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## IN BRIEF



**Delhi CM launches 'Deshbhakti Curriculum'**  
NEW DELHI  
Every child in Delhi will be a patriot in the true sense, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said as he launched the Aam Aadmi Party government's ambitious 'Deshbhakti Curriculum' at an event held at the Chhatrasal Stadium on the birth anniversary of revolutionary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.

STATES PAGE 4

## HC asks police about security at city courts

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the city police to submit a status report on the steps taken to ensure adequate security in district courts in the wake of the recent shoot-out at a crowded Rohini courtroom, which left three men dead. "We don't want to lose lives. Lawyers could also become victims of incidents like the recent one. We don't want that," Justice Rekha Palli said.

CITY PAGE 2

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OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 14

## 2020 Delhi riots result of a pre-planned conspiracy: HC

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has rejected the bail petition of a man arrested in connection with the death of a head constable during the north-east Delhi riots last year, noting that the incident was a result of a "pre-planned and premeditated conspiracy to disturb law and order in the city".

Justice Subramonium Prasad, while dismissing the bail plea of Mohammad Ibrahim, who was seen on numerous CCTV footage wearing a skullcap, a black jacket and salwar-kurta and with a sword in his hand at multiple locations around the Chand Bagh area. Justice Prasad said even though Mr. Ibrahim could not be seen at the "scene of crime", he clearly was part of the mob for the sole reason that he had consciously travelled 1.6 km from his neighbourhood with a sword.

"The riots which shook the national capital in February 2020 evidently did not take place on the spur of the moment, and the conduct of the protesters who are present in the video footage visibly portrays that it was a calculated attempt to dislocate the functioning of the government as well as to disrupt the normal life of the people in the city," the court remarked.

The systematic disconnection and destruction of CCTV cameras also confirmed the existence of a pre-planned and premeditated conspiracy to disturb law and order in the city, Justice Prasad said. "This is also evident from the fact that innumerable rioters ruthlessly descended with sticks, bats etc. upon a hopelessly outnumbered cohort of police officials."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Sidhu quits Cong. post, Punjab crisis deepens

Former CM Amarinder terms the resignation 'sheer drama'

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
CHANDIGARH

The crisis in the Congress in Punjab spiralled further on Tuesday with Navjot Singh Sidhu resigning as State Congress president, Razia Sultana quitting as Minister in support of him and a few other leaders coming out in his support.

Former Chief Minister and Congress leader Captain Amarinder Singh (retired) reached Delhi on a two-day visit, triggering speculation of a possible meeting between him and senior BJP leaders. He, however, said he was on a personal visit.

Mr. Sidhu resigned, saying he could not compromise on Punjab's future and its welfare agenda. He, however, did not give a reason in his resignation letter.

### 'Will serve the Congress'

In his resignation letter addressed to party president Sonia Gandhi and posted on Twitter, he said, "The collapse of man's character stems from the compromise corner, I can never compromise on Punjab's future and agenda of welfare of Punjab. Therefore, I hereby resign as the president of Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee. Will continue to serve the Congress."

In New Delhi, Capt. Ama-



**Fresh uncertainty:** Razia Sultana, who resigned as Minister, speaking to presspersons in Patiala on Tuesday. •PTI

rinder said Mr. Sidhu's resignation proved beyond doubt that the cricketer-turned-politician was an "unstable" man, who could not be relied upon to lead the party, especially in a border State like Punjab. He termed Mr. Sidhu's resignation "sheer drama".

The move suggested that he was preparing the ground to quit the Congress and join hands with some other party, he alleged. "By resigning within two months of taking over as the PPCC chief, Navjot had once again exhibited his shifty character," he said.

To a question if Mr. Sidhu was apparently upset with the inclusion of certain Ministers in the Charanjit Singh Channi Cabinet, Capt. Amarinder said the PPCC chief apparently wanted to run

the government by remote control. The party's central leadership should immediately accept his resignation, he said.

### Allocation of portfolios

Mr. Sidhu made his resignation announcement hours after portfolios were allocated by Mr. Channi. His suggestions on 'choices of bureaucrats and Ministers' were allegedly overruled by the party leadership.

A close aide of Mr. Sidhu told *The Hindu* that he was miffed at the reinduction of Rana Gurjit Singh in the Cabinet. Rana Gurjit, Kapurthala MLA, faced allegations of involvement in a sand mining scam and quit from the Cabinet in 2018.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Jignesh Mevani, left, and Kanhaiya Kumar

## Kanhaiya walks into Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Ending months of speculation, Communist Party of India (CPI) leader and former JNU Students' Union president Kanhaiya Kumar joined the Congress on Tuesday. He was accompanied by Independent MLA from Gujarat Jignesh Mevani, who also spoke strongly in support of the Congress ideology but did not join the party formally.

Explaining his reasons for joining the Congress, Mr. Kumar said, "I am joining the country's oldest and the most democratic party, because I feel, and so do many other young people, that if the Congress does not survive then the country will not survive."

The Congress is the only alternative to the BJP in at least 200 Lok Sabha seats, Mr. Kumar said at the Congress headquarters, addressing his supporters and the media.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8  
CPI REACTION PAGE 9

## Bengal post-poll violence: SC issues notice to Centre

'State has made out a case against cases going to CBI'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said West Bengal had "made out a case on the face of it" in its appeal against the Calcutta High Court decision to hand over the post-poll violence cases, involving murder and rape, to the CBI.

"On the face of it, you have made a case for issuance of notice. Let us see. We will give a short time for respondents to file a counter," Justice Vineet Saran, heading a Bench also com-



prising Justice Aniruddha Bose, addressed senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for West Bengal.

The court issued notice to the Union of India and other respondents in the case. It

fixed the hearing on October 7 and directed the State to serve the petition on the respondents. Mr. Sibal went on to urge the court to stay future filing of FIRs by the CBI.

Justices Saran and Bose replied, "We don't have to do it. Mr. Sibal, you know better than that... Anyway, it is only a week, nothing is going to happen".

Mr. Sibal said the CBI was already issuing notice to police officers in the cases.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Bypolls to three Lok Sabha, 30 Assembly seats on Oct. 30

ECI reiterates its orders regarding COVID-19 safety norms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India on Tuesday announced by-elections in the Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Khandwa and Mandi Lok Sabha and 30 Assembly constituencies across the country to be held on October 30. The votes will be counted on November 2.

"The Commission has reviewed the situation related to pandemic, flood and festivals," the ECI said.

and Union Territories was reviewed and taken into consideration and it was decided to hold by-elections to fill vacancies in three Parliamentary Constituencies of UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and 30 vacancies in Assembly Constituencies of various States," the ECI said.

The Assembly seats that will go to the polls are one each from Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Miz-

oram, Nagaland and Telangana; two each in Bihar, Karnataka and Rajasthan; three each from Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya; four in West Bengal; and five from Assam. The ECI reiterated its orders regarding COVID-19 safety norms, including restricting poll meetings to 30% of the allowed capacity of an indoor venue and a ban on roadshows and bike rallies.

BHABANIPUR BYPOLL PAGE 9

## Rocky road for RTI activists in Bihar, 20 killed in past 11 years

AMARNATH TEWARY  
PATNA

Bihar has proved to be hostile terrain for Right to Information (RTI) activists, with as many as 20 having been killed since 2010. Six activists were killed in 2018 alone.

The RTI Act came into force in June 2005.

Sashidhar Mishra from Begusarai district was the first RTI activist killed in 2010 and just last week, Bipin Agrawal, 46, was killed, allegedly for exposing encroachment on government lands in East

Champran district.

Agrawal had filed at least 900 RTI applications seeking details on government land encroachment in the district. His home was attacked by assailants in 2020 as well. Following the incident he had sought protection from local police but that was not provided to him.

"Bihar has always been unfriendly for RTI activists with as many as 20 of them having been killed in different districts for raising their voice against corruption in

government system," veteran RTI activist Shiv Prakash Rai told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Rai, in fact, had to face a jail term for 29 days in 2008 for exposing malfeasance in providing solar lights. A case of extortion was lodged against him by a top district official and he was sent to jail. He was later released as the case proved false.

"District officials get annoyed with RTI activists as mostly we expose misappropriation of funds through our applications," Mr. Rai said.

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# Kanhaiya Kumar is latest member of 'Left for Congress' club

For many JNU student leaders, politics on campus is a stepping stone to a mainstream career. Joining the grand old party is often seen as a natural progression

### STEPPING STONE

Past JNUSU presidents who have joined the Congress

 <b>SHAKEEL AHMAD KHAN</b> JNUSU president 1992-93 <b>Students' Federation of India</b> NOW: MLA, Kadiwa, Bihar, National Secretary of the Indian National Congress	 <b>BATTI LAL BAIRWA</b> JNUSU president 1996-98 (two terms) <b>SFI</b> NOW: Secretary, Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee	 <b>SYED NASEER HUSSAIN</b> JNUSU president 1999-2000 <b>SFI</b> NOW: Congress Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka
 <b>SANDEEP SINGH</b> JNUSU president 2007-08 <b>All India Students' Association</b> NOW: Political adviser to Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi	 <b>MOHIT PANDEY</b> JNUSU president 2016-17 <b>AISA</b> NOW: Head of social media wing in U.P. Congress	 <b>KANHAIYA KUMAR</b> JNUSU president 2015-16 <b>All India Students' Federation</b> NOW: Member of Congress party

**JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ**  
NEW DELHI

Spending their campus life affiliated to Left-wing student organisations at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and then joining the Congress afterwards has been a trend seen across several decades among student leaders.

Kanhaiya Kumar, who was the president of the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) from 2015-16, representing the All India Students' Federation (AISF), joined the Congress on Tuesday, making him the newest member of the club.

Others who have made the switch include Shakeel Ahmad Khan, national secretary of the Indian National Congress. He was the JNUSU president from 1992-93, representing the Students

Federation of India (SFI). Syed Naseer Hussain, a Rajya Sabha member, was JNUSU president from 1999-2000, representing the SFI. Mohit Pandey, JNUSU president from 2016-17, representing the All India Students' Association (AISA), is now working with the Congress in Uttar Pradesh.

**Keenly watched**  
Batti Lal Bairwa from the SFI, who was elected for two terms as JNUSU president from 1996-98, is currently the secretary of the Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee. Sandeep Singh from the AISA was JNUSU president from 2007-08 and is now a political adviser to Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi.

Student politics at JNU are keenly watched as several

students have used the platform to launch successful political careers at the national level. The annual JNU-SFU presidential debate, organised before the election, sees heated discussions on not just campus problems but national and international topics as well.

Apart from a few exceptions, Left-wing student outfits dominate the union.

Mr. Kumar's move to exit the Communist Party of India (CPI) and join the Congress has evoked much discussion on campus. Sunny Dhiman, who was the National Students' Union India (NSUI) presidential candidate for the JNUSU in 2016, and is currently a student at the university, says although some members of the NSUI are a bit disgruntled at Mr. Kumar joining the Congress

after spending his student life in the AISF, he feels that Mr. Kumar is doing no great harm to his ideology.

**Ideologically close**  
"The CPI is ideologically close to the left of Centre like the Congress. We believe that people with such an ideology should affiliate with the Congress. For Mr. Kumar, for him to grow, the Congress was the only party to join where someone with an open mind can work," says Mr. Dhiman.

Students affiliated to the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) feel Mr. Kumar joining the Congress after his student days is no surprise and many Left activists have done it over the years. They feel that it confirms that in the February 9, 2016, sedition row, those

who raised anti-India slogans had the support of the Congress.

JNUSU joint secretary from 2015-16 Saurabh Sharma, who was the only member of the panel from the ABVP when Mr. Kumar was president, says that in a democracy, people have the right to switch political parties but accepting Mr. Kumar shows the true face of the Congress.

**Training ground**  
"The Congress practices politics based on caste, religion and region, and from the number of Left leaders that have joined the party after JNU, it shows that Left politics is a training ground for those that the Congress later absorbs. A clear pattern has emerged," says Mr. Sharma, who is now an as-

sistant professor at JNU.

Mr. Kumar joining the Congress is proof the party supports "anti-national" people who call for the breakup of the country, he adds.

National president of the AISA and former JNUSU president from 2018-19 N. Sai Balaji, who is currently pursuing his PhD from JNU, says that a leader moving from the Left parties to the Congress will cause no harm to the Left-wing students' movement despite Mr. Kumar gaining credibility from his association with the Left.

"The students' movement is based on the ground and is the face of resistance today. The movement will not be weakened by one student leader leaving due to personal reasons. It is not about individuals but a collection of people," Mr. Balaji said.

## IN BRIEF

**Delhi records two deaths, 34 new cases**  
NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded two deaths due to COVID-19 and 34 new cases over the past 24 hours, according to a government health bulletin on Tuesday. The test positivity rate stands at 0.05% and there are 373 active cases in the city. The latest fatalities have pushed September's toll to seven. The total death toll has risen to 25,087, and the case tally stands at 14,38,780. A total of 2.05 lakh people got the jab over 24 hours out of which 90,935 got their first dose, read the vaccination bulletin.

## Ban on bursting, sale of firecrackers up to Jan. 1

**"Toxic air dangerous during pandemic"**  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee on Tuesday ordered a complete ban on the sale and bursting of firecrackers in the national capital till January 1, 2022.

According to the order, experts have warned of a possibility of another surge of COVID-19, and largescale celebrations by bursting of firecrackers will result not

only in agglomeration of people in violation of social distancing norms but also high level of air pollution, leading to health issues.

The bursting of firecrackers under the prevalent pandemic crisis is not favourable for the cause of larger community health given the significant relationship between air pollution and respiratory infections, it said.

## Rohini shoot-out: HC asks police about security measures at courts

**We don't want to lose lives, says Justice Palli**  
STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the city police to submit a status report on the steps taken to ensure adequate security in district courts, in the wake of the recent shoot-out at a crowded Rohini courtroom, which left three men dead.

Justice Rekha Palli said the issue of security of lawyers required urgent attention.

"We don't want to lose lives. Lawyers could also become victims of incidents like the recent one. We don't want that," Justice Palli said



while posting the case for hearing on October 11.

The High Court also asked the Bar Council of Delhi (BCD) to respond to the petition filed by advocate Deepa Joseph, who said she was severely jolted by the shocking shoot-out. Ms. Joseph practices in the district courts.

The police informed the

High Court that it was taking steps to ensure that the security in district courts is geared up adequately.

BCD's counsel said they had a detailed meeting with senior police officers and it was agreed that security at district courts would be upgraded to be at par with that at the Supreme Court.

Advocate Joseph, in her plea, said the shoot-out inside the court puts a big question mark on the safety and security of judges, lawyers and litigants inside the district courts.

The petition pointed out that last Friday's shoot-out was not the first of its kind in Delhi. In the recent past there have been incidents of shooting in the Dwarka

courts, a firing near the Saket courts in May 2019 and earlier in 2017, an undertrial was killed after being shot inside the Rohini Courts Complex, the plea said.

In similar line to the incident at the Rohini courts was the killing of a Delhi Police head constable when four armed assailants opened fire inside a courtroom at the Karkardooma Courts Complex in 2010, it added.

The plea also sought that Delhi Police make the security and frisking of lawyers at par with the Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court, and take disciplinary action against the officers who fail to implement this direction with utmost diligence and seriousness.

## Woman run over by bus in Dwarka

**STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI**

A 40-year-old woman was run over by a cluster bus in Dwarka's Baba Haridas Nagar on Monday night. The offending driver has been arrested, the police said.

The police said that around 9.45 p.m., the victim, Sundari, was on her way home with her husband and son when a speeding bus hit her and then ran her over, killing her instantly. The son suffered minor injuries.

The bus driver, Sandeep Dagar, was arrested from the spot. A case has been lodged under Sections 279 (Rash and negligent driving) and 304A (Causing death due to negligence) of the Indian Penal Code and further probe is under way.

## 25 inmates in Mandoli jail injured

**Prisoners allegedly banged their heads against the walls**  
STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Over 25 inmates in Mandoli jail allegedly inflicted injuries upon themselves on Monday evening after two prisoners were not allowed to step out of the ward. Director General (Prisons) Sandeep Goel confirmed the incident. There has been a recent string of violent incidents reported from the Tihar Prison Complex. At least five incidents have been reported in the last few weeks.

"On Monday, two inmates wanted to go out of the ward without giving any reason. On not being permitted, they caused injuries to themselves and also instigated others to self-inflict injuries," said a senior jail official. Subsequently, as several inmates started injuring themselves, the police went inside the ward to control the situation.

The inmates allegedly

banged their heads against the walls and stabbed themselves. The jail staff had to allegedly use "mild force" to control the prisoners.

All the injured were shifted to the jail dispensary where they were treated and discharged. One severely injured prisoner was shifted to GTB Hospital where he was treated and later discharged, said an official.

The incident was caught on CCTV.

## Salary cut for officer's 'casual manner' in probing riots case

**Delhi Police told to deposit ₹5,000 in PM relief fund**  
STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

In an unusual order, a Delhi court has ordered a one-time deduction of ₹5,000 from the salary of a Delhi police officer responsible for seeking "adjournment in a very casual manner" in a north-

east Delhi riots case.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Arun Kumar Garg said some of Delhi Police's investigating officers (IOs) and Special Public Prosecutors (SPPs) do not appear in the cases on the dates fixed.

When they do appear after prodding of senior officers by the court, "they appear without inspection of the file and seek adjournment in a very casual man-

ner to comply with orders passed by the court on the dates on which they had not appeared," the judge said.

**Poor conduct**  
The court further noted that the conduct of the police officers as well as the SPPs has already been brought to the notice of several senior police officers, including the Commissioner of Police.

"However, they have failed

to ensure that such incidents do not take place any more," the court said, adding that the cost of ₹5,000 will be deposited by Delhi Police in the Prime Minister National Relief Fund. It specified that the deduction of the cost should be from the salary of the responsible officer.

The court was dealing with a case wherein the IO was directed to supply a copy of the e-challan to ac-

cused Komal Mishra in compliance with an April 12, 2021, order.

However, on September 25, the IO informed the court that the copy of the e-challan has not yet been supplied to the accused as he was not aware of the court order. The IO made a request for adjournment to supply the copy of the e-challan to the accused, prompting the court's ₹5,000 fine order.

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4	2021_PWPUIU_160587_1	CONSTRUCTION OF COMPOSITE OFFICE BUILDING FOR TEHSILDAR, NAYAB TEHSILDAR, SUB TREASURY, SUB REGISTRAR AT DEWAS DIST. DEWAS IN M.P. (UARBAN TEHSIL)	Dewas	465.42	465420	15000	14 Months i/e Rainy season
5	2021_PWPUIU_160887_1	CONSTRUCTION OF SDO/SDM OFFICE BUILDING AT SANGARPUR DISTRICT AT TIMARNI	Harda	85.63	85630	10000	08 Months i/e Rainy season
6	2021_PWPUIU_160825_1	CONSTRUCTION OF SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER REVENUE OFFICE BUILDING AT SEONI MALWA DIST. HOSHANGABAD	Hoshangabad	84.44	84440	10000	08 Months i/e Rainy season
7	2021_PWPUIU_160521_1	CONSTRUCTION OF UPGRADATION OF CHC TO SB BEDDED CIVIL HOSPITAL BUILDING WITH 2F & 4G TYPE QUARTERS AT SILVANI DIST. RAISEN (M.P.)	Raisen	760.66	760660	20000	15 Months i/e Rainy season
8	2021_PWPUIU_160518_1	CONSTRUCTION OF UPGRADATION OF CHC TO SB BEDDED CIVIL HOSPITAL BUILDING WITH 2F & 4G TYPE QUARTERS AT SAIRATGANJ DIST. RAISEN (M.P.)	Raisen	760.66	760660	20000	15 Months i/e Rainy season
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10	2021_PWPUIU_160975_1	CONSTRUCTION OF S.D.M OFFICE BUILDING AT NASRULLAGANJ, DIST. SEHORE FOR REVENUE DEPARTMENT (M.P.)	Raigarh	97.29	97290	10000	08 Months i/e Rainy season
11	2021_PWPUIU_161123_1	CONSTRUCTION OF S.D.M OFFICE BUILDING AT NASRULLAGANJ, DIST. SEHORE FOR REVENUE DEPARTMENT (M.P.)	SEHORE	97.29	97290	10000	08 Months i/e Rainy season
12	2021_PWPUIU_160800_1	CONSTRUCTION OF SDO/SDM OFFICE BUILDING FOR REVENUE DEPARTMENT AT GYARPUR DIST. VIDISHA IN M.P.	VIDISHA	85.62	86000	10000	10 Months i/e Rainy season
13	2021_PWPUIU_153963_3	NIT SCHEDULE FOR M.O.U. REPAIRING WORK UNDER PG AND BALANCE WORK TEHSIL SIRONI, LATERI, SHAMSABAD, KURVAL, PATHARI DISTRICT VIDISHA UNDER PWD PIU VIDISHA. (Third call)	VIDISHA	150.00	150000	12500	12 Months i/e Rainy season

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1	Expression of interest/tenders for empanelment of advertising agency with HPSEBL	Rs. 590/-	05.10.2021 (upto 5:00 P.M)	06.10.21 (upto 5:00 PM)	07.10.2021 (at 11.30 a.m)

(Yashwan Singh)  
Chief Engineer (MM),  
HPSEBL, Vidyut Bhawan, Shimla-171004,  
Tele Fax: 0177-2801265, Email: cemm@hpseb.com

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**Tender Notice NO. 03, Date : 27.09.2021**

**Invitation of tenders through e-procurement system**

By Chief Material Manager/Con, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-Procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete details in the item and other condition are available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Sr. No.	Tender No. Due Date	Brief Description of Stores	Qty. Required	Earnest Money (₹)
01	17195015E Dt. 25.10.2021	Relay AC Immune plug in type 'style QNA1 DC Neutral line 24V, 12F/4B contacts.	1231.00 Nos.	104300.00
02	17195023F Dt. 25.10.2021	Relay AC Immune plug in type style QNA1 DC Neutral line 24V, 8F/8B contacts.	1662.00 Nos.	141200.00
03	16215030 Dt. 25.10.2021	Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of screw air compressor capacity : 206 cfm/13 bar.	2.00 Nos.	58000.00

1. Above tenders are available on IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) The firm desires in participating against e/tender are advised to electronically regd. themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class-III digital Certificate (if already not obtained from certifying agencies authorized under govt. of India IT Act, 2000. Manual offers will not be accepted. 2. Advertised tender of Dy.Chief Material Manager/Con, NER, Gorakhpur, are being opened through EPS (E-Procurement System) only. Firms desiring to participate in Dy.Chief Material Manager/Con, NER/GKP should obtain necessary digital certificate and get themselves registered with CRIS/New Delhi. Necessary details in this regard can be obtained from the website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. 3. In case of difference between English and Hindi version of the tender notice the English version shall prevail. 4. Head of allocation towards cost of Earnest money & SD money is 00844556. 5. Above Item No. 01 & 02 is reserved to be procured from RDSO approved sources only. CPRO : S-54 Dy. Chief Material Manager/Con, Gorakhpur

**4 Do not cross unmanned level crossing using mobile phone.**

## Wildlife conservation campaign from Oct. 2

The Delhi government will organise a Wildlife Conservation Awareness Campaign at Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary from October 2, said Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday.

Mr. Rai said the government had planted 1.70 crore trees in the Capital in the last seven years and the green cover of the city had increased by 2,500 hectares.

