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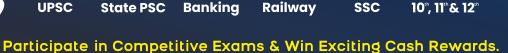




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#### Centre to begin paddy procurement today

On the day when farmers staged demonstrations in many parts of Punjab and Haryana against postponement of paddy purchase, the Centre on Saturday decided to start procurement in both the States from October 3. The Centre had postponed the procurement citing higher moisture content due to rain.

**NEWS** ▶ PAGE 8



MAGAZINE ▶ 8 PAGES

**CLASSIFIEDS** ▶ PAGE 4

## 7 out of 106 names suggested as HC judges cleared so far: CJI

'Minister has agreed to process rest of the names recommended by Collegium'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Saturday said the government had so far cleared seven of the 106 names recommended as High Court judges by the Supreme Court Collegium since May.

Of the nine new Chief Iustices of various High Courts suggested by the Collegium to the government from May, the latter has cleared one.

"Since May, my team so far has recommended appointment of 106 Judges and nine new Chief Justices to various High Courts. The government has cleared seven names out of the 106 judges and one out of the nine Chief Justices, so far. I expect that the government will clear the rest of the names very soon," Chief Justice Ramana

The CJI, however, remarked that Law Minister Kiren Rijiju had agreed to process the rest of the names in a short while.

"The government has

**Empty seats** The chart plots the share of vacant posts % of judges in select High Courts as on October 1, 2021. Over half of the positions are vacant in seven HCs -Telangana, Patna, Raiasthan, Guiarat,

Odisha. Delhi and

Andhra Pradesh



cleared some and the Law Minister has said the rest of things are going to come in a short time, in one or two days," the CJI said.

Chief Justice Ramana was speaking at the inaugural function of the six-week 'The Pan India Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign' organised by the National Legal Services Authority.

The CJI's speech was made in the presence of President Ram Nath Kovind, Mr. Rijiju and Supreme Court judges and Collegium members Justices U.U. Lalit and A.M. Khanwilkar.

The CJI said the appointments, as they came through from the government side, would take care of the issues of pendency in the High Courts to some extent.

"I seek the cooperation and support of the government to enable access to justice and to strengthen democracy," Chief Justice Ramana said. The CJI said the endea-

vour of the nation should be to carry the flag of justice to its remotest corner and to the weakest person.

Chief Justice Ramana said inclusive growth could only be attained through equal and inclusive access to justice. Unequal access to justice leads to greater gaps in social fabric.

Apart from pendency, vacancies and piling up of thousands of cases, the pandemic had exposed some deep-rooted problems in

"Lack of health care, eviction from home and uncertainty about one's next meal - all these overflow from absence of justice," Chief Justice Ramana said

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 6

### 'LJP factions can't use party name, symbol'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission on Saturday passed an order saying both factions of the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), led by Union Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras and Lok Sabha MP Chirag Paswan, would not be allowed to use the party's name or symbol for the upcoming Bihar Assembly by elections on October 30.

The interim order would cover the period of the byelections to the Kusheshwar Asthan and Tarapur Assembly seats and continue till the EC makes a final determination of the dispute, the order said.

The two sides had staked claim to the LJP name and symbol, but with the last date for nominations of candidates for the bypolls being October 8, the poll panel said the "time available is not adequate to ensure due process".

Mr. Paswan, in his oral submission on October 1. sought a decision before October 8, the order said.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 6

### Govt. notifies new rules to clear retro tax mess

Centre seeks to prevent future claims

Taxing times | A look at the genesis of the retrospective tax imbroglio: MAY 2007: Vodafone buys to a non-Indian

Hutchison Whampoa's con-trolling stake in Hutchison Essar for \$10.9 billion SEPT. 2007: I-T Department serves notice to Vodafone for failing to deduct tax at

JAN. 2012: SC backs Vodafone, ruling that indirect transfer of shares company would not attract tax in India MARCH 2012: Government

introduces an amendment that allows it to tax such transactions retrospectively **SEPT. 2020:** Vodafone gets

a favourable ruling at the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Firms such as Cairn and Vodafone disputing retrospective tax demands in India will not only have to withdraw all legal proceedings and waive all rights to claim costs or attach Indian assets but also indemnify the government on costs and liabilities from any action pursued by other interested parties in future.

Setting the stage for a closure of the retrospective tax disputes over indirect transfer of assets situated in India, the Union government late on October 1 notified new rules under the Income Tax Act for specifying the process to be followed by affected taxpayers to settle these long-brewing disputes.

#### New section

The Income-Tax (31st Amendment) Rules, 2021, introduce a new portion pertaining to 'indirect transfer prior to May 28, 2012 of assets situated in India', and lay out the conditions and formats for undertakings to be submitted by all 'interested parties' to the tax department in order to settle their tax disputes.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 6

### + Cong. seeks to put Meghalaya house in order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

After suffering setbacks in Puniab and Goa, the Congress leadership has made a move to stem the rot within the party in Megha-

The Meghalava unit of the Congress has been divided into two camps since the party leadership appointed Shillong MP Vincent H. Pala as its president a month ago. The dissident camp is said to be led by former Chief Minister and Congress Legislature Party leader Mukul M. Sangma.

Senior Congress leaders are likely to meet Dr. Sangma and Mr. Pala in New Delhi by October 4 to iron out the differences between the two leaders ahead of the bypolls to three Assembly seats on October 30.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 6

ry well and the second phase

of trials are expected to be-

gin by October-end, with the

third phase planned in De-

cember, a defence official

delivered to the Navy in April

and likely to be commis-

sioned in August 2022," the

official said which would al-

so coincide with 75 years of

under way on the aviation

complex of the carrier for

which a Russian team is

here. The aviation trials will

continue once the carrier is

commissioned and they

would be done with the

Simultaneously, work is

Independence.

"Vikrant is expected to be

said.

## Rajasthan govt. will complete term: Gehlot

Chief Minister dismisses speculation of Punjab-style change of guard in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Facing demands from the rival faction in the ruling Congress for a power-sharing arrangement, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday said his government would complete its full tenure of five years and he would be active for the next 15 to 20 years. Mr. Gehlot said all speculation doing the rounds here after the change of guard in Punjab were "wrong and unfounded".

Addressing a programme at his official residence to launch two campaigns of the administration, Mr. Gehlot said the Congress government would not only complete its five years but would also come back to power in the next Assembly election. "There is no anti-incumbency factor against our government. We have obtained an authentic feedback from the people [on this]," he said.



Ashok Gehlot

State government's stability were apparently directed at both the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the rival camp in the Congress led by his former deputy, Sa-

The two campaigns, 'Prashasan Shahron Ke Sang' and 'Prashasan Gaon Ke Sang', marked Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary celebrations. Mr. Gehlot thanked the people of the State for sending their wishes and prayers when he underwent angioplasty recentheart check-ups after their recovery from COVID-19. The Chief Minister also

took a jibe at the BJP for questioning him on working from home during the pandemic. "We should follow all protocols because we are still living in the middle of a pandemic. The BJP lost its leader [Rajsamand MLA] Kiran Maheshwari to the virus, but they are still not willing to learn," he said.

Mr. Gehlot, 70, underwent an angioplasty at the Sawai Man Singh Government Hospital here on August 27. He has had health issues since he recovered from COVID-19 in May.

#### No word on reshuffle

The Chief Minister did not address the issue of Cabinet expansion and reshuffle as well as political appointments, which have been inordinately delayed, in his speech. He holds as many as

five in the superstructure

and over 2,300 compart-

ments designed for a crew of

around 1,700 people, with

separate accommodation for

the complete habitat, includ-

ing each of the over 2,300

In the Phase 2 of the trials,

ly and urged them to go for nine portfolios, including Home and Finance.

The Pilot camp has been anxiously waiting for inclusion in the Cabinet and political positions ever since an assurance was given by the Congress high command.

Mr. Pilot was sacked both as the Deputy Chief Minister and the Pradesh Congress president after he, along with 18 MLAs, staged a rebellion against Mr. Gehlot in July last year.

While Mr. Gehlot's lovalists have affirmed that the political situation in Rajasthan would not witness any major upheaval after the turmoil in Punjab, the Congress emissaries from New Delhi have been unable to convince him to carry out an early reshuffle.

The State can have a maximum of 30 Ministers. At present, there are 21 members in the Council of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, and nine slots are vacant.

### Chhattisgarh is no Punjab, asserts Baghel which haven't been an-

ANUP DUTTA BHOPAL

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday refuted speculation on a possible change of guard in the Congress-ruled State ahead of an impending visit by former party president Ra-

nounced yet.

Pressed by reporters at the Raipur helipad about the Bharatiya Janata Party drawing a parallel between Punjab and Chhattisgarh vis-avis dissensions within the Congress units in the two hul Gandhi, the dates for States, Mr. Baghel replied

obliquely: "Chhattisgarh will always remain Chhattisgarh. It cannot become Punjab. The two States have only one similarity – both have numbers in their name. No other States have numbers

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#### Indigenous aircraft carrier likely to be commissioned in August 2022 DINAKAR PERI NEW DELHI The maiden sea trials of the indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant have progressed ve-

His remarks about the

Vikrant to sail out for Phase 2 trials

On track: Vikrant was designed by the Directorate of Naval Design and built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MiG-29K jet in service with the Navy, the official said.

'Extremely satisfactory' During the maiden sea trial in August, Vikrant's performance, including hull, main propulsion, power generation and distribution and auxiliary equipment, were tested. The results were extremely satisfactory and the engine showed 100% performance and some issues that had come up were being addressed, the official said.

Vikrant, designed by the Navy's Directorate of Naval Design and built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd., has more than 76% indigenous content. There are 14 decks, including

compartments, would be thoroughly checked, the official said. The Navy had floated a Request For Information (RFI)

women officers.

twin-engine carrier-borne fighters and the responses are being evaluated. As reported by The Hindu earlier, the number was to be downsized from 57 to 36. A final decision is awaited and the number could be downsized further, it has been learnt.

### India-China talks next week: Army chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India and China are likely to hold the 13th round of Corps Commander-level talks next week aimed at resolving the stand-off in eastern Ladakh, the Chief of the Army Staff, General Manoj Naravane, said on Saturday. The focus will be on working out a plan for disengagement in the Hot Springs area.

"The talks have been going on for more than a year now... We are hopeful to have the 13th round of talks very soon, perhaps as soon as next week, that is the second week of October," General Naravane told a news agency in Leh.

**DETAILS** ▶ PAGE 6

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 6

issued in 2017 to procure 57

### Don't play politics over Chhath Puja: CM

Manoj Tiwari asks Kejriwal to join him in requesting L-G to lift restrictions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The ban on organising Chhath Puja at public places snowballed into a political issue on Saturday even as Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appealed to his opponents not to "indulge in politics" over the issue.

Speaking on the sidelines of a ceremony at the Delhi Assembly, Mr. Kejriwal sought to assert that restrictions imposed on the Chhath Puja were for the safety of citizens amid the ongoing CO-VID-19 pandemic.

"There is a risk involved because if even one person is infected, he or she can spread it to everyone else through the medium of water [during arghyas]," Mr. Kejriwal said.

North-East Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari, who had on Friday met with representatives of Chhath Puja samitis, requested Mr. Kejriwal to join him in requesting L-G Anil Baijal, also Delhi Disaster Management Authority chairperson, to lift the curbs.

Mr. Tiwari referred to tweets from AAP MLAs blam-

ing the L-G for the decision to put across his point.

"@ArvindKejriwal, party members are also in support of our demand, you are requested that the government makes a proposal that Chhath Puja should be observed on the banks of ponds and the Yamuna within the limits of COVID-19 rules," Mr. Tiwari tweeted.

#### REGIONAL APPOINTMENT



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- 2. The maximum age of applicant must not be more than 65 years on the closing date of application.
- 3. Signed applications in the prescribed format should be sent to "The Under Secretary (ICR), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Room No.515 B, B Wing Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110001".
- **4.** The last date for receipt of applications is **02.11.2021** upto
- **5.** For qualification and the format of application are available on the websites http://www.education.gov.in and www.ruraluniv.ac.in

Date: 03.10.2021

REGISTRAR

#### TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Commissioner for Transport and Road Safety, 1st Floor, TTMC Building, KH Road, Shanthinagar, Bangalore-560 027 DATE: 30.09.2021

#### NO.:CT/RGN-1/PR-64/2018-19 PUBLICATION FOR INVITING TENDER (Through e-procurement portal)

The Transport Department, Government of Karnataka intends to select private agencies for Fixation of High Security Registration Plates(HSRP) for the Vehicles registered in Karnataka on and Prior to 31.03.2019. In this regard. Transport Department, Government of Karnataka invites tender bids [Expression of Interest (EOI)] from eligible investors / bidders. The bid documents and agreement can be downloaded from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in). Last date for submission of bid (EOI) is 21-10-2021 @ 15:00 Hrs.

> Sd/-COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT & ROAD SAFETY, BANGALORE.

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NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

(60 Day Notice for Movable/Immovable Property)

(Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Whereas the undersigned, being the Authorised Officer of Central Bank of India Regional Office, Gwalior, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

Whereas the undersigned, being the Authorised Officer of Central Bank of India Regional Office, Gwallor, under the Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with the rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice for 60 days, A notice is hereby given that the following Borrowers/Guarantors have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the various loans facility obtained by them from the Central Bank and the loan account(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). The Demand notices were issued under Section 13 (2) ("the Act" or "SARFAESI Act") on last known addresses of those borrowers and their guarantors, but they have been returned unserved/not proper acknowledge/denied to received by them and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice, that the undersigned has taken the possession of property described herein below in the exercise of powers conferred upon him/her under section 13 (4) together with 13 (12) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said rules) ("the Act") or "SARFAESI Act") will be taken after 60 days from the date of paper publication, The borrowers/guarantors in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property, and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Central Bank of India. This notice is issued without prejudice to any other rights available to our bank under the above SARFAESI Act-2002 and/or any other law in force.

