------|-------------|--------|
|                   | , , , , , , |        |
| NIFTY 50          |             |        |
|                   | PRICE       | CHANG  |
| Adani Ports       | 750.25      | 5.4    |
| Asian Paints      | 3430.65     | 17.9   |
| Axis Bank         | 796.95      | 1.1    |
| Bajaj Auto        | 3913.40     | 103.6  |
| Bajaj Finserv     | 18031.10    | -494.9 |
| Bajaj Finance     | 7795.45     | 2.0    |
| Bharti Airtel     |             |        |
| BPCL              | 420.60      | 5.8    |
| Britannia Ind     | 4009.60     | 33.3   |
| Cipla             | 962.70      | 4.9    |
| Coal India        | 167.05      | 0.9    |
| Divis Lab         |             |        |
| Dr Reddys Lab     | 4791.65     | 1.3    |
| Eicher Motors     | 2879.35     | 51.6   |
| Grasim Ind        | 1648.80     | 19.0   |
| HCL Tech          | 1295.20     | 63.0   |
| HDFC              | 2839.80     | 0.8    |
| HDFC Bank         |             |        |
| HDFC Life         |             |        |
| Hero MotoCorp     |             |        |
| Hindalco          |             |        |
| Hind Unilever     |             |        |
| ICICI Bank        |             |        |
| IndusInd Bank     |             |        |
| Infosys           |             |        |
| Indian OilCorp    |             |        |
| ITC               |             |        |
| JSW Steel         |             |        |
| Kotak Bank        |             |        |
| L&T               |             |        |
| M&M               |             |        |
| Maruti Suzuki     |             |        |
| Nestle India Ltd. |             |        |
| NTPC              |             |        |
| ONGC              |             |        |
| PowerGrid Corp    |             |        |
| Dalianaa lad      |             |        |

| Tutu Wotors   | 551.05  | 13.7   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Tata Steel  | 1270.50 | -1.6   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TCS   | 3836.95 | 34.3   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tech Mahindra   | 1464.40 | 50.3   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Titan   | 2090.25 | -2.6   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| UltraTech Cement  | 7622.90 | 101.4  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| UPL   | 725.85. | 7.2    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wipro   | 653.90  | 22.6   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |         |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| <b>EXCHANGE RA</b>  | ATES    |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicative direct rates in rupees a uni<br>except yen at 4 p.m. on September 27 |         |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CURRENCY  | TT BUY  | TT SEL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| US Dollar   | 73.64   | 73.96  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Euro  | 86.23   | 86.60  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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IN BRIEF



#### Shell arm, ReadyAssist aim to create 6,500 jobs

Shell Lubricants India said it has partnered roadside assistance start-up ReadyAssist to create about 6,500 mechanic jobs. With this, ReadyAssist will be available at 5,500 third-party retail points where clients can avail lubechange service on purchase of Shell lubricants.

#### MPL, U.K's Econic to unveil 'green' polyols

Manali Petrochemicals (MPL) has signed a pact with the U.K.'s Econic Technologies for introducing a more eco-friendly CO2-containing polyols on trial basis. "This involves MPL and Econic collaborating to scale the technology at MPL's pilot plant in India," said MPL.

#### 'Business travellers want to resume work trips'

BENGALURU Indian business travellers (99%) want to resume work trips within the next 12 months, as per SAP Concur study. Some 78% of business professionals in India were eager to recommence travel. Some 3.850 business travellers in 25 geographies, were part of the study.

#### Toyota Kirloskar to stop making Yaris sedan

NEW DELH Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has discontinued its Yaris sedan in India from September 27. TKM said it will continue to cater to the needs of all Yaris customers through dealer service outlets while also promising availability of genuine spare parts for at least 10 years.



## ICRA raises FY22 growth estimate to 9%

Potential third wave, efficacy of existing vaccines against possible new variants remain key risks: Nayar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rating agency ICRA has bumped up GDP growth forecast for 2021-22 to 9% from 8.5%, citing better prospects for the second half of the year due to a ramp-up in CO-VID-19 vaccination and healthy Kharif estimates.

A potential third wave, and whether existing vaccines can protect against new variants that might emerge, remain key risks, ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said. ICRA expects higher government spending to boost growth in the second half of the year, in con-



Loosen purse strings: ICRA expects higher government spending to boost growth in the second half of the year. • AFP

trast to the first quarter when government consumption expenditure had trailed last year's levels. On the vaccination drive, ICRA estimates almost three-fourths of Indian adults could receive their second COVID-19 vaccine shot by the end of 2021, if the average of 7.9 mil-

lion daily doses between September 1 and 26, can be sustained. This should help boost demand for contact-intensive services in the fourth quarter, although some services such as business travel may revert to pre-Covid levels with a longer lag, the agency pointed out.

Ms. Nayar said increasing vaccine coverage would boost confidence and reenergise demand for contact-intensive services, thus helping revive parts of the economy worst affected by the pandemic.

While industrial trends remained lacklustre in September, indicated by a flattening out of GST e-way bills, and dampened electricity demand due to heavy rains, ICRA noted this was also likely to distort trends in mining and construction. Agriculture, though, is expected to do better than anticipated.

"Late sowing has helped bring Kharif acreage nearly at par with last year's record area. The first Advance Estimates of crop production signal a robust rise in Kharif output, barring coarse cereals and oilseeds, quelling concerns raised by the uneven monsoon and episodes of flooding," she said.

## Centre to extend foreign trade policy till March '22

Earlier extension gave time till Sept. 30

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said the existing foreign trade policy (FTP) will be extended till March 31 next year. The Centre had earlier extended the FTP 2015-20 until September 30 this year due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The FTP provides guidelines for enhancing exports to push economic growth and create jobs. "We are notifying it today evening or tomorrow... We have decided to extend the policy until March 31 [2022]... and in the



Piyush Goyal

[new] financial year, we can start with the new policy," he told reporters here.

The Minister expressed hope that by that time, CO-VID-19 issues would have been resolved.

## SES asks Finolex shareholders to vote against 'key resolutions'

Proxy advisory firm says company faces governance issues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Proxy advisory firm Stakeholder Empowerment Services (SES) has advised shareholders of Finolex Cables Ltd. (FCL) to vote against several key proposed resolutions at the company's AGM on September 29, citing go-

SES claimed the board of directors of the company,

which had appointed P.R. Barpande, Avinash Shridhar Khare and Firoza Fredoon Kapadia as additional directors on September 30, 2020, was now seeking approval from shareholders to appoint the three as directors liable to retire by rotation, and again appoint them as independent directors for a term of 5 years each not liable to retire by rotation, by

way of resolutions.

"The drafting of resolution does not clearly show as to what is the intent of the company for placing two different resolutions for same appointee," it said.

Mahesh Viswanathan, CEO, FCL, said the firm was "in compliance with law, and [follows] requisite standards of corporate gover-

### Govt. to borrow ₹5.03 lakh cr. in second half

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Centre will borrow ₹5.03 lakh crore in the second half of the current fiscal to fund the revenue gap for reviving the pandemichit economy, the Finance Ministry said on Monday.

The projection also factors in requirements for release of balance amount to States on account of backto-back loan facility in lieu of GST compensation during the year, it added.