"To curb pollution in Delhi, tree plantation drives have been great contributors. The balance, which trees create in the environment is being restored by the government aggressively," Mr. Rai said.

## 'Govt. has not kept vow to pay rent of tenants'

**BJP to protest at CM's house tomorrow**  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The BJP will gherao Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence on Thursday to protest against the Delhi government for allegedly failing to keep its promise of paying rent of tenants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, said State party president Adesh Gupta.

The Delhi High Court had expressed displeasure over the non-fulfilment of this promise made by Mr. Kejriwal recently but this was not the first time that the government had backtracked on such a statement, said Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri.

"To hide its own failures, the senior counsel of the government told the High Court that so far nobody has

contacted us asking for rental amount to be paid," Mr. Gupta said.

"While on one hand the Kejriwal government falsely charges daily wagers for not contacting it and on the other when they file a writ petition in the court for the rent payment, the same government opposes it," he alleged.

Mr. Bidhuri suggested that Mr. Kejriwal publicly apologise on the issue. "Kejriwal had announced ₹1 crore each to the families of every doctor, nurse, medical staff, sweeper, teacher, policeman, and staff working related to COVID. The number of such families is about 400, but so far only a dozen people have been given this amount," Mr. Bidhuri alleged.

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय  
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, पाकुड़**

**शुद्धि पत्र**

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि PR No. 251760 Road (21-22) D एवं PR No. 252995 Road (21-22) D द्वारा प्रकाशित शुद्धि पत्र के आलोक में निविदा आमंत्रण संख्या RCD/PAKUR/347/2021-22 दिनांक : 19.08.2021 में ई-निविदा का बेबसाईट पर प्रकाशन की तिथि तकनीकी कारणों से 20.09.2021 एवं समय पूर्वाह्न 10.30 बजे से के स्थान पर तिथि 29.09.2021 एवं समय पूर्वाह्न 10.30 बजे से और ई-निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 18.10.2021 एवं समय पूर्वाह्न 12.00 बजे तक के स्थान पर तिथि 01.11.2021 एवं समय पूर्वाह्न 12.00 बजे तक पढ़ा जाय।

कार्यपालक अभियंता  
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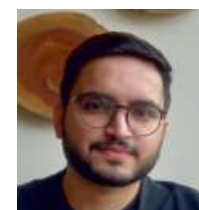
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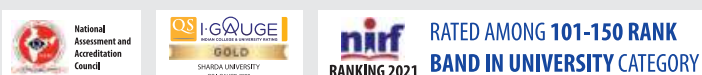


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**Timings DELHI**

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

FRIDAY, OCT. 01  
RISE 06:14 SET 18:07  
RISE 00:45 SET 15:06

**Delhi Weather**

	max	min
Delhi City	36	26
Safdarjang	36	26
Palam	35	27

**Delhi Palam Today**  
35°C A dry weather is likely. Day will be warm and humid. Night remains comfortable.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
36°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be very warm and humid. Night will be comfortable.

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## ED questions Minister in money laundering case

Anil Parab was grilled for eight hours

**STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI**  
Maharashtra's Transport Minister and senior Shiv Sena leader Anil Parab on Tuesday appeared at the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office here in connection with a money laundering case.

**'Nothing to hide'**  
Before going in for questioning, Mr. Parab said he has nothing to hide and nothing to fear. "I have done nothing wrong," he added. He was questioned by the ED officials for over eight hours before being allowed to go at 7 p.m.

The case against Mr. Pa-

rab follows allegations levelled by former Mumbai police officer Sachin Vaze who is in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) custody for his role in the bomb scare outside Antilia, the residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani.

**Vaze's claim**  
Mr. Vaze had claimed that the Minister received ₹20 crore as kickbacks for transfer of police officials in Mumbai through another officer from the Transport department.

The ED had issued summons to Mr. Parab for the second time on Saturday.

# Kejriwal launches ambitious Deshbhakti Curriculum

Every child in Delhi will be patriot in the truest sense, says Chief Minister

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday launched the Aam Aadmi Party government's ambitious Deshbhakti Curriculum to mark Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh's birth anniversary.

The Curriculum, launched at the Chhatrasal Stadium here, intended to bring the spirit of patriotism in each citizen to the fore — in this case schoolchildren. A live musical performance by singer-composer Palash Sen was also a part of the event.

Every child in Delhi, Mr. Kejriwal said, would be a "deshbhakt (patriot in the truest sense)", thanks to the curriculum. Deshbhakti, he added, had to be a "continually evolving feeling" even as he called for the development of Deshbhakti professionals.

"We need to develop an environment wherein we all and our children constantly feel patriotic at every step they take. We can only imagine what the future would look like if this happens," he said.

The curriculum will be rolled out from nursery to Class XII as and when the schools reopen and it will have no textbooks for students but for facilitators teaching it.

"This is a big day for our

## Deshbhakti curriculum at a glance

### WHAT IS DESHBHAKTI?

- Loving one's shared lands and communities
- Respect for all forms of life and spirit of empathy and peace
- Inclusive of the pluralism and diversity of beliefs, practices, religions, ethnicities, languages etc.
- Conscientious about one's duties, empowered to face challenges and bring about changes to take the country forward



### SNIPPETS FROM SYLLABUS

- What is the meaning of being a Deshbhakti?
- How did our freedom fighters help us achieve Independence?
- What kind of Deshbhakti do we need to meet present needs?
- What is the correct meaning of Deshbhakti?
- Identifying one's feeling of Deshbhakti and critically assessing oneself as a Deshbhakti
- Familiarising with aspects, reasons and facilities that every Indian is proud of
- Deeply understanding the feeling of pride in one's family, school and city
- Reflecting on the factors and reasons that has kept India away from being a developed country even after 75 years of Independence
- Envisioning the country of our dreams
- Understanding one's own role in creating the India of one's dream

### TEACHING

**Deshbhakti Dhyana:** First activity of every Deshbhakti class where students will reflect on their gratitude for the country, freedom fighters and any five persons they consider Deshbhaktis. Pledge their respect for the country every day



**Classroom discussion:** Encourage and nudge the students to think and reflect deeply, hone skill of communication and make them aware of their responsibility towards the country.



**Class activity:** Includes visualisation, self-introspection and other creative exercises

**Homework:** Students will ask the key questions of the chapter learnt to three people older than them and keep a diary

**Evaluation:** 360° evaluation through self-assessment, peer assessment, and assessment by the teacher. No formal examination or grading system to be followed

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT

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- Anthropology (offline) ----- Dec 2021
- Anthropology (online) ----- Sep 2021
- All India Test Series ----- 16th Oct 2021
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1) Director of Academics & Research (1 Post), 2) Director of Entrepreneurship (1 Post), 3) Dean (Veterinary) (2 Posts), 4) Dean (Dairy Science) (1 Post).

For details about age limit, emoluments, qualifications, score card, reservations and relaxations and all other matters relating to the appointment to the above posts, visit our website www.kvasu.ac.in to find notification No. KVASUGAJ/A6/12942/2020 dated 03.09.2021. The last date for receipt of filled in application: 28.10.2021, 4pm.

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**OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**

**DEATH**

**R. Venkatesan**  
S/o Late G. Ramachandra Iyer, (Siruvalai), 85 years, Ex ICF, attained lotus feet on 28th Sep 2021  
Deeply mourned by: Rajalakshmi (Wife), Vidya (Daughter), Ravishankar (Son-in-law), Nikhil (Grandson), Nanditha (Grand-daughter), brothers & family, Contact: 94817 89963

**DEATH**

**R. MURALI**  
Chartered Accountant  
Tejas Network, Bangalore  
DOB: 16-08-1949 DOD: 27-09-2021  
obsequies at Bangalore  
Mourning by Family Members  
Condolences message No. 096117 64938

**DEATH**

**Smt Rajalakshmi**  
W/o Shri H Venkataraman (Retd Chairman, Income Tax Settlement Commission)  
With profound grief we announce her sad demise in the early hours of 26.09.2021.  
In Grief  
H Venkataraman  
Usha Raghunath & family  
Rama & Family  
V Ramaprasad & Family  
V Girish & Family  
Due to Strict Covid Protocols request no home visits and thank you for respecting our privacy during this time of grief

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**SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE**

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely Priyanka (alongwith Suman Aged 25 yrs.) W/o Vivek R/o H.No.330, Village Lampur, Narela, Delhi Aged-24 Years has been reported missing since 31.08.2021 at about 10 AM from her residence vide DD No.53A Dated 02.09.2021 registered at Police Station Narela, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-  
**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Hair:** Black & Long, **Clothing:** Red coloured suit, salwar and slipper in feet  
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Narela, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Tel. No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641  
FAX No. : 011-24368639  
DP/1289/ON/2021

**SHO**  
P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi  
West Distt., Delhi  
Ph. No. 011-25190462, 25438719

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person (Photo depicted) **Name:** Unknown, **So:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 45 years, **Height:** 5'8", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thick, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** Blue colour shirt and Black colour pant has admitted S.K. Dheer **Age:** 81 years **S/o** R.K. Dheer **R/o** A-2/239, Janakpuri, New Delhi at Jeevan Mala Hospital, Delhi after road accident on 22.07.2021, where the injured person died during treatment. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 271/21 U/S 279/304A IPC Dated 22.07.2021 has been registered at P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi.  
The person self or who knows the person (depicted in the photo) or if any one is aware of this accident please come forward /co-operate and contact to the following :-  
**SHO :**  
P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi  
Central Distt., Delhi  
Tel. No. 011-23613252, 23537374, 8750874029  
DP/1002/CD/2021

## Kerala High Court dismisses petition against Karnataka curbs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Tuesday dismissed a public interest writ petition seeking a directive to Karnataka to allow passengers from Kerala who have COVID-19 vaccination certificates for at least one dose to enter the State and remove the requirement to carry a negative RT-PCR certificate taken 72 hours before travel.

The Bench, comprising Chief Justice S. Manikumar and Justice Shaji P. Chali, dismissed the plea by A.K.M. Ashraf, Manjeswararam MLA, and another person, for want of territorial jurisdiction of the High Court.

The court said no part of the cause of action as regards the circulars issued by Karnataka / its officials would arise in Kerala. It said a Division Bench had passed an interim order during the first lockdown when absolute blockades were created by Karnataka, prohibiting entry of passengers from Kerala. Such a situation was not prevailing now.

The restrictions were made within Karnataka to manage the travelling public entering the State, which could only be viewed as a methodology adopted by the State to curb COVID-19 spread, the court said.

## 70 organisations cut ties with Gogoi's Rajgor Dal

'Autocratic attitude' cited as reason

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Some 70 organisations have withdrawn their support to activist-turned-politician Akhil Gogoi's Rajgor Dal ahead of Assembly by-elections.

Bypolls to five Assembly seats in Assam are to be held on October 30 along with three constituencies in Meghalaya and one each in Mizoram and Nagaland.

The 70 organisations, many of them community-based, had since 2018 been associated with the Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS), a peasants' body that Mr. Gogoi had founded. They also backed the Rajgor Dal, formed mainly by the KMSS members in October 2020.

"We have decided to

withdraw support to the Rajgor Dal because of the autocratic attitude and political immaturity of its top leadership. There is lack of democracy within and the party inducted many who have engaged in anti-Assam activities," leaders of the 70 organisations said.

They also accused the Rajgor Dal of catering to the interest of a "specific section" of people while referring to the induction of "controversial" leaders from the All Assam Minority Students' Union.

Rajgor Dal working president Bhasco de Saikia said the withdrawal of support was a blessing in disguise. "None of these organisations were active in politics and party activities for a long time," he stated.

## Chargesheet filed in Sakinaka rape case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Eighteen days after a 32-year-old woman was raped and tortured with iron rods at Sakinaka, the Mumbai police have filed a chargesheet in the case. A press note said, "An FIR was filed under various sections of the IPC and the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The chargesheet of 346 pages was filed after examining 77 witnesses."

IN BRIEF



**'School reopening guidelines by Oct. 5'**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**  
Final guidelines for school reopening will be ready by October 5, Kerala Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty has said. Addressing mediapersons here on Tuesday, the Minister said the process was nearing completion. The guidelines would be finalised after incorporating directives put forward by other departments. Talks with them were almost through, the Minister said.

**Hike milk procurement price, Jagan tells dairies**

**GUNTUR**  
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has said that dairy farmers are earning ₹5 to ₹15 more per litre after Amul Dairy has entered the market and wanted dairies across the State to increase the price of milk procured from farmers. During a review meeting, the Chief Minister said, "I am happy that sustainable development of women has been made possible after the implementation of YSR Cheyutha and Aasara schemes".

**Bajrang Dal leaders held for 'moral policing'**

**MANGALURU**  
The Surathkal police have arrested five persons, including the Bajrang Dal district chief, for the alleged act of moral policing as they waylaid three medical students and assaulted them near the NITK toll plaza on NH 66. The accused were later released on station bail. The accused are Preetam Shetty, Bajrang Dal district pramukh, Arshit, Bajrang Dal head of Surathkal region, Srinivas, Rakesh, and Abhishek. City Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar confirmed the arrest.

# Police get custody of fraud accused

Crime Branch probe against Monson now restricted to two cases of fraud

**STAFF REPORTER KOCHI**

The Kerala Crime Branch police will interrogate Monson Mavunkal, a self-styled antiquities dealer and confidence trickster, as they obtained his police custody for three days on Tuesday.

He is unlikely to be taken around for evidence collection as is usually the norm as the police remain confident that a thorough interrogation would suffice to elicit critical details. Statements will be collected from people associated with the alleged fraudster, including his present and former employees and petitioners on whose complaint he was arrested on Sunday.

Notwithstanding the many other allegations that have sprung up implicating big names from political,

police, film and civil service fraternity, the Crime Branch probe remains strictly restricted to two cases of fraud — cheating the six petitioners of ₹10 crore and a resident of Pala of another ₹1.5 crore.

However, the fact that Monson had collected the entire amount through accounts held by other people may prove critical when the case reaches the trial stage.

While names and pictures of many celebrities have emerged, till now there has been no specific evidence proving their involvement in his frauds though the Crime Branch will probe whether any such evidence exists.

Most of his collections were reportedly cheap knock-offs procured locally. At least in one instance, an idol of Lord Ganesh, which the accused had exhibited at



Monson Mavunkal being brought to the Ernakulam General Hospital on Tuesday.

his home at Kaloor claiming to be from the 19th century, was reportedly created by a local sculptor who is now fighting for his payment.

Even the premium cars that dotted the portico in front of his home were reportedly used ones and sold relatively cheap by their owners in metro cities.

He used them for impressing gullible victims.

Meanwhile, there was high drama when Monson complained of discomfort ahead of being taken to the court and had to be rushed to the Ernakulam General Hospital. Though he was reportedly found to have high blood pressure, he was eventually taken to the court after observation at the hospital for a while.

**Blackmailing case**

In another development, the South police are awaiting forensic report on a smartphone of Monson in a case registered against him for allegedly blackmailing a sexual abuse survivor.

The case was registered in March based on the survivor's complaint that Monson allegedly tried to blackmail her into withdrawing the case against the accused, reportedly his father's friend. The case was originally regis-

tered by the Kalamassery police but was transferred to south as the place of occurrence fell within the latter's limit. The accused, who was released on bail, reportedly approached Monson for striking a compromise deal following which the latter met a friend of the survivor's brother.

"Monson then threatened to expose the survivor by showing the video footage of the abuse based on which she lodged a complaint. He, however, was granted conditional anticipatory bail though we seized his phone and sent it for forensic examination," said police sources.

Monson petitioned the court that the south police were rude with him following which he was allowed to appear before the Kalamassery police for periodical signatures. The south police have now booked him under Section 67 of the IT Act and relevant IPC Sections.

## Functionalities are user profile specific: IRCTC

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI**

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has stated that there is no chance of cancelling a train ticket by using a different user identity and password.

Referring to a report titled "Teen flags bug in IRCTC's system" published in these columns on September 21, 2021, IRCTC's spokesperson Anand Kumar Jha said that there was no scope to cancel a ticket or change the boarding station, by taking advantage of a vulnerability since the functionalities were user profile specific.

But, he said the issue of accessing the transaction

details by changing the transaction identity had been fixed on second September 2, 2021.

P. Renganathan, 17, Chennai-based XII Standard student who flagged the issue had written to the Computer Emergency Response Team stating that he had discovered a critical vulnerability that leaked the transaction details of millions of travellers.

Explaining how the private data could be accessed, Renganathan said that by changing the transaction identity one could gain access to others travel details.

To this, CERT thanked the teenager and confirmed by email that the vulnerability had been fixed.

## As rebellion rages, Rahul Gandhi to visit Kerala today

Sudhakaran and Satheesan likely to meet him

**G. ANAND THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

When he arrives in Kerala on Wednesday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, MP, is likely to find himself in the thick of a raging rebellion by the 'old guard' against the new Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) leadership.

Mr. Gandhi is scheduled to land in Kozhikode and proceed to Wayanad for a slew of meetings.

KPCC president K. Sudhakaran, who has been singled out for public criticism by Congress veterans V.M. Sudheeran and Mullappally

Ramachandran, is likely to meet Mr. Gandhi. Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan is also in Kozhikode.

It is unclear whether organisational issues in Kerala are on Mr. Gandhi's agenda.

**Tug-of-war**

All India Congress Committee general secretary in charge of Kerala Tariq Anwar, who met Mr. Sudheeran on Monday, is likely to brief the national leadership on the organisational tug-of-war in the State.

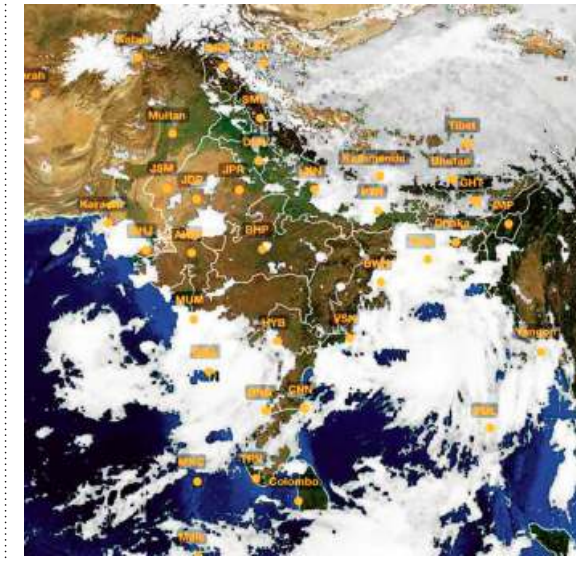
Last week, Mr. Sudheeran had resigned from the AICC and KPCC's political affairs

committee in protest against 'authoritarianism and lack of consultation' in the party. Mr. Sudheeran had reportedly accused Mr. Sudhakaran and Mr. Satheesan of bypassing senior leaders in the appointment of District Congress Committee presidents. "The new leadership had dashed expectations," he had said.

At a stroke, Mr. Sudheeran appeared to have found common cause with the grievances of Congress veterans Oommen Chandy and Ramesh Chennithala, who control the 'A' and 'T' groups, respectively.

**WEATHER WATCH**

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Wednesday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Jharkhand, Odisha, central Maharashtra, Marathwada and Konkan & Goa. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2	33.5	25.4	Kozhikode	18	30.5	24.2
Ahmedabad	34.3	24.0	Kurnool	0.5	32.3	25.1	
Aizawl	29.8	18.5	Lucknow	35.8	25.6		
Allahabad	34.2	25.6	Madurai	35.8	23.5		
Bengaluru	9.1	26.6	20.4	Mangaluru	40.1	29.3	22.6
Bhopal	29.9	24.4	Mumbai	39	30.9	24.0	
Bhubaneswar	0.1	32.1	24.5	Mysuru	5	30	21.6
Chandigarh	36.0	25.4	New Delhi	35.7	26.3		
Chennai	35.3	27.0	Patna	0.8	35.2	25.4	
Coimbatore	31.5	21.8	Port Blair	30	30.0	24.3	
Dehradun	33.4	22.8	Puducherry	33.2	22.0		
Gangtok	1	21.2	16.6	Pune	2.2	28.8	22.0
Goa	13	29.8	24.0	Raipur	0.5	33.0	23.8
Guwahati	12	34.8	24.4	Ranchi	10	29.6	22.7
Hubbali	26.0	22.0	Shillong	0.2	25.6	17.9	
Hyderabad	42	26.6	21.4	Shimla	25.8	19.4	
Imphal	28.4	20.6	Srinagar	30.6	15.8		
Jaipur	33.8	23.0	Thiruvananthapuram	18	28.8	21.6	
Kochi	6	28.2	23.6	Tiruchi	36.3	24.8	
Kohima	29.6	18.0	Vijayawada	79	32.0	25.2	
Kolkata	29.5	26.0	Visakhapatnam	24	27.0	24.6	

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	18	114	39	59	...
Bengaluru	12	24	101	26	26	...
Chennai	5	25	68	28	71	...
Delhi	33	58	119	144	142	...
Hyderabad	4	53	18	19	18	...
Kolkata	8	29	64	20	32	...
Lucknow	9	34	46	64	106	...
Mumbai	20	10	108	63	104	...
Pune	34	108	45	44	44	...
Visakhapatnam	13	67	62	35	55	...

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** 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 and monuments.

**NO<sub>2</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

## Following rain, many rivers in spate in A.P.

Road connectivity to several villages cut off; over 53,000 stranded

**STAFF REPORTER SRIKAKULAM/KAKINADA**

With heavy inflows from catchment areas following incessant rains, many rivers, including Vamsadhara, Suvarnamukhi and Nagavali in Andhra Pradesh, have been in spate since Tuesday.

This led to heavy flooding in many mandals, including Palakonda, Burja, Amadavalasa, and Srikakulam. Around 48,500 cusecs of water has been released from the Narayanpur Anicut built across the Nagavali in Burja mandal.

The inflow was 29,100 cusecs in the Madduvalasa reservoir built across the Suvarnamukhi, a tributary of Nagavali river, and the outflow was 50,434 cusecs, in the Palakonda division.



**Water world:** People fishing in the downstream of Meghadriggedda reservoir after excess water was released as it breached the maximum limit in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. \*K.R. DEEPAK

Road connectivity to several villages was completely cut off as rivers, rivulets and streams overflowed, leaving over 53,000 people stranded. The situation was worst in the Palakonda division with people facing shortage of food and water and there was no electricity.

Srikakulam District Fire Officer Ch. Krupavaram, Palakonda DSP M. Sravani and other officials travelled in a boat in the floodwaters and reached Kondasekarapalli, Koppara villages of Palakonda division. They provided food and explained the relief measures being taken to res-

cue people stranded in the floods.

Srikakulam Collector Shri-kesh B. Lathkar said the district administration had taken preventive steps to minimise the damage to crops in the backdrop of floods and continuous heavy downpour in many parts of

the district on Tuesday.

**Paddy cultivation**

At least 4,453 hectares under paddy cultivation have been inundated following incessant rains across East Godavari district. The total extent of area under paddy cultivation is above 2.22 lakh hectares in the district.

There was some respite for Telangana from rain on Tuesday. Almost entire Telangana was battered during the 24-hour period till 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday. The highest of 25 mm rain was recorded at Ailapur in Jagtial district. However, the impact of Monday's very heavy to extremely heavy rain was still visible on Tuesday too.

According to the Met department, a highest of nearly 22.6 cm rain was recorded at Jakranpalle in Nizamabad district during the 24-hour period till 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday.