Branch name	Name of the Borrower's -cum- MORTGAGER:	Name of the Guarantor's	Details of Secured Asset(s) Equitable Mortgaged (s) to be Enforced Asset(s) and Name and Address of title/Lessee Holder(s)/Owner of Secured Asset(s) Who create Security interest	Date of Demand Notice	Amount Outstanding
BANMORE (Distt. Morena) 995	MORT GAGER: M/S. S.P. PLASTIC INDUSTRIES Mortgaged by its Partner's – 1-Shri Rajesh Dubey 5/o Shri Ramnarayan Dubey, R/o – Anand Nagar, Near Naygrah Mandir, Bahodapur, Gwalior, Distt. Gwalior, M.P. 2-Shri Prakash Gupta Ramkishan Gupta, R/o – Gargaj Colony, Bahodapur, Gwalior, Distt. Gwalior, Distt. Gwalior, Distt. Gwalior, Distt. Gwalior, M.P.	A-M/S, S. P. PLASTIC INDUSTRIES ADDRESS – Behind Railway Line, Plot No. R-11, Industrial Area, Banmore, Morena, Distt. Morena M.P., Through its partners - 1. Shri Rajesh Dubey S/o Shri Ramarayan Dubey 2. Shri Prakash Gupta S/o Shri Ramkishan Gupta B-M/S, MAA RAMSHRE AGRO INFRA, ADDRESS- Jhansi Road, Dabra, Distt. Gwalior, M.P. Represented by its partners - 1. Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani S/o Shri Ramrang Bhutani R/o – B-33, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North- West Delhi. 110034. R/o – E-219, House No. 211/250, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, New Delhi. 2. Shri Radheyshyam Gupta S/o Shri Siya Ram Gupta R/o – Mahaveer Colony, Balla ka Dera, Dabra, Distt. Gwalior, M.P. C-Shri Ranjan Bhutani R/o – B-33, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North- West Delhi. 110034. R/o – E-219, House No. 211/250, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North- West Delhi. D-Shri Rakesh Bhutani S/o Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani, R/o – B-53, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North- West Delhi. D-Shri Rakesh Bhutani S/o Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani, R/o – B-53, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North- West Delhi. D-Shri Rakesh Bhutani S/o Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani, R/o – B-53, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North- West Delhi. 110034. E-Mrs. Rachna Gupta	M/S S.P. PLASTIC INDUSTRIES, Partners -1.Shri Rajesh Dubey S/o Shri Ramnarayan Dubey and 2.Shri Prakash Gupta S/o Shri Ramkishan Gupta, [1] Equitable Mortgage- Immovable industrial land & Property Address-M/S S.P. PLASTIC INDUSTRIES, (Lease hold land) Lease land allotted by Govt. of M.P. Through the M.P. AKVAN (G) LTD. Known as Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IIDC), (Gwalior) M.P. Limited Gwalior, for land in the industrial area at Banmore, Distt. Morena M.P. A term of 30 years from 17.06.2009 fill ending dt.16.06.2039. (Allotted in the name of M/S S.P. PLASTIC INDUSTRIES, Partners- Shri Rajesh Dubey S/o Shri Ramnarayan Dubey and Shri Prakash Gupta S/o Shri Ramkishan Gupta) and M/S S.P. PLASTIC INDUSTRIES constricted Factory Building as above plot (Shade, Guard room, Boundaries surrounding the factory) on lease land. (Approx 600 sq. ft. +457.87 running feet -1057.87 sq./ running feet) M.P.; AREA OF PROPERTY. 1093.75 sq. Mt. (0.103 Hectares); bounded as under - EAST- Service road, WEST- Plot No R-3, NORTH- Plot No R-10; [2] Hypothecation of Plant and Machinery total with stock of Raw material (RM), SIP and FIG and Receivables.  3] Equitable Mortgage-Immovable Diverted Land & Property-Shri Radheyshyam Gupta S/o Late ShriSiyasharan Gupta (A) Village Magrora, Patwari Halka No.05, Part of Survey No. 553/2,553/3, Tehsil-Dabra, DisttGwalior,M.P., (Book No.L.E.373047 & M. 373048.)  AREA OF PROPERTY-0.098 Hectares bounded as under - EAST- Gwalior Jhansi Road, WEST- Land of Smt. Rachna Gupta, NORTH- Land of Shri Ranjan Bhutani S/o Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani S/o Shri Ramrang Bhutani; Village Magrora, Patwari Halka No.05, Part of Survey No. 553/3, Tehsil-Dabra, DisttGwalior,M.P. (Book No.L.E.373047 & M. 373048.)  AREA OF PROPERTY-0.110 Hectares bounded as under - EAST- Gwalior Jhansi Road, WEST- Land of Smt. Rachna Gupta, NORTH- Land of Shri Radhe Gupta, SOUTH- 10 feet Way (kaccha rasta);  (C) 1.Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani S/o Shri Ramrang Bhutani  2. Shri Radheyshyam Gupta S/o Late Shri Siyasharan Gupta Vill	19/ 06/ 2021 Note – Demand notice dated 03/ 06/ 2021 is withdr awn	Rs. 4,66,41,955.00 [Rs. Four Carore Sixty-Six Lakh Forty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Five Only] + Future interest
		W/o Shri Radheyshyam Gupta,R/o – Mahaveer	NORTH Open agricultural Land Mr Jain		
		Colony, Balla ka Dera, Dabra, Distt. Gwalior,M.P.	SOUTH   Open agricultural Land Others   Note – Demand notice dated 03.06.2021 is withdrawn		



Advt.No. 1118

### PIMPRI CHINCHWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (PCMC)

Request for Qualification (RFQ) for Selection of Social Investor to Improve Healthcare Service **Delivery in PCMC through the Social Impact Bond Route** 

#### Tender Notice No. 14 FY 2021-22

PCMC manages primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities having an aggregate bed capacity of about 1500 beds. PCMC has identified 'outcomes' to improve its healthcare facilities and it intends to achieve these outcomes with private sector participation through the Social Impact Bond (SIB) route.

In that context, PCMC invites interested entities having experience as envisaged in the RFQ document, to submit their application for short-listing for the project. Interested entities can download the RFQ document from the website <a href="https://pcmcindia.gov.in">https://pcmcindia.gov.in</a>. An online pre-application conference will be arranged on 7th October 2021. The login/joining details of the pre-application conference shall be provided on the website of PCMC.

PCMC also invites interest entities to join an online webinar on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 11:30 am. with respect to the project. The webinar link is <a href="https://undp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN">https://undp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN</a> brnSjWDqSQ6StMzGDTGipg which is also provided in RFQ document. All further updates on the RFQ will be posted on PCMC's website.

> Sd/-**Municipal Commissioner Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation**

**FOOD SPOT** 



RAHUL VERMA

The Internet is bursting with pictures of the hilsa these days. WhatsApp messages have been shouting with glee about huge stacks arriving at the CR Park fish markets. Just as I was drooling over a picture of plump hilsa pieces soaked in mustard, I heard from a couple of friends that Oh! Calcutta had a special hilsa combo on offer.

I called the restaurant and found that the hamper consisted of two pieces of steamed hilsa (ilish paturi), two pieces of hilsa cooked with brinjal (ilish beguner ihol), two betki fish fries, potato cauliflower curry (aloo phoolkopir dalna), roasted moong dal (bhaja moong dal) and potato fritters (aloo bhaja) with steamed Basmati rice. For dessert, it had tomato date chutney, kheer with rice and two malpuas. This is for ₹3,300 (including taxes). But the hamper, as I subsequently discovered, was enough for two people, and, in our case, was For those unable to queue up at CR Park fish markets, Oh! Calcutta has a special hilsa combo for you

right for three, with a piece left over for dinner.

As I waited for the food to arrive, I marvelled at how Delhi had embraced Bengal's food in the last few decades. Bengalis were among the first to migrate to the city as the new Capital took shape, but there were only a few basic places where a Bengali migrant could get a homelike meal. Prominent among them was Basu Lodge. It offered rooms and food, and continued to do so for decades. I remember having a simple but satisfying meal there several years ago.

For years, when socalled Punjabi food and Chinese cuisine flourished in parts of the city, there was little that Delhi offered in eastern Indian cuisine. Oh! Calcutta was one of the first to serve Bengal food in general and Calcutta food in particular. In the past few years, small eateries have come up in the city. The problem is that while the food is uniformly good, some of these small delivery places open and shut before you can say 'Babumoshai'.

Oh! Calcutta has been hit by the pandemic too. Its first outlet in the NCR at Nehru Place shut down a while ago. It now occupies what was Mainland China (run by the same group) in Greater Kailash II. It delivers food through the food

The food came wellpacked and sealed in containers in a carton. I started my meal with a delicious piece of fried fish - a large and firm betki fillet which had been crumbed and golden fried. The fried potatoes - crunchy slivers went well with the roasted dal, cooked with green peas. I then had the cauliflower and potato dish, which was mildly sweet and had just the right balance of spices.

I turned to the steamed hilsa - fish wrapped and steamed in a banana leaf. This was a large piece of fish which had been smeared with mustard paste and then steamed. The fish had absorbed the flavours of the mustard, and I loved its sharp flavour. I tried the gravy of the eggplant hilsa preparation and enjoyed it, while everyone else at home gave it an A plus. The chutney came next - sweet and tart. I, however, found it a bit too sweet. Malpua is an old favourite of mine, so that went down well too, even though the fennel flavour was somewhat mild.

All in all, the hilsa treat was truly worth it. I have come to the conclusion that the plain steamed hilsa in mustard paste is the best. Ilish then is truly delish.



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PUNCHKUIAN ROAD,Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.) WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh) JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road,Opp. Metro Pillar 543 NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP • LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj, Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing



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### FORM-I

Notice of termination of service issued under Rule 5 (1) of the Central Civil Services (Temporary Service) Rules, 1965

In pursuance of sub-rule (1) of Rule 5 of the Central Civil Services (Temporary Service) Rules, 1965, I, Shri Robert Moirangthem, Senior Deputy Accountant General (Accounts & Entitlements) hereby give notice to Shri Mohit, Data Entry. Operator (DEO) Grade - 'A' that his service shall stand terminated with effect from the date of expiry of a period of one month from the date on which this notice is served on or published, as the case may be, tendered to him.

> Appointing Authority (Senior Deputy Accountant General)

Station: Imphal Date: 30th September, 2021

Advertisement File No. 2/33/2017 - DIPR (Pt.II)



DIPR/DDU/R.O:1750/2021-22

#### KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD ( A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

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No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-24/8224/2021-22 Date: 28.09.2021 **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** 

#### (Through GOK e - Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting Item rate Tender under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Civil/Electrical) registered in KPWD/KCEI who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works: (1). Drawing 11kV Feeder Lines from Sub-Station and Providing HT/LT distribution system at Harohalli Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Ramanagara District. (2). Formation of Industrial Layout including formation of 18M & 15M Wide Roads, including asphalting, Construction of RCC Drains, Culverts, and providing water supply to Naval Allied Industrial Park at Mudageri Village, Karwar Taluk, Uttar Kannada District (2nd Call). (3). Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation and Asphalting of 15M Wide Road, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, RWH, OHT Sump & HDPE dual Water Supply Pipe Line for Ullarthikaval Industrial Area, Challakere Taluk, Chitradurga District. (4). Formation of Industrial Sub-Layout Including Formation and Asphalting of 24M Wide Approach Road, 18M Wide & 15M Wide Roads, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross drainage works, Storm Water Drain, HDPE Water Supply Pipeline at Jakkasandra Industrial Area II Phase (Mindahalli Village) Malur Taluk, Kolar District. (5). Providing Basic Electrical Infrastructure Facilities to newly formed Hi-Tech, Defence and Aerospace Park, Phase-2 (Haraluru-Muddenahalli) Industrial Area, Devenahalli Bengaluru Rural District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is: 08.11.2021 upto 04:00 pm.

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

> Follow Physical Distancing

Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

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### Class X boy kills senior; apprehended

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A Class XI student was stabbed to death allegedly by Class X student of the same government school in south-east Delhi's Okhla, the police said on Saturday.

The accused has been apprehended, they said. Deputy Commissioner

of Police (South-East) Esha Pandey said they received information on Friday evening regarding a stabbing incident near government senior secondary school in Tehkhand. The boys were in their school uniform at that time, an officer said.

Enquiry revealed that the accused committed the crime as the victim had abused his mother and re fused to apologise.

#### Timings **DELHI**

SUNDAY, OCT. 03 RISE 06:15 SET 18:05 RISE 02:44 SET 16:27 MONDAY, OCT. 04 RISE 06:16 SET 18:04 RISE 03:46 SET 17:04 TUESDAY, OCT. 05

RISE 06:16 SET 18:03 RISE 04:49 SET 17:39 Delhi Weather max min

Delhi City Safdarjang 36 26 Palam **Delhi Palam Today** 

35°C Mainly dry weather with partly cloudy sky likely. day

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow** 35°C Passing rain or thunderstorm may be a chance with light winds at few places. Slight warm and humid day would prevail.

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THE HINDU

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## A high life awaits liquor buyers

Come November 17, private vends promise a whole new experience

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ JATIN ANAND NIKHIL M BABU NEW DELHI

Empty shelves at 260 private liquor stores across the Capital greeted buyers wanting to stock up premium brands of their choice as the news about the vends downing their stutters from October 1 to November 16 created a buying frenzy last week.

The shops promise to reopen on November 17 in a new avatar, keeping with the guidelines of the Excise Policy 2021-22 brought in by the Delhi government, which plans to exit the sale of liquor. In the interim period (October 1 to November 16), over 500 government-run liquor shops will cater to the demand beclosing permanently.

Come November 17, as many as 844 new liquor stores all private outlets – will open in the city with a promise to change the experience of buying alcohol. According to the new policy, all vends will be spacious (at least 500 sq. ft.), air-conditioned and have glass doors, allowing customers to walk-in and choose their brands. The owners will have to ensure there is no crowding outside the store and no dry snacks or cooked food outlets, that encourage people to drink and loiter, are run outside the premises.

"The current retail experience is like a jail. When you go to a liquor shop, there is a grill and people rush and throw money to buy liquor. There is no dignity," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had said in March while announcing the new excise policy. The government also hopes to generate more revenue from exiting the liquor business as the licence fee has been increased substantially. Mr. Sisodia estimated an additional revenue of ₹3,500 crore from imple-



Out of stock: Empty shelves greet last few buyers at a private liquor shop in New Delhi on September 30. • SANDEEP SAXENA

tempt to get rid of their stock.

liquor shortage and factoring

in the upcoming festival sea-

son, Niketan Sabharwal, who

runs a travel agency, decided

to stock up from the liquor

section at a west Delhi mall.

He said he reached the mall

slightly earlier than usual, on-

ly to find the entire section

buzzing with activity at 9.30

a.m. "Most shops had moved

a lot of their stock near the

door. Not only were the sell-

ers politely soliciting buyers

but also offering discounts on

bulk orders. I got almost half

a crate of beer and an entire

bottle of budget scotch at no

on request), who is employed

at a private liquor vend in

east Delhi, said his employer

had tasked him with bringing

buyers to the shop for the last

10 days. "I and a couple of my

colleagues formed a chain to

ensure that the customers

come to our shop out of

countless others near ours so

we can finish our stock as

government spokesperson

said that people did not need

to hoard liquor as all govern-

ment-owned shops will conti-

sition phase in liquor man-

"Delhi is witnessing a tran-

nue to function.

When contacted, the Delhi

soon as possible," he said.

Anwar Ali (name changed

extra charge," he said.

Hearing of a possibility of

menting the new policy during the current financial year.

**Super Premium Vends** To enhance the liquor buying experience further, five Super Premium Vends (SPV), of size not less than 2,500 sq. ft., will come up and sell products only above ₹200 in case of beer and above ₹1,000 for all other spirits. The SPVs can dedicate up to 10% of their space to sell ancillary products such as cigars, liquor chocolates etc., high-end artwork and highvalue merchandise such as bottle openers, ice boxes, bar glasses etc.

The SPVs have been permitted to set up a tasting room – an enclosed area not visible from rest of the store within the premises, where training and tasting sessions will be held. The government is vet to float tenders for the SPVs and they won't open on November 17.

#### **Hoarding frenzy**

The 47-day transition period, when only government-run liquor shops will remain open, triggered a hoarding frenzy in the city last week with buyers fearing overcrowding at the vends and shortage of premium brands. Private stores that were shutting down also made an at-

owned liquor shops have been instructed to make sure they have sufficient stocks to fulfil the demand during this period. The liquor shops have been directed to release payments on time to suppliers. We expect that in a sitnation where sufficient supply is maintained, crowding or any other incidents will not happen," the spokesperson said.

Government-

Asked about the need to shut down private vends from October 1 to November 16, an official in the Excise Department said: "It is for the smooth transition to the

new policy." Naresh Goel, president of Delhi Liquor Traders Association, said that the government did not give an explanation on why private liquor vends are being closed for so many days. He said it could because the traders approached the Delhi High Court, opposing the new liquor policy and the closing of vends, and the legalities involved in the matter.

Under the new policy, the government has divided the city into 32 zones and allotted 849, including five SPVs, for equal distribution of liquor vends. Before this process, 79 of the 272 municipal wards in the city did not have a liquor vend and 58% of Delhi was either unserved or underserved, the government said.