## BPCL to invest ₹1 lakh cr. over 5 years: chairman

Firm to raise petrochemical output

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) plans to invest more than ₹1 lakh crore over the next five years in increasing petrochemical production capacity, gas business, clean fuel and augmenting marketing infras-

tructure, a top official sad. "We shall be investing more than ₹1 lakh crore at the group level majorly in enhancing petrochemical ca-

pacity and improving refinefficiencies, proliferation, upstream oil and gas exploration and production and augmenting (fuel) marketing infrastructure," said Arun Kumar Singh, chairman, while addressing the company's an-

"It has taken concrete steps to pursue these areas in a concerted manner," he

nual general meeting.

(With PTI inputs)

### IFIN to sell 62 NPAs worth ₹4,297 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**IL&FS Financial Services** (IFIN), a wholly owned subsidiary of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services, on Monday placed 62 non-performing asset (NPA) accounts worth ₹4,297 crore on sale via the 'Swiss Challenge' route.

Eligible applicants will have to submit a binding bid to purchase the entire sale asset book comprising all 62 accounts, IFIN said.

### 'Govt. focused on clearing tea subsidy dues'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Centre is focusing more on clearing the subsidy dues to the tea sector and has made provisions for ₹298.76 crore for the same, Anupriya Singh Patel, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, said on Monday.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the United Planters' Association of Southern India, on the virtual platform, the Minister said the Tea Development and Promotion Scheme had been extended till 2025-26.

The outlay for the entire tea sector was ₹967 crore, she said. Though the orthodox tea incentives had been discontinued, the focus was on clearing the pending subsidy claims. On concerns over tea imports, she said the Tea Board was monitoring it.

## Attrition in IT sector to

MINI TEJASWI

cialist staffing firm.

"With an average of 23% attrition projected on a talent base of 5 million, the sector is set to witness over 1 million talent movements this year," said Kamal Karanth, co-founder, Xpheno. Overall attrition in the

sector has not changed in the last four years, but its status shifted from 'highly involuntary' until a year earlier to 'highly voluntary' in the current fiscal. "Attrition rates for FY20 and FY21 and expected levels for FY22 are largely the same. The difference is the shift from involuntary to voluntary attrition. The onset of the

As recruitment is

candidates are able to engage with 10-15 firms simultaneously

of involuntary attrition with enterprises cutting down on flab in response to the market lockdown," pointed out Mr. Karanth. Voluntary attrition refers to employees quitting of their own accord,

Work-from-home made job-hunting easy. "Techies

## cross 1 million this year'

'Staff leave for greener pastures'

BENGALURU

The IT sector is set to witness attrition of more than 1.15 million this fiscal according to Xpheno, a spe-

pandemic triggered a wave

## likely for better prospects.

are able to engage with 10-15 prospective employers simultaneously, compared to 2 or 3, pre-pandemic. Sitting at home, they take job interviews, complete the recruitment process and collect offer letters," said B.S Murthy, CEO, Leadership Capital, a tech hiring and adviso-

## 'Cyberattacks caused up to ₹7-cr. loss for SMBs'

Preparedness poor: study respondents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Cyberattacks led to loss of up to ₹7 crore for small and medium businesses (SMBs) in the last 12 months, according to a study by Cisco.

Some 62% of SMBs said they incurred business losses of more than ₹3.5 crore while about 13% of respondents lost more than ₹7 crore because of cyber-intrusions in the last one year, the study showed on Monday.

About 74% of domestic SMBs witnessed a cyber incident in the past year, resulting in 85% of them losing customer information to malicious actors, in addition to a tangible impact on

In India, malware attacks,



which affected 92% of SMBs. topped the charts, followed by phishing (76%). Some 38% of those that suffered incidents said the number one cause for the loss was not having cybersecurity solutions

About 36% ranked cybersecurity solutions not being adequate to detect or prevent the attack as the number one reason, as per the study conducted among 1014 SMBs in the country.

### SIMA seeks 5% GST across textiles sector

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

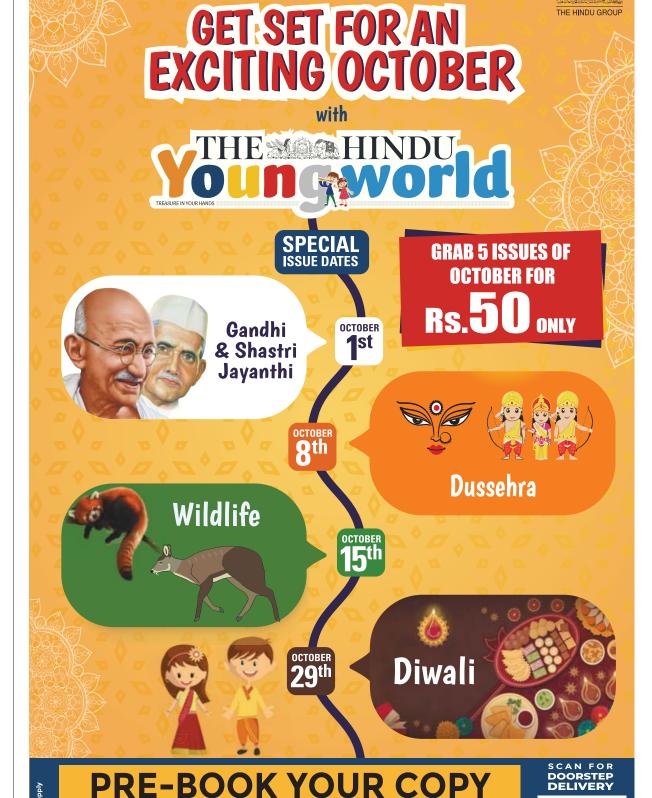
The textile and clothing industry has sought a uniform 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) across the textile value chain.

Ravi Sam, chairman of the Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA), and vice-chairman Durai Palanisamy told journalists here on Monday that the cotton textiles sector had an uniform GST rate of 5%.

Reports indicate that the government is looking at 12% rate from January 2022 for fabrics and garments priced less than ₹1,000. "The SIMA wants un-

iform 5% rate," Mr. Palanisamy said. "If there is uniform rate at 5%, the compliance will

be more," said Mr. Sam.



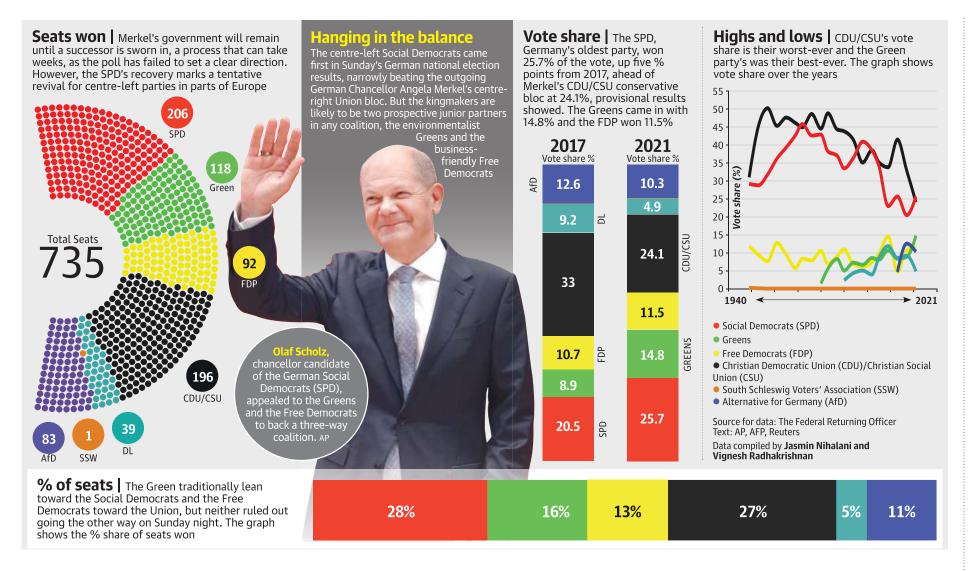
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## SPD narrowly beats Merkel's party in German polls

The centre-left party, which won 25.7% of the vote, ahead of CDU/CSU conservative bloc's 24.1%, seeks a three-way alliance

German Social Democrat Olaf Scholz vowed on Monday to strengthen the European Union and keep up the transatlantic partnership in a three-way coalition government he hopes to form by Christmas to take over from Angela Merkel's conservatives.