(With inputs from Telangana bureau)

## Centre's nod for admission of 850 students in T.N. medical colleges

3 colleges allowed to take in 150 students: Health Minister

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI**

The Union government has given its approval for admission of 850 students to seven of the 11 new government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu this year, Health Minister Ma. Subramanian said on Tuesday.

While the colleges at Virudhunagar, Kallakurichi and Udhagamandalam were permitted to admit 150 students each, those at Namakkal, Tiruppur, Ramanathapuram and Tiruvallur would admit 100 students each, he told reporters.

The National Medical Commission had conducted inspections at all 11 colleges. "The inspection team pointed out minor deficiencies at the colleges at Dindigul, Krishnagiri, Nagapattinam and Ariyalur. By small defi-



Ma. Subramanian

ciencies, they stressed the need for additional buildings. The work will be completed in 10 days; thereafter, we will seek a re-inspection," he said.

With all the works completed at the colleges at Virudhunagar, Kallakurichi and Udhagamandalam, an intake of 150 students each was approved, he said.

The inspection team had

laid down conditions to take up some minor works at the colleges at Namakkal, Tiruppur, Ramanathapuram and Tiruvallur. These works would be completed soon. Accordingly, admission of 100 students each had been approved for these colleges. Once the deficiencies were rectified, the government would seek a re-inspection of these four colleges to get the approval for admission to the remaining seats.

"The Union government has approved admission of a total of 850 students. The total number of 1,650 seats should be approved at these colleges [11 colleges]. We will rectify all minor deficiencies in 10-15 days. We expect to get approval for the remaining number of seats by October-end after the team conducts a re-inspection," he said.

## A temple entry for Dalits for first time

Amid police security, locals at Dindagur in Karnataka visit temples

**SATHISH G.T. DINDAGUR**

Thimmaiah, 75, of Dindagur in Channarayapatna taluk in Karnataka, was elated on Tuesday. For the first time in his life, he could enter the temples in his native place. In fact, none of his forefathers had this opportunity.

"I was born in this village, and my children and grandchildren were born here. But none of us have entered the temples," he told *The Hindu*. Mr. Thimmaiah and more than 100 members from the Dalit colony of the village entered the temples in the presence of the police and officers of the Channarayapatna taluk administration on Tuesday.



**Maiden visit:** Dalit families at the Keshava temple in Dindagur, Karnataka, on Tuesday. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Earlier in the day, tahsildar J.B. Maruthi and Deputy Superintendent of Police Lakshme Gowda held a meeting in the village with regard to the Dalits' demand for protection to enter the temples. When the officers wanted to know if there was any opposition from the "upper" castes, the

response was negative. A couple of villagers insisted that all these years, the Dalits had not attempted to enter the temples and there had not been any opposition to them doing so either. After recording the opinions of the public, the tahsildar declared that the temples were open

and the Dalits could enter them. He said the administration would intervene if there was any opposition to their entry.

Then, the Dalits entered the temples in groups. They went to Malleshwara temple, a Hoysala structure; Keshava temple, also a Hoysala structure built in the 13th century; Basavanna temple, Santhamma temple, which was built for the local deity, among others. "We used to offer prayers standing outside the temple during the festivals," said Mr. Thimmaiah.

Earlier this month, a few Dalit youth submitted a memorandum to the taluk administration seeking protection to enter the temples.

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## Tackling the Maoists

The insurgency has weakened but its potency in select areas has not reduced

In a meeting with State leaders and representatives, Home Minister Amit Shah noted that the geographical influence of the Maoists has reduced from 96 districts in 10 States in 2010 to 41 now. The contraction is not surprising. Armed struggle has found few takers beyond select pockets untouched by development or linkages with the welfare state; and far from consolidating its presence – a prospect that seemed possible following the merger of two major Naxalite groups into the proscribed Communist Party of India (Maoist) – the organisation is limited to the remote and densely forested terrains of central and east-central India. Rather than mobilising discontents with the Indian state by projecting its weaknesses and ensuring inclusion and welfare, the Maoists have privileged armed struggle, invited state repression and sought to use this to recruit adherents. Such a strategy has led to some of India's poorest people, the tribals in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand in particular, being caught up in endless violence, and also caused severe losses to the Maoists as well as anti-insurgent security forces. This has followed the predictable path of most Maoist insurrections that retained armed struggle to achieve their aims – in the Philippines and Peru, for example – leaving behind death and violence rather than enabling genuine uplift of the poor. Despite these, the Maoists have not budged from their flawed understanding of the nature of the Indian state and democracy, unwilling to accept that the poor people, whom they claim to represent, seek greater engagement with the electoral and welfare system.

The Maoist insurgency still has potency in South Bihar in Chhattisgarh, the Andhra-Odisha border and in some districts in Jharkhand. These States must focus on expansive welfare and infrastructure building even as security forces try to weaken the Maoists. Frequent skirmishes and attacks have not only affected the security forces but also left many tribal civilians caught in the crossfire. A purely security-driven approach fraught with human rights' violations has only added to the alienation among the poor in these areas. The Maoists must be compelled to give up their armed struggle and this can only happen if the tribal people and civil society activists promoting peace are also empowered. The Indian government should not be satisfied with the mere weakening of the Maoist insurgency and reduce commitments made for the developmental needs of some districts of concern in States such as Jharkhand, as its Chief Minister has alleged. The Union government and the States must continue to learn from successes such as the expansion of welfare and rights paradigms in limiting the movement and failures that have led to the continuing spiral of violence in select districts.

## No clear winner

Germany looks set for a three-way coalition with Social Democrats most likely at the head

The German elections are known to be a predictable exercise largely dominated by the Conservatives. But this time, even after the preliminary results are out, there is no clarity about which party would form the coalition and who would succeed Angela Merkel, who had announced her retirement well before the polls. There are now two wannabe Chancellors and two kingmakers, and coalition talks are expected to drag on. The centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) took a narrow lead with 25.7% of the vote, followed by the bloc led by Ms. Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats (CDU), with 24.1%, their lowest vote share. The Greens won 14.8%, their best performance in a national poll, while the liberal, pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) took 11.5%. Olaf Scholz, who put the trailing Socialists in the lead, has claimed victory and shown interest in working with the Greens. Armin Laschet, the Conservative leader, has also promised to put "every effort" to ensure a CDU-led government. That leaves the Greens and the Liberals as kingmakers. Since the Socialists and the Conservatives, currently coalition partners in the Merkel government, will not be together again, the next government is set to be a three-way coalition.

Over the last 16 years, Ms. Merkel has been the undisputed face of the CDU and one of Germany's most popular leaders. Her decision to retire has left a vacuum both in the CDU leadership and in German politics. Under the uncharismatic conservative Armin Laschet, the CDU, which ruled 52 of the 72 post-war years of Germany, looked like a pale shadow of itself, while Mr. Scholz, who belongs to the pro-business sections of the Social Democrats, led a campaign focused on social justice, by promising to increase the minimum wage, build affordable houses and raise taxes on the rich. This campaign allowed the Social Democrats to eat into the traditional vote base of the Conservatives. The growing awareness of climate politics led to the rapid and visible rise of the Greens. Mr. Scholz will now seek to bring together the Social Democrats, Greens and Liberals, the so-called 'traffic light' coalition that will have 416 seats, well beyond the 368 needed for majority. But a lot would depend on coalition talks and reaching common ground, as the CDU has also thrown its hat into the ring. When Ms. Merkel took over the reins of Germany in 2005, Europe's largest economy was stalled with high unemployment. She overcame crises, strengthening Germany's economic prowess and transforming its role in Europe. But she also saw German politics getting fragmented and the rise of the neo-Nazi AfD, which got a 10.3% vote share in Sunday's poll. Whoever succeeds Ms. Merkel has their task cut out to offer stable governance, address growing social disquiet and strengthen the EU. And a bigger challenge is to take up this ambitious agenda while leading a three-way coalition.

# NEET fails the multidimensional construct of merit

The policy of a single test needs to be reviewed to attain the lofty goals of the New Education Policy



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government in Tamil Nadu has now passed a law scrapping the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET). Called the Permanent Exemption Bill for NEET, it exempts medical aspirants in Tamil Nadu from taking NEET for admission to undergraduate degree courses in medicine, dentistry and homoeopathy. Many, including judges of the Supreme Court of India, were of the opinion that NEET would be most student friendly as it would not only save them from the trouble of appearing in multiple tests but also ensure a transparent and fair system of medical admissions. But how this 'one-test, one-nation' policy would really affect students, particularly those from rural and underprivileged sections, has not been studied properly. How it would undermine the rights of minority institutions too was not given much importance. What has been the experience of other countries with such tests? What would be the true implications of a one test policy on federalism?

### A revived debate

In accordance with the DMK's electoral promise of promoting equity in medical admissions, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, constituted a high-level committee under the chairmanship of retired Madras High Court judge, Justice A.K. Rajan. After the High Court had dismissed a petition by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State Secretary K. Nagarajan against the constitution of this committee, the DMK government moved with god speed and got the law against NEET passed by the State Assembly. Of course this law will not be able to help students as the President of India is unlikely to give his

assent to it as the BJP had opposed it. Yet, the enactment of this law has succeeded in reviving the debate about the usefulness of NEET. While medical education is on the Concurrent list (Entry 25), it is subject to the maintenance of standards in higher education which is within the domain of the central government under the Union list (Entry 66). In any case, the field is occupied by the central law namely Section 14 of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 that provides for NEET. NEET is a unique system of admission as no admission in medicine is possible in India without clearing NEET. The idea of common tests was initiated by Murlu Manohar Joshi as the HRD Minister in the A.B. Vajpayee government. It found some support in the judgment of the Supreme Court in *T.M.A. Pai Foundation* (2002). NEET was notified by the Medical Council of India (MCI) in 2010 but in 2013, a three-judge majority decision in *Christian Medical College Vellore Association vs Union of India and Others* had struck down NEET. The decision was widely criticised as being pro-rich, for pro-coaching centres, and anti-student and one which would lower the standards of medical education. As a result, the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 was amended and Section 10D was inserted to empower the MCI to conduct NEET. Moreover the review petition against this judgment was allowed in 2016 and the Supreme Court ordered the conduct of NEET from 2016 itself.

### Imposed by the judiciary

Surprisingly, the Bench did not accept even the Government of India's repeated requests to permit State governments to conduct their tests at least in 2016. NEET was thus imposed by the Court and not the Narendra Modi government. Interestingly, the Court did not pay much attention to its own judgment in *Islamic Academy of Education and Another* (2003) where a five-judge Bench had clarified *T.M.A. Pai Foundation* and held that institutions that have a special feature and have a fair and



transparent admission procedure for at least the last 25 years can seek an exemption from the common admission test.

The Justice Arun Mishra-led Bench in 2020 again upheld NEET even in respect of minority institutions. Article 30 gives them the right to admit students of their choice. 'Choice' cannot be limited just to the right to reservation. Each university or institution has a right to emphasize some special areas of study. For instance, the Gandhi Medical College, Seva Gram, Vardha, had a paper on Gandhian Studies in its test. Similar was the case with the Armed Forces Medical College which used to test a student in defence studies.

Instances of alleged question paper leakage in the very first year of NEET, media reports of unfair means and examination malpractices by students show that both NEET as well as JEE are not fool-proof tests satisfying the parameters of fairness and transparency.

### Data on post-NEET impact

The A.K. Rajan report has substantiated arguments against a single test in its 165-page report. A majority of the 86,342 people the panel spoke to were opposed to NEET. The diversity in Tamil medical institutions has been affected with the introduction of NEET. The percentage of students from rural areas has dropped from 61.45% to 50.81%. Similarly, the percentage of candidates from government schools has gone down from 1.12% to 0.6%. The percentage of English medium students – already dominating medical education – went up from 85.12% to 98.01%. The percentage of students from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has gone up to 38.84%. For students from economically poor

er sections, it was a decline – from 47.42% to 41.05%. The number of first generation learners has gone down too. Post NEET, Tamil students constitute just 1.99%.

### 'Elitism' in NEET

Unfortunately, the Supreme Court considered just the legality of NEET but overlooked the real impact NEET would have on the ground particularly on underprivileged candidates and minority institutions. Forget India with its huge regional disparities and marked differences in the standards of various State boards. Even in the United States, a number of surveys found that it was mainly the children of mostly rich, white and politically powerful families who cleared prestigious common tests. Empirical research in the United States on standardised common tests has found that these tests are biased against the poorer and underprivileged sections of population, women and minorities. To overcome these problems, race-sensitive admission criteria were introduced, leading to the judgment in *Grutter* (2003). Thus, there is an element of class in NEET and the Justice Rajan committee has found hard evidence of such elitism. If similar committees are appointed in other States, there are sure to be identical findings.

Moreover with just one national test, commercial coaching institutes are bound to prosper. And since most coaching centres are in the cosmopolitan and big cities, poorer students from a rural background, and who have studied in the vernacular medium, would always be at a disadvantage in any 'one nation-one test' policy. There is also large-scale variation in syllabus when it comes to the CBSE and State boards. Wrong translation of questions including in Tamil had also been a problem. If unequals are tested on the basis of one test, i.e. NEET, the mandate of equality is violated as Article 14 demands likes are to be treated alike, not unlikes are to be treated alike. Thus, it goes against the Preamble as it does not provide equal oppor-

tunity to all. What it basically achieves is just 'formal' rather than 'substantive equality' as it overlooks differences.

The greatest argument in favour of NEET is judicial belief about the promotion of merit though without any clarity on the meaning of merit. The reality is that many private colleges even after NEET do admit students under Non Resident Indian and management quota on extremely low scores i.e. much lower than the scores of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class categories.

Merit requires fair competition and equality of opportunity. Is it not a fact that the central government and judges sincerely believe that the multidimensional construct of merit can be adequately, if not accurately, measured? When NEET does not satisfactorily meet this fundamental criterion, competition cannot be termed as fair and just, and the equality of opportunity becomes illusory. There is substantial scholarship in the West (Sacks, Freedle, Wells, Camara and Schmidt) that common admission tests cannot measure abilities that are essential for learning such as imagination, curiosity and motivation. NEET does not test qualities that a doctor must possess such as compassion, empathy and passion to serve humanity. Accordingly hardly any doctor is willing to serve in rural areas. NEET toppers won't necessarily make good doctors.

While the Tamil Nadu government should try to improve educational standards of its schools, the NEET syllabus should not be based entirely on CBSE. The central government too should review the policy of a single test so that diversity of the society is reflected in our medical institutions and the goals of the New Education Policy – of equity, inclusion and access – are realised.

Faizan Mustafa, an expert of constitutional law, is the Vice-Chancellor of the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. The views expressed are personal

# Germany as a development actor in a post-Merkel era

The new Chancellor must enable global cooperation policies for a sustainable future with India and the world



ANNA-KATHARINA HORNIDGE

The era of Angela Merkel, as Chancellor of Germany for the past 16 years, is coming to an end while the battle of a number of global crises is at its peak. The federal elections, on September 26, that mark the end of the Merkel-era, have given rise to a currently unforeseeable political future. So, how will Germany define its role as an important international agent in the fight against global challenges, including climate change, and fostering global sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations?

Climate change, resource destruction and species extinction are limiting development opportunities and global scope for action more than ever before. Major emerging economies, including India, and regional powers are, besides the 'old' countries of the West, since long shaping the economic, political and cultural interdependencies of a more complex, dynamic, accelerated world. And it is now time to act: to battle climate change and biodiversity loss, rising social inequalities and poverty, defend democracy and secure peace.

### Key roles soon

In this, Germany and India take on core roles in the coming two years: Germany, as the second biggest bilateral development donor globally (the United States is first), takes over the G7 presidency in 2022. In-

dia presides over the G20 in 2023. These offer an opportunity to mutually strengthen the processes of club governance and foster a focused dialogue among our political leaders and policy-making for a common future.

### There is a shift now

Yet, Germany's ability to live up to this responsibility depends on the outcome of the recent elections and coalition negotiations. The field of international cooperation for sustainable development has, over the past 16 years, moved from the Millennium Development Goals of the UN that were formulated in New York as standards to be reached by low- and middle-income countries, to the understanding that poverty alleviation and fighting rising inequalities go hand in hand with combating environmental and climatic change processes. 'Development' was redefined as 'sustainable development' and thus, as a challenge to be addressed by all countries, and in all societal and economic sectors. An important instrument for achieving sustainable development is – as has become clearer than ever before – international and transregional cooperation on an equal eye-level, geared towards a global common good.

Today, six years after the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement were formulated and one and a half years into a global pandemic, we need radically transformative structural policies for the global common good and in line with the 2030 Agenda of the UN. Germany as the third biggest economy, in terms of its share in global trade, has to live up to its responsibility and set the course for these transformative changes. Yet, it can only



do so in partnership, and especially in partnership with the big transition economies, including India. We need structural policies that foster the global common good. Core fields of action include reducing social inequalities, overcoming poverty and ensuring social justice, promoting social peace, political participation and cultural diversity, creating a climate-neutral and stable economic system, vehemently advocating for healthy ecosystems, stable climate and biodiversity.

The key policy areas that need urgent attention have been highlighted again by the COVID-19 pandemic: we need to make financial markets, digitalisation and the economy sustainable; social protection, food and health systems need to be more robust; strengthen education, science and innovation, inclusive institutions for social cohesion, and promote rules-based, regional and multilateral governance.

### Equitable cooperation

This type of policy-making rests on cooperation on equal eye-level: between countries, social groups and living environments; between politics, business, science and society, and between ministerial departments. United and driven by the common goal of the global capacity to act. It is a global cooperation policy for our common sustainable future. Changing internal

and external structures in a way that self-determination, political and economic participation and social peace are possible for all people in the future requires continuous dialogue around the identification and shaping of common values and preconditions for the future.

This also means that a global cooperation policy for a sustainable future requires a strong governance architecture. It can only be realised through the interplay of domestic and externally-oriented departments, different decision-making levels from local to global, and politics, business and society working together. However, strategic leadership and coordination must be anchored at the cabinet level, in a ministry whose political logic does not focus only on economic growth or poverty reduction, security or climate protection, but lays emphasis on stronger global cooperation for the global common good. The reduction of social inequalities must be addressed in conjunction with climate protection, political participation and economic prosperity.

The focus must be on the dynamics between the global megatrends of our time; not on ministry-specific single transformational steps. Germany's Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development brings the necessary experience to this task. But it needs the will to innovate now, has to develop a strategic vision, and requires the necessary decision-making powers and resources. The partners of cooperation for global transformative change are transition and high-income countries just as much as low-income countries. The multilateral level of cooperation must thus move to the centre, support-

ed by bilateral and European cooperation on all continents.

### Glasgow meet as opportunity

The cooperation with India is of key importance – as a transregional player – in fighting social inequalities and addressing climate change. The global differences in combating the COVID-19-pandemic with COVID-19 recovery funds amounting to 16% of GDP in high income countries, 4% in middle income and only 1% in low-income countries, meet the continuous increases in greenhouse gas emissions. The upcoming COP26 in Glasgow thus serves as an important platform to negotiate investments into the greenhouse gas neutral transformations of India's energy and transport sectors just as much as into the social security systems enabling societal capacities to live with the crises ahead.

A global cooperation policy for a sustainable future must adopt a planetary perspective with a focus on the dynamics between social, ecological and economic change processes, cultivate dialogue across departmental boundaries and systematically shape transformative structural policy for the global common good. Germany in a post-Merkel era requires wise leadership in the Chancellor's office that turns its attention to younger generations and to the world, recognises the urgency of global cooperation policies for a sustainable future with India and the world, and supports them at the cabinet table. The elections have to pave the way accordingly.

Anna-Katharina Hornidge is Director of the German Development Institute (DIE/GDI) and Professor of Global Sustainable Development at the University of Bonn

## 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.

### Unfair remarks

It is businessmen and businesses that are risking their capital and well within their rights to demand fair and equitable policies that benefit their companies. This does not make them anti-national; far from it. Their investments will be made right here in India creating jobs for thousands.

The kind of unsubstantiated and disparaging comments about business corporates, the pillars of the country's economy, are uncalled for. Vilifying organisations in this manner helps no one and merely vitiates the environment ("Panchajanya terms Amazon as 'East India company 2.0.'", September

28). It was not long ago that aspersions were cast on a leading software giant by saying it is trying to destabilise the Indian economy. The founders of this company are role models for youngsters; bright entrepreneurs who built a world-class business by sheer dint of hard work and earned their wealth,

and respect, the right way. A Union Minister also made adverse remarks against a leading corporate group, without good reason. All these instances are unfair and uncalled for.

N. SADHASIVA REDDY, Bengaluru

### Women and work

In an excerpt from her

book, the former CEO of PepsiCo, Indra Nooyi, tells about the challenges working women have to encounter and overcome irrespective of their status in the corporate order (OpEd page, "Leave that crown in the garage", September 28). The reality that working women have to put "extra fuel in their

tanks" to be on a par with, let alone excelling, their male counterparts is clear. At the same time, "leave the crown in the garage" is also the reality that many a working woman has to deal with.

AYYASERRI RAVEENDRANATH, Aranmula, Kerala

# How to grease the wheels of justice

The problem of pendency of cases in courts across the country can be tackled with a few measures



SHAILESH GANDHI & ARUN JOSHI

Speaking at an event organised by the Karnataka Bar Council, Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana quoted a former Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Warren Burger, "The notion that ordinary people want black robed judges, well-dressed lawyers in fine courtrooms as settings to resolve their disputes is incorrect. People with problems, like people with pains, want relief and they want it as quickly and inexpensively as possible." He made a plea to 'Indianise' courts to make them responsive to the needs of the Indian citizens.

The Chief Justice of India has the historic opportunity to make this happen. At present, despite good intentions, the nation's judiciary is hurtling towards a disaster and needs immediate attention. A measure of the justice delivery system is the pendency of cases in courts across the country. We have seen a significant deterioration in this aspect as shown in the table.

More than 40% of cases are decided after three years in India, while in many other countries less than 1% of cases are decided after three years. If India does not act decisively and quickly, this percentage will keep increasing. The rich, the powerful and the wrongdoers have a field day by getting their cases expedited or delayed as they wish. The increase in corruption and crime is a direct fallout of the sluggish justice delivery system. This severely impacts the poor and marginalised. For them, the judicial process itself becomes a punishment. Data show that about 70% of prisoners in India are under-trials and are mostly poor citizens.

## Filling vacancies

Two measures can be implemented within two years to tackle this issue. First, reduce the pendency of cases by filling sanctioned judicial positions. Analysis shows that between 2006 and 2019, the average increase in pendency was less than 2% per year whereas the average vacancy in sanctioned judicial positions was

Date	Total pending cases	Increase in pendency	Increase
January 1, 2006	292 lakh	-	-
January 1, 2020	375 lakh	83 lakh	Average 5.7 lakh/year in 14 years
January 1, 2021	426 lakh	51 lakh	51 lakh in one year
July 1, 2021	449 lakh	23 lakh	23 lakh in half a year

Pendency data for 2006 are from the Supreme Court's website. Data for the other years are from the National Judicial Data Grid



about 21%. If the sanctioned positions had been filled, pendency of cases would have gone down each year.