Also, under the new excise policy, the legal age for liquor consumption in the city has been reduced to 21 from 25 years. Welcoming the move, Swati Gulati, 25, who works in the HR Department of a private firm, said: "Throughout my student years I found the drinking age limit ridiculous. The experience of buying alcohol has improved with shops opening up in malls and I feel the new shops will help women like

me feel safer buying alcohol."

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### **BRIDEGROOMS WANTED**

### **INDEX OF**

### **MATRIMONIAL**

#### **BRIDEGROOMS WANTED BRIDES WANTED**

#### **BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED**

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

#### Assamese

Awadhi Bengali

#### Bhojpuri

Bihari Chhattisgarhi

#### English

Gujarati

#### Haryanvi

Hindi

#### Kannada Kashmiri

Malavalam

#### Manipuri Marathi

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#### Sindhi Tamil

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#### Cosmopolitan Divorcee

**Physically Challenged** 

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cated, Father own Industry with

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Hindu, Telugu, MD Paed 29Y, Chennai, Alliance from MD / MS Doctor. Phone: 9884614168

HINDU SC PR 25 yrs / 5.6, Poosam, Kadagam, MBBS, Parents Govt, Kadagam, MBBS, Parents C Seeks MBBS/MD/MS, ongoing

Doctor Parents need MD/MS. 30-32 yrs upper Brahmin for MD Girl 5.8"29 yrs Contact: 9826175777

PG Groom, Contact Mobile 9441074743

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MALAYALAM HINDU NAIR Aswathi aged 34 MBBS DNB working in Kerala seeks well sett-led Doctor or other professionals groom. Contact: 9345450365 / Whats App: 8144140365

NAIR 27 Thiruvonam 1/2 Dosham M.Phil Maths. Seek Groom around Co-20L/p.a Dabur, Delhi. Seeks Mumbai

MALAYALEE VISWAKARMA(G.S) girl 38 162. Avittom, Deputy Manager in MNC,Chennai. Seeks educated & Employed Groom(CNB). 9445651626 / 9790739037

**HINDU** - VANNAN Advocate parents seeking alliances from professionals for their only daughter persuing LLM 23 vrs/164 cm. fair, family is financially

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PHD Asst Professor Chicago US Citizen.Caste /Language No Bar. Ct

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Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Set-tled in Chennai / With Clean

Contact: Groom Wa 9444676645 CSI-NADAR/ 29YRS/ 156cm/ MBBS/ Doc-

tor/ Upper Middle Class/ Seeks Groom/ Age 29 - 35/ MBBS, MD, MS/ Doctor/ Nadar/ Chennai, Vellore , India / CT: 9092549049

SC AD CSI 37/147 cm Dip nurse at Kuwait 1.5 lacs pm-Seeks suitable person Christian/Hindu Medical/Engg to ttle at Kuwait-Ct: 7094014231.

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IRS/Professional good family Chennai groom born after Jan 1992 Ct: 9840345969 CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE 26Yrs, CSI, AD, Chennai. Planning for LLM in US.

dr.rajus@gmail.com, 6380498494 CSI NADAR 40 Divorcee 30000/- DCE

ed groom(Vellalar Ph-9940283379. Pillai/Mudaliar)

RC CHRISTIAN 29 well Settled Software Engr, doing PG in London seeks well Settled Groom Dr/ Engr/ Businessman based in India, Lon don, UAE, Singapore. Caste no bar

HINDU Adi-Dravida Hastham Kanni 26/154 BE IT Analyst.TCS Chenna seeks suitable Govt/Public sector Uni Groom from Same Caste. 9444155781

#### 5'-3", 26. FAIR, affluent, M. S. in U.S. working in a reputed firm, seeks a well settled groom. CNB. 9489935653

yrs, III year MD (Anaesth), Govt College, Chennai, slim, wheatish bride, middle class nuclear famiseeks Groom, preferably MD/MS DNB/ME/MTech/MBA from an institute of repute. Sub sects no bar. Con-95009 51000, pskswamy@ Fair, Homely Girl 26/165, SWE,10LPA contact: 9444631638

#### VISHWAKARMA THIRUVATHIRAI M.Sc, I.T 39/169 well settled in Bengaluru seeks well educated and employed groom. Ct: 9945765276.

33yrs B.E. MBA, SBI Manager. Seeks Suitable Educated Groom. Ct:

8056104103 AFFLUENT, BEAUTIFUL 25/5ft 4inch. IIM-MBA 18LPA Iyer Haritha Revathi seeking affluent educated groom 26-

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Same Caste Groom. 9486320982.

Family

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 25 B.E Kettai

seeks suitable groom.Ct:94436-80973.

MUDALIAR: 23/162. V.Fair. Graduate

ried Dentist (not working) seek match from Doc/Engr/MBA/Grp-1 officer, age 36-43, tall, fair, FC/BC, 98845 10869

160,B.Tech,SoftwareEngineer,chennai seeks EducatedGroom.Čt:9677233756 KONGU VELLALAR Gownder 24yrs, BE,

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MSc, Pooratathi, Kumbam, Upper Middle Class. Seeks Equally Well Educated Employed Alliance / Business Groom from Same Community. 98424 Working in Leading MNC, Reputed Business Family Seeks Alliance. 70621, 9489201033,

Gavara Chettiyar 32 / 154 / MCA Sadhayam, software 11LPA. Seeks TN bridegroom other subsect also (working in IT Chennai / Bangalore preferable) Ct. 94865 99911 DCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital KAMMAVAR NAIDU 1993 born tall

fair MDS Doctor Bride seeks Groom

PILLAI, 27 B.Tech, 165cm Fair, Business. CT: 9500919029. Well Settled Family Seeks Suitable Groom, CNB, Ct: 8778514465 / BALIJA, 24/155/ MA not working seeks well educated well settled groom. Caste No Bar. 9445503907

Telugu Viswakarma Girl 24. Fair. M. Arch Chennai requires suitable bride-groom. Whatsup details 94440 11069 6379397599

#### REDDY/REDDIAR M.TECH(IT), IIIT Software CHETTIAR (CNB) 500cr, V.Fair, 25/165, MBBS, MS(OG) Having own Indus-

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Employed Groom.

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#### 30/155, Bharani, B.Tech, working in US(H1B) seeks Software rof. Working /willing to go US **Groom with clean habits**

shnusuresh9816@gmail.co HINDU PALLAN Pooratadhi 31/155 BE, MBA MNC Well Settled Affluent Family OwnHouse Chennal seeks suit able Groom.Caste NoBar.9445005139 Saivapillai/Chettiar Boy for Slim,

40 91279/98406 9759

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Salary 65k, Seeking groom Telugu/Tamil Naidu Prefer-BALIJA NAIDU Magam 45 age MCA,

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yrs for their daughter fair,

ng in reputed hospit

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CHRISTIAN 45/179 CM B.Com, Govt,

Divorced 10L PA Chennai Caste

No Bar Ct :88258 97792, 99406 71540

RC CHRISTIAN (BC), Age:38 BE, MBA,

183cm, Working in Pvt Co., in Chen-

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HINDU DKV Pallan, age 39/167cm,

amail.com HINDU NADAR, 32, Tall, Handsome SW Engineer, Dubai Onsite earning 45 Lakhs Per annum, well settled Family port seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 94438 60983,

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Malls seeks bride Ct: 7200067015 family preferred Parents in Sivaganga 90438 20970

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in Central Govt. company, 45, seeks alliance from any graduate girl. No expectations, caste no bar Contact: 9489302145 NAIDU CHENNAI Age 47 68Kgs/174cms (Divorce) seeks bride, Caste No

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vorking as a Manager in Singapore. ooking for good family backgound and well educated Bride. Ct: 94873

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Personality. sssbms@gmail.com

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HINDU BTech Software MNC BLORE 23 LPA 28 yrs Bharadwaja Gothram Star Chaitra - seeks Telugu/Kannada Stati Chalita Seeks Telliginkaninada, Tamil spkng Employed Girl - Late Fa-ther Tamil Iyengar, Mother Telugu Kshatriya Raju, Central Govt Em-ployee- Jhansilakshmi100@gmail.com 8904332486

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pls

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lives in Coimbatore Seeks Suitable Bride (CNB).Ct: 7899941263/ 9600703364 HINDU VISVAGARMA 35yrs B.E.

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#### IN BRIEF



Karnataka's new district Vijayanagara inaugurated

KALABURAGI Karnataka's Vijayanagara district, which was recently formed by carving out six taluks from Ballari, was formally inaugurated at a grand programme at Hosapete, headquarters of the new district, on Saturday by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. Amidst cheers, Mr. Bommai unveiled a model of Vijayanagara 'Vijayasthamba'.

#### Jagan launches CLAP initiate for a cleaner A.P.

VIJAYAWADA Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday launched the Clean Andhra Pradesh (CLAP) initiative by flagging off a fleet of garbage collection vehicles here on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri.

#### Move to distribute homeo drugs opposed

The Kerala government's decision to distribute a homeopathic preventive drug against COVID-19 among school students ahead of resumption of offline classes on November 1 has not gone down well with modern medicine practitioners and public health activists. The Indian Medical Association is planning to approach the Supreme Court.

#### **Corruption rampant in** Telangana, says Irani

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani participated in a roadshow at Telangana's Siddipet along with State BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Saturday. She said corruption was rampant in Telangana and appointments were confined only to the family of Chief Minister

K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

## CB completes questioning fraud accused

Fake antiquities dealer back in judicial custody in Kerala

#### STAFF REPORTER

Crime Branch (CB) probing the cheating case against Monson Mavunkal, the selfstyled dealer of antiquities and confidence trickster, on Saturday returned his custody to the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Ernakulam, after six days of interrogation.

The investigation team was granted his custody on the case pertaining to the cheating of six persons for a combined amount of ₹10 crore between 2017 and 2020.

The victims were cheated in the guise of carrying forward a legal fight to get Mavunkal's funds to the tune of ₹2.62 lakh crore, allegedly from the sale of antiquities,

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

While the ideologically op-

posed, tripartite Maha Vikas

Aghadi (MVA) alliance of the

Shiv Sena, the Congress and

Nationalist Congress Party

(NCP) judders along in Maha-

rashtra, voiced favouring to

"go it alone" for future polls

are beginning to be heard.

This is true at least in the Con-

rashtra Pradesh Congress

Chief (MPCC) Nana Patole

said his party would be con-

testing future polls alone.

Shiv Sena MP and spokesper-

son Sanjay Raut echoed this

for his party while speaking

last week on civic body polls

due next year. He said a joint

In August this year, Maha-

gress and Sena.



Grand entrance: A view of the house in Kaloor where Monson Mavunkal was staying. • THULASI KAKKAT

MVA alliance faces the civic poll test

Cong., NCP look to strengthen their base as 'go it alone' rhetoric gains ground

sharing

released from his bank account frozen under the Foreign Exchange Management Act. "We may no longer need his custody in this case. However, his custody will be sought in the other three cases," said highly placed

CB officials from Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday seized around four sculptures from Mavunkal's house at Ka-

contest depends on a "res-

seat

Observers and party sourc-

es say this rhetoric of contest-

ing independently would be

tested ahead of elections due

in 10 major municipal corpo-

rations in the State next year.

had a number of instances of

traditional allies – be it the

Congress or the NCP, or the

Sena and the BJP – fighting in-

dependently and even on oc-

casion, joining hands with the

opposition. National or State-

level coalitions have rarely

dictated the alliances forged

at the civic level, which are

guided more by local inter-

ests than larger party con-

cerns," said senior political

"Maharashtra's civic polls

pectable

arrangement".

loor in another case related to the cheating of a Thiruvananthapuram-based sculptor.

The accused allegedly owe the sculptor ₹80 lakh for his works of which only ₹7 lakh had been paid. The scamster had passed off those sculptures to buyers as rare antiquities.

Mavunkal has also been accused in another case for alleged impersonation as the

analyst Vivek Bhavsar.

The cash-rich Pune Muni-

cipal Corporation is a case in

point. In what is now known

as the 'Pune Pattern' of 2007

coalition, the NCP joined

hands with Sena and BJP to

keep the Congress out of pow-

er even though the NCP and

the Congress were ruling

partners in the State govern-

However, the resurgence of

the BJP led by Narendra Modi

at the Centre in 2014, and the

BJP-Sena alliance government

after the State Assembly polls

that year, heavily impacted

the outcome of the 2017 civic

polls, especially in Mumbai,

Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

**Heavy impact** 

### 'Case exposes denigration of value of heritage'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Kerala History Congress has said that the case of Monson Mavunkal, the self-styled dealer of antiquities and confidence trickster, being discussed widely in the State showed the denigration of the value of heritage to some heroic and nostalgic stories.

An excessive interest in a glamorous past with precious objectification of crown, gun and sword would lead people to a falsified consciousness of a nostalgic past, it said.

"Fantasy matters in such heritage accumulation and not history," said Dr. Sebastian Joseph, General Secretary of KHC.

chairman of 'TV Samskara' channel and for allegedly cheating a Pala-based businessman of ₹1.7 crore.

#### **Minimum balance**

Interestingly, though accused of cheating his victims of crores, Mavunkal's bank account has a mere ₹200. Except for around ₹50 lakh, which he had obtained

Of the ten civic bodies which

went to polls that year, the

fron party had emerged tri-

umphant in the Pune and

Pimpri-Chinchwad civic bo-

dies, breaking the NCP stran-

the 2017 civic body polls

stunned the other parties.

The Congress, which domi-

nated the PMC till the

mid-2000s, has its back to the

wall," said a senior Congress

Likewise, the Sena, which

got control of the Brihan-

mumbai Municipal Corpora-

tion (BMC) by a slender mar-

gin, will be going all out to

re-assert its dominance there.

"The BJP's performance in

glehold.

leader.

For the first time, the saf-

BJP swept eight of them.

through his former employee's account without his knowledge, he is reported to have collected all amounts as cash in person making it difficult to prove the cheating charges.

It has also emerged that Mavunkal had procured the premium cars found at his home by cheating a Bengaluru-based garage owner.

### Toyota lays off 45 workers for 'misconduct'

Tovota Kirloskar Motors on Saturday terminated 45 of its workers for "proven misconduct" following an inquiry. The employees' union, however, said the company had "wiped out" its entire elected leadership in order to "paralyse or

"With the inquiries completed, the management has decided to terminate 45 workmen, who had indulged in serious acts of misconduct, and the remaining members are taken back to work with minor disciplinary actions," said the company in response to a query from The Hindu.

#### MINI TEJASWI BENGALURU

eliminate" the union.

## RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Sunday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Bihar, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim and Assam and heavy rainfall at isolated places over Gangetic West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, central Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal,

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY
Agartala		30.5	27.2	Kozhik
Ahmedabad		34.1	26	Kurno
Aizawl		–	21.4	Luckno
Allahabad		32.9	24.6	Madur
Bengaluru	0.9	30	21	Manga
Bhopal		32.5	22.7	Mumb
Bhubaneswar		34.6	25.5	Mysur
Chandigarh		–	–	New D
Chennai	6	33	26.1	Patna
Coimbatore	18	32.5	22.4	Port B
Dehradun	0.4	30	22.5	Puduc
Gangtok		21.2	17.6	Pune
Goa		33	26	Raipur
Guwahati		37.1	26.2	Ranch
Hubballi		–	–	Shillor
Hyderabad		32.2	24	Shimla
Imphal		30.8	20.6	Srinag
Jaipur		34.4	25.4	Thiruva
Kochi	1	28.9	24.8	Tiruch
Kohima		25.3	17	Vijaya
Kolkata		35.1	26.8	Visakh

Kerala and Mahe.

italiloot			23.3
Lucknow	. 34.4	32.6	24.6
Madurai	2	32	24.4
Mangaluru	6.8	32	23.9
Mumbai		31.8	26
Mysuru	1	31	21.4
New Delhi	6	34.1	24.2
Patna	7	27.8	24.4
Port Blair	0.9	30.4	25.8
Puducherry	0.2	32.2	23.2
Pune	.00.0	00.0	00.0
Raipur	34.8	31.2	21.9
Ranchi	20	31.2	23.3
Shillong		23.4	16.6
Shimla		25.1	18
Srinagar		28.5	16.4
Thiruvananthapuram	3	30.3	24.3
Tiruchi		32.8	24.8
Vijayawada	1	32.6	26.4
Visakhapatnam		34.4	26.4

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

#### Pollutants in the air you are breathing SO2 NO2 CO PM2.5 PM10 CODE 35 .53 .43 ..115 .153 ..... Bengaluru ...... 12 .24 108 Chennai ....... 10 .10 .30 ...66 ....23 ....53 ...74 10 .36 .92 ....43 38 .40 111 ....56

Visakhapatnam 17 .22 ...9 ....22

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI) 502: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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



MIGH

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### **DELHI TRAFFIC POLICE**

is organizing



on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021 From 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

FOR SETTLEMENT OF COMPOUNDABLE TRAFFIC CHALLANS

(ON SPOT CHALLANS AND NOTICES) OF ALL TYPE OF VEHICLES (including Commercial Vehicles)

 $-\,$  at the court complex of  $\,-\,$ TIS HAZARI, KARKARDOOMA, PATIALA HOUSE, SAKET, ROHINI, **ROUSE AVENUE & DWARKA** 

All the notices/challans slips are to be downloaded by the litigants from Delhi Traffic Police Website and there will not be any facility of taking printout or downloading at facilitation centre of the court complexes.

To download and take printout of the notices/challans, you will have to Log on to Delhi Traffic Police website https://delhitrafficpolice.nic.in/notice/lokadalat

This link will remain activated from 7th October at 10:00 am till 08th October 05:00 pm for the **Lok Adalat** to be held on **10<sup>th</sup> October 2021**, or till the limit of the Notices/Challans gets exhausted whichever is earlier.

To get challan disposed off you may have to visit the Stated Court No. In the Court Complex mentioned in your challan, at the prescribed time Slot Alloted to you. Please carry print out of your challan to THE LOK ADALAT BENCH for disposal.

#### 24 HOURS TRAFFIC HELPLINE: 011-25844444/1095

Note:- Non compoundable Challans/Notices shall not be taken up in this special Lok Adalat. All compoundable "Notices/on the spot challans" up to 30.06.2020 will be taken up for disposal. Considering Covid-19 protocol and to maintain social distancing, only 750 challans/Notices shall be taken up for disposal on each Lok Adalat to be held on 10th October 2021, in 230 Lok Adalats in the above mentioned court complexes.

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#### FROM PAGE ONE

### 7 out of 106 names for HC judges cleared: CJI

President Kovind commended the legal service authorities for reaching out to the poorest in the coun-

He emphasised the need to have more women lawyers participating in legal aid services to bring legal relief to more women.

"As a country, our aim is to graduate from 'women development' to 'womenled development'. Therefore, increasing the number of women in National Legal Services Institutions is as important as reaching out to the largest possible number of women beneficiaries," the President said.

The CJI said socio-economic growth would be impossible to achieve without equal access to justice.

"Legal awareness is key to equal access to justice... Quality of democracy lies in the quality of justice rendered. Healthy democracy needs a vibrant judiciary," Chief Justice Ramana said.

### LJP factions can't use party name, symbol

The election was announced on September 28 and polling is scheduled for October 30.

The EC said, "...In order to place both the rival groups on even keel and to protect their rights and interests, and going by the past precedents," both groups would not be permitted to use the LJP name and "bungalow" symbol, which is reserved for the party in Bihar. Both groups could choose names on their own and pick symbols from the available list, the EC said. The groups were asked to submit the names and three choices of symbols by Monday afternoon. Also, they were asked to submit documents supporting their claim to represent the party by November 5.

### Govt. notifies new rules to clear retro tax mess

The affected taxpayers, along with all the interested parties (such as their shareholders, for instance), will have to give up all claims in any ongoing legal proceedings, including arbitration, mediation efforts and attachment proceedings, with an undertaking that such inwill not be itiatives reopened.

An indemnity bond would have to be furnished that the taxpayer and interested parties "fully assume the risk of any omission or mistake with respect to identification and procurement of authorisations and undertakings from any related parties or interested parties as provided in the undertaking".

In early September, after draft rules were issued to resolve these tax disputes, the worst-affected player, U.K.based Cairn Energy said it was working with the Indian government to expedite 'documentation and payment of refund' of \$1.06 billion of retrospective taxes at the centre of its high-stake dispute with India.

After years of dithering, the government amended the Income Tax laws earlier this year to scrap the retrospective tax provisions introduced in 2012-13, under which Cairn was taxed in 2014 for a corporate restructuring undertaken in 2006-07. The tax department had subsequently frozen the firm's shares as part of the proceedings and sold them off to recover the claimed

An international arbitration tribunal scrutinising the tax dispute had ruled in Cairn's favour last December and awarded it \$1.2 billion in damages. While the government has filed an appeal against the arbitration verdict, Cairn has filed lawsuits in several overseas jurisdictions to enforce the tribunal's award.

In France, the company has secured a court's permission to freeze at least 20 Indian properties in Paris. In the U.S., it is pressing for securing Air India's assets by arguing that the national carrier is the 'alter ego' of the government in an ongoing legal process.

All such proceedings will have to be dropped and an undertaking be given to that effect as per the I-T Rules for burying these tax disputes.

### Vikrant to sail out for Phase 2 trials

This is in the backdrop of a new indigenous Twin Engine Carrier Based Deck Fighter (TEBDF) being designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).

Concurrently with sea trials of Vikrant, plans are afoot for the trials of the fighter jets in the fray for the tender. "Initially, trials will be done on the Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF) at Goa and then on the aircraft carrier," the official said. The aircraft likely to be tested are Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornet, Dassault Avaition Rafale and Saab Gripen-E. In preparation for the trials, Boeing had last December shown the comparability of its F/ A-18 Super Hornet with the Navy's Short Takeoff but Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) system by launching it from a ski-jump from a shore based facility at Naval Air Station Patuxent river in Maryland, U.S..

### Cong. to put Meghalaya house in order

The seats are Mawphlang, Mawryngkneng

Rajabala. "I will be travelling to Delhi on Sunday for resolving the issues," Dr. Sangma told journalists in Meghalaya capital Shillong, trashing speculations that he was set to quit the Congress and join the Trinamool Congress along with 13 Congress MLAs.

premature," he said. Differences within the Congress in Meghalaya became apparent after Dr. Sangma said he was not consulted before the party leadership made Mr. Pala the

State unit president. Apart from avoiding a function to mark Mr. Pala's formal anointment, Dr. Sangma skipped a programme in which five former Congress leaders were reinducted.

"The assumption about our leaving the party is too

### Assam MLA detained for statement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Assam police on Saturday detained Congress MLA Sherman Ali Ahmed for his alleged provocative statement on the killing of eight Assamese youth in Darrang district during the peak of the anti-foreigners Assam Agitation in 1983. He had spoken out in the context of a violent eviction drive on September 23 in which two persons, including a minor, were killed in police firing.

The State Congress had served Mr. Ahmed a show cause notice after his statement had triggered outrage. "...Despite holding a responsible position as an MLA, you have time and again given statements in media and in public forums against party policies and matters with communal overtones having great propensity to destroy the social harmony of our State," the notice read.

## India-China Corps Commander talks next week: Army chief

Amid increased Chinese deployment, focus on pull-back in the Hot Springs area

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India and China are likely to hold the 13th round of Corps Commander-level talks next week aimed at resolving the stand-off in eastern Ladakh, the Chief of the Army Staff, General Manoj Naravane, said on Saturday.

The focus will be on working out a plan for disengagement in the Hot Springs

"The talks have been going on for more than a year now... We are hopeful to have the 13th round of talks very soon, perhaps as soon as next week, that is the second week of October," General Naravane told the news agency Asian News International in Leh during his twoday visit to the forward areas of Ladakh.

'We are confident that as we discuss things with each

We are confident that as we discuss things with each other, we will be able to reach a consensus on how this disengagement is to take place, and by and by, all the friction points get resolved... Definitely there has been an increase in their [Chinese) deployment in the forward areas, which remains a matter of concern for us GENERAL MANOJ NARAVANE

other, we will be able to reach a consensus on how this disengagement is to take place, and by and by, all the friction points get resolved,"

**More Chinese troops** Stating that China has de-

ployed troops in considerable numbers all across eastern Ladakh and the northern front right up to InArmy chief said, "Definitely there has been an increase in their deployment in the forward areas, which remains a matter of concern for us."

However, he said the Army was monitoring all the Chinese developments and based on inputs, was carrying out matching developments in terms of infrastruc-

"At the moment, we are quite well poised to meet any eventuality," he said.

The Army has deployed its newest induction, the K9-Vajra 155-mm, 52-calibre tracked self-propelled howitzer close to the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh. significantly augmenting its firepower. "These guns can also work in high-altitude areas, [and] field trials were extremely successful. We have now added an entire regiment, this will be really helpful," General Naravane

As part of efforts for overall disengagement and de-escalation to end the stand-off in eastern Ladakh, the first phase of disengagement from both sides of Pangong Tso was undertaken in February and the second phase of disengagement from the Gogra area in August.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

worth ₹190 cr.

The Enforcement Directorate has attached a residential building worth ₹190.62 crore in an ongoing probe against Sanjay Singal, the former chairman-cum-managing director of Bhushan Power & Steel Limited (BPSL), and others.

The property is located at Ceejay House in Mumbai's Worli. The agency has so far attached assets worth ₹4,420.16 crore in the case alleging bank fraud.

The Enforcement Directorate investigation is based on a First Information Report (FIR) registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation on April 5, 2019, against BPSL and others.

According to the agency, the accused persons entered into a criminal conspiracy with unknown bank officials to cheat the financial institutions.

## 'Indian democracy less inclusive today'

Paper by veteran officials says double-digit growth and less polarisation are the country's best hope

SUHASINI HAIDAR

India's best hope for a successful foreign policy and national security is an economy growing in double digits and a less polarised democracy, says a new paper by senior former officials and analysts who warn that the development model is in doubt due to falling GDP The paper – "India's path

to power: strategy in a world adrift" - was released by the Centre for Policy Research in Delhi on Saturday, and dwells on the internal and external threats, challenges "Neighbourhood First" policy, and concerns about the position in a possi-U.S.-China conflict, which they say is more likely now than in the past and can be triggered by events over Taiwan in the next decade.

The paper also critiques India's 'protectionist' economic stance and climate change and cyber policies, and also makes a detailed criticism on the state of democracy under the Narendra Modi government, which is likely to evoke some



Shivshankar Menon, right, and Ajit Ranade at the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi on Saturday. • R.V. MOORTHY

response from the ruling

**No-holds-barred contest** "There is concern that In-

dian democracy is moving steadily towards ethnic majoritarianism, polarisation and divisiveness," write the authors in the introduction of "India's path to power". "India's vibrant electoral democracy appears to be morphing into a no-holdsbarred contest for power... Indian democracy seems less inclusive today than at any point in its history," they conclude, adding that the foreign policy is being driven by "domestic political and

ideological factors" that have had a "perverse impact" on relations with Pakistan, Nepal and Bangla-

Significantly, some of the paper's authors, a list that includes former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon; Lt. Gen. Prakash Menon (retd); former special envoy on climate change and nuclear issues Shyam Saran; academics Sunil Khilnani and Srinath Raghavan; and analysts Yamini Aiyar, Nitin Pai and Alit Ranade, had presented a similar work in 2012 "Nonalignment 2.0", that also made prescriptions for the previous Menon and Mr. Saran were in office at the time, and Mr. Saran subsequently served as Chairman of the National Security Advisory board during the Modi government's first tenure. The authors, who have re-

UPA government's foreign and security policy. Both Mr.

placed the term non-alignment with the term "strategic autonomy" that carries more currency in present times, write that they wished to update their policy prescriptions a decade later due to major developments that have changed the world, and in particular in the Indian subcontinent.

**Security preoccupation** 

The paper predicts a "greater security preoccupation for India" in its neighbourhood given its proximity to the Indo-Pacific which is likely to become the theatre of U.S.-China conflict, as well as due to China's willingness compared to the past, to "intervene in the domestic politics of India's neighbours".

In a departure from the current policy, the authors advocate engagement with

Pakistan, calling upon the Modi government to allow Pakistan to host the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit, that India has refused to attend since 2016. It also refers to India's membership of the Quad partnership with the U.S., Australia and Japan, as well as the Russia-China led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) as useful forums to exert "strategic autonomy" principles.

On the subject of Chinese transgressions at the LAC since 2020 and the killing of Indian soldiers in Galwan, the authors, some of whom have dealt with previous border crises with China, say the China policy "must now be reset to the reality of a live border and of antagonistic political relations", predicting that the "China challenge", including incursions at various points at the LAC like Tawang, Depsang and the Siliguri corridor, will be India's predominant security threat, and advises several measures, including expanding ties with the Quad, Russia, Turkey and Iran.

### Bodies of Navy men recovered

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The mortal remains of four of the five missing Navy personnel were recovered on Saturday. The five personnel from a 20-member expedition team went missing after being hit by an avalanche while attempting to summit Mt. Trishul in Uttarakhand.

"All out efforts continue to locate the fifth naval climber and one sherpa," the Navy said. The four personnel are Lt. Cdr. Rajnikant Yadav, Lt. Cdr. Yogesh Tiwari, Lt. Cdr. Anant Kukreti and Master Chief Petty Officer MCPO II Hari Om. "Deeply anguished by the tragic death of four Navy personnel who were part of the Navy mountaineering expedition to Mt. Trishul. The nation has not only lost precious young lives but also courageous soldiers in this tragedy," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Twitter. "My thoughts are with their fa milies in this hour of tragedy. Praying for early locating of the remaining team members," he said.

## Future-proofing Langa-Manganiyar heritage

*Initiative to digitise the unique musical performances of Rajasthan folk artistes* 

MOHAMMED IQBAL

Considered the repository of the Thar region's rich history and traditional knowledge, the ballads, folklore and songs of the Langa-Manganiyar artistes are being preserved through an initiative for documentation and digitisation. The project is aimed at saving the rapidly disappearing narrative traditions of these communities.

The Jodhpur-based Rupayan Sansthan, established by an eminent folklorist, the late Komal Kothari, and writer Vijaydan Detha, has extended support to the initiative taken by the Archives and Research Centre for Ethnomusicology at the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) in the research project.

The Langas and Manganiyars are hereditary communities of Muslim musicians residing mostly in western Rajasthan's Jaisalmer and Barmer districts and in Pakistan's Tharparkar and Sanghar districts in Sindh. The iconic and internationally acclaimed folk artistes have, however, been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic that stopped their performances in India and abroad and

poses a challenge to the

very survival of the popular



Soft notes: The Langas and Manganiyars are hereditary musicians mostly from western Rajasthan. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

art form.

The music of the two marginalised communities, who were supported by wealthy landlords and merchants before Independence, forms a vital part of Thar desert's cultural landscape. Apart from the pandemic, this vital heritage is also facing a threat from changes in patronage and increased urbanisation in these districts.