Mr. Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD) came first in Sunday's national election, just ahead of the conservatives, and aim to lead a government for the first time since 2005 in a coalition with the Greens and the liberal Free Democrats (FDP).

Mr. Scholz, 63, projected a sense of calm assurance when asked whether the close election result and the prospect of prolonged coalition negotiations sent a message of instability in Germany to its European partners.

"Germany always has coalition governments and it was always stable," he said in fluent English, standing beside a statue of Willy Brandt, a Cold War-era SPD Chancellor awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for fostering dialogue between East and West.

The SPD, Germany's oldest party, won 25.7% of the vote, up five percentage points from the 2017 federal election, ahead of Ms. Merkel's CDU/CSU conservative bloc on 24.1%, provisional results showed. The Greens came in with 14.8% and the FDP won 11.5%.

The SPD's recovery marks a tentative revival for centre-

left parties in parts of Europe, following the election of Democrat Joe Biden as U.S. President in 2020. Norway's centre-left Opposition party also won an election earlier this month.

**Transatlantic ties** 

Mr. Scholz, who served as Finance Minister in Ms. Merkel's outgoing 'grand coalition', said a government led by him would offer the U.S. continuity in transatlantic relations.

"The transatlantic partnership is of essence for us in Germany... So you can rely on continuity in this question," he said, adding it was important for democracies to work together in a dangerous world even allowing for



Armin Laschet

Mr. Scholz said he hoped to agree a coalition before Christmas, "if possible". With the election results, he said, voters have clearly told the conservatives to go and sit in the Opposition.

However, his conservative rival Armin Laschet, 60, said he could still try to form a go-

vernment despite leading his CDU-CSU bloc to their worst ever national election result.

The parties will start sounding each other out on Monday about possible alliances informal discussions.

The Greens and FDP said late on Sunday they would first talk to each other to seek areas of compromise before starting negotiations with either the SPD or the conservatives.

**Investor relief** 

German shares rose on Monday, with investors pleased that the pro-business FDP looked likely to join the next government while the far-left Linke failed to win enough votes to be considered as a coalition partner.

"From a market perspective, it should be good news that a left-wing coalition is mathematically impossible,"

said Jens-Oliver Niklasch,

LBBW economist, adding

that other parties had

enough in common to find a working compromise. Ms. Merkel, who did not seek a fifth term as Chancellor, will stay on in a caretaker role during the coalition negotiations that will set the fu-

ture course of Europe's lar-

gest economy. If Mr. Scholz succeeds in forming a coalition, the former Mayor of Hamburg would become only the fourth post-Second World War SPD Chancellor and the first since Ms. Merkel took over from Gerhard Schroed-

## U.K. warship makes rare transit via Taiwan Strait

China strongly condemns the move

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Royal Navy said a British warship was sailing through the Taiwan Strait on Monday, a move that challenges Beijing's claim to the sensitive waterway and marks a rare voyage by a non-U.S. military vessel.

"After a busy period working with partners and allies in the East China Sea, we are now en route through the Taiwan Strait to visit Vietnam and the Vietnam People's Navy," read a tweet from the official account for HMS Richmond, a frigate deployed with Britain's aircraft carrier strike group.

Local media said it was the first time a British warship had transited through the narrow waterway separating Taiwan and mainland China.

The British Navy survey ship HMS Enterprise transited through the strait in 2019. The U.K.'s Defence Ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

U.S. warships regularly conduct "freedom of navigation" exercises in the strait and trigger angry responses from Beijing, which claims Taiwan and surrounding waters - and almost all of the South China

The U.S. and most other countries view those areas as international waters that should be open to all vessels.

China's initial response to the British warship's passage was muted on Monday.

"We hope the relevant countries can do more to build mutual trust between countries and uphold peace and security in the region," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters.

'Evil intentions'

Later, the People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre Command said it has organised air and naval forces to



Hua Chunying

follow the Richmond and warn it.

"This kind of behaviour harbours evil intentions and damages peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," it said. "Theatre command forces always maintain a high level of alert and resolutely counter all threats and provocations."

Until recently, Washington was the main global power willing to sail through the Taiwan Strait.

#### **Military threats**

But a growing number of U.S. allies have transited the route as Beijing intensifies its military threats towards Taiwan and solidifies its control over the disputed South China Sea. Canadian, French and

Australian warships have all made voyages through the Taiwan Strait in recent years, sparking protests from China.

Taiwan's Defence Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng confirmed to reporters that a foreign vessel had sailed through the waterway but did not state which country it was from.

Taiwan's 23 million people live under constant threat of invasion by authoritarian China, which has vowed to seize the island one day - by force if necessary.

Beijing has stepped up military, diplomatic and economic pressure on Taiwan since the election of +President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016, who views the island as "already independent".

## Canada should draw lessons from Huawei case, says China

'2 Canadians confessed their guilt, freed on medical ground'

The release of Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou shows China's strength and Canada should "draw lessons," China's Foreign Ministry said on Monday, after State media called it an opportunity for a reboot of bilateral relations.

Ms. Meng landed in Huawei's home city of Shenzhen aboard a government-chartered plane on Saturday to much fanfare, ending her near three-year U.S. extradition fight, the same day two Canadians detained by Beijing shortly after Ms. Meng's 2018 detention returned home.

Ms. Meng's return shows the ability of the Chinese government and ruling Communist Party to protect its ci-

companies, and interests, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular daily briefing.

The two Canadians, Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, who had been imprisoned on espionage accusations, left China within hours of Meng's release from house arrest. The cases involving the

Canadians were "completely different" from Ms. Meng's, which was a case of "political persecution," Ms. Hua

"Canada should draw lessons and act according to its own interests," she added.

Canada had called the arrest of the two an act of "hostage diplomacy," a characterisation China repeat-

The Global Times late on Sunday said that Mr. Kovrig and Mr. Spavor had "confessed their guilt" and were released on bail for medical reasons before departing China.

> Mr. Spavor was accused of supplying photographs of military equipment to Kovrig and sentenced to 11 years in jail in August. Mr. Kovrig been awaiting sentencing.

Ms. Meng's release was an opportunity to improve relations with Canada and the U.S. but "toxic political rhetoric" could still "poison" the atmosphere", China's Global Times tabloid said.

Ms. Meng was allowed to go home after reaching an agreement with U.S. prosecutors on Friday to end a bank fraud case against her.

## 'Biden aide to meet Saudi Crown Prince on Yemen'

NSA Sullivan would also visit the UAE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Joe Biden's National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan is travelling to Saudi Arabia on Monday to meet with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as the U.S. presses for a ceasefire in the years-long war between the kingdom and Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Mr. Sullivan will be the highest-ranking Biden administration official to visit Saudi Arabia. Besides seeing the Crown Prince, Mr. Sullivan is expected to meet with Deputy Defence Minster Khalid bin Salman, a brother to the Crown Prince, according to two senior administration officials. The officials were not authorised to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The Biden White House

has largely steered clear of the Crown Prince since making public in February a CIA report that showed MBS likely approved the killing of Washington Post columnist and Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi in a 2018 operation at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul.