The nation neither needs 70,000 judges, as claimed by former Chief Justice of India T.S. Thakur, nor does it need to double the present number of judges. It needs to add about 20% of judges. This is in line with the sanctioned strength. This figure has been endorsed by Justice B.N. Srikrishna, Justice R.C. Chavan and 100 IIT alumni. The responsibility of selecting judges is largely with the judiciary itself. The responsibility of appointments in the subordinate judiciary lies with the State governments and their respective High Courts. The responsibility of ensuring near-zero vacancies should be with the Chief Justices of the High Courts and the Chief Justice of India and they should be held accountable for the same. Right now, nobody believes that they are accountable, and filling judicial vacancies is not considered a matter of priority.

Filling all vacancies may result in a requirement of about 5,000 courtrooms. A simple solution would be to run 5,000 courts in two shifts.

## Use of technology

The second is to improve working with the use of technology. The e-Committee of the Supreme Court has been in existence since 2005. It has made three outstanding recommendations which are not being fol-

lowed. One, computer algorithms should decide on case listing, case allocation and adjournments with only a 5% override given to judges. It said all rational reasons and limits should be put on adjournments; case listing should give main weightage to 'first in, first out'; and case allocation should take into account logical criteria. This would be a big step in reducing arbitrariness and the unfair advantage that the powerful enjoy.

Two, the courts should focus on e-filing. The e-Committee made detailed SOPs on how petitions and affidavits can be filed and payment of fees can be done electronically without lawyers or litigants having to travel to the courts or use paper. This should be implemented in all seriousness and would also save about three lakh trees annually.

Three, it focused on virtual hearings. COVID-19 prompted the courts to adopt virtual hearings. However, virtual hearings were held only in some cases while physical hearings were held in most. In pre-COVID-19 years, the increase in the pendency of cases in all courts used to be about 5.7 lakh cases a year. In 2020 alone, it increased to an astonishing 51 lakh. It appears that if a hybrid virtual hearing model is not adopted, the backlog of cases could cross 5 crore in 2022. The dysfunctional justice system will be perpetually overwhelmed.

All the courts in the country must switch to a hybrid virtual mode im-

mediately and start disposing cases. Even after the COVID-19 crisis ends, it would be beneficial to continue hybrid virtual courts. This will make access to justice easier for litigants, reduce costs, and also give a fair opportunity to young lawyers from small towns. The required hardware is available in all courts.

## No change in laws

All the recommendations – e-filing of petitions, affidavits and payment of fees; algorithm-based computerised listing, roster, case allocation and adjournments with only a 5% override to be given to judges; hybrid virtual hearings; filling judicial vacancies; and holding Chief Justices responsible for ensuring that vacancies in judicial positions are less than 5% – are based on the Supreme Court's various decisions and the e-Committee's recommendations. These would require no changes in laws. At a conference, High Court Chief Justices and the Chief Justice of India and the government could make decisions on all of this.

If all this is done, India's judicial system can rank among the 10 top countries of the world. These changes would make India the preferred nation for international investments and also fulfil the fundamental right to speedy justice of citizens.

Shailesh Gandhi is former Central Information Commissioner and Arun Joshi is a Technical Consultant

# In pursuit of happiness

The great degree of unhappiness in Indian society has a lot to do with the way the law and its institutions operate



G.S. BAJPAI

Until the beginning of the publication of the United Nations World Happiness Report in 2012, happiness was not considered an objective of governance. But it has now emerged as a new measure of the quality of governance. The connection between law, governance and happiness has been gaining considerable attention over the years. This is because the report has shown time and again that countries with a higher GDP and higher per capita income are not necessarily the happiest.

## Dismal performance

The United Nations World Happiness Report of 2021 ranks India 139 out of 149 countries. Happiness was measured by also taking into consideration the effects of COVID-19 on the people and their evaluation of the performance of governance systems. The report shows that COVID-19-induced social distancing had a severe impact on happiness as sharing and community life were hugely affected during the pandemic.

India's dismal performance on happiness is crucial if we look at governance and the law. Happiness has never been considered an explicit goal of public policy in India. The trust and confidence enjoyed by public institutions are quite pertinent in the happiness score sheet. Guarantees of rights, participation, dignity, and social justice are crucial in the determination of happiness in a society like India.

We tend to limit the role of law to a mere sanctioning instrumentality which satisfies the retributive instincts of people. However, the law is capable of creating many positive obligations, which may lead to a collective conscience, care and cooperation. It is capable of making people feel that they have a role in resolving their problems through distributive justice. "To feel that your lost wallet would be returned if found by a police officer, by a neighbour, or a stranger, was considered to be a measure of happiness than income, unemployment, and major health risks," the report states.

Law ought to bring happiness to the lives of people. The great degree of unhappiness in Indian society has a lot to do with the way the law and its institutions operate. People live in pain and anguish as their legitimate grievances remain unaddressed by the legal

system. It is erroneous to believe that every case that is decided by the courts brings happiness to the people. According to the World Justice Report, as many as 40% of people live outside the protection of law in the world. More than 5 billion people fall into this 'justice gap'. India's share is very big in these figures. The estimated figure of 3.5 crore pending cases in various courts of the country is not merely a number as all those connected with these cases are in a state of anxiety. They are certainly not happy people. Typically, the criminal justice system for these people is a source of unhappiness.

India's rule of law rank was 69 as per the World Justice report 2021. It has a chilling effect on the right to life, liberty, economic justice, dignity and national integration. Justice in India hardly seems to espouse the goal of happiness in society. Criminal justice drastically impacts the lives of people. It is capable of providing safety but it also leads to fear, stigma and repression. People are rarely satisfied with the police and courts in this country.

## Lower crime rates, happier societies

The data suggest that happy countries have lower crime rates. Crime and its resultant suffering are a major source of unhappiness. For instance, in Finland, Denmark, the Philippines, South Africa, India and Sri Lanka, at least one of the four crime variables share an inverse relation with the happiness score of the nation. It means that individuals living in nations with high crime rates are less happy and satisfied than individuals living in nations with comparatively lower crime rates. Countries scoring high on the Rule of Law Index also score well on the index of happiness. Second, in the report, happiness levels were significantly determined by various socio-demographic factors like health, education, crime rate, criminal victimisation and fear of crime.

Nations are now responding to the happiness index. The United Arab Emirates was the first country in the world to have set up a Ministry of Happiness. The Ministry monitors the impact of policies through a happiness meter and takes measures to ensure a better life. Bhutan introduced Gross National Happiness as a measure of good governance. Rothstein and Uslaner (2005) say that honest and effective governments can create more socio-economic equality. This leads a greater number of people reposing trust in their government, which is an important condition for happiness.

G.S. Bajpai is Vice-Chancellor at Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab. Views are personal

# Bureaucracy's digital challenge

If civil servants don't use social media appropriately, their role as independent advisers threatened

ZUBAIR NAZEER

The biggest challenge today to Indian bureaucracy is the shift from desk to digital. This shift is not limited to a transition towards e-office and e-governance, but includes the organisational and bureaucratic response to digital spaces, especially the use of social media. The focus has been mostly on the former, while the latter has remained largely unaddressed.

## To use or not to use social media

There are two opinions on the use of social media by civil servants. While there are many people, including former civil servants, who are in favour of civil servants using social media in their official capacity, others argue that anonymity, the defining feature of Indian bureaucracy, gets compromised in the process. In fact, as an organisational form, the bureaucracy is incompatible with social media. While bureaucracy is characterised by hierarchy, formal relationships and standard procedures, social media is identified by openness, transparency and flexibility.

It is true that many civil servants have become accessible to the common people and public service delivery issues have been resolved through the use of social media. Social media has also created a positive outlook towards an institution long perceived as opaque and inaccessible. Social media has increased awareness among people about government policies and programmes.

But social media also does more. It provides an opportunity to bureaucrats to shape the public discourse and engage with the public while being politically neutral. At a time when the tendency among the political executive is to receive the very remarks or advice from bureaucrats that they want to hear, social media ensures that blind obeying is minimised and bureaucrats serve the people.

Anonymity has been a hallmark of Westminster bureaucracies, including in India. But there is a basic contradiction in remaining habitually anonymous while governance in public is now the new normal. Further, values are becoming more dominant than facts in public policymaking. And both values and facts are getting

reshaped due to fake news and systematic propaganda within public policy circles as well. In such a scenario, the bureaucracy, which is expected to be the epitome of public values and a storehouse of facts, shouldn't be expected to govern in private.

The use of social media is gradually getting institutionalised in many Westminster system-based countries. During the Brexit debate in the U.K., many civil servants shaped public debate through the use of social media even while remaining politically neutral. In India, civil servants haven't reflected on this aspect of digital bureaucracy. Anonymity and opacity have already been watered down through the Right to Information Act of 2005. But they continue to be prominent features.

## Accessibility and accountability

In India, the role of social media in bureaucracy has taken a different direction. Social media is getting used by civil servants for self-promotion. Through their selective posts and promotion of these posts by their social media fans, civil servants create a narrative of their performance. All this is justified in the name of accessibility and accountability. There is a wrong notion getting entrenched in the public consciousness that social media is the way to access civil servants and make them accountable. Social media may have improved accessibility and accountability, but it is important to note that civil servants are at an advantage to share the information they want and respond to those they want. It is not a formal set-up where accessibility and accountability are based on uniformity of treatment. Social media accountability is no alternative to institutional and citizen-centric accountability. It is, in fact, partly unethical to use social media during office hours and justify it when some people who have travelled long distances are waiting outside the office.

Bureaucrats should use social media to improve public policies. If they don't use social media appropriately, their role as independent advisers stands threatened.

Zubair Nazeer is an Assistant Professor (Public Administration) at Jamia Millia Islamia

## DATA POINT

### Breathing in unhealthy air

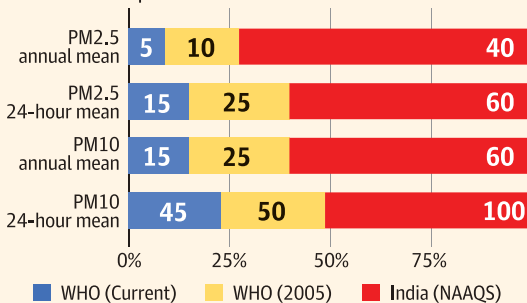
The WHO recently updated its air pollution guideline limits from the standards set in 2005. The average 24-hour concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub>\* has been revised downwards to 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup> from 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. In India, according to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), last revised in 2009, the average daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> limit is much higher at 60 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. In 2021, in a majority of the Indian cities, pollution levels exceeded the WHO's 2005 limits on most days. The number of cities which flout the guideline limits increases further if the WHO's current standards are considered. Worryingly, deaths attributable to higher pollution levels are increasing in India.

By Sumant Sen, Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Jasmin Nihalani

Average daily PM <sub>2.5</sub> levels were more than NAAQS for over half of 2021 in Delhi	In Chennai and Hyderabad the pollution levels were below the new WHO standards for most of 2021	Deaths due to PM <sub>2.5</sub> exposure in India have risen significantly in the past decade, while decreasing in other BRICS nations
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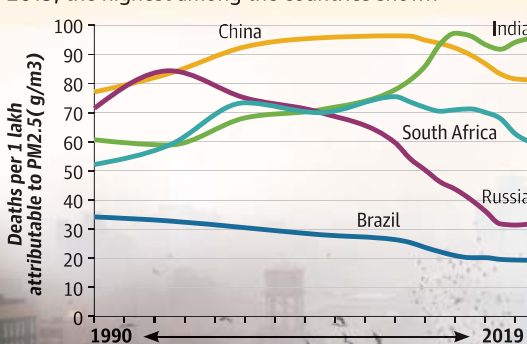
### New standards

While the WHO's latest global air pollution standard allows for an average of only 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup> of PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration in a 24-hour period, India's permissible limit is 60 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. A look at how other parameters set by the WHO compare with Indian standards



### Rising fatalities

The chart depicts the number of deaths, standardised according to age, recorded due to PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure per one lakh people in BRICS countries between 1990 and 2019. Such deaths are rising only in India among the five nations. As many as 95.6 deaths per one lakh people were recorded in India due to PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure in 2019, the highest among the countries shown



### Air quality in cities

The table shows the % of days on which the average daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels was <=15 (new WHO limit), >15 but <=25, >25 but <=60 and over the NAAQS limit (>60). Daily pollution data between Jan. 1, 2021 and Sep. 27, 2021 were considered. In 2021, Delhi's ITO station recorded an average daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration of more than 60 g/m<sup>3</sup> on 68% of the days, while only 2.2% of such days were observed at Velachery in Chennai

Station	<=15	>15 but <=25	>25 but <=60	>60
ITO, Delhi	0.0	1.7	30.3	68.1
Anand Vihar, Delhi	0.0	0.8	32.5	66.8
Dwarka, Sector 8, Delhi	0.0	7.0	45.0	48.0
Vikas Sadan, Gurugram	0.4	3.3	49.1	47.2
Shikarpur, Patna	1.1	17.7	36.9	44.3
Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	4.5	17.1	46.8	31.6
Bidhannagar, Kolkata	11.6	19.0	39.9	29.5
Kunjaban, Agartala	33.5	14.5	22.7	29.4
Adarsh Nagar, Jaipur	4.4	9.6	62.2	23.7
Maninagar, Ahmedabad	0.0	5.5	70.9	23.6
PWD Junction, Kohima	29.4	19.8	32.9	17.9
PA Univ, Ludhiana	1.9	10.0	70.5	17.7
Talcher	9.4	18.0	56.9	15.7
TT Nagar, Bhopal	10.3	32.5	47.2	10.0
Vyttila, Kochi	27.7	29.9	32.5	10.0
Central Univ, Hyderabad	43.3	10.4	38.2	8.2
Sikulpuikawn, Aizawl	59.9	10.3	21.8	8.0
Colaba, Mumbai	16.2	28.7	47.7	7.4
Kurichi, Coimbatore	0.0	6.9	86.2	6.9
Velachery, Chennai	53.9	14.4	29.5	2.2
Silk Board, Bengaluru	34.7	23.6	40.2	1.6
Karve Road, Pune	22.1	26.4	50.0	1.4
Lumpyngngad, Shillong	67.3	14.2	17.9	0.6
Thiruvananthapuram	11.2	49.0	39.4	0.4

\*particulate matter with diameter less than 2.5 microns  
Source: WHO, NAAQS, CPCB, State of Global Air

## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 29, 1971

### Right not to disclose source

The right of newsmen not to disclose confidential sources is a "precondition of the unfettered dissemination of news," Senator James Pearson said to-day [Washington, September 28] as a Senate Sub-Committee opened hearings on freedom of the press. "It is axiomatic," he said in a testimony prepared for the sub-committee on constitutional rights, "that there can be no dissemination of information without collection of information. Therefore, unreasonable governmental interference with the collection of newsworthy information is inimical to a free press." Mr. Pearson said the U.S. Supreme Court had never held that newsmen had a right to protect confidential sources. But he said 17 States have adopted laws protecting their right to do so. "In those States where the privilege has been effective for a number of years," he said, "there is no evidence to indicate that law enforcement officials and prosecutors have been hamstrung in ferreting out crime. The press cannot serve as an investigative organisation for two masters: the government and the public." Mr. Pearson and one other Senator are sponsoring legislation to establish by law the right of newsmen to refuse to disclose confidential sources of information.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 29, 1921

### In Germany

Berlin, September 27 - The Hoschst Dye works which were closed down on the 26th owing to the worker's exorbitant demand for extra wages have been seized by workmen who allow nobody not even the manager to enter. So far there have been no disorders. The French authorities announced they will not interfere but exhort the workmen to refrain from violence.

Berlin, September 27 - A note of the inter-ally Commission of Control demands that the German police force be immediately reduced to the level demanded by the Entente. It declares that nothing has been done to carry out the stipulations for decentralising the force which is still organised in tactical units and is really a mobile fighting force similar to the Reichswehr.

London, September 27 - A telegram from Frankfurt says that workmen who took possession of Hoschst Dyeworks do not allow anyone to enter without their consent; but hitherto there has been no disorder. The French authorities have announced that they will not interfere, but have requested the workmen to refrain from violence.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Sidhu quits Cong. post, Punjab crisis deepens

He was given a clean chit by an inquiry commission headed by a former High Court judge.

Also, the appointment of senior advocate A.P.S. Deol as Advocate-General was another reason for Mr. Sidhu's decision, the close aide stated. Mr. Deol was counsel for former Director-General of Police Sumedh Singh Saini, an accused in the Behal Kalan police firing case of 2015. It is related to the Bargari sacrilege issue, which has been a political flashpoint in the State politics.

Mr. Sidhu's resignation is being seen as a major "embarrassment" for the party's central leadership, including its former president Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi. Amid a power tussle between Capt. Amarinder and Mr. Sidhu, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) on July 18 appointed the latter as PCC chief and later the 'high command' cornered Capt. Amarinder into resigning from his post

and making it amply clear that the coming election would be contested under Mr. Sidhu. However, Mr. Channi, as a surprise pick, was later chosen to lead the government.

MLA Sukhpal Khaira has urged Mr. Sidhu to reconsider his resignation. He said, "As Punjab is heading for elections in the next 4-5 months, it is highly imperative to find an amicable solution to the crisis."

AAP Punjab president and Lok Sabha member Bhagwant Mann said the Congress had crossed all limits in the battle for chair and pride. "Punjab has never been so disgraced. I pray to God to rid Punjab and Punjabis of these chair-hungry Congressmen," he said.

Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader S. Bikram Singh Majithia described Mr. Sidhu's resignation as "the ultimate expression of frustrations of an egoist seeing his path to the post of Chief Minister blocked by a leader from the Scheduled Castes."

## Kanhaiya Kumar walks into Congress

"Congress is the biggest opposition party of the country, if we do not save it.. if we do not save the big ship, then the smaller boats too won't survive," he added.

The former student activist said questions will be asked about his past and present, but in spite of the questions, he cannot turn away from the "historic responsibility" that lies before him. He did not detail the reasons for quitting the CPI, but he expressed gratitude towards his former organisation. "I was born and brought up, trained there and also gave me the passion to struggle," he said.

In September 2015, Mr. Kumar became president of the JNU students' union. In February 2016, he was ar-

rested by the Delhi police over charges of sedition for allegedly shouting anti-national slogans. His arrest had led to widespread outrage both within and outside the country.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Kumar, Mr. Mevani and Congress working president of Gujarat unit Hardik Patel paid tributes to freedom fighter Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary at the Shaheed Bhagat Singh park in Delhi. Mr. Mevani, said he was not formally joining the party because of technical reasons since he would have to resign as an Independent Gujarat legislator. However, he announced that he would fight the next Assembly poll under the Congress symbol.

## Post-poll violence: SC issues notice to Centre

Justice Saran responded, "You have argued about natural justice, we should not pass any order without hearing the other side".

During the nearly two-hour-long hearing, Mr. Sibal made a case for issuance of notice by arguing that the High Court Bench led by Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal violated the natural principles of justice by "castigating the State, passing strictures against the State" without giving it "adequate time" to present the results of its investigation into the post-poll violence cases.

The High Court had shifted the cases of rape and murder to the CBI. Other cases, including arson and looting, would remain with the Special Investigation Team led by a judge.

Mr. Sibal contended that the High Court Bench did not even properly hear the State and whatever was presented before the Bench on

affidavit was not "considered".

The allegations made by the petitioners were treated as "facts" by the High Court, he said.

The High Court's judgment of August 19, transferring the cases, was based on the findings of an NHRC committee on July 12. West Bengal had argued that the panel members were either "members of the Bharatiya Janata Party or were closely associated" with it. West Bengal has accused the committee of "apparent bias". The State's petition had named two committee members, Atif Rasheed and Rajulben L. Desai, in this regard.

Justice Saran asked, "Are you saying there should have been a proper investigation and not just an enquiry?"

Mr. Sibal contended, "Yes, this is a process unknown to law".

## '2020 Delhi riots result of pre-planned conspiracy'

The case relates to an FIR filed in connection with a protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019 that had been taking place for 1.5 months prior to the incident at Khajuri Square to Loni Circle at Wazirabad Road, Chand Bagh, by the Muslim community.

On February 24, 2020, around 1.00 p.m. the protesters mobilised near the Chand Bagh area and 25 Futa Road, and moved towards the Main Wazirabad Road. When police attempted to convince them to not

move forward, the protesters carrying sticks, baseball sticks, iron rods and stones turned violent. Some people in the crowd started pelting stones at the police officers, and beat them as well as other passers-by.

The FIR stated that ACP Gokulpuri, head constable Ratan Lal and DCP Shahdara Amit Kumar were beaten with sticks and stones, and as a result, they fell down and suffered grievous head injuries. Later, the head constable died of a bullet injury.

## 'Lockdowns slowed green energy push'

Increased capacity could have met demand surge after economic reopening, says IEEFA report

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

The lockdowns slowed renewable energy installations in the country and the pace of such installation is lagging India's 2022 target, according to a report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), a research think tank.

As part of its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, India has said that it would install 175 gigawatts (GW) of green energy by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030 but only 7 GW of such capacity was added in the financial year 2020-21, Vibhuti Garg, report author and energy economist, said.

A gigawatt is 1,000 megawatts.

### 100-GW target

Data from the Central Electricity Authority independently shows that India was to have installed 100 GW of solar energy capacity by March 2023 – 40-GW rooftop solar and 60-GW ground-mounted utility scale.

The country has managed to install only 43.94 GW till

### Target and achievement

India has installed 43.94 GW of solar energy capacity until July 2021 while the target is to generate capacity of 100 GW by March 2023. The table lists the renewable energy targets for various sources and the installation capacity reached by July 2021

Source: Central Electricity Authority

Source	Target capacity	Installed capacity*
Solar energy	100 GW	43.94 GW
Wind energy	60 GW	39.58 GW
Small hydro energy	5 GW	4.79 GW
Bio energy	10 GW	10.17 GW

July 31, 2021.

In its analysis of monthly volumes and prices at the largest power exchange in India, Indian Energy Exchange (IEX), the IEEFA study found that the amount of power traded increased by 20% over 2020, by 37% from the 2019 figure and by 30% over 2018.

This led to prices on average increasing by 38% from the 2020 rates, by 8% from the 2019 figure and by 11% over 2018.

"Clearly as economic growth revives, electricity

on imported coal and replaced it with domestic coal, Coal India Ltd., India's largest coal producer, had about two months' supply.

However, an analysis of the daily coal stock position exhibited a "deterioration" as more plants reported supplies were critical. On August 1, 23 plants with an installed capacity of 33 GW had critical coal supplies. By September 9, this increased to 92 with an installed capacity of 112 GW and by September 22, 102 with installed capacity of 123 GW.

"Most plants had coal stockpiles for one to five days. However, the requirement for thermal power plants is to maintain coal supplies for 21 days or at least 15," Ms. Garg says. "In most cases, the issue of supply was at the thermal power producer end, rather than the issue of coal stock shortage at CIL end."

Imported coal prices have been rising in the past few months because of resurgent demand after the pandemic – especially in emerging Asian markets such as China

### Coal stocks

The IEEFA's analysis shows coal stocks hit a new record high of 1,320 lakh tonnes at the end of 2020-21 and exceeded the monthly averages of the previous five years. Having reduced its reliance

## Defence Ministry issues order for OFB dissolution

Decision comes into effect on Oct. 1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry has issued an order for the dissolution of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) with effect from October 1 upon which its assets, employees and management would be transferred to seven newly constituted defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs). This would mean the end of the OFB, the establishment of which was accepted by the British in 1775.