The Rupayan Sansthan has a collection of 20,000 hours of audio recordings of Langa-Manganiyar performances in analog form. The recordings, dating from 1980 to 2003, comprise a wide range of heroic ballads, romantic epic tales and the Sufi spiritual stories, Sansthan's

secretary Kuldeep Kothari told The Hindu on Saturday. The performances are in multiple languages and dialects including Marwari, Sindhi, Saraiki, Dhatti and

In addition to digitisation of the cassette collection at Rupayan Sansthan as part of the project, the researchers have been travelling to the remote villages in Jodhpur, Barmer and Jaisalmer districts to record the performances of Langas and Manganiyars.

Mr. Kothari said the preservation of oral traditions would encourage the local communities' involvement in the efforts to nurture audiences and protect the history of the desert region. The romantic

tales revolving around legendary lovers such as Umar-Marvi, Heer-Ranjha, Sohni-Mahiwal, Moomal-Rana and Sorath-Rao Khangar have traditionally captivated audiences.

"Our emphasis in the collaboration with the AIIS is on the preservation of katha, gatha, varta (tales, epics, talk) forms. The material derived from recordings will be made available for research and utilised for training of younger generation of performers," Mr. Kothari

**Training for future** In another initiative, Shafi Mohammed Langa is training young underprivileged boys from the musician communities at the School of Folk Music, set up by the Rupayan Sansthan. Stating that the nuances of ragas and presentation with proper expression and diction were being taught to children, Mr. Langa said the school would gradually emerge as a resource centre for western Rajasthan's folk music.

Famous Barmer-based vocalist Anwar Khan, a recipient of Padma Shri in 2020, said the artistes needed a greater support because their global performances having been halted in the pandemic.

### Stumbling blocks to FTA can be surpassed'

Fresh eyes can make difference: Tehan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Australia's Trade Minister Dan Tehan is confident that the stumbling blocks to an India-Australia free trade agreement (FTA), such as the sensitivities for both sides on dairy and agriculture sectors, can be surpassed as negotiations kick off afresh.

The two countries formally restarted negotiations for an FTA on Thursday, setting a December 2022 target for a complete pact and a commitment to seal an early harvest pact by this Christmas. The changed geo-strategic environment and fresh eyes at work could make the difference, he said.

#### **Difficulties with China**

Noting that Australia's economic ties with China are facing some difficulties that have been "well-documented", Mr. Tehan said that is one reason for them to diversify their trading relationships even as they seek a constructive dialogue with China.

"The geo-strategic environment has seen the India-Australia relationship grow closer and we want to make sure the economic partnership matches that broader strength," he said, explaining why outcomes that were elusive in past negotiations may not prove so difficult this time.



Union Minister Piyush Goyal with his Australian counterpart Dan Tehan. • PTI

Compromises and partnerships are possible in agriculture that could boost job creation in both countries, he said. Merino wool could be used by Indian apparel makers and exported back. Australian firms can lend technology and services support to enhance Indian farm sectors' output.

Australia will also nudge India to lower import tariffs on its wines. "There is nothing I would enjoy more than being able to provide India with some of Australia's fine wine. It would be wonderful if Indians could enjoy a little bit more of Australian wine at a more affordable price and that will be something that we will be looking to achieve," he said.

"I would love to be able to celebrate the conclusion of an FTA with Trade Minister [Piyush] Goyal with a very good glass of Australian wine," Mr. Tehan said in an interaction on Friday.

INTERVIEW | BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA

## 'Weakening of Cong. not in country's interest'

A strong Opposition key for a vibrant democracy; we need to introspect, says former Haryana CM

CM refutes speculation about a change of guard in Raipur

Punjab, asserts Baghel

Chhattisgarh is no

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday refuted speculation on a possible change of guard in the Congress-ruled State ahead of an impending visit by former party president Rahul Gandhi, the dates for which haven't been announced yet.

Pressed by reporters at the Raipur helipad about the BJP drawing a parallel between Punjab and Chhattisgarh visa-vis dissensions within the Congress units in the two States, Mr. Baghel replied obliquely: "Chhattisgarh will always remain Chhattisgarh. It cannot become Punjab. The two States have only one similarity - both have numbers in their name. Punjab is land of punj (five) aab (water), five rivers. Similarly, Chhattisgarh has derived its name from chhattis garh (36 forts). No other States have numbers in their name."

Mr. Baghel was made Chief Minister reportedly on a rota-

CM Bhupesh Baghel

tion formula worked out by then party president Rahul Gandhi in 2018 whereby he was to hand over the stewardship of the State government to Cabinet colleague, Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo, this year. There was, however, no official announcement about a power-sharing deal to that effect.

While both the Chief Minister and the Health Minister have avoided direct public statements on the rotation formula in the recent past, Mr. Baghel has shown no sign of any willingness to step down. His supporters, in fact, point to his being named as senior observer for the Congress ahead of the Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh as an endorsement of his leadership in Chhattisgarh.

His supporters believe the Congress is not prepared to dislodge the powerful OBC leader at a juncture when the BJP is tightening its grip over OBCs across the country.

#### 'CM scored a goal'

"I think Mr. Chief Minister has scored a goal and a possible win," a Congress MLA quipped while glued to an English Premier League football

Amid speculation of possible leadership change in the State, around two dozen party MLAs, believed to be close to the Chief Minister, flew to Delhi in the past few days.

"Many party legislators are camping in Delhi to meet AICC in-charge of Chhattisgarh P.L. Punia ahead of Rahul Gandhi's proposed tour of the State", a senior party leader told The Hindu.

desh and other States. Weakening and disintegration of the Congress is not in the interest of the country or our democracy... A strong Opposition is key for a vibrant democracy. We (the Congress)

Do you believe the central leadership of the party faltered in resolving the Punjab problems right from the very beginning? And they could have been more clear-headed about it?

need to introspect.

■ I don't blame anybody, but, yes, it could have been handled in a better way.

This disintegration that you speak about did not happen overnight. Do you believe that it is the result of erratic

■ All I can say is that these are the things that need to be discussed within the party forum where everyone can freely express their opinion. The orchestrated attack on Kapil Sibal's home is not

Punjab could have been handled better and the present situation avoided

Congress culture. Of course, there can be divergent opinions that can be debated within the party without indulging in hooliganism.

After former president Rahul Gandhi quit post the debacle in 2019, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) was thrown open to pick his successor. Why didn't any leader propose a name other than the Gandhis?

■ We may not have won the Lok Sabha polls, but nobody

wanted Mr. Gandhi to resign. Congressmen wanted him to continue, but it was up to him. After he left, Soniaji took over as the interim president and she said an election would be held soon to pick the party's president.

Do you think there is a need to build an alternative

■ What is an alternative Congress? Congress is Congress. The present crisis can be resolved through dialogue within the party. Yes, Punjab could have been handled in a better way and the present situation could have been avoided.

In the past, there have been speculation about you quitting the Congress too. Were you ever frustrated enough to consider the

■ No. Rumours are just rumours. I have no grouse with the party. My only desire is to see the Congress in a

stronger position.

And what is your prescription for that?

■ The change has to happen at the grassroots level. There should be fresh elections to elect members for block, district and State-level committees of the party. The All India Congress Committee (AICC) delegates should be chosen through elections.

The exodus of senior Congress leaders is happening simultaneously with the induction of leaders like Kanhaiya Kumar and Jignesh Mevani. Do you share the fear of many others in the party of a possible leftward shift in the party?

■ This is a continuous process in political parties where new people keep joining in. The so-called friction between the old and the new guard is a matter of fiction. The Congress has always occupied the middle path and we stand for one and all.

## Baghel is senior observer for U.P. poll

His team sees this as the final seal on speculation over his chief ministership

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was appointed senior observer for the Congress ahead of the Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh. Team Baghel believes that this for once and for all settles the question of Mr. Baghel's continuation in the Chief Minister's chair.

State Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo had staked claim to the Chief Minister's post invoking a promise made in 2018 by then party president Rahul Gandhi agreeing to a rotational tenure between him and Mr. Baghel. As per the arrangement, the Chief Minister's post was supposed to go to him on June 18, the halfway mark of the five-year tenure of the go-

The appointment though



CM Bhupesh Baghel at a rally in Assam in February. He was a senior observer during the Assam poll. •RITU RAJ KONWAR

is not a bolt from the blue. Mr. Baghel, who recently played an active role as a senior observer ahead of the Assam Assembly election, was widely expected to be roped in Uttar Pradesh too. His close associate, Rajesh Tiwari, was appointed the All India Congress Committee (AICC) secretary in the

State, assisting general secretary in-charge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Mr. Baghel's political adviser, Vinod Verma, has also been stationed in U.P. for more than one

"The Congress needs an Other Backward Class [OBC] face, specifically a Kurmi leader. Mr. Baghel fits in that

role. His appointment sends a clear message that the party values him," a senior leader close to Mr. Baghel said.

#### Significant timing

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Amid the ongoing crisis in

the Punjab unit of the Con-

gress, senior party leader

and former Haryana Chief

**Minister Bhupinder Singh** 

Hooda expressed concern

about the party's "disinte-

gration" and the violent

protests at Rajya Sabha MP

Kapil Sibal's residence.

What are your thoughts on

your friend and comrade

Captain Amarinder Singh

Congress?

(retd.)'s decision to quit the

■ It is a matter of concern

when even a small worker

leaves the party. Captain is a

towering leader, who has

twice been the Chief Minis-

ter of Punjab, deputy leader

of the party in the Lok Sabha

and the Pradesh Congress

Committee (PCC) president

of the State. So, of course, it

is a matter of huge concern.

not isolated. We have seen

senior Congress leaders

leave in Goa, in Uttar Pra-

Captain's case, though, is

The timing of the appointment is equally significant for team Baghel. On August 27, at the end of a meeting with Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Baghel had announced that Mr. Gandhi would be visiting Chhattisgarh. His impending visit had started to be seen as a stocktaking exercise to weigh in on the question of Mr. Baghel versus Mr. Deo. So far, Mr. Gandhi's office has not decided any date for the visit.

"The fact that the appointment comes before his visit clearly shows the trust he and the leadership bestows on the Chief Minister," the leader said.

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## Let NC support PC to avoid split of Muslim votes: Lone

He highlights economic persecution of the people of J&K

PEERZADA ASHIQ

Sajad Lone, chairman of the Peoples Conference (PC), on Saturday asked the National Conference (NC) to support his party if the latter was worried about a division of Muslim votes in Jammu and Kashmir. "The PC is a 45-year-old

party. Nobody can accuse us of being created yesterday. We have been victims in the past though. So, if they [NC] think Muslim votes were being divided, let it support us and decide not to fight elections. They [Abdullahs] have been Chief Ministers - the father, the son and the grandfather. Let a poor man's son become Chief Minister now. Let it not be me.



Let it be Nizam Sahib or Imran sahib. What is wrong with it? If they support, I will go by their suggestions," Mr. Lone said.

Mr. Lone, who quit the Gupkar alliance earlier this year, was responding to remarks from NC leaders that his party was dividing Muslim votes in J&K and could help the electoral prospects of the BJP in the next elec-"People of J&K have been

trapped in the post August 5, 2019 situation. The PC will stand up for them in our united quest to retrieve back what is rightfully ours," Mr. Lone said. He said the current administration, which was a "se-

lected administration" and not an "elected administration", was indulging in the economic persecution of the people of J&K, as a sequel to the political persecution.

Meanwhile, another Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader and former legislator from Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat, joined the PC in Srinagar on Friday.

### opinions' SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

'Cong. doesn't run on Raut's

After Shiv Sena MP Sanjay

Raut said the confusion within the Congress ranks would persist unless the party quickly appointed a full-time national president, senior Congress leader and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan on Saturday said his party did not run on Mr. Raut's opinions.

Mr. Raut had said the "headless state" that the party, the Sena's ally in Maharashtra, now found itself in was only benefiting +the BJP, which was exploiting the leadership vacuum. "That is his [Mr. Raut's] opinion... Our party does not run by his opinions. The Congress's problems are its internal matter," said Mr. Chavan in Pune.

## Trinamool spent ₹154 cr. on Bengal polls, says ECI report

Congress spent ₹84.93 cr.; BJP's report not available yet

DAMINI NATH

The Trinamool Congress outspent all the other recognised national and State parties that contested the five Assembly elections that concluded in May and submitted their election expenditure reports to the Election Commission of India (ECI) as on Saturday.

The BIP's election expenditure report had not been published by the ECI as on Saturday.

According to the reports published by the ECI on September 30, the Trinamool spent ₹154.28 crore on the Assembly campaign, while the Congress spent ₹84.93 crore in Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Assam. The Trinamool's expenses were divided into spending by the central party office (₹79.66 crore) and expenditure on candidates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Hitting out at the BJP-Jan-

nayak Janta Party (JJP) go-

vernment in Haryana, Con-

secretary Randeep Singh

raised questions on the func-

tioning and examination sys-

tem of the Haryana Staff Se-

lection Commission (HSSC).

demanding it to be imme-

Mr. Surjewala said the go-

diately dissolved.

Surjewala

national general

on Saturday

**Spending spree** A look at how much parties spent during the recent Assembly elections in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Assam

Party	Money spent in crore						
Trinamool	West Bengal	154.28					
Congress	West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Assam	84.93					
DMK	Tamil Nadu and Puducherry	114.14					
AIADMK	Tamil Nadu and Puducherry	57.33					
CPI	West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Assam	13.19					

(₹74.61 crore). Of the expenditure by the party headquarters, ₹33.02 crore was spent on travel expenses of star campaigners and ₹11.93

crore on advertisements. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) was in the second place in terms of the highest expenditure by parties that had declared their spending so far. It spent ₹114.14 crore for the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry elec-

Dissolve HSSC, says Congress

vernment and the HSSC had

made a mockery of the com-

petence of the youth of Ha-

ryana. "The matter of fact is

that the HSSC comprising

BJP-JJP leaders has des-

troyed the entire examina-

tion system and ruined the

future of the youth," he said

a mafia selling examination

papers dominated Haryana.

come to the fore in the re-

'Now, another scam has

Mr. Surjewala alleged that

here at a press conference.

tions. It spent ₹39.78 crore on media advertisements and ₹54.47 crore on candi-

The AIADMK spent ₹57.33 crore for the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry polls as well as the Kaniyakumari Lok Sabha by-election, and ₹56.65 crore on media advertisements alone. The CPI declared an expenditure of ₹13.19 crore on all five elec-

cruitment of sub-inspectors

[male]. In the last seven

years, more than 30 papers

have been leaked and sold

openly. Fingers were point-

ed at the politicians holding

positions in the government

and the HSSC. But no one

rious allegations, the com-

mission should be imme-

diately dissolved and the

allegations investigated by

the High Court," he said.

"In the background of se-

has been punished."