But the White House has resolved that bringing an end to perhaps the world's most complex conflict needs engaging with the most senior Saudi officials face to face, an official said.

National Security Council spokesperson Emily Horne said Mr. Sullivan would also visit the UAE, a Saudi ally in

The Saudis have drawn international criticism for airstrikes killing civilians and embargoes exacerbating hunger in a nation on the brink of famine.

## More than 60 killed in fierce fighting for Yemen's Marib

Saudi-led coalition carried out air strikes on Houthi rebels

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sixty-seven Yemeni rebels and pro-government troops have been killed as fighting intensifies for the key city of Marib, military and medical sources said on Monday.

A volley of air strikes from the Saudi-led coalition targeted the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, who have stepped up their assault on the government's last northern stronghold.

Hundreds of fighters have died this month after the Houthis renewed their campaign for the capital city of oil-rich Marib province.

"Fifty-eight Houthi insurgents and nine loyalists were killed in fighting and air strikes in the provinces of Marib and Shabwa in the past 24 hours," military



Fierce battle: A Yemeni government fighter fires at Houthi rebels from a vehicle-mounted weapon in Marib. • REUTERS/FILE

sources said, in figures that were confirmed by medical sources.

The rebels rarely announce their casualties.

According to the military sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the Saudi-led coalition launched more than 20 air strikes in the past 24 hours.

"It targeted Houthi vehicles, meeting points and reinforcements in Shabwa and Marib," they added.

The Houthis initially escalated their efforts to seize Marib in February, hoping to seize control of the region's oil resources and strengthen their position in peace negotiations.

# **ELSEWHERE**

Macron hit with egg during visit to fair

A man pelted French President Emmanuel Macron with an egg while he was visiting a restaurant and hotel trade fair in the southeastern city of Lyon on Monday. The egg hit his shoulder but bounced off without breaking. The assailant was quickly subdued. More recently, a man slapped him across the face while he was shaking hands with well-wishers in the southern city of Valence in June. AFP

## ICC prosecutor targets Taliban, IS-K in probe

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The International Criminal Court's new prosecutor sought on Monday to relaunch an investigation into Afghanistan, focusing on the Taliban and the Islamic State-Khorasan group while alleged U.S. crimes will take a back seat.

Karim Khan, who took over in June, said the situation in Afghanistan following the Taliban's takeover last month meant war crimes were no longer likely

to be investigated properly. A lawyer for alleged victims of U.S. torture in Afghanistan said she was

"stunned" after Mr. Khan announced he would "deprioritise" the investigation into American forces, a probe that has long enraged Washington.

The ICC's inquiry had been put on hold in 2020 after the now-deposed government in Kabul said it would try to investigate war crimes allegations itself.

Mr. Khan said that the "current de facto control of Afghanistan by the Taliban, and its implications (including for law enforcement and judicial activity) represents a fundamental change in circumstances necessitating the present application."

### Afghan envoy pulls out of **UNGA** debate

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Afghanistan's Ambassador to the United Nations pulled out of delivering an address to world leaders at the General Assembly later on Monday, a UN spokesperson said.

Ghulam Isaczai, who represented the previous government, had been due to defy the Taliban with a speech but his name was removed from the list of speakers on Monday.

A UNGA spokeswoman said Afghanistan's mission to the UN had not cited a reason for the withdrawal.

## Afghan entrepreneur says Taliban will not silence her

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

An Afghan business leader who employs hundreds of women on her saffron fields has vowed to speak up for the rights of her workers, and "not remain silent" under Taliban rule.

The hardliners have increasingly excluded women from public life since sweeping to power in mid-August, pushing many women entrepreneurs to flee the country or go into hiding.

"We will raise our voice so that it reaches their ears," said Shafiqeh Attai, who



started her saffron company in the western city of Herat in 2007.

"No matter what happens we won't just sit at home, because we have worked very

Ms. Attai's business, the



Pashton Zarghon Saffron

"I worked hard to establish my business," the 40year-old said. "We don't want to sit quietly and be ignored. Even if they ignore us, we will not remain silent."

### Pfizer starts large trial for anti-Covid pill AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

Pfizer said on Monday it had begun a middle-to-late stage clinical trial of its drug, called PF-07321332, to stave off COVID-19 in people who are exposed to infection.

Pfizer started working on the pill in March 2020 and is testing it in combination with ritonavir, a repurposed HIV medicine. Sevcompanies working on oral antivirals, which would mimic what the drug Tamiflu does for influenza and prevent the disease from progressing.

## Roy-powered SRH ends losing run

Williamson guides side home after opener's rapid 60; Samson's 82 not enough

#### IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

Tason Roy, playing his first  $\bf J$  IPL game in three years, showed on Monday night what the world's most glamorous cricket league had been missing.

The England opener (60, 42 balls, 8x4, 1x6) starred in Sunrisers Hyderabad's seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals, with nine balls to spare, at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Roy could not have hoped for a better start to his innings with SRH; he was given the cap at the expense of the out-of-form David Warner.

Skipper Kane Williamson (51 not out, 41b, 5x4, 1x6) was content to play second fiddle during his secondwicket partnership of 57 with Roy, but after the latter gifted his wicket away, he took over and guided his side to what was only its second win of the season.

Chasing 165, SRH was given a brisk start by Roy and Wriddhiman Saha, who added 57 in just five overs. But RR captain Sanju Samson's decision to introduce the left-arm spin of Mahipal Lomror in the last over of the PowerPlay paid off.

#### **Lomror strikes**

Lomror's first ball sneaked under the bat of Saha, who had stepped out, and fellow wicketkeeper Samson dislodged the stumps.

But Williamson's calm nerves and sweet timing ensured that RR needed to wait for a while before it got another wicket, in the shape

The opener, not long after hitting Rahul Tewatia for 18 runs and getting dropped in the same over, perished, appearing as though he were giving catching practice to



Royal feast: Roy tore apart Rajasthan's attack, putting to shade Samson's effort. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Samson off Chetan Sakariya. Although Priyam Garg followed Roy back to the hut for a duck, Abhishek Sharma (21 not out) played the perfect supporting role to his cap-

tain fantastic. Earlier, there was a captain's innings from Samson, too. Sadly for him, it didn't prove enough, just as his unbeaten 70 wasn't against Delhi Capitals on Saturday.

He made a fine 82 (57 balls, 7x4, 3x6) and added 56 for the second wicket with

Yashasvi Jaiswal (36, 23b, 5x4, 1x6). RR could only manage 21 off the last three overs, with Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Siddharth Kaul doing a good job at the death. That would prove cru-

Sunrisers won by seven wick-

SRH

37

16

63/1

ets with nine balls to spare.

Dots

RR

Next assignment

RR: Sept. 29 vs RCB,

SRH: Sept. 30 vs CSK,

Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

Innings scan

RR

38

14

49/1

Toss: RR; MoM: Roy.