"Accordingly, on and with effect from the appointed date, OFB, which has been set up vide Ministry of Defence letter No. 1(82)/78/D (Fy.D) dated 09.01.1979, shall cease to exist as a body. Further, the Board position of Member (Finance), OFB shall also cease to exist on and with effect from the appointed date," the official memorandum issued by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) dated September 24 said. These orders will come into effect from October 1, 2021 (appointed date), it stated.

On June 16, the Union Ca-

binet had approved a long-awaited reform plan to corporatise the OFB, which has 41 factories, into seven fully government-owned corporate entities on the lines of DPSUs.

Accordingly, with effect from October 1, the management, control, operations and maintenance of these 41 production units and identified non-production units would be transferred to seven government companies – Munitions India Ltd., Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd., Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd., Troop Comforts Ltd., Yantra India Ltd., India Optel Ltd., and Gliders India Ltd.

On the over 70,000 employees, the order said it had been decided that all the employees of OFB (Group A, B and C) belonging to the production units and also the identified non-production units shall be transferred *en masse* to the new DPSUs on terms of foreign service without any deputation allowance initially for a period of two years.

## Four bids for Secretariat project: CPWD

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

Four bids, including one from Tata Projects which is constructing the new Parliament building, were received in response to the tender for construction and maintenance of three buildings of the proposed Common Central Secretariat, according to Central Public Works Department (CPWD) officials on Tuesday.

The technical bids for the ₹3,254-crore project were opened on Tuesday, revealing bids from Tata Projects, L&T Construction, NCC Ltd. and Uttar Pradesh Rajkiya Nirmam Nigam, a U.P. government undertaking, an official said. The bids would be assessed to see if they qualify and a date for opening of financial bids would be announced once the documents are evaluated, the official said.

As part of the Central Vista redevelopment, the CPWD has proposed construction of 10 Secretariat buildings to house all Central Ministries. It had floated the modified tender for the construction of the first three buildings to be made at the site of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts campus in June.

## Criminal defamation case against Tamilisai Soundararajan quashed

It was filed after she accused VCK of indulging in land grab

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Tuesday quashed a criminal defamation case pending against Tamilisai Soundararajan, now Governor of Telangana holding additional charge as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, before a Judicial Magistrate court in Kancheepuram.

The case was filed for having levelled certain allegations against Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) when she was Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Tamil Nadu president in 2017.

Justice M. Dhandapani quashed the case on merits though there was no representation either on behalf of Ms. Soundararajan or the complainant Dhadi K. Karthikeyan of VCK despite adjourning the hearing on multiple occasions.

Ms. Soundararajan had moved the High Court in 2018 with a plea to quash the defamation case. However, no one represented her when the matter was listed on at least four different days recently. The complainant too remained absent.



The complaint is nothing but an attempt on the part of the respondent to gain political publicity at the cost of judicial time

JUSTICE DHANDAPANI

of Indian Penal Code does not merit acceptance," the judge said. He also wrote: "The complaint is nothing but an attempt on the part of the respondent to gain political publicity at the cost of judicial time."

Further, the case should be quashed on the short ground of non application of mind since the Magistrate had issued summons to Ms. Soundararajan asking her to appear in a cheque bounce case though what had been filed was actually a criminal defamation case, the judge said.

Mentioning wrong provisions of law in the summons "is not only ridiculous but also clearly shows non application of mind on the part of the court below in taking cognisance of the issue by issuing summons," he observed.

## Double digit growth likely this year and next: Sanjeev Sanyal

Principal Economic Adviser pitches for reforms in cities

VIKAS DHOOT  
NEW DELHI

India's economy is likely to grow in double digits this year as well as next year with the higher revenue collections giving the Centre more room to push capital spending, Principal Economic Adviser Sanjeev Sanyal said on Tuesday, before making a strong pitch to fix India's cities.

"Some of our cities in peace time don't have roads like Kabul had in war time. Vietnam has the same per capita income as India's but Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi are radically better-run cities than ours," Mr. Sanyal lamented, contrasting this with the "shockingly poor" roads and municipal services in some of India's tier-three cities. "When I was younger, I used to think we are a poor country so our cities are in this mess. Thirty years later, we are much richer as a country, but our cities are still in a mess, the occasional airport notwithstanding," he noted.



Sanjeev Sanyal

While infrastructure in Mumbai and Delhi is "relatively better", Mr. Sanyal said the next generation of reforms must focus on intra-city infrastructure and better municipal services like garbage collection.

Mr. Sanyal suggested the focus of urban reforms should shift from what is the appropriate governance structure – mayoral or council-run, and so on – to putting someone in charge and getting them to deliver what needs to be done.

"It's not as if poor people do not know what to do with world class infrastructure. The reason the rich are rich because they have access to good infrastructure. If you

and India, but also in Japan, South Korea, Europe and the U.S.

"Greater reliance on coal imports will increase thermal power prices in India, leading to higher prices for the ultimate consumers," Ms. Garg says.

### Flexible solutions

The IEEFA notes that the challenge of India's growing daily peak demand does not require investment in excess baseload thermal capacity. Instead, the electricity system needed "flexible and dynamic generation solutions" such as battery storage, pumped hydro storage, peaking gas-fired capacity and flexible operation of its existing coal fleet.

"Government should accelerate deployment of such sources to help meet peak demand and also balance the grid at a lower cost," says Ms. Garg.

Their prices were falling and so would be cost effective and a buffer against very high prices at the power exchange during peak demand.

give the poor access to world class infrastructure, they will also become rich," Mr. Sanyal said, while speaking to industry leaders at the CII East India Summit.

### Bridging the gap

"The best solution to poverty is to create access to good infrastructure in parts of the country that don't have it," he said, referring to the need to build world-class infrastructure in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and the north-eastern States.

Arguing that the government's focus on supply-side reforms and capital expenditure amid the pandemic will hold it in good stead, he said it is important for the economy to be flexible to adjust to the post-COVID world.

"I think you will find that this year, we will hit double digit growth rates and it is quite likely that we will hit double digit growth rates in the next financial year as well," the former global strategist for Deutsche Bank said.

He said, "The reason the rich are rich because they have access to good infrastructure. If you

## Students in Afghanistan seek visas

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
NEW DELHI

A group of Afghan students have written to Ambassador Rudendra Tandon asking for the speedy processing of visas that has been delayed for months.

The letter written by 43 students of the South Asia University (SAU) said they were unable to continue with online education because of the "frequent disruption" of Internet connectivity in Kabul after the takeover by the Taliban.

"With periodic disruption of virtual connectivity, we are now unable to attend classes online from Afghanistan, and that is seriously jeopardising our studies," jeoparded the students in the letter. Mr. Tandon was evacuated along with other members of the Embassy, but India has designated a travel agency in Kabul to facilitate Indian visas. New Delhi has not recognised the Taliban administration, but the visas are expected to be granted through the travel agency.

At least 10 people died in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra in heavy rain and floods as the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an alert of heavy to very heavy rainfall for the next two days in Mumbai, Konkan and parts of Marathwada and Vidarbha.

## 10 die in floods in Marathwada

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

At least 10 people died in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra in heavy rain and floods as the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an alert of heavy to very heavy rainfall for the next two days in Mumbai, Konkan and parts of Marathwada and Vidarbha.

"The depression over Telangana and adjoining areas of Marathwada and Vidarbha moved west-northwestwards and weakened into a well-marked low-pressure area over the western parts of Vidarbha and neighbourhood. It is likely to move northwards and weaken further during the next 24 hours," the IMD said on Twitter.

The IMD predicted very heavy rainfall in central Maharashtra and the north Konkan region.

The Marathwada region, comprising Aurangabad, Latur, Osmanabad, Parbhani, Nanded, Beed, Jalna and Hingoli districts, received heavy showers destroying crops.

## Defence Ministry to finish acquisitions in two years

Current average is 3.5 years: official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry will try and complete acquisition of any defence equipment in two years, from the current average of 3.5 years, as long as there is no research and development involved, Additional Secretary and Director General, Acquisition, in the Ministry V.L. Kantha Rao said on Tuesday.

"Our average is about 3.5 years and to bring it to two years takes a lot of changes in the procedures," Mr. Rao noted at the Annual Session of the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers. For this, timelines for various steps like Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), trial metho-

dology and benchmarking of price of equipment were being advanced.

On the AoN, he said if the process did not move forward within 12 months after an in-principle approval, it would be withdrawn. "We will also work on Request For Proposal even before the in-principle approval."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh outlined the reforms undertaken to promote domestic manufacturing and reduce imports that include earmarking 64.09% of the total Capital Acquisition Budget for 2021-22 for domestic capital procurement and 15% of capital procurement budget for direct procurement from the private sector.

**APPEAL**

I am Christopher Gnana Sachin, 18 years old, suffering from B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. My family is extremely poor and cannot afford the huge expenditure of Rs.8,00,000/- to undergo Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. I need your Messages and support. Donations sent by Ch.D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch.D.D., NAGRETT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No.CNR00161018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT.

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Christopher Gnana Sachin



# HC says it won't stop Bhabanipur bypoll

Bench raps Bengal Chief Secretary's letter to ECI saying State was doomed if elections were not held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

A Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court on Tuesday refused to interfere with the schedule of the Bhabanipur Assembly byelection to be held on Thursday.

The Bench of Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj, however, took exception to a letter by West Bengal Chief Secretary to the Election Commission of India (ECI).

## Chief Secretary's bias

"As the process of election was initiated with the issuance of press note dated September 04, 2021 and the polling has to be held on September 30, 2021, we do not find it appropriate to interfere with the decision of the Commission to hold byelection to the Bhabanipur Assembly Constituency at this stage," the order by the



**Final frontier:** West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool candidate from the Bhabanipur constituency Mamata Banerjee during her by-election campaign, in Kolkata on Saturday. ■PTI

Bench said.

The court recorded its "strong reservation about the conduct of the Chief Secretary in writing a letter to the Election Commission

stating that there would be "constitutional crisis" in case byelection to the Bhabanipur constituency is not held".

It stated, "He is a public

servant, who is to discharge his duties in terms of provisions of law, whosoever may be in power. He is not to ensure that any particular person should come in power

and in the absence there would be 'constitutional crisis'."

## CM in fight

Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee is contesting from the seat and is pitted against the BJP's Priyanka Tiwari and the Left Front's Srijib Biswas.

A writ petition was filed before the court to quash the notification issued by the ECI on September 4 for holding the byelection. The court observed that it did not "record any finding on the issue that an election petition may or may not be maintainable after the result of the Assembly election is declared." "Any of the losing party shall have the right to avail of his/her appropriate remedy to challenge the election on the grounds available in law," it added.

# Punjab CM Channi allocates portfolios to new Ministers

Deputy CMs given key portfolios of Home and Health

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Tuesday allocated portfolios to the recently inducted Ministers in the State Cabinet.

The Chief Minister retained Vigilance, General Administration, Environment, Mining-Geology, Power and Tourism, while the Home Department has been allotted to Deputy Chief Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa.

The other Deputy Chief Minister, Om Parkash Soni, has been given Health and other departments.

Cabinet Minister Brahm Mohindra will look after Local Government and Parliamentary Affairs, while Manpreet Singh Badal retains Finance. Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa will be in charge of Rural Development.

Aruna Chaudhary has been assigned the portfolios



**Tight rope:** Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi addressing a press conference in Chandigarh on Tuesday. ■PTI

of Revenue, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management. Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria has been allotted the portfolios of Water Resources and Housing-Urban Development.

Rana Gurjeet Singh has been given the departments of Technical Education-Industrial Training.

Bharat Bhushan Ashu has been allotted the Food And Civil Supplies Ministry.

Randeep Singh Nabha has

been given the charge of Agriculture Ministry, and Raj Kumar Verka will look after Social Justice.

Sangat Singh Gilzian will be the new Forest Minister and Pargat Singh the new School & Higher Education and Sports Minister.

Amarinder Singh Raja Warring has been given charge of Transport and Gurbir Singh Kotli has been assigned the Department of Industries.

# Deadline for promotion quotas for the disabled

SC rejects Centre's plea for clarification

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to issue instructions "at the earliest and not later than four months" for giving reservation in promotions to persons with disabilities (PwDs).

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao dismissed an application filed by the Centre seeking "clarifications" in a January 14, 2020 judgment of the apex court confirming that PwDs have a right to reservation in promotions.

The court said there were no ambiguities in the January 2020 judgment in *Siddharaju v. State of Karnataka*.

It said instructions should be issued in accordance with Section 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which provides that "every appropriate government shall appoint in every government establishment not less than 4% of the total number of vacancies in the cadre strength in each group of posts meant to be filled with persons with benchmark disabilities..."

The government's applications wanted the court to



The Centre was told to issue instructions "not later than four months".

clarify whether vacancies for promotion for PwDs would be computed only on the basis of the vacancies against the identified posts or against the vacancies in both identified and non-identified posts.

The government contended that there was a conflict between two judgments of the apex court - *Union of India v. National Federation of the Blind and Rajevee Kumar Gupta v. Union of India* - rendered three years apart in 2013 and 2016, respectively.

"The applicant is unable to reconcile the rule position resulting in difficulties in implementation of the decision," the government said in its application.

# Gehlot loyalists claim support of over 100 MLAs

Punjab situation is likely to make an impact on Rajasthan

MOHAMMED IQBAL  
JAIPUR

Amid speculation over an early Cabinet reshuffle in Rajasthan, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's loyalists have affirmed that the political situation would not witness any major upheaval because of "unstinted support" of over 100 MLAs to the present leadership. The latest developments in Punjab are also likely to make an impact on Rajasthan.

While the rival camps in the ruling Congress have been trying to get a share in the political appointments, former Pradesh Congress president Sachin Pilot's meetings with party leader Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi last week have visibly led to disquiet in the Gehlot camp. Mr. Pilot's meeting with Speaker C.P. Joshi has also caught the attention of political observers.

## Thin majority

The party high command's focus on settling the feud may get diluted after Tuesday's developments in Punjab, where party unit chief Navjot Singh Sidhu has re-



**Scramble for power:** Both the Gehlot and Pilot camps are aware of Congress's thin majority in Rajasthan. ■FILE PHOTO

signed. Both the Gehlot and Pilot camps are aware of the Congress government's thin majority in Rajasthan, which has prevented them from entering into a direct clash.

Senior Congress leader and Revenue Minister Harish Chaudhary, considered close to the Chief Minister, told reporters that the MLAs in Punjab had deserted Captain Amarinder Singh, while more than 100 MLAs were supporting Mr. Gehlot.

The Pilot camp has also demanded appointments to various boards and other political positions.

The leadership is reportedly mulling over the op-

tions of making Mr. Pilot the Pradesh Congress president again and giving him a role in the government.

He could also be appointed general secretary in the All India Congress Committee.

Sikar-based political analyst Ashfaq Kayamkhani said the high command would find it difficult to put pressure on Mr. Gehlot to act in a certain way after the developments in Punjab.

"Mr. Gehlot has had a track record of waiting for the right time to appoint the people of his choice to important positions. He cannot be compelled," he said.

# 'Kanhaiya expelled himself from CPI'

He was not truthful to the party: Raja

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Minutes after Kanhaiya Kumar joined the Congress, CPI general secretary D. Raja said the former JNU leader had expelled himself from the party and was not "truthful" with the CPI and not "straightforward" with the demands of the party.

"Kumar expelled himself from the party. He was not truthful to the party. The CPI existed long before Kanhaiya came into the party fold and will continue to exist after his exit," Mr. Raja said. He also questioned Mr. Kumar's faith in the Left ideology. "He must be having personal as well as political ambitions and aspirations. It shows he has no faith in the Left ideology," he said.

Mr. Kumar reportedly kept denying speculation about joining the Congress to the CPI leadership. At the same time he refused to attend a press conference to refute the rumours.

"I have been speaking to him and we discussed various issues regarding the



D. Raja

party, but he never mentioned anything about his unhappiness or his decision to leave. In fact, after the talks of him joining Congress surfaced, I even told him to hold a media conference to deny the news," Mr. Raja said.

Mr. Raja said that he was officially informed of Mr. Kumar's departure through his resignation letter on Monday, a day before he joined the Congress. On October 2, the CPI's national council is scheduled to meet where Kumar's exit and related issues will be discussed.

(With inputs from PTI)

# SIT probe against IAS officer in U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government ordered a probe by a Special Investigation Team against a senior bureaucrat after a video of him allegedly preaching about a religion to a group of dozen-odd persons surfaced on social media. A 1985 batch IAS officer, Mohammad Iftikharuddin is currently posted as the chairman of the U.P. State Road Transport Corporation. The video is said to be from the period he was posted in Kanpur and was shot in the official residence of the Commissioner, a post he had occupied then.

# Probe sought into 'custodial death' in Odisha

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

The controversy around the death of a Dalit youth, allegedly due to custodial torture in western Odisha district of Bargarh has thickened, with Opposition leaders and rights activists demanding the immediate sacking of police personnel involved in the case.

Gobinda Kumbhar (35) of Tora under the Bargarh town police station limit was picked up by police on the night of September 24 (Friday). However, he was later taken to the Bargarh District Headquarters Hospital. He was declared "brought dead" at the hospital on Saturday morning.

"My husband was healthy and did not have record of any previous disease. He was beaten to death in the hospital," alleged Rubi Kumbhar, wife of the deceased.

BJP State president Sameer Mohanty said on Tuesday, "The man was murdered by police personnel in the police station. They must produce all CCTV footage right from bringing the accused to rushing him to hospital. An independent doctors team should be constituted to probe the circumstances leading to death."

# India has created jobs during pandemic: FM

Sitharaman addresses UN meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India is successfully carrying out the world's largest free vaccination programme against COVID-19 and has taken strategic steps towards jobs and social protection during the pandemic, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said at a high-level United Nations meet.

Stressing the need for collaboration and learning from the experiences of other countries, the Minister shared ideas with the panel on jobs and social protection for poverty eradication, based on India's experience.

"India unveiled a financial package of \$366 billion amounting to more than 13% of GDP to create employment opportunities for workers in the unorganised sector, strengthening the MSME sector and for promoting the rural economy," Ms. Sitharaman said.

"To improve social protection, in the place of archaic labour laws, our government brought in the new Social Security and Wage Code. This will ensure wider coverage, faster settlement of dues and clarity about benefits," the Minister said, adding that a new portal has now been launched to ensure 'last mile delivery' for millions of unorganised sector workers.

"A comprehensive social



Nirmala Sitharaman

protection system should have digitalisation of public financial management systems at the core of the design," she pointed out, citing India's direct benefit transfer system that uses Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar and mobile phones.

Referring to the government's programme for paying Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) contributions for three months for employees and employers during the first and the second COVID-19 wave, Ms Sitharaman said this enabled the inclusion of 7.81 million workers in the formal social security framework.

"Insights from behavioural economics can be leveraged on onboarding those workers who are currently not covered under social protection schemes or to formal social security nets," she noted, adding that mental well-being of the vulnerable also needs attention.

# Take a call on Roy, HC tells Speaker

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday ordered Speaker Biman Banerjee to take a decision on the disqualification petition filed against Mukul Roy by October 7.

"In case of failure, this court will decide further course of action," an order by the Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj said.

Mr. Roy, who won on the BJP ticket in the Assembly polls, had on June 11 joined the Trinamool Congress. Later he was elected the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. BJP MLA Ambika Roy has approached the Court seeking disqualification of Mr. Roy. The court pointed out that the allegation of the petitioner is that Mr. Roy had defected from the BJP to the AITC.

"A petition for disqualification was pending before the Speaker even before he was nominated as the Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts. The disqualification is from the date when the act of defection took place. Failure on the part of the Speaker to adjudicate upon that petition is creating more trouble as a result of which the interference of this court has been called for," the Court said.

**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA NOTIFICATION**  
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On successful completion of this course and 6 months of Shipboard Training, the GME can appear for MEO Class IV Exam conducted by DGS GOI, and on completion of this Exam, he/ she is qualified to become an Officer in Charge of Engineering Watch on Merchant Ships. With further experience and exams they can rise to the rank of Chief Engineer of the Ship.

**2. Eligibility:**  
**Qualifications:** Graduate in Mechanical/ Mech. with other streams/ Naval Arch/ Naval Arch with other stream/ BE Marine Engg. (Non DG Approved) with minimum 50% marks. They also require Minimum 50% marks in English either in Class X or XII Std.

**3. Age Limit:** 28 Yrs as on 01/01/2022.

**4. Details:** Visit CSL Website [www.cochinshipyard.in](http://www.cochinshipyard.in) (Services and Products/ Marine Engineering) Application form to be downloaded from Joining Instructions in the Website, fill up and sent to HOD, METI, CSL, by Speed Post/ E-mail, before 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

**5. Contact/ Clarification:** E-mail: [metihod@cochinshipyard.in](mailto:metihod@cochinshipyard.in) Telephone: 0484-2501437/ 0484-2501223, Mob: 8129823739/ 9447195982. **GENERAL MANAGER (Training)**

**ANNA UNIVERSITY**  
Sardar Patel Road, Chennai - 600 025.

Addenda to the Notifications (i) No.001/RC/UD-FR / PR 10 & 20 / 2020-1, dated 30.09.2020 for Assistant Professor & Assistant University Librarian Grade I, (ii) No.001/RC/UD-FR/PR 10 & 20 / 2020-2, dated 30.09.2020 for Associate Professor, Deputy Librarian & Deputy Director of Physical Education and (iii) No.001/RC/UD-FR /PR 10 & 20 / 2020-3, dated 30.09.2020 for Professor, University Librarian & Director of Physical Education.

Candidates who had applied against the above Notifications may update their data already submitted via online, if they wish, by using their login credentials without paying the necessary application processing fee.

For more details, please visit the University web-portal [www.annauniv.edu](http://www.annauniv.edu)  
DIPR/857/DIS/2021 REGISTRAR (i/c)  
சேர்மான கட்டுத்து கந்ததிரும் அகட்டுதேதம். சாநதண புரிந்து சரித்திரம் பகட்டுபடுதம்.

**National Centre for Radio Astrophysics**  
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH  
Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune - 411 007.

**TENDER NOTICE NO. 06/2021-2022**  
Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi) regarding work for the Construction Phase of the Indian Contribution to Software Packages and Allied Services of the Square Kilometer Array (SKA)  
Eoi Document Fee : Rs. 11,800/-  
For detailed Eoi and for downloading please visit website: <http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/ncra/ncra1/public-tenders-1>

**SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS**  
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)

Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: [sitodirector@gmail.com](mailto:sitodirector@gmail.com)  
No. SGTO/e-Tender/Drugs and Others/35/2021-22 Date: 27.09.2021

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
(e-Procurement)

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 11 invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the e-procurement portal of GOK for-

**(1) Drugs, Surgicals, Disposables & Others**  
(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 29.09.2021 and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is 30.10.2021 upto 4.00 PM.  
(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.  
Sd/-  
Chief Administrative Officer, Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/174/2021-22

IN BRIEF



**Home Ministry extends norms till Oct. 31**

**NEW DELHI** The Ministry of Home Affairs issued fresh guidelines on Tuesday asking States for prompt and effective containment measures and to accelerate the pace of vaccination to prevent the potential rise in number of COVID-19 cases during the coming festive season. The guidelines issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 have been extended till October 31. The Ministry told States to take relevant action under various provisions of the Disaster Management Act for strict implementation of containment measures. The earlier guidelines issued in August are applicable till September 30.