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CCMB: Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad (www.ccmb.res.in)

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IISER-TVM, Thiruvananthapuram (www.iisertvm.ac.in) IISER-T, Tirupati (www.iisertirupati.ac.in)

IMSc: Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai (www.imsc.res.in)

InStem: Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine, Bengaluru (www.instem.res.in)

MSLS: Manipal School of Life Sciences, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal (https://www.manipal.edu/sls)

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NIBMG: National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Kalyani (www.nibmg.ac.in)

NII: National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi (www.nii.res.in)

NISER: National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar (www.niser.ac.in)

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Test date and venues: The online test will be held on Sunday, December 12, 2021 in the following cities Agartala, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bangalore, Bhilai, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Burdwan, Chandigarh, Chennai Cochin, Coimbatore, Delhi, Guntur, Guwahati, Haldwani, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Jalandhar, Jammu Jamshedpur, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Lucknow, Madurai, Mandi, Mangalore, Mumba Nagpur, Patna, Pune, Srinagar, Varanasi, Visakhapatnam

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Application fee: Male Applicants - Rs 1,200/-, Female Applicants - Rs 600/-. Payment can be made online by Netbanking/Credit/Debit cards/UPI etc. as per modes available for the payment gateway. Hall tickets wil be available for download only after successful payment. Fee waivers: A waiver of application fee on grounds of financial distress may be requested by a letter from

the Principal or the Head of the Department justifying the request. Students may apply online and send the waiver letter/request from the Principal/HOD (on their letter head duly signed and stamped) by post to "The Asstt. Registrar (Academic), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Homi Bhabha Road, Colaba, Mumba 400005". Alternatively, the recommendation letter can be scanned and uploaded in the profile. These requests would be considered depending on availability of seats and cannot be guaranteed

Date and time of JGEEBILS: Sunday, December 12, 2021, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Last date for receiving applications for Hall Tickets: November 10, 2021.



diesel hiked again

NEW DELHI Petrol and diesel prices soared to new highs across the country on Saturday after rates were hiked again by 25 paise and 30 paise a litre, respectively. The price of petrol in Delhi rose to ₹102.14 a litre and to ₹108.19 in Mumbai, according to a notification of state-owned fuel retailers. Diesel prices touched ₹90.47 a litre in Delhi and ₹98.16 a litre in Mumbai. Prices differ from State to State depending on taxes. PTI

#### Mamata slams release of water from Jharkhand

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday slammed the Jharkhand government and the Damodar Valley Corporation for release of water from reservoirs into West Bengal, causing floods in southern districts of the State. She said the West Bengal government would seek compensation from **Damodar Valley Corporation** (DVC) for the damages sustained. The Opposition BJP in the State said that Ms. Banerjee was trying to cover up the incompetence of her government by shifting the blame on others.

#### I-T dept. raids real estate group in Gujarat

The Income Tax Department's searches on a real estate developer group and its brokers in Ahmedabad have led to the detection of unaccounted transactions of over ₹500 crore. The raids were carried at on 22 residential and business premises. Documents showing unaccounted investment of more than ₹200 crore in land and unaccounted cash receipts from sale of land amounting to over ₹100 crore have been found and seized so far, according to the agency. The agency also seized ₹1 crore in cash and jewellery worth ₹98 lakh during the searches,

## Centre to begin paddy purchase today

Move comes after farmers protested against postponement of procurement in Punjab and Harvana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

On the day when farmers staged demonstrations in many parts of Punjab and Haryana against postponement of paddy purchase, the Union government on Saturday decided to start procurement in both the States from October 3.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal also announced the procurement after meeting Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ashwini Kumar Choubey in New

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi also said the Centre had allowed the State to start paddy procurement from October 3. He said this decision would be instrumental in ensuring a smooth and hassle-free procurement to the satisfaction of the farmers. Earlier, the Centre had announced postponement of procurement in both States until October 11, citing higher moisture content due to rainfall.

"In Haryana, the crop has



Ready for sale: Labourers bringing newly harvested paddy crop to a grain market near Amritsar on Saturday. PPTI

already reached the *mandis*. In the interest of the farmers who have harvested their crops and have brought it to mandis, a request was made to Mr. Choubey for allowing the State government to start

the procurement from October 3. I am happy that he accepted our request," Mr. Lal said.

At Karnal in Haryana, a group of farmers picketed Mr. Lal's residence, and

shouted slogans against the delay in paddy purchase. It was only after the announcement of the procurement decision that they lifted the

Farmers staged demon-

strations in several other places too, responding to the call given by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), the umbrella body of farmer unions leading the protests against the Centre's farm laws.

### I got Covishield, I've survived: UNGA chief

Maldives got shipment in January

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The President of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly Abdulla Shahid has said that he received two doses of the Covishield vaccine manufactured in India, as have a "large portion" of other countries around the world.

"On vaccines, that's a very technical question you have asked me. I got Covishield from India, I've got the two doses. I don't know how many countries would say that Covishield is acceptable or not, but a large portion of the countries have got Covishield," Mr. Shahid said at his first press conference here on October 1. He was responding to a question on recognition of vaccines by various countries. "And I've survived. But let someone else, a medical person make that call, not me," he added with a laugh.

India has exported over 66 million vaccine doses to 100 countries through grants, commercial



shipments and the COVAX facility. The Maldives, home country of Mr. Shahid, was among the first nations to receive the Indian-made vaccines in January when 1,00,000 doses of Covishield were dispatched to Male.

The U.K. initially refused to recognise Covishield, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India.

However, following India's strong criticism of the decision, the U.K. on September 22 amended its new guidelines and included the vaccine.

## '5 cr. houses given water connections'

Jal Jeevan Mission covered 1.25 lakh villages since 2019, says Prime Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Five crore households had been provided with water since connections launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, adding that tap water was now reaching every household in about 1.25 lakh

He said today's India had done more work on this front in just two years than what was done in seven decades.

Speaking after interacting with gram panchayats and village water and sanitation committees (VWSC) on the Ial Ieevan Mission, Mr. Modi said the mission was village-



The Jal Jeevan Mission is village-driven, the PM said.

just to make water accessible, but it was also a big movement towards decentralisation. In an apparent dig at the previous Congress governments, Mr. Modi said those who had the responsibility of policymaking for a long time had lived in an abundance of water.

"In the places where these

people lived, they had never seen problems due to a lack of water. They did not even know what the pain of life without water was. They had water in their houses and their swimming pools, an abundance of water," he said address videoconferencing.

The Prime Minister said the vision of the Jal Jeevan Mission was a village-driven and women-driven movement, and its main base was mass movement and public participation. Pointing out that from the

time of Independence till 2019, only three crore households in the country had access to tap water, Mr. Modi said five crore households had been given water connections since the launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019. "Today, water is reaching every household in about 1.25 lakh villages in about 80 districts of the country. In the aspirational districts, the number of tap connections had increased from 31 lakh to 1.16 crore," he said.

The Prime Minister also launched the Jal Jeevan Mission app for improving awareness among stakeholders and for greater transparency and accountability of schemes under the mission.

He also launched the Rashtriva Ial Ieevan Kosh. where any individual, institution or philanthropist, be it in India or abroad, could contribute to help provide

## Urgent need to stop licences for new sugar factories: Gadkari

Shift focus to making ethanol from sugar cane: Minister

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

Urging farmers in Maharashtra and other parts of the country to focus on producing ethanol from sugar cane juice instead of sugar, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways and senior BJP leader Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said there was a pressing need to stop issuing fresh licences to set up sugar factories in the State and el-

Mr. Gadkari was speaking during the inauguration of a slew of road projects in Ahmednagar district, where he shared the dais with Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)



Nitin Gadkari

chief Sharad Pawar. Expressing concern over the sugar surplus and the possible detrimental effects it could have on the rural economy, Mr. Gadkari said: "Sugar producing is a loss-

reverse gear, then farmers will not get any money for their produce, banks will crash and sugar factories will shut... Hence, the focus should be converting sugarcane juice to ethanol. The government is ready to buy ethanol, which is a green fuel. In this way, all petrol vehicles will run on ethanol in the future and the farmer, too, will be able to make mo-

the economic cycle goes in

He said if farmers converted to producing ethanol, then the imports would greatly reduce from the ₹12 lakh crore to an estimated ₹5

### Non-smokers too can get lung cancer: consumer court to insurer

Firm had rejected claim, citing addiction to smoking

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA AHMEDABAD

A consumer court here has ordered an insurance company to reimburse the amount of expenditure on medical treatment for lung cancer after the insurer refused to pay the claim saying the patient was addicted to smoking, which caused the

The court said there was no evidence to prove that

lung cancer due to his addiction to smoking, apart from the mention of "addiction smoking" on the treatment papers, which, it said, cannot form the basis for the insurer to reject the claim. It also said that people who do not smoke also suffer from

The insurance company had rejected the claim of ₹93,297 incurred by policy

the patient suffered from holder Alok Kumar Banerjee on treatment of his "adenocarcinoma of lung" or lung cancer.

> Mr. Banerjee's wife, Smita, challenged this in the Ahmedabad Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission together with Consumer Education and Research Centre.

The court ordered the company to pay ₹93,297 with 7% interest from the date of application.

### Panel set up to implement Assam Accord Special emphasis

is on four clauses of 1985 pact

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Assam government on Saturday set up an eightmember sub-committee to examine and prepare a framework for the implementation of all clauses of the Assam Accord of 1985.

The Governor of Assam is pleased to constitute a sub-committee to examine and prepare a framework for

implementation of all clauses of Assam Accord in general with special emphasis on Clause 6 [high-level committee report], Clause 7, Clause 9 and Clause 10..." a notification issued by G.D. Tripathi, Commissioner-Secretary for the Implementation of Assam Accord Department,

NRC update

The sub-committee has also been mandated to examine and prepare a framework for updating the National Register of Citizens, issues of flood and erosion, rehabilitation of martyrs' families and victims of Assam Agitation besides the potential of the State's all-round development.

The members of the subcommittee are Ministers Atul Bora, Pijush Hazarika and Ajanta Neog, All Assam Students' Union (AASU) president Dipanka Kumar Nath, its general secretary Sankar Jyoti Baruah and AASU advisors Samujial Bhattacharya, Prakash Das and Uddip Jyoti Gogoi. Sujata Suchibrata, Deputy Secretary in the Implementation of Assam Accord Department, will be the convener of the sub-committee that will submit its report within three months for further course of action.

The Clause 6 of the Accord pertains to the constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards to "protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage

of the Assamese people". The Accord was signed between the Rajiv Gandhi government at the Centre and the AASU leadership to signal the end of the six-year Assam Agitation for driving

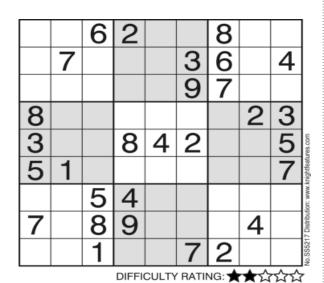
### civilian in Srinagar

Gunmen kill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Unknown gunmen shot dead a civilian and injured another in two separate incidents in Srinagar on Saturday. The first incident took place around 5:30 p.m. in Karan Nagar when a gunman opened fire at Majid Ahmad Gojri. He died in hospital. In the second incident, Mohammad Shafi Dar was shot in Batamaloo. He is being treated in a hospital nearby.

### **SUDOKU**



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

#### Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

## How beneficial is the new pill to patients with COVID-19

Molnupiravir showed 'consistent efficacy' across viral variants Gamma, Delta and Mu in those with mild or moderate disease

JACOB KOSHY

Why is there much excitement about molnupiravir, the investigational new drug for COVID-19?

Pharmaceutical major Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics announced in a press release on Friday that the early results from Phase 3 trials that its anti-viral drug molnupiravir halved the chances of hospitalisation in COVID-19 patients with mild or moderate disease.

Placebo trials involve testing a drug on thousands of people, in which some of them get the drug and some – who are in a placebo group

In the placebo arm, 53 patients (14%) were either hospitalised or had died, whereas in the group that got the drug, 28 (7.3%) were hospitalised or died of the

After 29 days of monitor-



ing, no deaths were reported in patients who received molnupiravir, compared with eight deaths in those

Several noted clinicians have said that these are promising results, and what is particularly encouraging is that molnupiravir is a pill, unlike other drugs with similar efficacy used in COVID-19 treatment which needs to be administered intravenously.

who received the placebo.

Is molnupiravir a breakthrough for COVID-19

While the hospitalisationavoidance rates are reassuring, there is still much that is unknown about molnupiravir. Complete Phase 3 trial data is pending, a publication in a peer-reviewed medical journal is awaited that will explain the process of the trial in the degree of detail that will inspire more

for a review, after which the drug may be approved for emergency use authorisation (EUA). So far, the biggest strength of the drug is that it can be administered as pills as part of a five-day regimen. **EXPLAINER** 

confidence among practi-

tioners and drug authorities

everywhere. The company

will soon be submitting data

to the United States Food

and Drugs Administration

The drug has so far been tested only in patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19, had started treatment within five days of testing positive and had at least one factor that increased their risk for severe disease. These include obesity, older age (above 60), diabetes mellitus and heart disease.

A positive factor is that recruitment for the Phase 3 trial, which originally envisaged 1,500 patients for testing the drug's potency, was halted early by an independent data monitoring committee because the data appeared so encouraging that it would be unethical to delay making the drug more widely available. The genomes of the virus present in about 40% of participants were sequenced to detect the specific variant, and molnupiravir reportedly demonstrated "consistent efficacy" across viral variants Gamma, Delta and Mu.

How does molnupiravir

The company name for molnupiravir is 'EIDD 2801', the 'E' indicating it was developed at Emory University. Antiviral drugs, including the much-in-demand remdesivir, work by inhibiting the process by which the virus replicates. In the case of molnupiravir, when tested on cultured cells, it works by altering critical enzymes that

are necessary for the virus to

begin replicating in the body's host cells.

What are the next steps for the drug?

Presumably on the back of encouraging data from Phase-1 and -2 trials, Merck has reportedly begun production of the drug in large numbers. It said it expected to produce 10 million courses of treatment by the end of 2021, with more doses expected to be produced in

Earlier this year, Merck entered into a procurement agreement with the U.S. government to supply approximately 1.7 million courses of molnupiravir, upon EUA or approval from the U.S. FDA. The New York Times re-

ports that a course of treatment for the drug could cost \$700 (about ₹50,000). This is cheaper than the monoclonal antibody therapy, which while being more effective, is a more involved treatment.

## Angry Taiwan slams China's 'aggression' Philippine President Duterte

It scrambled aircraft in response to a record incursion by 38 Chinese jets

ANANTH KRISHNAN

Taiwan on Saturday hit out at China's "military aggression" and said it had scrambled aircraft in response to a record incursion by 38 Chinese aircraft in two waves on

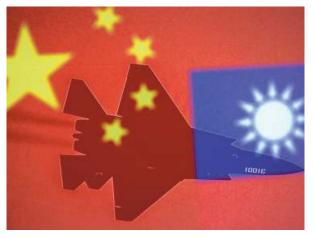
Reports on Friday had initially said China's military had sent 25 aircraft, coinciding with China's October 1 National Day, towards Taiwan. Taiwan's Defence Ministry said on Saturday a further 13 aircraft, in a second wave, had also entered the Air Defence Identification Zone.

The first incursion included 18 J-16s, four Su-30s, two nuclear H-6 bombers and one anti-submarine aircraft. The later incursion had 10 J-16s, 2 H-6s and an early warning aircraft. The Ministry said another incursion was reported on Saturday of 20 aircraft. Taiwan Premier Su Tseng-chang was quoted as saying by Reuters that China had been "wantonly engaged in military aggression, damaging regional peace".

The incursions on Friday and Saturday followed China on September 23 sending 19 aircraft into the ADIZ.

China's signalling Beijing has in the past used

its air force incursions as a form of signalling. The September 23 incident coincided with Taiwan saying it had submitted an application to join the 11-nation CPTPP (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) trade deal, days after China said it had formally applied to join the Pacific pact. Beijing previously also dispatched fighters to coincide with visits of U.S. diplomats



Making a point: The latest show of force by China came ahead of Taiwan's National Day on October 10. • FILE РНОТО

The latest show of force came on China's National Day and ahead of the October 10 National Day to be celebrated by Taiwan, and was aimed at sending a message to both Taipei and Washington. China views Taiwan as its province, although both have been ruled separately since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949 when the

Kuomintang (KMT) fled to

Tensions across the straits have been growing with Beijing accusing the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and President Tsai Ingwen, who was re-elected for a second term last year, of pursuing "independence". Prior to the DPP coming to power in 2016, tensions had

cooled under the KMT's Ma Ying-Jeou, who held a landmark meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2015 and backed an economic cooperation agreement that was signed in 2010.