#### **SCOREBOARD**

#### **RAJASTHAN ROYALS**

Evin Lewis c Samad Bhuvneshwar 6 (4b, 1x4), Yashasvi Jaiswal b Sandeep 36 (23b, 5x4, 1x6), Sanju Samson c Holder b Kaul 82 (57b, 7x4, 3x6), Liam Livingstone c Samad b Rashid 4 (6b), Mahipal Lomror (not out) 29 (28b, 1x4, 1x6), Riyan Parag c Roy b Kaul O (1b), Rahul Tewatia (not out) O (1b); Extras (b-1, lb-3, w-3): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 164.

#### **FALL OF WICKETS**

1-11 (Lewis, 1.1 ov), 2-67 (Jaiswal, 8.4), 3-77 (Livingstone, 10.1), 4-161 (Samson, 19.2), 5-162 (Parag, 19.4).

**SUNRISERS BOWLING** Sandeep 3-0-30-1, Bhuvneshwar 4-1-28-1, Holder 4-0-27-0, Kaul 4-0-36-2, Rashid 4-0-31-1, Abhishek 1-0-8-0 SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Jason Rov c Samson b Sakariva 60 (42b, 8x4, 1x6), Wriddhiman Saha st. Samson b Lomror 18 (11b, 2x4, 1x6), Kane Williamson (not out) 51 (41b, 5x4, 1x6), Priyam Garg c & b Mustafizur O (1b), Abhishek Sharma (not out) 21 (16b, 1x4, 1x6); Extras (b-4, lb-4, w-9): 17; Total (for three wkts. in 18.3 overs): 167.

**FALL OF WICKETS** 1-57 (Saha, 5.1), 2-114 (Roy, 11.6), 3-119 (Garg, 12.6).

**ROYALS BOWLING** 

Unadkat 2-0-20-0, Morris 3-0-27-0, Mustafizur 3.3-0-26-1, Lomror 3-0-22-1, Tewatia 3-0-

## KKR has a score to settle with DC

Knight Riders hampered by Russell injury; Capitals aiming for top spot

SPORTS BUREAU

 $W^{
m hat}$  compounded Kolkata Knight Riders' pain at Sunday's last-ball loss to Chennai Super Kings was the injury to star all-rounder Andre Russell. Considering that KKR has some distance to cover for a place in the playoffs, Russell's availability assumes importance.

The extent of Russell's injury, suspected to be a pulled hamstring, is not known but KKR would prefer to have him back for its last three games following Tuesday's clash against Delhi Capitals at Sharjah.

DC has twice the number of points as KKR but cannot



Going flat out: It will be an interesting battle between Rabada and the KKR openers, Gill and Venkatesh. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

afford to be complacent against a rival keen to avenge the seven-wicket loss suffered at Ahmedabad. Notably for DC, that win triggered off its current four-match winning streak.

Having taken care of the passage into the playoffs, DC's next goal – like CSK – is to finish first or second in the league.

After KKR, DC faces Mumbai Indians, CSK and Royal CSK, besides DC, its other rivals are from the lower half Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan Royals and Punjab

KKR, first among equals involving teams on eight points, has done well after resuming its campaign. Now, KKR's in-form top-order faces a severe test from DC's impressive bowling in the first PowerPlay.

DC and KKR will be playing their second successive day-game after weekend clashes at Abu Dhabi.

Given a choice, KKR may prefer to bat second considering its last two, comfortable victories came when

## A must-win game for MI and PBKS

Suryakumar and Ishan will be under the scanner

**TODAY'S MATCHES** 

SPORTS BUREAU

 $W^{
m hile}$  responding to a query on Hardik Pandya's fitness, Mumbai Indians bowling coach Shane Bond had stressed last week that the franchise was "balancing the needs of the team with Team India's as well" ahead of the T20 World Cup.

However, given its wobbly middle-order where Surya-

SHARJAH, 3.30 P.M. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 26

In 2021

Played **1** | KKR **0** | DC **1** 

kumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan have been struggling for runs, MI would be keen to include Hardik in the XI again.

The all-rounder had returned for the previous match against RCB, which his team lost by a big margin. On Tuesday, MI and Pun-

jab Kings meet in a must-win affair for both teams. Skipper Rohit Sharma will be hoping that Suryakumar

and Ishan, who have per-

**ABU DHABI, 7.30 P.M. IST** 

Played: 27

In 2021

Played **1** | MI **0** | PBKS **1** 

last three seasons, turn it around in the crucial game. There's no doubt that the

formed consistently in the

duo's lack of form has been a major factor in MI losing three games in a row in the second leg and sliding to the seventh spot. While Suryakumar has

scored 17 runs off 29 balls in three innings in the UAE, Ishan has contributed 33 off 32. While MI would be looking to its T20 World Cupbound pair to fire, along with the burly hitters in Pandya brothers and Kieron Pollard, K.L. Rahul's side would be eager to win the key moments, the way it did against SRH during the weekend, and keep itself in the hunt for a playoffs spot.

If Chris Gayle comes into his element for PBKS, it could spell doom for the Mumbai side.



Rohit and Rahul... under pressure. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

## + 'The first hat-trick of my life'

ASHWIN ACHAL

**p** oyal Challengers Banga- $\mathbf{\Lambda}$ lore pacer Harshal Patel, who recorded a hat-trick against Mumbai Indians on Sunday, stated that he uses his deadly slower deliveries when the situation dictates

"In Sharjah, the ball sticks to the pitch, so the slower ball can be effective. However, in Abu Dhabi, 80 per cent of my deliveries will be

Top of the

SANJU SAMSON (RR)

HS: 119 | SR: 141.96

HARSHAL PATEL (RCB)

BB: 5/27 | Econ: 8.58

Matches: 10 | Wickets: 23

AFTER THE SRH-RR MATCH ON SEPT. 27

**PURPLE CAP** 

Matches: 10 | Runs: 433

charts

quick. I let the situation and conditions dictate my plan," Harshal said in the post match media interaction.

"This is the first time I've got a hat-trick in my life. I haven't done it even in a school game. I've been on a hat trick six times in the IPL. The feeling of getting a hattrick is difficult to explain. It will take some time to sink in," Harshal said.

The 30-year-old is not part of India's T20 World

Cup, but he is not losing any sleep over it. "Selection matters is completely out of my control. My only philosophy is to make a positive impact for any team that I play for," Harshal said.

On RCB breaking a two match losing streak, Harshal said, "The difficult thing was to overcome the inertia of two losses. We're not looking at the points table, as this could cause the mind to wander."

#### **Points Table**

| Team   | M  | 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                                 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 8   | -0.369 |  |  |
| Mumbai Indians                                   | 10 | 4 | 6 | 8   | -0.551 |  |  |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)                          | 10 | 2 | 8 | 4   | -0.501 |  |  |
| After the SRH-RR match on Sept. 27 E: ELIMINATED |    |   |   |     |        |  |  |

### S. DINAKAR

Scenario 1: The batter goes for the shot but the ball arrives later than he expects. The knuckle ball rattles the woodwork.

Scenario 2: The batter lines himself up for the big blow, but the yorker goes under the bat quicker than he anticipates. It's a well disguised faster delivery.

Scenario 3: The batter, hustled by the heavy ball, goes for the pull but finds the bouncer pacier than he had bargained for. The ball takes the top-edge for a catch. Some other batters succumb to the slow, craftily concealed, short ball.

Pace variations, smart changes in length, exploring different angles and mixing up the yorkers with the hard length balls and the shortpitched deliveries have fired unsung Indian pacers to



stunning success in the ongo-

And pitted against formid-

able names, they have been

The 30-year-old Harshal Pa-

tel's story is fascinating. With

23 scalps in 10 games, he is

miles ahead of the pack in

his natural outswingers. And

He can strike early with

swinging games big time.