**Flight crew to be tested for drugs from Jan. 31**

**NEW DELHI** Flight crew members and air traffic controllers will be tested by their employers for psychoactive substances such as cannabis and cocaine from January 31 next year, according to rules issued by aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Airlines and air navigation service providers will have to carry out random drug-testing of at least 10% of the flight crew members and air traffic controllers employed by them every year, according to the rules issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. PTI

**Petrol, diesel prices hiked again**

**NEW DELHI** The price of petrol was hiked by 20 paise per litre and diesel by 25 paise as international oil prices neared the \$80 per barrel mark for the first time in three years. The cost of petrol was hiked to ₹101.39 a litre in Delhi from ₹101.19 and to ₹107.47 per litre in Mumbai, according to a notification of state-owned fuel retailers. Diesel rates went to ₹89.57 a litre in Delhi and ₹97.21 in Mumbai. PTI

**HC rejects bail plea of Rana Kapoor's wife**

**MUMBAI** The Bombay High Court on Tuesday rejected the bail pleas of Yes Bank's founder Rana Kapoor's wife and two daughters in the cheating and money-laundering case against them filed by the CBI. Justice Bharati Dangre was hearing the bail applications filed by wife Bindu Kapoor and daughters Radha and Roshni Kapoor. They are lodged at the Byculla jail while Mr. Kapoor is at the Taloja central jail. A case was registered by the CBI on March 7, 2020. There is an FIR against them under Sections 120 B (party to criminal conspiracy to commit an offence) and 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the Indian Penal Code.

# Schools can reopen in phases: ICMR

Experts suggest that children aged 12 and above be prioritised for vaccination over those younger

**BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN**  
**NEW DELHI**

Evidence suggests that children aged 12 and above are at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 infection than younger children and must be prioritised for vaccination, say experts at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

They say schools should be reopened in a phased manner (beginning with primary schools) and allowed to function safely with appropriate implementation of multi-layered mitigation measures where children's participation is essential.

An opinion piece titled "Reopening of schools during COVID-19 pandemic: a persistent dilemma" published in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research* stated that there was ample evidence to suggest that children aged between one and 17 had similar susceptibility to a mild form of SARS-CoV-2 infection as adults are. Ho-



**Step by step:** Many States have opened Class IX and above. The ICMR has advised starting with primary classes. ■S.S. KUMAR

wever, the risk of severe disease and mortality in children was less.

**Sero-positivity**

The fourth round of the National Serosurvey for COVID-19 done in June 2021 revealed that more than half the children aged between six and 17 were seropositive, which indicated that a considerable proportion of them had been infected with

SARS-CoV-2. "However, treatment centres did not experience attending to severely ill SARS-CoV-2-infected children with any greater frequency during the second wave of COVID-19 in May & June 2021 compared to the previous year, while adults were being treated in inpatient facilities in considerable numbers throughout the country coinciding with the rapid spread of the Delta var-

iant in 2021," noted the ICMR in its paper.

It pointed out that the Union Health Ministry had issued guidance on wearing masks by children belonging to different age groups. While masks were not recommended for children under five, those between six and 11 may wear a mask depending on their ability to use them safely and children aged 12 and above must wear masks under the same conditions as adults.

The ICMR stressed that adequate ventilation was critical to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, schools should ensure that indoor spaces were well ventilated and wherever possible, limit the time spent by students in closed settings. Air-conditioners should be avoided, while exhaust fans should be installed in classrooms to curtail a potential spread of the virus, it suggested.

Testing strategies in

school settings could serve as key interventions to check the potential spread of the virus, the paper emphasised.

"It must also be acknowledged that the testing strategies for SARS-CoV-2 infection in schools should act as adjunct and not substitute to other organisational and behavioural interventions," the ICMR said. Frequent testing of school staff and students for early detection of cases was essential to prevent outbreaks.

"Routine temperature or symptom checking in schools should be avoided due to limited evidence on their utility. It is also recommended that schools should have access to on-site testing facilities as per existing country-specific guidelines. Temporary or localised closures of a class or school may occur depending upon the local community transmission levels or if COVID-19 indicators worsen," added the paper.

# SC not to hear plea on non-COVID patient rights

Petition is too general, says Bench

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to intervene, for the present, in a plea seeking to ensure that the fundamental rights to life and health of non-COVID patients are protected like that of COVID patients.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said the prayer made by petitioner-advocate G.S. Mani was too general and without any "factual context". Mr. Mani's plea, filed in May, had said that major surgeries had been postponed and many hospitals had stopped their emergency ward treatment then. "No direction is necessary at this stage," the court observed in its order on Tuesday.

It found another request made by Mr. Mani to ensure "adequate, frequent" medical care was provided to non-COVID patients during the lockdown as infructu-



ous. The Bench disposed of another petition filed by Bibhuti Bhushan Mishra on the CoWIN registration system for vaccination.

"But you do not have to get CoWIN registration online, the government is allowing walk-in registrations after our orders in June... Your petition has been rendered infructuous after the government has permitted walk-in registrations as a matter of policy," Justice Chandrachud noted.

# SC lashes out at firecracker firms

2018 judgment not followed, says court

**KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Tuesday lashed out at firecracker manufacturers for violating the spirit of its 2018 judgment banning toxic ingredients such as barium in fireworks, saying the prime focus of the court is the "right to life of innocent people".

*Prima facie* brushing aside the manufacturers' contention that thousands of employees earn their livelihood in the industry, Justice M.R. Shah, for the Bench, retorted that "we have to balance between employment, unemployment and the right to life and health of citizens".

"We cannot sacrifice the lives of many for a few. Our prime focus is the right to life of innocent people," Justice Shah observed.

The case gains significance with the onset of the wedding season and festivals such as Dasara and Deepavali.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, for petitioner student Arjun Gopal, said "joined crackers" continue to be burst with impunity across the country despite the ban imposed on them by the top court in a judgment on October 23, 2018.

"The manufacture, sale and use of joined firecrackers [series crackers or laris] is hereby banned as the same causes huge air, noise and solid waste problems," the Supreme Court had di-

rected the Centre in 2018. Justice Shah observed that the court has to fix liability on the authorities in charge.

"Sometimes we have to fix liability. If the Police Commissioner is sedate about liability, only then all this will happen," Justice Shah noted.

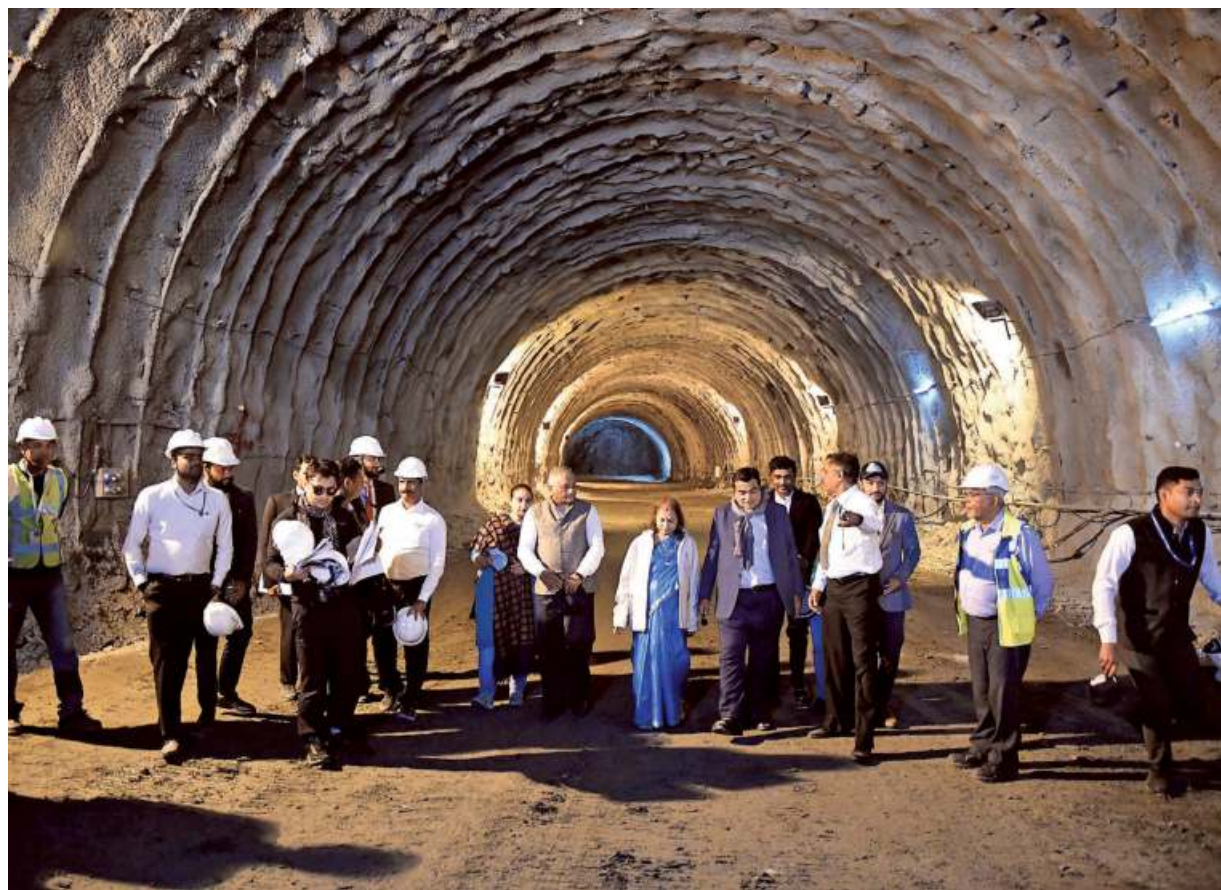
Senior advocate Atmaram Nadkarni, for the manufacturers, said they were following the directions of the court but individuals buy crackers separately and join them. "If you buy 100 crackers and join them then it still is called manufacturing them. Why do you produce them in the first place?" the Bench asked.

**Banned chemicals**

Mr. Sankaranarayanan said many manufacturers continued to use toxic ingredients fully knowing that the court had banned them. He said children "whose nimble fingers are used to tie the knots on the firecrackers" are employed in these factories and exposed to the poison. "There is poison to start with and it ends in poisoning the air for innocents."

He said the 2018 judgment had balanced employment concerns in the industry and the right to life of citizens by approving the government's suggestions for "green crackers" and those with reduced emission.

The hearing will continue on Wednesday.



**Subterranean shortcut:** Nitin Gadkari and officials inside the Zojila tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday. ■NISSAR AHMAD

# Gadkari reviews Zojila tunnel work

The 13.5 km tunnel will allow all-weather connectivity between Ladakh and Srinagar

**JAGRITI CHANDRA**  
**SONMARG**

Road works totalling ₹1.5 lakh crore are being undertaken in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said here.

He arrived at Sonmarg on Tuesday to review the construction work at the Zojila tunnel, likely to be ready by September 2026. The 13.5-km tunnel will be Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel

**It takes 3.5 hours to travel between Srinagar and Ladakh. The tunnel will reduce the travel time to 15 minutes**

**NITIN GADKARI**  
Road Transport Minister

and will allow all-weather connectivity between Ladakh and Srinagar, which is disrupted during the winter months. It is located at 11,578 feet above sea level.

"It takes 3.5 hours to travel between Srinagar and Ladakh. The tunnel will reduce the travel time to 15 minutes. I urge the concessionaires to complete the construction work by 2023, before the general elections in 2024," Mr. Gadkari said at a press briefing.

**Approach road**

The project also includes a 17-km approach road. The tunnel and the approach road together cost ₹4,500 crore. The project has seen

long delays after multiple failed bids since 2013.

The Z-Morh tunnel - being developed at Sonmarg - will provide it all-weather connectivity with Srinagar allowing it to remain open to tourists all year round.

It is likely to be ready by December 2023 and is being developed at a cost of ₹2,378 crore.

The Minister also said Jammu and Kashmir will get 20 tunnels of 32 km in length and Ladakh 11 tunnels of 20 km.

# India fought pandemic well: Shah

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that despite limited resources and with a huge population of 130 crore, India fought the COVID-19 pandemic in the best possible manner among all countries in the world.

Mr. Shah was addressing the 17th formation day of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

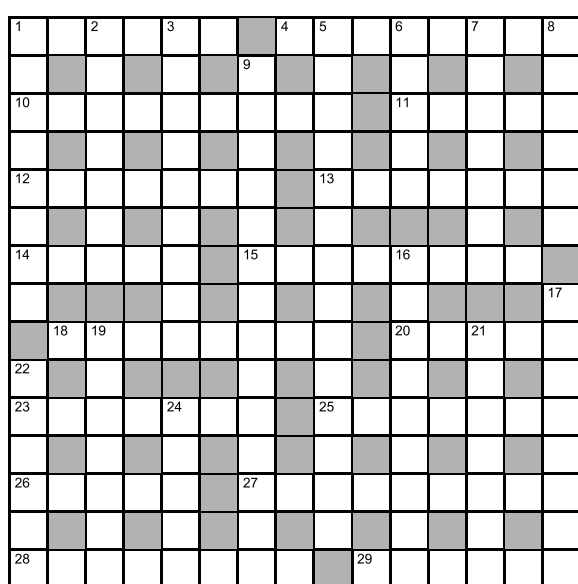
"If an analysis is done by any neutral agency, it will come to the conclusion that the country has done very well in fighting the pandemic and substantially reducing the death rate. The number of deaths per 10 lakh population was one of the lowest among the countries. Many countries had a tough time in dealing with the pandemic," he stated.

Referring to the cyclone that hit some parts of the country during the second wave of the pandemic, he said it was due to the excellent planning and preparations that not a single oxygen plant was damaged and that there were no power cuts to oxygen plants and hospitals in the cyclone-affected areas.

**Aapda Mitra project**

The Central government was planning to roll out an 'Aapda Mitra' (Friends in Disaster) project in 350 districts by imparting training to citizens as first responders to any disaster, Mr. Shah said.

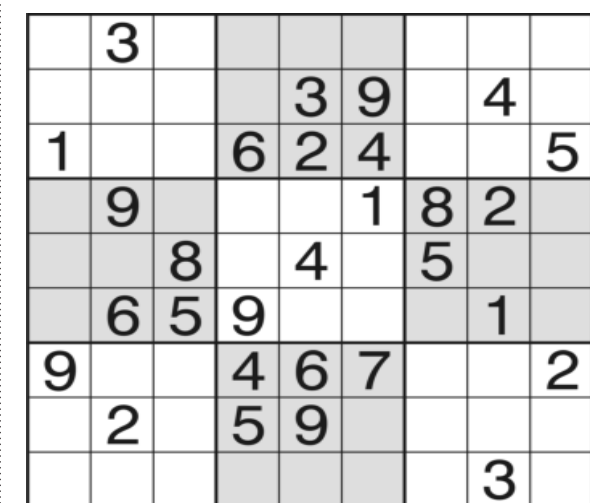
**THE CROSSWORD** + 13364 Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids: @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjpTn> SCAN TO PLAY



- 14 About to include part of Kashmir in the assembly (5)
  - 15 Six in a makeshift boat escaped, borders avoided (8)
  - 18 Being forgetful, came in as a substitute (8)
  - 20 Close to taking in unadulterated castor oil (5)
  - 23 Rider and girl caught in wind (7)
  - 25 Dry run will help bombing (3,4)
  - 26 Called the principal state (5)
  - 27 Lost again, in a whirl, longing (9)
  - 28 Close shave - marines set to cross finally (4,4)
  - 29 Was in love with a party apparatchik (6)
- **DOWN**
- 1 Burglar told to choose timer (8)
  - 2 New normal - without middlemen one distributes money (7)
  - 3 Caught with wine, an exposé to denounce (9)
  - 5 C'est la vie! A rule made for such a phrase in grammar (8,6)
  - 6 Woodland calls police (5)
  - 7 Rate for repeat show (7)
  - 8 Shadow boxing - needle is for using drugs (6)
  - 9 Begets after single day in the South Pacific... (7,7)
  - 16 ... and sign for holidaymaker heading off to beach (9)
  - 17 Handled differently, annexing a peninsula (8)
  - 19 Did some fighters come from this island? (7)
  - 21 Authentic fish pigment (7)
  - 22 Sense a coup, not even soldiers support it (6)
  - 24 Study about English milk product (5)

- **ACROSS**
- 1 I set out to find some fish (6)
  - 4 Egg sandwiches doctor got (8)
  - 10 According to Spooner, Frank's OK with a piece of furniture (9)
  - 11 There's pressure all around - work, you're told it will appear suddenly (3,2)
  - 12 Showing interest in fast game - it's a complaint (7)
  - 13 Restrain placing bomb in the city (3,4)

**SUDOKU**



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

**Solution to puzzle 13363**

A	A	R	R	M	B	L	H	
M	A	L	G	U	D	I	A	V
O	U	E	L	N	A	N	R	
R	E	M	O	D	E	L	I	D
A	N	E	A	D	M	S		
L	E	I	C	E	S	T	E	R
B	U	T	T	E	N	D		
L	E	A	S	T				
I	N	O	A	H	I	N	S	T
N	O	S	T	R	U	M	I	N
E	M	A	I	M	P	G	E	
S	T	I	L	T	O	N	S	
E	T	E	E	A	Y	R	A	

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

1	6	3	2	4	8	7	9	5
7	8	5	3	6	9	1	4	2
9	4	2	7	5	1	8	6	3
8	3	7	6	9	5	2	1	4
6	5	9						
6	5	9						
9			4	6	7			2
2			5	9				
							3	

**FAITH**

# Standpoint is important

The Kshetra Kshetrajnana explained in the thirteenth chapter of the Bhagavad Gita affirms that the jivatma and the Paramatma are one and the same. Though books on the sastras such as the Gita, and the teachings of the acharyas may repeatedly reinforce the Jiva Brahma Aikya, many are not ready to accept it wholeheartedly. How can the devotee of the Supreme God see oneself as non-different from Him?

In a discourse, Swamini Satyavratnanda pointed out that sastras insist that one has to train the mind to break the division or the 'Beda bhavana' that is deep rooted in our ignorance. In Vedanta study there are two concepts 'atma' and 'anatma'. Atma alone is satya. All else is only appearance, and is called mithya. It is also known as Vyavaharika satya.

To understand this concept, scriptures often quote the example of the wave and the ocean. Both are essentially water. The waves keep appearing endlessly and are of different sizes, colours, etc. They come from the ocean and cannot exist independently. But actually we know that they are two names and two forms of the same water. Just as water alone is satya and the ocean and wave mithya, mere appearances, Atma Chaitanya alone is satya and Paramatma and the jivatma are to be seen as ocean and wave.

The entire universe is Ishwara sarira as is revealed to Arjuna in Visvaroopaa Daršana. 'Parama' and 'jiva' are bound by upadhi. Parama is 'Ishwara upadhi' and jiva is 'sarira upadhi' and this makes the one atma appear as separate. Gold is basis or content of all types of ornaments. So the issue has to be viewed not from the jiva's standpoint since as a devotee when I worship Ishwara, difference exists between the two. It has to be viewed from the atma standpoint. Then Paramatma is non-different from the atma the worshipper.

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

# TRANSCENDING TIME

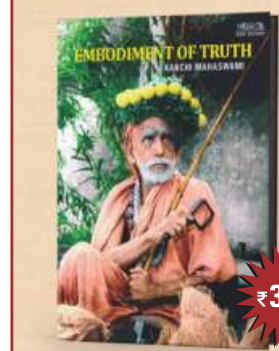
The journey of an Inimitable Sage traced through lens and letters



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## MARKET WATCH

	28-09-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,668	-0.68
US Dollar	74.06	-0.31
Gold	45080	-0.06
Brent oil	79.09	-0.49

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	738.70	-11.55
Asian Paints	3379.70	-50.95
Axis Bank	789.20	-7.75
Bajaj Auto	3908.70	-4.70
Bajaj Finserv	17550.35	-480.75
Bajaj Finance	7543.30	-252.15
Bharti Airtel	696.15	-26.40
BPLCL	429.60	9.00
Britannia Ind	4003.65	-5.95
Cipla	971.00	8.30
Coal India	174.55	7.50
Divis Lab	4784.05	-148.50
Dr Reddys Lab	4833.15	41.50
Eicher Motors	2883.05	3.70
Grasim Ind	1648.75	-0.05
HCL Tech	1269.00	-26.20
HDFC	2804.95	-34.85
HDFC Bank	1615.05	-10.05
HDFC Life	725.80	4.80
Hero MotoCorp	2920.55	7.60
Hindalco	478.15	-3.25
Hind Unilever	2723.85	14.35
ICICI Bank	717.15	-12.85
IndusInd Bank	1134.75	-15.95
Infosys	1687.10	-34.05
Indian Oil Corp	122.95	4.30
ITC	237.75	-0.95
JSW Steel	660.85	12.20
Kotak Bank	2068.20	34.85
L&T	1737.15	-2.45
M&M	806.05	-5.30
Maruti Suzuki	7423.85	20.40
Nestle India Ltd.	19544.75	-97.45
NTPC	131.95	5.10
ONGC	142.20	2.20
PowerGrid Corp	183.95	7.95
Reliance Ind	2548.05	-23.60
SBI Life	1210.30	-12.50
State Bank	444.90	-1.70
Shree Cement	29242.95	-233.05
Sun Pharma	775.10	-12.05
Tata Consumer	822.70	-12.35
Tata Motors	329.30	-2.35
Tata Steel	1280.95	10.45
TCS	3779.15	-57.80
Tech Mahindra	1414.05	-50.35
Titan	2129.30	39.05
UltraTech Cement	7588.30	-34.60
UPL	716.80	-9.05
Wipro	639.60	-14.30

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 28

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.84	74.16
Euro	86.32	86.69
British Pound	100.52	100.99
Japanese Yen (100)	66.29	66.58
Chinese Yuan	11.44	11.49
Swiss Franc	79.59	79.98
Singapore Dollar	54.44	54.68
Canadian Dollar	58.42	58.68
Malaysian Ringgit	17.64	17.72

Source: Indian Bank

## IN BRIEF



### Australia's Tehan to visit India for talks on FTA

NEW DELHI  
Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan will be in India this week to take forward bilateral negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA). He is also expected to address a business leaders' forum during his visit.

### Future can hold investor meets on sale to RIL arm

NEW DELHI  
The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) allowed Future Group firms to hold meetings of its shareholders and creditors to seek approval for the sale of assets to Reliance Retail Ltd. A NCLT bench also dismissed Amazon's application opposing the merger of Future Group firms. PTI

### Lava International files IPO papers with SEBI

NEW DELHI  
Mobile maker Lava International has filed papers with markets regulator SEBI to raise funds via an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO comprises fresh issuance of shares worth ₹500 crore and an offer for sale of 43.73 million shares, according to the prospectus. PTI

### Aditya Birla Sun Life raises ₹789 cr. pre-IPO

NEW DELHI  
Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC said on Tuesday it had collected ₹789 crore from anchor investors ahead of its initial share sale that opens for public subscription on Wednesday. It was decided to allot 1,10,80,800 shares to anchor investors at ₹712 apiece, valuing aggregate transaction at ₹788.95 crore, according to a circular. PTI

# SEBI clears norms for gold exchanges

Move will enable transparency in pricing, country will become 'price setter' in ecosystem, says Tyagi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), on Tuesday approved the framework for a gold exchange as well as for vault managers, facilitating trading in securities tied to the yellow metal.

The markets regulator's approval for the proposals made in the Union Budget paves the way for gold exchanges to be set up for trading in 'Electronic Gold Receipts' (EGRs) like in the case of other securities.