Beijing has increasingly sought to push back against Taiwan's presence in international bodies and to wean away the few remaining countries that continue to maintain diplomatic ties with Taiwan. It has also sought to respond strongly to any moves it sees from Washington, such as the presence of U.S. vessels in the straits, with Taiwan one of the key issues that China and the U.S. have been clashing over.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry last month strongly hit out at Taiwan's application to join the CPTPP. "There is only one China in the world," spokesperson Zhao Lijian said, "and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's ter-

# announces retirement

His daughter is likely to contest the country's highest office

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said on Saturday that he will not run for vice president in 2022 and will retire from politics, potentially paving the way for his daughter to contest the country's highest office.

Mr. Duterte, who polls show remains almost as popular as when he was swept to victory in 2016 on a promise to rid the country of drugs, is constitutionally barred from seeking a second term as leader.

overwhelming... "The sentiment of the Filipinos is that I am not qualified and it would be a violation of the constitution to circumvent the law, the spirit of the constitution" to run for the vice presidency, Mr. Duterte, 76,



New reign: Rodrigo Duterte, left, and Christopher "Bong" Go, who will be running for vice-president, on Saturday. • AP

"Today I announce my retirement from politics."

The authoritarian firebrand declared in August he would contest the country's second-highest office in the May election – a move critics said was motivated by fear that he could face criminal charges after leaving office.

But a recent poll showed Mr. Duterte well back in second place among preferred vice presidents.

A survey by Social Weather Stations showed 60% of Filipinos did not think Mr. Duterte's run for the vice presidency was in the spirit of the constitution.

Mr. Duterte made the surprise announcement at the venue where he was expected to register his candidacy. He did not specify when he would leave politics.

### China launches investigation into former Justice Minister

He is probed for 'violations of discipline and national laws'

China's top anti-corruption watchdog said on Saturday it is investigating a former Justice Minister, Fu Zhenghua, the latest high-ranking domestic security official to be brought before the authorities in a broad crackdown.

The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said it suspected Mr. Fu of "serious violations of discipline and national laws", in a statement that offered no other details about the investigation.

President Xi Jinping started a campaign of purges of China's domestic security apparatus last year, seeking to ensure police, prosecutors and judges are "absolutely loyal, absolutely pure



Fu Zhenghua

and absolutely reliable".

Mr. Fu, 66, was deputy head of the Ministry of Public Security before becoming Justice Minister in 2018.

He led a number of highprofile investigations and crackdowns, including a probe into former security czar Zhou Yongkang, who found guilty

Since 2015, he headed an office dedicated to the suppression of what the ruling Communist Party calls "evil cults", including the banned spiritual movement Falun

Mr. Fu's self-described "heavy fist" approach to law enforcement had won him plaudits from Chinese state media, which has previously said his campaigns helped clean up Chinese society and tackle graft.

The anti-graft watchdog also said on Thursday that Sun Lijun, a former deputy head of the Ministry of Public Security, was expelled from the party and his post "serious violations of party discipline and national

## Qataris vote in first polls to Shura Council

Results won't have a bearing on the ruling family with govt. dubbing the process as an 'experiment'

REUTERS

Qataris voted on Saturday in the Gulf Arab state's first elections for two-thirds of the advisory Shura Council, a process that has stirred domestic debate about elecinclusion citizenship.

Turnout for the election of 30 members of the 45-seat body was 44%, the elections' Supervisory Committee said. The ruling emir will continue to appoint the remaining members.

The Council will have legislative authority and approve general state policies and the budget, but has no say in the setting of defence, security, economic and investment policy for the small but wealthy gas producer, which bans political parties.

"With the chance to vote,

identified by only one name, told Reuters. "I'm really happy about the number of wostanding candidates." Government lists showed 26 women among 233 candi-

dates across 30 districts in

the country, which has for

I feel this is a new chapter,"

Munira, who writes chil-

dren's books and asked to be

New avenues: A Qatari at a polling station in Doha, on

Saturday, during the country's first ever legislative vote. • AFP

several years held municipal

'Symbolic act' Men and women voted in

separate sections.

Ahead of closing, a large crowd cast their ballots in a marquee in the outskirts of the capital Doha, including members of a main tribe. some of whose members had protested over narrow voting eligibility. The vote indicates the rul-

ing al-Thani family is "taking seriously the idea of symbolically sharing power, but also effectively sharing power institutionally with other Qatari tribal groups," said Allen Fromherz, director of Georgia State University's Middle East Studies Center.

The election, approved in a 2003 constitutional referendum, comes ahead of Doha hosting the World Cup tournament next

Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, last month described the vote as a new "experiment" and said the Council cannot be expected from the first year to have the "full role of any parliament".

The huge number of foreign workers in Oatar means nationals make up only 10% of the population of 2.8 million.

Even then, not all Qataris are eligible to vote.

**Ineligible voters** 

The polls have stirred tribal sensitivities after some members of a main tribe were ineligible to vote under a law restricting voting to Qataris whose family was present in the country before 1930.

Human Rights Watch has said thousands of Qataris are excluded from voting. The organisation said Qatar arrested about 15 demonstrators and critics of the electoral law during the protests.

The Foreign Minister has said there is a "clear process" for the electoral law to be reviewed by the next Shura Council.

## Khashoggi widow urges U.S. to hold Saudis accountable

She questions Biden's commitment to the cause after his NSA met with the Saudi Crown Prince

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi's widow on Friday questioned U.S. President Joe Biden's commitment to hold the kingdom accountable three years after the writer's brutal murder.

Marking the anniversary, Hatice Cengiz traveled to Washington for a demonstration outside the Saudi embassy and an evening vigil near the U.S. Capitol where she unveiled a portrait of Khashoggi made out of new-

She voiced dismay that days ahead of the anniversary, Mr. Biden's national security advisor, Jake Sullivan, met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman who

spaper columns.

U.S. intelligence says ordered the killing.

"Is this what the accountability that Mr. Biden promised looks like?" she asked at the candlelight vigil organised by rights groups.

"MBS took Jamal from me and the entire world. Will you hold him accountable or will you reward these murderers?" she said, referring to the 36-year-old heir apparent by his initials.

Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi who lived in self-exile in the United States, wrote critically about MBS in columns in *The Washington* 

Also addressing the evening vigil was the sister of Abdulrahman al-Sadhan, a Red Crescent aid worker who

was arrested in 2018 and earlier this year was handed a 20-year sentence after criticising the Saudi leadership through an anonymous Twitter account.

She said she was hopeful the new U.S. administration's pressure would win her brother's release but that changed after Mr. Biden let MBS "off the hook."

#### Killers of refugee leader to be brought to justice

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Saturday against the killers of Rohingya refugee leader Mohib Ullah as calls grew to investigate his shooting. Mohib Ullah, who was in his late 40s, was killed by unknown gunmen in a camp in Cox's Bazar on Wednesday night. He led one of the largest community groups to emerge since more than 7,30,000 Rohingya Muslims fled Myanmar after a military crackdown in 2017. REUTERS

### U.S. surpasses 7,00,000 COVID deaths: Johns Hopkins varsity

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

equivalent to the

population of the nation's capital Washington. The grim threshold comes with an average of over 1,000 dying each day, in a country where 55.7% of the population is now fully vaccinated.

### **ELSEWHERE**



of his Twitter account

Former U.S. President Donald Trump asked a federal judge in Florida on Friday to ask Twitter to restore his account, which the company removed in January citing a risk of incitement of violence Mr. Trump filed a request for preliminary injunction against Twitter in the U.S. District Court of Florida, arguing the company was "coerced" by members of the U.S. Congress to suspend his account. REUTERS

#### IS behind Sikh man's death in Pakistan

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for killing a member of Pakistan's minority Sikh community earlier in the week in Peshawar. An IS statement issued late on Friday described Satnam Singh, 45, as "polytheist" and said he was shot dead by IS members. The extremist group has claimed a number of attacks on security forces, mosques, political rallies and religious minorities in recent years. AP

## Joe Biden promises to see through the spending Bills

We are going to get this done, says the U.S. President

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden vowed on Friday to get his sweeping domestic agenda over the line as he visited the U.S. Congress to energise Democrats negotiating for a second day on the twin make-or-break spending Bills that could define his legacy - or spell crippling political failure.

"I'm telling you, we're going to get this done," he told reporters after meeting with House Democrats who are deeply divided on a spending spree that Mr. Biden says would restore America's battered middle class.

"It doesn't matter when. It doesn't matter whether it's in six minutes, six days or six weeks, we're gonna get it done," he said.

The unusual presidential visit follows weeks of trips by party leaders in the other direction to the White House as Mr. Biden tries to get the two ambitious spending plans passed into law.

One would funnel \$1.2 trillion into repairing infras-



tructure and the other would allocate even more for education, child care, and promoting clean energy.

"These are his proposals. These are his bold ideas," Mr. Biden's press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters.

"This is his plan that he's outlined: to not just rebuild our roads, our railways and bridges, and put millions of people back to work, but also to make child care, elder care, (pre-school schemes) more cost effective, to address the climate crisis. And he wants to make the case directly to members."

Mr. Biden's political legacy is at stake and so probably are the Democrats' chances of keeping control of Congress in midterm elections next year. However, on Thursday, a

game of chicken between moderate Democrats and more leftwing members over the Bills ended in stale-

Their razor-thin majority in Congress means that even a few defections could prevent votes from succeeding.

The impasse on the Democratic side is rooted in political differences over how much the government should spend, but also on the sheer lack of trust between competing factions.

Ms. Psaki said the administration's outreach to congressional Democrats and their staff had included at least 300 phone calls or meetings since September 1. During the 2020 cam-

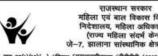
paign Mr. Biden repeatedly touted his dealmaking chops - established during his four decades as a senator - but he has made the journey up to Capitol Hill only rarely as President.



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ADMISSION TO Ph. D. PROGRAMME – JANUARY 2022 Applications are invited for admission to Ph.D. programme for January 2022 session

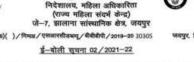


विभाग द्वारा राज्य एवं जिला स्तर पर विभिन्न संस्थाओं से महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग की

कार्यक्रम आयोजित करवाये जाने है। प्रचार-प्रसार कार्यक्रम हेतु संबंधित संस्थाओं के एम्पैनलमैन्ट बाबत निविदा आमंत्रित की जानी है। इच्छुक बोली दाताओं से दिनांक 20.10.2021 सांव 4.00 बजे तक ई-बोली आमन्त्रित की जाती है। बोली से सम्बन्धित निविदा प्रपन्न पात्रता की शर्ते तथा अन्य विवरण राज्य के जपायन पोर्टल https://sppp.ralasthan.gov.in or https://eproc.ralasthan.gov.in तथा विभागीय वेबसाईट www.wcd.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे व ढाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं। UBN: WMP2122SLOB00063

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED,

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS NIT No. 04/2021-2022 Bid for "Work of Retrofitting of cluster Water Supply Project Package-VI of Chambal-Bhilwara Water Supply Project Phase-II of Kotri Tehsil of District Bhilwar Year" is invited for interested bidders. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited "SAVE WATER - SAVE LIFE"



वेभिन्न योजनाओं के प्रचार-प्रसार के लिए नुक्कड़ नाटक, कठपुतली नृत्य, जामरूकता रथ आदि

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UBN No.: PHE2122WLOB07945 (Paritosh Gupta) DIPR/C/9985 PHED, Region, Ajmer

WASHINGTON

Ph: 0891-2582200, 94408 12567

U.S. fatalities from COVID-19 surpassed 7,00,000 on Friday, according Johns Hopkins University, a toll rough-



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**ICMR School of Public Health** ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY (Indian Council of Medical Research) **Department of Health Research** Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, CHENNAI-600 077.

#### MPH Admission Notice - 2022

Applications are invited from medical graduates for admission to the Master of Public Health (Epidemiology and Health Systems) - 2 year programme of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, conducted by ICMR School of Public Health at ICMR - National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai.

Last date for receipt of application: 31st December 2021 Date of commencement of the course: 1st July 2022 Information Brochure and prescribed application form are

available on the Institute's Website: www.nie.gov.in (Email: nieicmr@gmail.com, Phone: 044-26136420 / 26136419).

Date: 21st September 2021



#### **Coral microbiome**

Bacteria, fungi and viruses that comprise the microbiome of corals may play a role in the ability of corals to resist global warming and avoid bleaching, according to a new study by Penn State researchers. This study, published in Nature Communications, observed three species of corals: the shallow water starlet coral, shown in the picture, the knobbly brain coral and the mountainous star coral.



A new study by researchers from the University of Exeter, U.K., finds, by examining cats' whiskers that most of their food (about 96%) came from what is provided at home and only 3%-4% came from hunting wild animals. This involved clipping off the whiskers and studying them for proportion of stable isotopes. The study indicates that it is predatory instinct rather than hunger which drives cats to hunt.

## On vaccines for pre-teens, when severe disease is rare

Pfizer has submitted to the FDA Phase 2/3 trial data of mRNA vaccine on children 5-11 years for initial review. A formal submission to request for emergency use authorisation is expected in the coming weeks.

On September 20, Pfizer released details of the trial that showed the vaccine was safe and generated a "robust" antibody response in young children. Going by past experience, the FDA might greenlight the vaccine for young children in a matter of weeks. The company expects to submit data of children 2-4 years and 6 months to 1 year by the end of the year.

In an email, Dr. Gagandeep Kang, Professor of Microbiology at CMC Vellore, and Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, physicianepidemiologist, discuss whether young children should be vaccinated and if that would further exvaccine globally.

Considering that children below 11 years rarely suffer from severe disease and death, is it necessary to vaccinate young children?

Gagandeep Kang (GK): All decisions about children needing to be vaccinated are based on assessment of risk and benefit. Here, when making decisions for public health, we also need to separate the benefits of vaccination against disease and against infection. If the risk from disease is low, then the risks of side-effects of vaccination need to be evaluated against the potential benefits of prevent-

ing a few cases. When we come to protection afforded by vaccines against infection, we need to understand whether infected children are a source of infection for the community. If children transmit infections, without themselves having severe disease, there may still be a benefit in vaccination. However, decisions need to be based on evidence, and as with other infectious diseases, transmission by children may be dependent on the amount of virus circulating in the community as well as the prior exposure of the community, and this will vary by geography.

Chandrakant Lahariya (CL): Conducting clinical trials of CO-VID-19 vaccines in all age groups that are affected by the pathogen/ disease is a standard process. However, the licensing and availability of an effective vaccine does not mean we need to find an arm to administer it. At present, there is not enough evidence to prioritise all children in 12-17 years over the vaccination of adults.

Is it safe to vaccinate young children considering the small risk of myocarditis (inflammation of heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) seen in adolescents and young adults after the second dose of the mRNA vaccine?

**GK:** Myocarditis and pericarditis have been reported after the mRNA vaccines, particularly in young males. These are not common side-effects, and as with every other vaccine, we need to ba-



Deeper look: More than safety, smaller trials in children examine immunogenicity, dose response and reactogenicity to various doses, says Chandrakant Lahariya • GETTY IMAGES

lance the small risk and the potential benefit.