**Fascinating story** 

this edition's IPL.



Harshal, Avesh, Arshdeep and Tyagi... delivering the goods. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

The stunning success of unsung Indian pacers

Harshal, Avesh, Arshdeep and Tyagi have made a mark in this edition of IPL





This speedster from the

MRF Pace Foundation em-

ploys his shoulders, hits the

He also comprehends his

The 22-year-old Punjab

fast bowler Arshdeep Singh,

who has 13 wickets in eight

matches, can outsmart bat-

ters in the high-pressure end

release point for his on-target

yorkers. And his short-

pitched balls have zip.

tain and strike.

bat hard.

roared for Punjab Kings. And Rajasthan Royals Kartik Tyagi, with his higharm action and lovely release, is a genuine talent. Precision

The yorker outside the offstump is bowled with precision. He has pace, variety, control, temperament and the ability to bowl in impossible situations like against Punjab Kings the other day.

overs. He is calm, switches

pace and length capably, and

brings the left-armer's angles

into play. Arshdeep has

Prasidh Krishna, quick and potent on his day, and left-armer Chetan Sakariya, a clever customer with a bag of tricks, both MRF products, have already represented

India has considerable bench strength in pace bowling. In the land of spin, these pace bowlers can sting.

### IN BRIEF



back home

Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav has sustained a serious knee injury and returned to India cutting short his IPL campaign, it is learnt. He is likely to miss most of the domestic season as well. PTI

#### Shafali, Radha join **Sydney Sixers**

Indian teen batting sensation Shafali Verma and left-arm spinner Radha Yadav will make their Women's Big Bash League debut with two-time champion Sydney Sixers, it was officially confirmed on Monday. The Sixers begin their WBBL campaign against the Melbourne Stars on October 14 at Blundstone Arena in Hobart. PTI



## Moeen hangs up Test boots

England all-rounder to concentrate on shorter formats

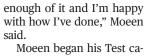
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

England all-rounder Moeen Ali on Monday announced he was retiring from Test cricket to focus on his whiteball career, saying the format's "intensity can be too much sometimes"

The 34-year-old scored five centuries and took 195 wickets in 64 Tests, including a top score of 155 not out and five five-wicket hauls. But Moeen felt he needed

to abandon cricket's longest format to prolong his career and rekindle his love for the game. "I want to play for as long as I can and just want to enjoy my cricket," he said.

"I will miss playing against the best in the world with that feeling of nerves but also knowing with my best ball I could get anyone out. I've enjoyed Test cricket but that intensity can be too much sometimes. I feel like I've done



reer batting at number six and offering part-time offspin, scoring his maiden century against Sri Lanka at Headingley in 2014. But his role changed as his improved bowling led England's management to prioritise his offspin and move him around the batting line-up from opener to number nine.

Moeen finished with 2,914 Test runs at an average of



Moeen's Test numbers

| Mocen's rest nambers |      |      |      |          |       |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|------|------|------|----------|-------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| BATTING              |      |      |      |          |       |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| M                    | Inns | N.O. | Runs | HS       | Avg.  | 50s/100  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 64                   | 111  | 8    | 2914 | 155 n.o. | 28.29 | 14/5     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| BOWLING              |      |      |      |          |       |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| M                    | Inns | Wkts | BBI  | Avg.     | SR    | 5WI/10WI |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 64                   | 112  | 195  | 6/53 | 36.66    | 60.70 | 5/1      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                      |      |      |      |          |       |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Lazio pips Roma in derby

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Napoli maintained its perfect start to the Serie A season with a 2-0 win over Cagliari to reclaim the top spot on Sunday while Lazio won an eventful derby 3-2 against Jose Mourinho's Roma.

Luciano Spalletti's side cruised to its sixth victory in as many league games, thanks to Victor Osimhen's sixth goal in all competitions this month and a second-half penalty from Lo-

celebrated his 400th Napoli appearance in style.

he is Virat Kohli's go-to man

at the death with his loopy

slower deliveries and the sur-

His ice-cool temperament

is a major factor in tense sit-

uations. The hat-trick against

Mumbai Indians on Sunday

Then we have the 24-year-

old Avesh Khan from Madhya

Pradesh. His 15 wickets in 10

matches at an economy rate

of 7.55 show he can both con-

prisingly quick yorkers.

was well deserved.

Goals from Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, Pedro and Felipe Anderson gave Lazio a tight win over Roma.

The results: Serie A: Lazio 3 (Milinkovic-Savic 10, Pedro 19, Anderson 62) bt Roma 2 (Ibanez 41, Veretout 69-pen); Napoli 2 (Osimhen 11. Insigne 57pen) bt Cagliari O; Sassuolo 1 (Berardi 54) bt Salernitana O LaLiga: Rayo Vallecano 3 (Garcia Rivera 9, Falcao 44, Palazon 88) bt Cadiz 1 (Haroyan 23).



Goalbound: Anderson scores Lazio's third. • AFP

## Europe cruises to victory



Runaway winners: Team Europe (standing): Medvedev, Berrettini, Tsitsipas, Enqvist and Ruud. (Foreground): Feliciano Lopez, Rublev, Zverev and captain Borg. •AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Europe completed a fourth consecutive victory in the Laver Cup team tennis tournament on Sunday, with doubles duo Andrey Rublev and Alexander Zverev downing Reilly Opelka and Denis Shapovalov to seal a 14-1 rout.

After a dominant day on Saturday which saw Team Europe win all four matches against Team World at Boston's TD Garden, the Europeans needed only one win on Sunday to seal victory. It arrived in the opening match of the final day, with

Russia's Rublev and Germany's Olympic champion Zverev defeating Opelka and Shapovalov 6-2, 6-7(4), The win extends Europe's

unbroken reign of dominance in the tournament following triumphs in the 2019 (Geneva), 2018 (Chicago) and 2017 (Prague) editions. M ND-NDE

## Dominant USA overwhelms Europe

Veteran Dustin Johnson shines with a five-from-five for the winner

#### RYDER CUP

KOHLER (USA)

Europe 19-9 to recapture the Ryder Cup on Sunday in a performance captain Steve Stricker called the "greatest of all time."

Collin Morikawa, the 24year-old reigning British Open champion and World No. 3, delivered the winning half point when he tied his at Whistling Straits.

three years ago.

"This is the greatest team of

World No. 2 Dustin John-

leagues, his 1-up singles victory over Paul Casey giving him a perfect 5-0 record in a maximum five matches. He became the first American since Larry Nelson in 1979 to go five-from-five.

The US took an 11-5 lead into Sunday's 12 singles matches, the six-point gap more than either team has ever overcome on the final day to lift the trophy.

It meant the Americans needed just 3.5 points to win the Cup. Padraig Harrington's Europe needed nine to retain it.

The scores: USA bt Europe 19-9 [Singles: Xander Schauffele lost to Rory McIlroy 3&2; Patrick Cantlay bt Shane Lowry 4&2; Scottie Scheffler bt Jon Rahm 4&3; Bryson DeChambeau bt Sergio Garcia 3&2; Collin Morikawa tied with Viktor Hoyland: Dustin Johnson bt Paul Casev 1-up: Brooks Koepka bt Bernd Wiesberger 2&1.