Existing stock exchanges will be allowed to provide the platform for trading of



Go for gold: Electronic receipt holders can withdraw gold from the vaults after surrendering the receipts. \*FILE PHOTO

EGRs, SEBI said after a board meeting in Mumbai.

The denomination for trading the EGRs and conversion of EGRs into gold would

be decided by the exchanges with the approval of SEBI, Chairman Ajay Tyagi said, while addressing the media. The clearing corporation

would settle the trades executed on the exchanges by way of transferring EGRs and funds to the buyer and seller, respectively, he said.

### Vault managers

EGR holders, at their discretion, could withdraw the underlying gold from the vaults after surrendering the EGRs. SEBI-accredited vault managers would be responsible for the storage and safekeeping of gold deposits, creation of EGRs, withdrawal of gold, grievance redressal and periodic reconciliation of physical gold with the records of depository. The vault manager

would have to have a net worth of at least ₹50 crore.

On the broader objective of such exchanges, Mr. Tyagi said, "India is a net importer of gold. We are price takers and not price setters. The whole idea is to move from being price takers to be price setters. Price discovery at the exchanges will lead to... transparency in gold pricing."

Mr. Tyagi added that the exchanges would enable transparent price discovery, investment liquidity and assurance in the quality of gold. SEBI also cleared norms for social exchanges.

## Don't compromise data privacy in fintech: FM

'More Indians making digital payments'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said there should be no compromise on data privacy and safeguard of client data with an increasing number of Indians now using digital mode of payment.

She said the value of digital transactions jumped to ₹6 lakh crore in January-August 2021 from ₹4 lakh crore and ₹2 lakh crore in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

"Data privacy is one of the things which is very important and it is an issue on which there can be a lot of contentious views. However, basic respect for privacy as the guiding principle is well appreciated.

"Unless my data is safeguarded well, I wouldn't want to get into a scheme of things.

"So, that is the guiding principle," Ms. Sitharaman said at the 'Global FinTech Fest 2021.'

## 'States' revenues to rise, but won't dent indebtedness level

Crisil sees better receipts from GST, petroleum products tax

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

States' revenues are expected to grow by about 15% this year after a 3% drop in 2020-21, Crisil said on Tuesday, citing an estimated 20% rise in GST collections and about 25% jump in tax receipts on petroleum products.

However, States' indebtedness levels would only improve marginally, from a decade-high 34% last fiscal

to 33% this year, the rating agency reckoned, estimating that a 10-11% rise in revenue expenditure would negate the higher tax inflows.

Also, while States had budgeted for about 55% growth in capital outlays to about ₹5.6 lakh crore in 2021-2022, Crisil estimated actual growth would be about 20% 'given the past track record' and their already 'well above' historical le-

vels of fiscal deficit of close to 4% of Gross States Domestic Product (GSDP).

"As the economy recovers... collections from GST and sales tax from petroleum products, comprising approximately 30% of States' revenue is likely to rebound strongly," said Ankit Hakhu, director at Crisil Ratings. However, a more intense third wave could impact estimates, Crisil noted.

## LIC seeks to appoint CFO before IPO

REUTERS  
NEW DELHI

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is seeking to appoint a chief financial officer, according to a notification on its website, ahead of an initial public offering slated before the end of the fiscal year.

The move to hire a CFO follows a decision to re-designate LIC's top job to chief executive officer from chairman earlier this year.

LIC is currently under going a valuation exercise for an IPO that could be India's biggest ever as the government seeks to raise about ₹900 billion by selling 5-10% stake in the company by the end of the fiscal year. Recently, the government appointed 10 investment banks to handle the offering.

## Fintech firms can check digital fraud: RBI official

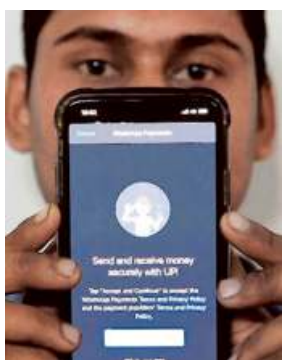
Pandemic saw rise in incidents: Sankar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Technology-driven fintech firms can play multiple roles in areas such as digital-fraud prevention, financial inclusion and cross-border payments, said RBI Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar.

The technological innovation in finance, he said, also raises hopes for substantial efficiency gains, better customer experience and greater social welfare.

While talking about the potential of the fintech firms, Mr. Sankar also underlined the need for effectively dealing with 'threats of online frauds, compromise of customer credentials and data privacy and safety for the spring of hope not to turn into the winter of despair.' He was speaking at



Global FinTech Fest 2021.

As the digital payments landscape was maturing, Mr. Sankar said RBI's regulatory attention is shifting to the next level of reforms.

"Another area where fintech holds promise is to prevent digital frauds," he said.

Citing data, he said incidents of digital frauds have risen during the pandemic.

## Include spices in PLI for value addition: UPASI

'Sectoral infrastructure will develop'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
COIMBATORE

The United Planters' Association of Southern India (UPASI) has urged the Spices Board to take up with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries the need to include spices in the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI).

This would encourage value addition with the development of infrastructure for the sector, it said.

UPASI also said there was a need to impose policy restrictions on import of natural rubber for a minimum period of two years and safeguard duty of 70% as there was a surge in imports hurting domestic growers.

Imports from April to June this year were higher by 0.32 lakh tonnes com-



pared with the year-earlier period, the Association said.

On coffee, the UPASI said Coffee Board should pursue with the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Finance to raise budgetary allocation for development activities. On tea, it said rising imports were a concern and the domestic tea sector was witnessing rising cost of production. Any higher imports would have a telling effect on the sector.

## Drug imports gain time on shelf-life rule

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has extended till April 30 the deadline for allowing import of drugs with residual shelf life less than 60%.

Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) said import of drugs with less than 60% residual shelf life was being permitted since April 2020. It followed representations from importers citing delay in clearances at ports, close on the heels of the COVID-19 outbreak. With the existing deadline till October 31, the latest extension is for six months.

Pharmexcil director general Ravi Uday Bhaskar said the DCGI's decision is bound to come as a relief for importers.

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# Taliban to 'temporarily' adopt 1964 monarchy Constitution

'But anything in the text found to be in conflict with Sharia will be discarded'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KABUL

The Taliban said on Tuesday they will temporarily adopt a 1964 Constitution that granted women the right to vote, but eliminate any elements they disagree with.

The Taliban's Acting Justice Minister issued a statement saying the Islamists planned to introduce a Constitution used during Afghanistan's short-lived golden age of democracy, but only briefly and with amendments. "The Islamic Emirate will adopt the Constitution of the former King Mohammad Zahir Shah's time for a temporary period," Mawlawi Abdul Hakim Sharraee said.



New order: A woman walking past a poster that has been defaced in Kabul. • AP

But anything in the text found to be in conflict with Sharia law and the principles of the Islamic Emirate would be discarded, he added.

Nearly six decades ago, before the world's superpowers intervened in the

country, Afghanistan enjoyed a brief period of constitutional monarchy during the reign of King Mohammad Zahir Shah.

The king ratified the Constitution a year after coming to power in 1963, ushering in

nearly a decade of parliamentary democracy before he was overthrown in 1973.

The 1964 Constitution, which gave women the right to vote for the first time and opened the doors for their increased participation in politics, would appear an awkward fit with the Taliban's hardline views.

The group, which took over power in mid-August, has vowed a softer and more inclusive approach than during their brutal 1996 to 2001 rule. But when they presented their caretaker government earlier this month, all the top positions went to hardliners and no women were included.

## 'Afghan army collapse took us by surprise'

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told Congress on Tuesday that the Afghan army's sudden collapse caught the Pentagon off guard as he acknowledged miscalculations in America's longest war, including corruption and damaged morale in Afghan ranks.

"The fact that the Afghan army we and our partners trained simply melted away ... took us all by surprise," Mr. Austin told the Senate Armed Services Committee during the hearings on Afghanistan. The Senate and House committees overseeing the U.S. military are holding hearings on Tuesday and Wednesday respectively.

## Germany's Laschet faces calls to resign over election setback

Pressure is mounting after Conservatives' poor poll show

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BERLIN

Pressure was mounting on Tuesday on Armin Laschet to quit after his Conservatives lost to the Social Democrats in Germany's election, further complicating his bid to form the next government after the disastrous vote.

Mr. Laschet's Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union (CDU-CSU) Conservative alliance brought home its worst election result in post-war Germany of 24.1%, behind Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD) on 25.7%.

But Mr. Laschet, the conservative bloc's hope to succeed veteran Chancellor Angela Merkel, insisted his

party would still try to build a governing coalition and was ready for talks with the Greens and the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) for a possible partnership.

### 'Not satisfied'

Though he admitted he could "not be satisfied with this result", Mr. Laschet also claimed "no party", not even the Social Democrats, could claim a mandate to govern from Sunday's vote outcome.

But calls were growing louder for Mr. Laschet to admit defeat and resign, even from within his own party.

"You have lost. Please have some insight. Avert further damage to the #CDU

and resign," Ellen Demuth, a CDU member of the Rhineland-Palatinate state parliament, wrote on Twitter.

"We lost the election. Full stop," said Tilman Kuban, the head of the CDU's youth wing. Marcus Muendlein, the chairman of the party's youth wing in the state of Saxony, called for "a true new beginning", which he said could "only be successful if our leader and candidate for chancellor, Armin Laschet... resigns".

A stormy session is expected later on Tuesday when the newly elected MPs of the CDU and its Bavarian allies, the CSU, sit down together for the first time since the vote.

## IN BRIEF



### 'Iran crossed all red lines with nuclear programme'

UNITED NATIONS  
Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Monday said Iran had breached all the "red lines" aimed at curbing its nuclear weapons programme, but that Israel "will not allow" Tehran to get the bomb. In his first address to the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Bennett said the Islamic republic had in recent years taken "a major leap forward" in its nuclear production capacity and ability to enrich weapons-grade uranium. • AFP

### 'Pakistan is home to 12 foreign terrorist outfits'

WASHINGTON  
Pakistan is home to at least 12 groups designated as "foreign terrorist organisations" by the U.S., including five India-centric groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed, said a Congressional report on terrorism. U.S. officials identified Pakistan as a base of operations or target for armed and non-state militant groups, the Congressional Research Service said. • PTI

### North Korea test-fires short-range 'missile'

SEOUL  
North Korea fired a presumed short-range missile into the sea on Tuesday, the South's military said, as Pyongyang's United Nations Ambassador insisted it had an undeniable right to test its weapons. The projectile was fired from Jagang into waters off the east coast, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. Pyongyang's UN Ambassador Kim Song told the UN General Assembly: "Nobody can deny the right to self-defence for the DPRK."

## Pakistan exploring expansion of CPEC to Afghanistan: envoy

'Regional connectivity an element of our talks with Taliban'

REUTERS  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has discussed Taliban-led Afghanistan joining the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure project, the Pakistani Ambassador to the country said on Monday.

"Regional connectivity is an important element of our discussion with the Afghan leadership and our way forward for our economic interaction with Afghanistan," said Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Pakistan's envoy to Kabul, in an interview with Reuters.

"This important project – China Pakistan Economic Corridor ... provides good opportunities, good potential for providing infrastructure and energy connectivity between Afghanistan and Pakistan ... [and] also connecting South Asia to the Central Asian region."

CPEC is a central part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), under which Beijing has pledged over \$60 billion for infrastructure projects in Pakistan, much of it in the form of loans.

Mr. Khan said discussions had been held with the Tali-

ban-led administration on this and other ways to develop the country's economy. "There has been deep interest in terms of developing the economic connectivity of Afghanistan with Pakistan through CPEC and with other neighbouring countries, including Iran, China and Central Asian countries."

In recent days, representatives from Pakistan, China and Russia have held meetings with the Taliban officials. Mr. Khan said security and economic development were the two main topics under discussion.

## China displays new drones, jets

Country stages its biggest air show in Zhuhai

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ZHUHAI

China on Tuesday showed off its increasingly sophisticated air power including surveillance drones, with an eye on disputed territories from Taiwan to the South China Sea and its rivalry with the United States.

The country's biggest air show, in the southern coastal city of Zhuhai, comes as Beijing pushes to meet a 2035 deadline to retool its military for modern warfare.

China still lags behind the United States in terms of tech and investment in its war machine, but experts say it is narrowing the gap.

On Tuesday, the air force aerobic team left colourful vapour trails as it ma-



Up in the air: The air show, usually held every two years, was postponed from last year due to the pandemic. • AP

noeuved in formation, while visitors inspected new jets, drones and attack helicopters on the tarmac. The CH-6, a prototype drone with a wingspan of 20.5 metres, was among the domestic tech unveiled. It is designed for surveillance and can also carry weapons for strike missions, according to open-source intelligence agency Janes.

Other debutants included

the WZ-7 high-altitude drone for border reconnaissance and maritime patrol as well as the J-16D fighter that has the ability to jam electronic equipment.

The Zhuhai air show, usually held every two years, was postponed from last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is being staged before a largely domestic audience due to travel restrictions.

## Biden's remarks on Indian press spark row at White House briefing

He said Indian media was 'much better behaved' than their U.S. counterparts

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON DC

The American and Indian press became part of the news last week, after President Joe Biden suggested, before journalists were allowed into the Oval Office on Friday for a 'press spray', that he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi not take questions and that the Indian press was "much better behaved" than the American press.

"The Indian press is much better behaved than the American press... I think, with your permission, we could not answer questions because they won't ask any questions on point," Mr. Biden can be heard saying in a video clip from an Indian television channel that was in the Oval Office, setting up before reporters arrived.

The Indian press has been at the receiving end of restrictions and unflattering references from several quarters in Washington DC over the last few days, around the visit of Mr. Modi to the American capital. First, the issue around restrictive access to Mr. Modi's events. Then, President Biden's hot mic moment, during which he said the Indian press were "much better behaved" than their American counterparts. Third, and most recently, in the framing of questions by American reporters at Monday's White House press briefing.

Being called "better behaved" is not, generally, considered a compliment by journalists.

Mr. Biden's comments in this instance are similar to



Joe Biden

his predecessor's from 2017. "You have a friendly press," former U.S. President Donald Trump said to Mr. Modi during the Prime Minister's White House visit.

Asked on Monday why the American President was criticising U.S. reporters in that setting, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said: "Well, I would note first that he took questions on Friday and he took questions again today. And I think what he said is that they're [the U.S. press] not always on point."

### NEWS ANALYSIS

"Now, I know that isn't something that anyone wants to hear in here [the White House briefing room], but what I think he was conveying is, you know, today he might want to talk about COVID vaccine... and some of the questions are not always about the topic he's talking about on that day. I don't think it was meant to be a hard cut at the members of the media," she said.

Asked by another reporter if the President was "reticent" about taking questions in front of a foreign leader, in the context of Mr. Biden's meetings last week with Mr.

Modi and, before that, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Ms. Psaki denied that was the case. "He's taken questions standing next to a foreign leader many, many times in the past and will continue to," she said.

Mr. Biden frequently addresses the press – however, these addresses often consist of calling on reporters using a pre-decided list of names.

### Poor ranking

Then came a question that appeared to speak to Mr. Biden's lack of knowledge of the Indian press environment as well as a poor ranking of the Indian press in terms of press freedoms.

"The President said that the Indian press was better behaved than the U.S. press, but the Indian press is ranked 142nd in the world, according to Reporters Without Borders, for press freedoms. How does he say that about the U.S. press, compared to the Indian press?" a reporter asked Ms. Psaki.

"I would just say to you that having now worked for the President, serving in this role for nine months, having seen that he's taking questions from the press more than 140 times, including today, and Friday, that he certainly respects the role of the press, the role of the...free press. We ensure that we have press with us, of course, when we travel, that we have press with us for sprays in foreign capitals and we will continue to," Ms. Psaki said. "And I think that should speak to his commitment to freedom of press around the world."

Neither leader answered questions after the Modi-Biden meet and reporters shouted questions out to them as the gathering was dispersing.

The Indian press pool for the bilateral meetings with Mr. Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris as well as for the Quad, had guaranteed spots only for state-run media and one private news agency. Some outfits were assigned more than one spot (such as for handling camera and associated equipment). The White House press pool is decided by a system administered by officials and the White House Correspondents Association, the rules of which are known and shared on request. The White House Press Office did not seem aware that access to the Indian press 'pool' for the events was not an equal opportunity process.

The *Hindu* was finally able to join the 'press sprays' at the start of each meeting (the only access any press was given). However, at no point was it informed that it would be allowed a place in these. It is still unclear how exactly this happened.

Mr. Modi did not address the press during his visit. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla held two on-the-record briefings during the course of the Washington portion of the visit.

Following the Quad meeting on Friday, Australian PM Scott Morrison held a press 'gaggle' at the White House. Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga addressed the press on Friday evening and Saturday morning.

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## SPORT

# The future of commentary must work harder to get there

When there is enough action on the field in an IPL match, we don't need more thumping and colour off it to underline that, or compete with it



### BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Running commentary, the craft of bringing the game to the listener and viewer at home (or anywhere else), has undergone many changes from radio to television to IPL.

The IPL rates a category of its own because like the tournament itself, the commentary has become a generic term for oversell. But that is not the main reason. It is possible that the Dugout might be the future of commentary.

The tournament has, to a certain extent ironed out some of its excesses and moved closer to the sport side of the spectrum from

the purely entertainment side when it began. Not so the commentary, which has been a work in progress for over a decade now, and continues to exist somewhere in between, neither fish nor fowl.

### Genesis of Dugout

Television's initial instinct – that the IPL cannot be reported in the straightforward manner other cricket is – was the right one. But in concentrating on form over content, on spectacle rather than substance, it quickly came to a dead end. Thus was born the Dugout. This meant, however, two sets of entertainment, one on field and the other in the studio.

Over the years the word associated with IPL is 'loud' – from the game itself to Danny Morrison in the commentary box. Even if you enjoy the game, there is no guarantee that you will enjoy the banalities of the commentary.

There was an argument for the

innovations at the start. 'Razzmatazz' and 'sportainment' were the buzzwords then, and anything that reflected these in the commentary was seen as contributing to the overall value.

When Mandira Bedi was for a brief while one of the faces of the IPL, she brought enormous attention to bear upon the tournament; the organisers believed that all publicity was good. Soon we had cheerleaders in the studio which looked rather silly, but it was part of work in progress.

An alternative was needed to the loud and over the top style of those calling the game at the venue, and thus was born the Dugout, a more sober, more analytical and better informed commentary from the studio. It worked for a while, attracting a viewership that was interested in tactics and technique and stories behind the events.

But the experts soon felt a need

to be cute and funny (apart from having to praise everything good, bad or ugly, which presumably is part of the contract), and instead of the on-field commentary raising its standard, the Dugout lowered its own.

Few commentators are natural entertainers, speaking with the range and confidence of stand-up comedians. Under pressure to entertain, they struggle because of the forced nature of the attempt.

### Artificial

What is poor Ajit Agarkar doing in the midst of all this noise and flashing lights, unsure if he should remain his sober self or try to match the artificial exuberance of his colleagues? Agarkar speaks a good game, but he is not much given to shouting and feigned high spirits.

Brian Lara, one of the modern greats, what is he doing? The maker of the highest scores in both

first class and Test innings is reduced to taking an exaggerated bow every time a so-called 'prediction' of his regarding the fall of a wicket turns out right.

Commentary in the disco box with coloured lights flashing all around and sounds emanating unexpectedly and so much screaming and shouting may be fun, but I doubt it.

When Virat Kohli was missed the first ball he faced against Mumbai Indians, the commentators were so busy patting one another on their backs that they omitted to mention who the fielder was who had let the ball through.

Even if you sit miles away from the action, the basics don't change: tell the viewer what he needs to know. The viewer should not be forced to flip between channels.

The IPL is a television sport, and lends itself to the kind of

viewing experience that is only diminished by annoying commentary. All shots cannot be incredible, all wickets are not 'huge', and every car on display every year cannot be the greatest thing since sliced bread.

Sure, I am not the demographic this is aimed at. But I found many youngsters too watch the matches with the sound switched off.

When there is enough action on the field, we don't need more thumping and shouting and colour off it to underline that, or indeed compete with it.

T20 started out as a bit of a hit-and-giggle cricket, and in the early years the IPL was unsure whether it was sport or entertainment.

But it has worked at gaining acceptance as a sport thanks to radical approaches to data harvesting, selection, technique and coaching. The Dugout needs to gain similar credibility.

# Rana's cool, Narine's blitz take Knight Riders past the finish line

Inspid batting against a disciplined bowling attack limits Delhi Capitals to 127 for nine; Morgan's team chases down the target after surviving a few blips

**IPL 2021**  
SPORTS BUREAU

A team that was more desperate to win eventually came out stronger. Chasing 128, Kolkata Knight Riders stuttered but recovered to cross the finish line for an important win as left-handers Nitish Rana and Sunil Narine got it right under pressure to keep Delhi Capitals at bay in their IPL match at Sharjah.

Tuesday's three-wicket win kept KKR in the fourth spot. DC, too, retained second place.

**The thrust**  
In the 14th over, when KKR was 76 for four, Rana provided the thrust by hitting two sixes off a Lalit Yadav over that went for 20. Two overs later, Sunil Narine smashed two sixes and a four as Kagiso Rabada was hit for 21 runs.

Eoin Morgan for a duck after the KKR skipper and the off-spinner were involved in a verbal spat when Delhi batted. Much before the result was formalised, the KKR bowlers provided the platform.

**In control**  
On a surface where the ball tended to grip a little and did not quite come on to the bat, KKR restricted DC to 127 for eight with a very disciplined display.

Even Rishabh Pant (39) did not look convincing as most DC batsmen fell in their attempts to break the shackles.

Shikhar Dhawan opened with Steve Smith, in for an unfit Prithvi Shaw, but departed after a flashy knock. After regaining the Orange cap with a boundary in the first over, Dhawan tried to bat like Shaw and his over-aggressive approach proved his undoing.

Sunil Narine hit the info-form Shreyas Iyer's off-

stump. Smith, after looking impressive in patches, appeared increasingly tired in the afternoon heat and was finally bowled.

Pant could only watch as wickets fell in a heap. Surprisingly, Venkatesh Iyer cracked DC's middle order with two quick blows and Narine added another as DC slipped to 92 for six in the 16th over before the 100 was reached in the 17th over.

Ashwin and Pant fell in the final over after adding 28, but the tally never looked big enough to threaten KKR.

■ Morgan's men retained the fourth spot after the three-wkt. win over DC

■ Pant's outfit continued to be in second place

## Next assignment

**KKR:** Oct. 1 vs PBKS, Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

**DC:** Oct. 2 vs MI, Sharjah, 3.30 p.m. IST



**Pegged back:** Shreyas is bamboozled by a beauty from Narine. •SPORTSPICS/IPL

## SCOREBOARD

### DELHI CAPITALS

Steve Smith b Ferguson 39 (34b, 4x4), Shikhar Dhawan c Venkatesh b Ferguson 24 (20b, 5x4), Shreyas Iyer b Narine 1 (5b), Rishabh Pant run out 39 (36b, 3x4), Shimron Hetmyer c Southee b Venkatesh 4 (5b), Lalit Yadav lbw b Narine 0 (3b), Axar Patel c Ferguson b Venkatesh 0 (5b), R. Ashwin c Rana b Southee 9 (8b, 1x4), Kagiso Rabada (not out) 0 (1b), Avesh Khan run out 5 (3b, 1x4); Extras (lb-2, w-4): 6; Total (for nine wickets in 20 overs): 127.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-35 (Dhawan, 4.6 overs), 2-40 (Shreyas, 6.2), 3-77 (Smith, 12.2), 4-88 (Hetmyer, 13.5), 5-89 (Lalit, 14.3), 6-92 (Axar, 15.3), 7-120 (Ashwin, 19.1), 8-122 (Pant, 19.2), 9-127 (Avesh, 19.6).

### KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Shubman Gill c Shreyas b Rabada 30 (33b, 1x4, 2x6), Venkatesh Iyer b Lalit 14 (15b, 2x4), Rahul Tripathi c Smith b Avesh 9 (5b, 1x6), Nitish Rana (not out) 36 (27b, 2x4, 2x6), Eoin Morgan c Lalit b Ashwin 0 (2b), Dinesh Karthik b Avesh 12 (14b, 2x4), Sunil Narine c Axar b Nortje 21 (10b, 1x4, 2x6), Tim Southee b Avesh 3 (5b), Lockie Ferguson (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-2, nb-1): 5; Total (for seven wickets in 18.2 overs): 130.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-28 (Venkatesh, 4.3), 2-43 (Tripathi, 5.5), 3-67 (Gill, 10.6), 4-67 (Morgan, 11.2), 5-96 (Karthik, 14.4), 6-122 (Narine, 16.5), 7-126 (Southee, 17.6).

### CAPITALS BOWLING

Nortje 2.2-0-15-1, Axar 3-0-13-0, Ashwin 4-0-24-1, Lalit 3-0-35-1, Avesh 3-0-13-3, Rabada 3-1-28-1.

### KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING

Warrior 2-0-15-0, Southee 4-0-29-1, Ferguson 2-0-10-2, Varun 4-0-24-0, Narine 4-0-18-2, Venkatesh 4-0-29-2.

DC	KKR
47	53
14	8
0	7
39/1	44/2
6.35	7.09

# Pollard and Hardik keep MI in the hunt

Guide the side to a six-wicket win against PBKS; Rohit's men climb to fifth

SPORTS BUREAU

Hardik Pandya and Kieron Pollard lived up to their tag of finishers as Mumbai Indians defeated Punjab Kings by six wickets with an over to spare at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

Hardik (40 n.o., 30b, 4x4, 2x6) and Pollard (15 n.o., 7b, 1x4, 1x6) were involved in an unbroken 45-run stand off 23 balls for the fifth wicket. Earlier, Saurabh Tiwary, who replaced an out-of-form Ishan Kishan, laid the foundation for the chase with a 37-ball 45 (3x4, 2x6) after the bowlers had kept PBKS on a leash.

The victory at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium – its first in four matches in the second leg – kept MI's title defence alive while dealing a big blow to Punjab Kings' aspirations of making it to the playoffs.

When Pollard joined Hardik in the middle after Tiwary was caught behind off Nathan Ellis' back-of-the-hand slower ball in the 16th over, MI required 44 off 29.

Hardik, who was dropped by Harpreet Brar off left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh in the 15th over, took his time before going after Mohammed Shami in the 17th.

Pollard then went after Arshdeep in the next over before Hardik sealed it with



**Striking twice:** Pollard removed Gayle and Rahul in the same over. •SPORTSPICS/IPL

a six off Shami – the ball going through Deepak Hooda's hands at long-on – in the penultimate over.

When PBKS batted, Hooda (28, 26b, 1x4, 1x6) and Aiden Markram (42, 29b, 6x4) stabilised the innings with a 61-run association for the fifth wicket after their team slid to 48 for four in the eighth over.

With MI picking up four wickets for 12 runs off 14 balls, the Punjab side was in serious trouble.

Pollard triggered the collapse, taking the prize scalps of Chris Gayle (caught at long-on) and captain K.L. Rahul (caught at short fine-lev off a slower delivery) in the

space of three balls. With Rahul's wicket, Pollard became the first cricketer to achieve the double of 10,000 runs

and 300 wickets in T20s. The West Indian celebrated the day in style by shining with the willow too.

## SCOREBOARD

### PUNJAB KINGS

K.L. Rahul c Bumrah b Pollard 21 (22b, 2x4), Mandeep Singh lbw b Krunal 15 (14b, 2x4), Chris Gayle c Hardik b Pollard 1 (4b), Aiden Markram b Rahul Chahar 42 (29b, 6x4), Nicholas Pooran lbw b Bumrah 2 (3b), Deepak Hooda c Pollard b Bumrah 28 (26b, 1x4, 1x6), Harpreet Brar (not out) 14 (19b), Nathan Ellis (not out) 6 (4b); Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-2, nb-1): 6; Total (for six wickets in 20 overs): 135.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-36 (Mandeep, 5.2 overs), 2-39 (Gayle, 6.2), 3-41 (Rahul, 6.4), 4-48 (Pooran, 7.3), 5-109 (Markram, 15.2), 6-123 (Hooda, 18.4).

### MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Krunal 4-0-24-1, Boult 3-0-30-0, Bumrah 4-0-24-2, Coulter-Nile 4-0-19-0, Pollard 1-0-8-2, Rahul Chahar 4-0-27-1

### MUMBAI INDIANS

Rohit Sharma c Mandeep b Bishnoi 8 (10b, 1x4), Quinton de Kock b Shami 27 (29b, 2x4), Suryakumar Yadav b Bishnoi 0 (7b), Saurabh Tiwary c Rahul b Ellis 45 (37b, 3x4, 2x6), Hardik Pandya (not out) 40 (30b, 4x4, 2x6), Kieron Pollard (not out)

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-16 (Rohit, 3.3), 2-16 (Suryakumar, 3.4), 3-61 (de Kock, 9.5), 4-92 (Saurabh, 15.1)

### PUNJAB KINGS BOWLING

Markram 3-0-18-0, Shami 4-0-42-1, Arshdeep 4-0-29-0, Bishnoi 4-0-25-2, Ellis 3-0-12-1, Harpreet 1-0-11-0.

Toss: MI; MoM: Pollard. Mumbai Indians won by six wickets with six balls to spare.

## Innings scan

PBKS	MI
42	45
11	11
1	5
38/1	30/2
6.75	7.21

## Next assignment

**PBKS:** Oct. 1 vs KKR, Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

**MI:** Oct. 2 vs DC, Sharjah, 3.30 p.m. IST

## POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Chennai Super Kings	10	8	2	16	1.069
Delhi Capitals	11	8	3	16	0.562
Royal Challengers	10	6	4	12	-0.359
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	5	6	10	0.363
Mumbai Indians	11	5	6	10	-0.453
Punjab Kings	11	4	7	8	-0.288
Rajasthan Royals	10	4	6	8	-0.369
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	10	2	8	4	-0.501

After the MI-PBKS match on Sept. 28

E: Eliminated

# Confident Royal Challengers take on struggling Royals

SPORTS BUREAU

Fresh from an impressive 54-run win over Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore will take the field against Rajasthan Royals at Dubai on Wednesday with confidence.

RCB snapped a two-match losing streak in fine fashion on Sunday, stunning a strong MI with authority.

Skipper Virat Kohli and Glenn Maxwell notched up fifties, before Harshal Patel's hat-trick sealed the match in RCB's favour.

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal played his part, picking up three crucial wickets. RR, on the other hand,

## TODAY'S MATCH



DUBAI, 7.30 P.M. IST

## HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 23

RR 10 | RCB 11 | NR 2

In 2021

Played 1 | RR 0 | RCB 1

STAR SPORTS 1 & 55 SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

has lost two straight matches. The most recent setback came on Monday, when the side went down to Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets. Skipper Sanju Samson has

been on fire with the bat, but has lacked support from teammates.

RR has been badly affected by the withdrawal of England star Jos Buttler, who pulled out of the second leg citing bubble fatigue.

## Vital for Royals

The next few matches will be vital for RR, as it is stuck on eight points alongside three other mid-table teams. Some winning momentum will help to break free from the pack and make a bid to qualify for the playoff rounds.

RCB (12 points) is in a more comfortable position, with six wins in 10 matches.

## Last two league games at same time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBAI

The IPL Governing Council on Tuesday decided that the two final league stage games will start concurrently at 7:30 p.m. IST instead of the usual double-header with one game starting in the afternoon.

This is being done to avoid giving any unfair advantage to a team in case the last match has a side with a mathematical chance of qualification.

The IPL Media Rights tender for 2023-2027 will be released after the appointment of two new IPL teams, scheduled to be announced on Oct. 25.

# Warner's SRH future not discussed: Bayliss

The Australian's Instagram remark triggers exit rumours

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

David Warner has batted with one of the broadest bats in the IPL. His 5,449 runs, at an average of 41.59 and a strike rate of 139.96, vouch for that.

He also led Sunrisers Hyderabad to victory in 2016. Something that seems like a distant memory now.

He was relieved of captaincy earlier this season and dropped for the match against Rajasthan Royals.

Eyebrows were raised when he didn't accompany the team to the stadium on Monday. He watched the match from his Dubai hotel room; he wrote on Instagram that he wouldn't be at the stadium again.

There has been speculation that his association with SRH, which dates back to 2014, may not last beyond the season. His former team-



**Will he, won't he?** Has Warner played his last game for Sunrisers? Only time will tell. •SPORTSPICS/IPL

mate at the Hyderabad franchise, Dale Steyn, had spoken of that possibility back in May.

After SRH's comfortable seven-wicket victory against Royals, in which Warner's replacement Jason Roy scored 60, coach Trevor

Bayliss refused to read too much into the Australian opener's absence from the ground.

"We have a lot of young players and we decided... to give them an opportunity to come along and experience the game (at the stadium),"

## Top of the charts

### ORANGE CAP

SHIKHAR DHAWAN (DC)

Matches: 11 | Runs: 454

HS: 92 | SR: 130.45

### PURPLE CAP

HARSHAL PATEL (RCB)

Matches: 10 | Wickets: 23

BB: 5/27 | Econ: 8.58

After the MI-PBKS match on Sept. 28

he told reporters after Monday's match.

He added that Warner's future at SRH had not been discussed. "I am sure he has got a lot more runs in him yet in the IPL," he said.

Royals all-rounder Chris Morris said his team wasn't winning the big moments in a game. "We have to pull up our socks and win the big moments," he said.

# Inzamam discharged after an angioplasty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LAHORE

Pakistan's former captain and most-capped player Inzamam-ul-Haq had to undergo an emergency angioplasty at a private hospital here after complaining of heart-related issues and breathing difficulty.

Teammate and current PCB chairman Ramiz Raja later confirmed on social media that Inzamam has been discharged from the hospital after successfully undergoing the procedure.

"Inzi wishing you well and so good that you are now back at home. Rest



Inzamam Ul-Haq. •FILE PHOTO

and recoup my friend," Raja tweeted.

The 51-year old, who played 120 Tests and 378 ODIs, also served as chief selector between 2016-2019.

# Ajax climbs to the top; Inter held by Shakhtar

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE AMSTERDAM

Ivory Coast striker Sebastian Haller took his tally to 10 goals in as many games this season as Ajax beat Besiktas 2-0 to move to the top of Group C in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Haller, who joined the Dutch league holder from West Ham in January, scored just before the break after midfielder Steven Berghuis had opened the scoring at the Johan Cruyff Arena.

Serie A champion Inter Milan remained winless in Europe this season after a 0-0 draw at Shakhtar Donetsk.

Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante will not be involved in Wednesday's game at Juventus after testing positive for



**On the prowl:** Haller has been unstoppable this season, scoring 10 goals in as many games.

COVID-19, manager Thomas Tuchel said. Manchester United captain Harry Maguire will be sidelined for a few weeks with a calf injury, manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said ahead of the group

game against Villarreal. **The results:** Group C: Ajax 2 (Berghuis 17, Haller 43) bt Besiktas 0. Group D: Shakhtar Donetsk 0 drew with Inter Milan 0.

**On Wednesday:** Benfica v Barcelona; Bayern Munich v Dynamo Kyiv; Atalanta v Young Boys.

Manchester United v Villarreal; FC Red Bull Salzburg v Lille. VfL Wolfsburg v Sevilla/ Zenit St. Petersburg v Malmo; Juventus v Chelsea.

# Indian women blank Jordan in opener

Men will take on Iran in the quarters

## ASIAN TT

SPORTS BUREAU DOHA

Indian women beat Jordan 3-0 in their opening first division match of the 25th ITTF-ATTU Asian table tennis championships at the Lusail Sports Arena here on Tuesday.

India's top-ranked paddler Sutirtha Mukherjee followed by Archana Kamath and Ayhika Mukherjee scored convincing wins over their opponents.

The men will take on Iran in the quarterfinals of the championship division on Wednesday. Meanwhile, in the men's

singles draw of 128 released, India's top-ranked players, Sharath Kamal and G. Sathiyana have received byes in the first round.

Harmeet Desai will take on Ahmed Alawlaqi of Qatar while Manav Thakkar will meet Qatar's Fahed Al-mughanne. Sanil Shetty will face Jaber Al-Balhan of Kuwait.

## The results:

**Women: First division (first stage):** (Group 1): India bt Jordan 3-0 (Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Bara Al-Wedyan 11-6, 11-6, 11-4; Archana Kamath bt Taimmaa Abo-Yaman 11-6, 11-5, 11-3; Ayhika Mukherjee bt Yara Aldmaisy 11-7, 11-1, 11-1); Jordan bt Nepal 3-1.

# Jyothika, Sherin hog the limelight

Shashikanth and Taranjeet emerge as the fastest

## ATHLETICS

SPORTS BUREAU  
NEW DELHI

The search is on for young quartermilers to strengthen the Indian women's relay team for next year's Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Worlds.

And Dandi Jyothika Sri, who had run the quarter-mile and mixed relay at the 2017 under-18 Worlds, produced an impressive 53.05s for the 400m gold in the first National under-23 athletics championships at the Nehru Stadium here on Tuesday.

### Second fastest time

Her time is the second fastest by an Indian this year, behind Priya H. Mohan's 52.77s which came at the recent under-20 Worlds.

Jyothika's run was a dominating one and the 21-year-old from Andhra Pradesh finished more than 1.5s ahead of Jharkhand's Florence Barla.

She entered this year with a personal best of 54.70s and clocked 55.98s (inter-State) and 54.83 (National Open) in her last two competitions.

Ayush Dabas won the men's 400m in a personal best 46.58s while Tamil Nadu's Sherin Abdul Gafoor also produced a PB 6.45m, the third best long jump by an Indian this year.

Karnataka's Shashikanth



**Winning effort:** Long jumper Sherin Abdul Gafoor produced a personal best of 6.45m. • AFI

Angadi and Delhi's National Open champion Taranjeet Kaur finished as the fastest man and woman respectively.

**The results:**  
**Men: 100m:** 1. V.A. Shashikanth

(Kar) 10.57s; 2. Pranav Gurav (Mah) 10.67; 3. G. Kathiravan (TN) 10.85.

**400m:** 1. Ayush Dabas (Har) 46.58s; 2. Vikrant Panchal (Har) 47.08; 3. Mohammed Hossain (WB) 47.20.

**110m hurdles:** 1. Tejas Shirse (Mah) 14.12s; 2. Yashwant Laveti (AP) 14.25; 3. Kunal Chaudhary (Del) 14.44. **Shot put:** 1. Ashish Kumar (Har) 17.20m; 2. Aniket (Utkd) 17.09; 3. Akash Grewal (UP) 17.03.

**Discus:** 1. Basukesh Poonia (Raj) 53.27m; 2. Praveen Kumar (Raj) 51.38; 3. Abhay Gupta (Har) 50.41. **Javelin:** 1. Rohit Yadav (UP) 72.42m; 2. Anmol Rana (UP) 71.17; 3. Anuj Kalera (Raj) 68.73.

**2000m race walk:** 1. Suraj Panwar (Utkd) 1:28:53.11s; 2. Amit Khatri (Har) 1:28:54.81; 3. Juned (Har) 1:29:20.78. **Decathlon:** 1. Yaman Deep Singh (Raj) 6975 pts; 2. Robin Singh (UP) 6636; 3. Mohit (Har) 6615.

**Women: 100m:** 1. Taranjeet Kaur (Del) 11.54s; 2. A.T. Dhaneshwari (Kar) 11.66; 3. Nithya Gandhe (Tel) 11.90.

**400m:** 1. Dandi Jyothika Sri (AP) 53.05s; 2. Florence Barla (Jha) 54.69; 3. Nancy (Har) 55.25.

**100m hurdles:** 1. Aparna Roy (Ker) 13.80s; 2. K. Nandhini (TN) 13.96; 3. Mounita Mondal (WB) 14.05. **Pole vault:** 1. Pooja (Har) 3.60m; 2. Pavithra Venkatesh (TN) 3.50; 3. Divya Mohan (Ker) 3.50.

**High jump:** 1. Athira Somaraj (Ker) 1.71m; 2. Rekha (Har) 1.69; 3. Giji Stephen (TN) 1.69.

**Long jump:** 1. Sherin Abdul Gafoor (TN) 6.45m; 2. Sandra Babu (Ker) 6.29; 3. Pooja Saini (Raj) 6.22.

**Discus:** 1. Sunita (Har) 46.75m; 2. Shivani (UP) 46.25; 3. Neetika Verma (UP) 44.77. **20000m walk:** 1. Reshma Patel (Utkd) 1:45:01.55s; 2. Mansi Negi (Utkd) 1:45:45.95; 3. Munita Prajapati (UP) 1:46:20.57.

# Brighton misses out going to top

## EURO LEAGUES

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON

Neil Maupay ran through to lob home a finish in the fifth minute of stoppage time and earn Brighton a 1-1 draw at local rival Crystal Palace in the Premier League on Monday.

Brighton would have climbed into first place with a win but still left Selhurst Park satisfied after Maupay's late equaliser, which came as Joel Veltman helped the ball forward from just inside his own half following a poor clearance by Palace goalkeeper Vicente Guaita.

Wilfried Zaha had put Palace ahead from the penalty spot in first-half stoppage time after Conor Gallagher was fouled in the box by Leandro Trossard as the midfielder ran into the area.

Palace was denied just a second victory of the season under recently hired man-

ager Patrick Vieira, after beating Tottenham 3-0 in its last home match.

Brighton stayed in sixth place but moved into a tie for points with Manchester City, Manchester United, Chelsea and Everton, who are all a point behind leader Liverpool.

In LaLiga, Denis Suarez scored four minutes into stoppage time for Celta Vigo to beat Granada 1-0. Suarez netted the winner from inside the area after an assist by Santi Mina to secure Celta its second consecutive win after a winless start to the season.

Real Madrid leads the league through seven rounds.

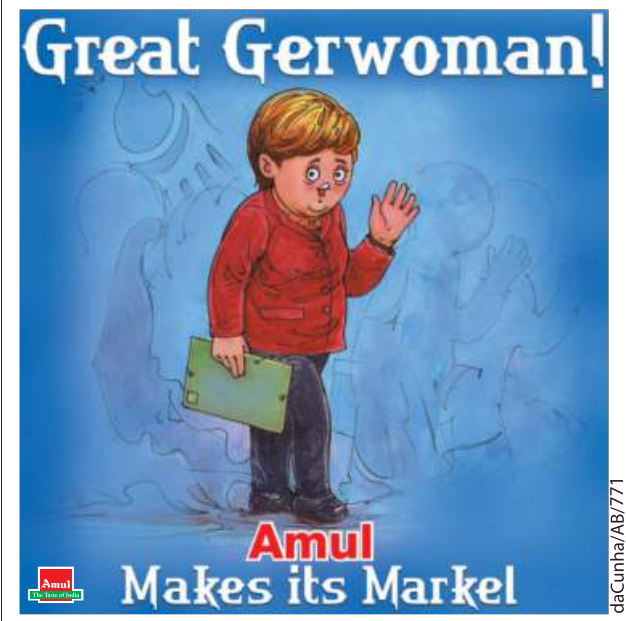
**The results: Premier League:** Crystal Palace 1 (Zaha 45+2pen) drew with Brighton 1 (Maupay 90+5).

**LaLiga:** Celta Vigo 1 (Suarez 90+4) bt Granada 0.

**Serie A:** Venezia 1 (Aramu 78pen) drew with Torino 1 (Brekalo 56).



**Rescue act:** Neal Maupay ensured Brighton shared the points with Crystal Palace with this last-gasp equaliser. • AP



# Bopanna & Qureshi pair loses

## INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU  
BULGARIA

Rohan Bopanna in partnership with Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi was beaten 6-2, 6-7(1), 10-7 by the third seeds Oliver Marach and Philipp Oswald in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €481,270 ATP tennis tournament here.

### Other results:

€ 44,820 Challenger, Sibiu, Romania: Singles (first round): Sumit Nagal bt Lucas Miedler (Aut) 6-3, 6-1.

€ 44,820 Challenger, Murcia, Spain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Raul Brancaccio & Flavio Cobolli (Ita) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Manish Suresh Kumar 6-2, 7-6(6).

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: First round: Niki Poonacha bt Pierre Yves Bailly (Bel) 6-3, 7-5.

\$15,000 ITF men, Cairo, Egypt: Singles (first round): Roland Stuurman (Ned) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-2, 6-0; Volodymyr Uzhylovskiy (Ukr) bt Karan Singh 6-3, 7-5; Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): SD Prajwal Dev & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Nico Jjaeger (Sui) & Sstefanos Schinas (Gre) 6-4, 6-2.

\$25,000 ITF women, Lisbon, Portugal: Singles (first round): Malene Helges (Nor) bt Riya Bhatia 6-2, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF women, Cairo, Egypt: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Jasmijn Gimbreere & Lian Tran (Ned) bt Alexandra Iordache (Rou) & Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-4, 6-1.

# From line umpire to referee, I am happy: Nitin

## TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

Nitin Kannamwar is a very experienced tennis official in the country who has officiated 48 times in the four Grand Slams, including 24 times in Wimbledon.

Back from Tokyo, and taking a breather before the next string of events around the world, the 57-year-old Nitin was understandably proud to have executed his role as tennis referee in the Paralympics.

Nitin, who had started as a line umpire in 1994, had prepared for his role as referee (the first Asian to be entrusted the task) even while performing his duty as a review official for the Olympics.

It was his fourth Olympics after Atlanta, Sydney, Beijing. It was the third Paralympics for Nitin who was the chief of umpires in Rio. He also served as the referee in the two Youth Olympics in Singapore and Nanjing.

### Team show

"We delivered the event as a team in such an adverse situation," said Nitin.

He has been to six Asian Games and served as referee and ITF supervisor, but there is no bigger stage than the Olympics.

"You cannot compare the Olympics with anything. All eyes of the world are on the Games," he said.



Nitin Kannamwar.  
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"It means a lot to me. From line umpire to referee, I am happy," said Nitin, who started as a tennis player and has also been a coach.

### Preparing ahead

The preparation for the Games had started months ahead, but so much had to be changed owing to the conditions triggered by the pandemic.

"I was there five days in advance for Paralympics. We have seven to eight screens for schedule, draws, etc.," said Nitin.

Nitin was understandably happy that the Olympics and Paralympics went off very well thanks to strict measures and efficiency of the Japanese. The challenges were met with equanimity and Nitin was proud that he could play his part with satisfaction.

THE HINDU

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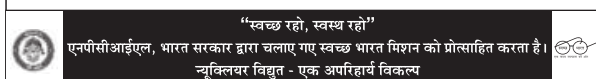
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