Tony Finau lost to Ian Poulter 3&2: Justin Thomas bt Tvrrell Hatton 4&3; Harris English lost to Lee Westwood 1-up; Jordan Spieth tied with Tommy Fleetwood; Daniel Berger bt

#### Royal performance: Team USA celebrates winning the Ryder Cup. • AFP

## Team MRF takes the honours

Lindholm clinches drivers' championship

#### MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER

Team MRF Tyres clinched the Finnish Rally Championship (Ralli SM) after Emil Lindholm and Reeta Hamalainen dominated the final round of the season in the SM KokUA 60-v Juhlaralli event on Sunday.

Going into the final round, it was a winner-takeall scenario with the top

three drivers separated by just seven points. Team MRF was on the pace from the first of the 10-stage competition with Lindholm winning the Skriko stage. He ended the first day of action on Saturday in first place, but with a lead of just 2.9 seconds.

The pressure was intense for the four Sunday stages that featured 74km of action, However, Lindholm was in form, never relinquishing his lead.

"It is a great feeling to have won the championship. It is a great reward for the all the hard work at Team MRF Tyres. I have learnt a lot by participating in this year's championships.

"To survive in Finland the tyres have to tackle different conditions like snow, ice and composition from different gravel roads. This victory is a result of some great team work," said Lindholm.



On top: Team MRF won the Finnish Rally championship with Emil Lindholm, right, and Reeta Hamalainen dominating the season's final round. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### **HCL** director congratulates players

India looks for

In the absence of China,

other teams such as Japan,

Korea, Hong Kong, among

others, will vie for glory in

the 25th ITTF Asian table

tennis championships in

Doha from September 28

expecting to perform bet-

ter than last time (2019)

Seeded fourth, Indian

Division

men will take on Iran in the

first round (quarterfinals)

and if they win, will meet

the winner of the clash bet-

ween Hong Kong and Ko-

felt Iran would be a very

competitive side and the

The women, placed in

First Division, have been

grouped with Jordan and

Nepal. In the absence of

Manika Batra, the women

will be led by Sutirtha Muk-

herjee and will hope to

make it to the Champion-

ship Division. In mixed

doubles, Manav Thakkar

and Archana Kamath are

seeded sixth.

team has to play its best.

Sharath and Sathiyan

rea in the semifinals.

when it finished fifth.

Championship

The Indian men, too, is

better show

K. KEERTHIVASAN

to October 5.

CHENNAI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

HCL Corporation director Kiran Nadar congratulated the 1100 players from 14 countries for making the 18th edition of the HCL International bridge championship, a roaring success. "While several sports came to a halt during the pandemic, bridge witnessed a resurgence with players across geographies connecting online. Several youngsters also took to the sport online, finding in it a sense of motivation and inspiration during these tough times," Kiran said in her virtual address on Sunday.

"The championship was organised with the best global standards and I want to thank the core organising team for making it a success. We hope to host smaller championships at different points during the

Sunit Choksi of Texan Aces that won the Team of four Gold event and the Naresh Tandon trophy also

## Messi and Guardiola set to reunite

Host PSG will look for a positive result against Man. City

#### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

There was a time when a reunion between Lionel Messi and Pep Guardiola looked distinctly possible, but on Tuesday they will be on opposite sides again when Paris Saint-Germain plays Manchester City in the Champions League.

Messi has played just three games for his new club and is yet to score. He has sat out PSG's last two matches with a knee problem but the feeling is that coach Mauricio Pochettino has been saving him for City.

After being held 1-1 by Club Brugge in its opening game, PSG needs a positive

#### Tuesday's matches

■ Ajax v Besiktas, Shakhtar Donetsk v Inter Milan, AC Milan v Atletico Madrid. Borussia Dortmund v Sporting Lisbon, FC Porto v Liverpool, Paris Saint-Germain v Manchester City, RB Leipzig v Club Brugge, Real Madrid v Sheriff Tiraspol



Rendezvous: Messi and Guardiola will bond after quite a while when PSG takes on Manchester City on Tuesday. • AFP

result against City to stop its rivals taking control of the group.

#### Desperate to win

This time the expectation is both City and PSG will progress from their group and both Messi and Guardiola are desperate to win the Champions League again.

While the world waits to see how Messi's move to Paris turns out, Guardiola continues to regret the absence of a prolific centre-forward as the final piece of his jigsaw at City. "The club needs in the next years a striker. When it's not possible, it's not possible, we move on with the fantastic squad we have," he said.

PSG, of course, has more than one such player. Kylian Mbappe has been the top scorer in France in each of the last three seasons.

Nobody knows Messi's game better than Guardiola. but nobody knows better than Pep that there is no stopping Messi when he is at the top of his game.

Md. Sporting

in final

## Varinder eyeing a Worlds medal

#### BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI

Lightweight boxer Varinder Singh, an Asian bronze medallist and a two-time National winner, is looking forward to making a mark at the World championships in Belgrade next month.

The 24-year-old Varinder, hailing from Patiala and employed with Eastern Railway here, is enjoying this upwardly mobile phase of his career.

#### **Injury-free**

"When I was in the 56kg class, I used to cut down a lot of weight for fights. That led to frequent injuries, including fractures in my hand. I have remained injury-free and have started getting results, including the two National titles and the Asian 60kg in 2019," said Varinder.

"Now I am eyeing a medal in the World championships. I am fine-tuning my technique and improving my fitness. I am watching bouts of my prospective op-



■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ponents, including those from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Cuba and Russia. There will be some surprises though as several boxers must have changed weights following the revamp in weight categories.'

Coming from a humble family, Varinder is thankful to everyone who has played a role in his journey so far.

"I rely a lot on my personal coach Harpreet Singh Hundai. I am grateful to my family, friends, all coaches and my department." ."

According to former National and current Railways coach Jaydev Bist, Varinder has the potential to land medals in big tournaments.

## **DURAND CUP** AMITABHA DAS SHARMA

Mohammedan Sporting found two goals in the extra-time against a 10-man Bengaluru United (FCBU) for a 4-2 score-line in the first semifinal of the Durand Cup football on Monday. The teams were locked 2-2 at the end of regulation time.

FCBU found the lead with barely 20 seconds on the clock with its Spanish forward Pedro Manzi doing the finishing after being set up by his upfront colleague Luka Majcen of Slovenia.

Stunned by the reverse, Sporting re-grouped and quickly turned on the heat. Trinidad and Tobago's Marcus Joseph's fine solo helped it draw parity in the ninth minute. He dribbled past three defenders before finishing with an angular left footer.

This charged up Sporting to go for more and the FCBU citadel fell again in the 38th minute when Faisal Ali made the most of a Joseph assist. FCBU came alive late in the second half when it found the equaliser off Kingshuk Debnath in the 78th minute.

FCBU suffered a set-back in the added time of the second half when a frustrated Manzi used his fist to divert home a Pradhan free-kick and was marched off with the second booking of the match.

Sporting used its numerical superiority to find goals through substitute Brandon Vanlalremdika and midfield hero Nicola Stojanovic, who scored from the spot.

The result (semifinal): Mohd. Sporting 4 (Marcus Joseph 9, Faisal Ali 38, Brandon Vanlalremdika 103, Nicola Stojanovic 110-pen) bt FC Bengaluru United 2 (Pedro Manzi 1, Kingshuk Debnath 78).

### China thrashes India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA VANTAA (FINLAND)

India's chances of qualifying for the knockout stage of the Sudirman Cup ended after a 5-0 thrashing from formidable China here on Monday.

It was India's second consecutive defeat, after losing the Group A opener to Thailand. The results: China bt India

5-0 (Liu Cheng & Zhou Hao Dong bt M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapil 22-20, 21-17; Chen Yu Fei bt Aditi Bhatt 21-9, 21-8; Shi Yuqi bt B. Sai Praneeth 21-10. 21-10: Zheng Yu & Li Wen Sikki Reddy 21-16, 21-13; Du Yue & Feng Yan Zhe bt K. Srikanth & Rutaparna Panda

## Deeksha getting better and better

She stuns Chanda for the 1500m gold

### **ATHLETICS**

SPORTS BUREAU NEW DELHI

K.M. Deeksha has improved her personal best every time she ran the 1500m this year. The 22-year-old from Madhya Pradesh ran another memorable race in the first National under-23 athletics championships, shocking National Open silver medallist K.M. Chanda for the gold, here on Monday. Deeksha stayed in Chan-

da's shadow for a good part before striking on the home stretch. She had opened the year with a personal best 4:36.42s in March and now has brought it down to 4:14.02s, an improvement of 22s over a six-month period.

It was also the second best time by an Indian woman this year, behind Harmilan Bains' National record 4:05.39s which came in Warangal. Chanda also clocked a PB while taking silver.

#### **Ajeet triumphs**

Gujarat's Ajeet Kumar took the men's 1500m title. Pole vaulter Parshant Kanhiya equalled his personal best (5.10m) for his triumph.

Delhi's Taranjeet Kaur was the fastest of the qualifiers to the women's 100m final and Tamil Nadu's Sherin



K.M. Deeksha leads K.M. Chanda. • AFI

Abdul Gafoor topped the women's long jump qualification round with 6.36m. The results (finals): Men: 1500m: 1. Ajeet Kumar (Guj) 3:47.31s, 2. Harendra Kumar (Del) 3:49.30, 3. Prince Kumar

(U.P.) 3:51.88. 5000m: 1. Adesh Yadav (Mah) 14:12.36s, 2. Prince Kumar (U.P.) 14:17.37, 3. Ajay (Har) 14:21.44. Pole Vault: 1. Prashant Kanhaiya (Har) 5.10m, 2. A.K. Siddharth (Ker) 4.85, 3. Amit (Raj) 4.85. Women: 1500m: 1. K.M. Deeksha (M.P.) 4:14.02s, 2. K.M. Chanda (Del) 4:15.08, 3. Radha (Utk) 4:31.98. 5000m: 1. Komal C. Jagdale (Mah) 16:03.53, 2. Sonika (Har) 17:00.46, 3. Badho (Har) 17:40.41. Shot put: 1. Kiran Balivan (U.P.) 16.11m, 2. Kachnar Chaudhary (Raj) 14.71, 3. Ambi-

ka (Kar) 14.21.

## Include non-campers in relay team but put them in Registered Testing Pool: Usha

Legendary athlete says the runners should be tested regularly during off-season

STAN RAYAN

For years, the quartermilers have enjoyed special status in Indian athletics. They have also been sent for long camps abroad frequently, to countries like Turkey, Poland and the Czech Republic. That's because the Athletics Federation of India had been harping for years that the 4x400m relay team, especially women, have a chance to win an Olympic

#### Unable to enter a team

Now, three years after India won the women's mile relay gold at the Jakarta Asian Games, the squad has virtually been destroyed at the national camp. India could not even put

together a women's 4x400m team and withdrew from the World Relays in Poland in May and also failed to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics with prominent runners, including V.K. Vismaya, M.R. Poovamma, Jisna Mathew, Anjali Devi and Kiran Pahal, either injured or in poor form.

Bengaluru's 18-year-old Priya H. Mohan is the country's fastest quartermiler this year but she was not sent to the Olympics as she was not a national camper. However, she ran the re-



Flashback: The Indian women's quartet which struck gold at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta. • FILE РНОТО

lays at the Nairobi under-20 Worlds in August, after a 10day national camp in Patiala, and won bronze in the mixed event and finished fourth in the women's relay.

The calendar is packed next year with the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, Worlds and under-20 Worlds and the search for promising quartermilers will also be on in the under-23 Nationals, now underway in New Delhi

Time for change in rule So, is it time for the AFI to

change the rule that only national campers be allowed in relay teams for international majors? Should non-campers be included too? "If they are in the National

Anti-Doping Agency's registered testing pool (RTP) and if they are tested regularly during off-season, then they can be considered for the relay team," P.T. Usha told The

"If they are not brought under RTP and if out-of-competition tests are not conducted regularly, it will be a big risk. Either their performance will be down or they will be caught."

There have been some very impressive performances in recent weeks and Usha felt that the net should be cast wide to catch the dope

reabouts and tested frequently. "After that, if their performances are considered for the relay team, then we need not be worried about them. "Not just the relays, even

cheats. "In juniors and se-

niors, athletes who come up

with extraordinary perfor-

mances should be included

in the RTP, giving their whe-

athletes in other events who come up with sudden, impressive performances should be in the RTP. "And in the national

camp, the 4x400m relay men and women should all be in the RTP, also the 4x100m relay runners."

Mei bt Ashwini Ponnappa & N. 21-9, 21-9. M ND-NDE

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The United States crushed

match with Viktor Hovland

He was one of eight 20-somethings on a US team that featured nine players in the world's top 11 – all gunning to regain the coveted trophy won by Europe in France

**GOAT** 

all time," Stricker said, saying his youthful line-up represented "a new era for USA golf."

son, at 37 the oldest member of the team, provided a template for his younger col-

IPL 2021: Star Sports 1 & SS

Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.

Badminton: Sudirman Cup,

Star Sports 3, 6.30 p.m.; Star

Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

Champions League: Sony

#### Ten 2 (SD & HD), 10.15 p.m.; Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m.

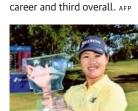
TV PICKS

& 7.30 p.m.



Kontaveit beats Sakkari

to take Ostrava title World No. 30 Anett Kontaveit picked up her second title of the season with a 6-2, 7-5 win over Greece's Maria Sakkari in the final of the Ostrava Open on Sunday. The unseeded Estonian had not dropped a set all week on way to the biggest title of her



### Hataoka wins Arkansas

for fifth LPGA title

LOS ANGELES Japan's Nasa Hataoka captured the NW Arkansas golf championship for the second time closing with a four-under 67 for a 16-under 197 total. It was the 22-year-old Hataoka's fifth LPGA Tour title. Her first came at the same tournament in 2018. Australian Miniee Lee and South Korea's Ji Eun-hee shared second two shots

### Harika, Vaishali save India the blushes

SPORTS BUREAU SITGES (SPAIN)

adrift. AFP

D. Harika and R. Vaishali won as India twice drew level to hold a resurgent Azerbaijan 2-2 in the first round in Group A of the FIDE World Women's team chess championship here on Monday.

Harika's victory over Gunay Mammadzada, on the top board, neutralized Tania Sachdev's defeat to Ulviyya Fateliyeva on the third. On the second board, Vaishali won against Gulnar Mammadova and made it 2-2 by offsetting Bhakti Kulkarni's loss to Turkan Mamedjarova on the fourth.

The results: (First round): Group A: Azerbaijan drew with India 2-2; Russia bt Spain 4-0; France lost to Armenia 1.5-2.5; Group B: Georgia bt Ukraine 3.5-0.5; America bt Poland 2.5-1.5; Kazakhstan drew with Germany 2-2.