The data provided by Pfizer are likely to be sufficient for approval. It is for public health authorities to decide whether they want to introduce vaccination into national immunisation programmes. Even if public health authorities in a country decide not to introduce the vaccine, it is possible that parents may decide, with the advice of their doctors, that they want to achieve protection for their children. In that case, would we want to override the decisions of parents for their children?

Is the trial carried out on just 2,268 participants aged 5-11 years sufficient to understand the safety profile of the vaccine?

GK: Yes, that is sufficient information for approval. Usually, safety assessments are carried out in a few thousand individuals across a

much wider age range. We already have data for older children and adults. The vaccines are generally safe as no strong signals have been detected in the trials. The small risk of viral myocarditis was identified in adults and adolescents after the mRNA vaccine was widely used, indicating that in the countries that are reporting the data, there is effective monitoring of adverse events following immunisation. Understanding the level of risk is important for all decisions regarding introduction and continued use of vaccines. If decisions are made to introduce vaccines in young children, post-introduction

CL: The information on the safety of vaccines is generated from the data of all trial participants. The subgroup provides an indication on safety profile. However, more than safety, the smaller trials in children examine immunogen-

monitoring for safety will need to

continue as for all other vaccines.

icity (whether vaccines are generating immune response); dose response (what dose of vaccine generates comparable immune response) and reactogenicity to various doses. What we need to remember is that trials are designed to identify common adverse events. However, rare adverse events which happen at a frequency lower than one in trial size can only be identified after roll-out of vaccines. That's why the post-marketing surveillance (after vaccine roll-out) and stronger AEFI reporting systems are very relevant.

Unlike 30 microgram dosage given to adults, is reducing the dosage of vaccines to 10 microgram in children 5-11 years likely to make the vaccine safer?

**GK:** When there is a side-effect of a vaccine, it does not always depend on the amount of active ingredients in the vaccine. It could also depend just on the presence or absence of one of the ingredients and how the vaccinated person responds to it. If there was a dose response, as in a higher dose carries a higher risk, then it is possible that there would be a lower risk in young children or with a lower dose. However, we do not know that at this time.

**CL:** The rare systemic adverse events, such as viral myocarditis, are not dose-dependent. The purpose of reduced dose is to achieve a similar level of immune response and reduce or minimise local reactions, which sometimes are reported at higher frequency in children. Moreover, if the same immune response can be achieved with a lower dose of the vaccine, more children can be vaccinated.

Director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Dr. Anthony Fauci was quoted as saying that he expects approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in a few weeks and vaccination of young children might begin by the end of October. After booster shots for certain categories of adults, does vaccination of young children further impact the supply of precious vaccines to low- and middle-income countries and thus further exacerbate vaccine inequity?

GK: Yes, vaccinating children at a time when vulnerable people in other parts of the world have not been vaccinated is a problem for global vaccine equity. However, all countries make their decisions for the benefit of their citizens first, and then think about the rest of

CL: Every country is free to determine what criteria it wishes to adopt to vaccinate different sets of population groups. The vaccination decisions are based upon the burden of disease, safety and efficacy of vaccines and availability of supply. All of these are considered together.

If a country gives importance to availability of supply of vaccines to administer to additional population groups, it has the right to do so, but then, in doing so, it fails in ethical and moral principles of vaccination drives.



Tougher than it looks

How can glass be made tougher for diverse applications?

Inspired by the inner layer of mollusc shells, scientists at McGill University, Canada, have developed stronger and tougher glass (Science). The material does not shatter on impact and has the resiliency of plastic. Potential uses could be to improve cell phone screens in the

The researchers combined and centrifuged glass flakes with poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA) to make a transparent composite. A transparent composite was created by doping the glass flakes to alter the refractive

index of PMMA to increase the optical clarity and make it at par with glass. The new material is not only three times stronger than the normal glass, but also more than five times more fracture-resistant, says the university press release. The fabrication method is robust and scalable, and the composite may prove to be a glass alternative in diverse applications, the release adds.

The scientists created the new glass and acrylic composite material that mimics nacre or mother of pearl. Nacre has the rigidity of a stiff material and durability of a soft material as it is made of stiff pieces of chalk-like matter that are layered with soft proteins that are highly elastic.

The researchers mimicked the architecture of nacre by using layers of glass flakes and acrylic.

Readers may send their questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

## A tiny plant that can 'digest' low density plastic sheets

From the murky waters of a lake in Chennai, researchers isolated an alga that breaks down low density polyethylene

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Researchers from University of Madras and Presidency College, Chennai, have isolated an alga species that shows promise as an agent of biodegradation of plastic sheets. It is a preliminary study that has been published in Scientific Reports and needs further research and development before it can be translated to the

According to the Central Pollution Control Board's annual report for the year 2011-12, the plastic waste generatmillion metric tonnes. Only 60% of the plastic used in India was collected and recycled. The metros alone contributed some 21.2% of the total waste, led by Delhi, followed by Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai.

The usual means of disposal of plastic waste involves incineration, land-filling and recycling. These methods have limitations and also sometimes produce side-ef-

fects that are hazardous to the environment. Hence, researchers are on the lookout for biodegradation methods that are safe and environment friendly. It is in this context that the present study gains importance.

Common alga, epiphyte In earlier studies, species of bacteria that degrade plastic have been studied. In the present study, this role is played by the microalga Uronema africanum Borge. This is a species of microalgae that is commonly found in Africa, Asia and Europe. In ed to be an epiphyte, attaching itself to other algae and

Sanniyasi Elumalai, Professor in the Department of Biotechnology, University of Madras, and his graduate students Preethy P. Raj and Dinesh Kumar Gunasekar, along with post-doctoral fellow Rajesh Kanna Gopal from Presidency College, came upon a plastic bag which was colonised by, as



Useful plant: An alga variety - Uronema africanum Borge commonly found in Asia, Europe and Africa, seen under the light microscope. • SANNIYASI ELUMALAI

through study, three species of microalgae.

"We collected a polyethylene carry bag colonised by green, luxuriously grown photosynthetic microalgae and samples of water," says Prof. Elumalai. "Viewing the collected polyethylene sample under a light microscope showed that it was colonised by microalgae... Abrasions were seen on the surface of the polyethylene sheet at dif-

Showed potential

The samples were collected at the Kallukuttai lake area near Taramani railway station, in Chennai. When they did a closer examination of the microalgal growth, they found one species, Uronema africanum Borge, showed potential to degrade plastic.

They first had to identify which species the alga belonged to, and in this they

When the collected polyethylene sample was viewed under a light microscope the researchers saw it was colonised by microalgae.

were helped by Dr. B. Babu of Madras Christian College, Chennai, whom they acknowledge in the paper.

In the experiments, they tested the microalga on lowdensity polyethylene, in sheets which are highly resistant to degradation, into simpler molecules. "We saw that the isolated algae Uroenzymes, hormones, and some polysaccharides which slowly degrade [the sheets], and the structural integrity of the polymer [breaks down] and it disintegrates into monomers," says Prof. Elumalai.

After incubation of the algae in the polyethylene sheet for thirty days, they noticed under the microscope that there were aberrations, grooves, ridges and furrows in the material of the sheets. Following it up with gas chromatography and mass spectrum analysis, they found that there was a huge difference in the composition of supernatant fluids of controls and experimental sample.

**Breaking down plastic** 

"The microalgae produce different kinds of extra cellular polysaccharides, enzymes, toxins such as cyanotoxins, hormones which react with the polymer sheets (polymer bonds) and break them up into the simnot have harmful effect in the atmosphere," says Prof Elumalai.

In their analysis, the researchers used the facilities of Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai, and Vellore Institute of Technology,

The researchers are planning to collaborate with industry to take up this technology in to a pilot scale and finally large-scale study.

## Universities are key in educating the young

While Central universities are doing well, few State universities stand out



**SPEAKING** OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

While we have highlighted the importance of introducing humanities and social sciences in the IITs, the roles that universities and colleges play in educating their youngsters need to be pointed out. During the British colonial rule, while on one hand they charged exorbitant amounts as taxes for their revenue, there were some academicians too, who set up colleges and universities in the Bombay, Madras and Bengal Presidencies. In Bombay, they set up a regular academic college, and medical and law colleges. In Madras, they set up the Madras Presidency College in 1840, and in Bengal the Calcutta Presidency College in

All these offered quality and contemporary education. In addition, Christian missionaries also started some colleges in Delhi, undivided Punjab, Madras and Assam. Notable among these is the Christian Medical College at Vellore, which continues to offer world-class clinical practice and research to this day.

#### **Royal initiatives**

Quite besides these are the schools and colleges started by the Maharajas and Princely State Kings across India, particularly in the South. They have been the bedrock of imparting knowledge and wisdom, history, geography, and religions, over the last century. They have produced scholars, historians, writers and poets, civil servants, judges, chief ministers, governors and Presidents of India, and also M.S. Swaminathan of the Green Revolution and M. Visvesvaraya, the famous dam buil-



Exemplary institution: In recent times, IISc, Bengaluru, has become world-famous for its achievements in computer science and software technology. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

der, and also the Nobel Prize winners (C.V. Raman, S Chandrasekhar and most recently Venky Ramakrishnan who is an alumnus of the century-old M.S. University Vadodara).

#### **Outstanding institution**

One outstanding institution founded in 1909 at Bangalore through the joint efforts of I.N. Tata and the Maharaja of Mysore is the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), which has been spearheading research in science and technology from the very beginning. Outstanding research in genetics, molecular and cell biology, and protein structure and function has been going on from the very beginning. In recent times, IISc has become world-famous for its achievements in computer science and software technology. Thanks to the series of books on this subject by Dr. V. Rajaraman (which has been the Bible for thousands of students) and the investment by Shri. N.R. Narayanamurthy, who founded Infosys Foundation, India has become a world-leader in software. They have made many graduates from IITs and universities to turn to this area and flock to Silicon Valley in California for jobs, and do very well there.

Moving on to two Central Universities at Delhi, namely,

Tata and the Maharaja of Mysore is the Indian Institute of Science which has been spearheading research in science and technology. Delhi University with its North and South campuses, and Jawaharlal Nehru University or JNU, we find quite notably that apart from their proven expertise in the areas of economics, humanities and social sciences, they have been doing remarkably

One outstanding institution founded

through the efforts of J.N.

in 1909 at Bangalore

well in science and biotechnology. The North Campus mentioned. has been a forerunner in botany and plant sciences, and the South Campus in medical and biotechnology. And JNU, apart from its distinction in economics (Prof. Utsa Patnaik, who estimated how the British Empire impoverished India by 500 trillion dollars to become the richest Empire in the world), has also an active genetics and biotechnology group (Prof. Anand Ranganathan) that works on TB and Malaria, thus protectuniversities!

ing us from these diseases. But, alas, none of the 400+

State universities successfully stand out in their achievements - be it in language and literature, economics, technology and its use. The lone exception may be Punjab University which has come to the service of the community through its excellent rice production, successful fight against swarms of locusts, and also in the history of the Punjabi language. We have already referred to the work being done at the Jadavpur and Presidency Universities at Kolkata, and also the Osmania University at Hyderabad, in certain areas of science and technology, besides language, literature and economics should be

**Private universities** Recently, several non-profit private universities have been started and are doing excellent service in software sciences (Azim Premji University), genetics, molecular biology and virology, sociology and history (Ashoka University), and SRM University in Chennai and Amaravati. May there be more such private and non-governmental

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### IAO Hanle: A promising astronomical observatory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) located at Hanle near Leh in Ladakh is becoming one of the globally promising observatory sites, according to a recent

study. This is due to its advantages of more clear nights, minimal light pollution, background aerosol concentration, extremely dry atmospheric condition and uninterrupted monsoon, the Department of Science and Technology said.

The researchers used reanalysis data combined from assimilation and observation extending over 41 years, along with 21 years of data from satellites. The study classified the quality of observable nights for different astronomical usages like photometry and spectroscopy on a daily basis.

#### **Eight observatories** They analysed datasets for

the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) in Hanle and Merak (Ladakh), and Devasthal (Nainital) in India, Ali Observatory in the Tibet Autonomous Region in China, South African Large Telescope in South Africa, University of Tokyo Atacama Observatory and Paranal in Chile, and the National Astronomical Observatory in Mexico.

The research led by Dr. Shantikumar Singh Ningombam of Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, has been published in the Monthly Notices for Royal Astronomical Society.

They found Paranal, in Chile, to be the best site in terms of clear skies with around 87% of clear nights in a year. IAO Hanle, and Ali observatories, which are located around 80 km from each other, are similar to each other in terms of clear night skies.

They found that Devasthal has a slightly larger number of clear nights compared to the other sites in the subcontinent but are affected by monsoons for about three months in a year. However, night observations at IAO Hanle from 2m-Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) are possible throughout the year without any interruption due to monsoon.



Orders violated: Firecrackers are not labelled with information on the person responsible for legal compliance. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

### **Toxic firecrackers**

Why has the Supreme Court clamped down on manufacturers? How are chemicals used harmful?

G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN

The story so far: The Supreme Court on September 29, 2021 observed that six major fireworks manufacturers had violated orders requiring them not to use prohibited chemicals such as Barium salts and to label the firecrackers in compliance with the law. In a warning to the manufacturers, the court felt that it had to take a balanced view of the production and use of firecrackers, because so much of it was being burst, and people could not be allowed to suffer and die from pollution. It directed the Environment Ministry to serve a copy of an inquiry report of the CBI, which found violations after conducting a court-ordered probe. The case has been posted for October 6.

What did the Supreme Court rule three years ago?

■ Three years ago, the court ruled out a full ban on firecrackers and issued orders stipulating that only reduced emission and green crackers be allowed, with tight restrictions on timings when they could be burst. The latest orders, in continuation of others, relate to a petition - Arjun Gopal and Others vs Union of India and Others – filed on behalf of three children in 2015, seeking measures to mitigate air pollution and asserting their right to clean air under Article 21 of the Constitution.

What is the controversy?

Firecrackers use fuel and oxidisers to produce a combustion reaction, and the resulting explosion spreads the material in a superheated state. The metal salts in the explosive mix get 'excited' and emit light. In an explanatory article on 'The chemistry behind'

The petitioners argue that of about 2,000 manufacturers, only 120 had the capacity and inclination to work with the court to green the crackers

fireworks', University of Pennsylvania inorganic chemist Eric Schelter says the interaction between the firecracker fuel and the oxidiser releases energy. Metals in the mix, which have a varying arrangement of electrons in shells outside their nucleus, produce different wavelengths of light in this

reaction, generating spectacular colours. Barium compounds, for example, produce green light and Strontium and Lithium salts, red. But as many studies show, the burning of firecrackers is an unusual and peak source of pollution, made up of particles and gases. One study in Milan, Italy, quantified the increase in the levels of several elements in the air in one hour as 120 times for Strontium, 22 times for Magnesium, 12 times for Barium, 11 times for Potassium and six times for Copper. The Central Pollution Control Board conducted a study in Delhi in 2016, and found that the levels of Aluminium, Barium, Potassium, Sulphur, Iron and Strontium rose sharply on Deepavali night, from low to extremely high. For instance, Barium rose from 0.268 microgrammes per cubic metre to 95.954 mcg/m3. Similar episodic spikes have been recorded in China and the U.K. Pollution from firecrackers affects the health of people and animals, and aggravates the already poor ambient air quality in Indian cities. This has resulted in litigation calling for a total ban on firecrackers, and court orders to restrict the type of chemicals used as well as their volume. Many crackers also violate legal limits on sound.

Can green crackers make a difference?

■ The Central government says the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, through its National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), Nagpur, has come out with firecrackers that have "reduced emission light and sound" and 30% less particulate matter using Potassium Nitrate as oxidant. These crackers are named Safe Water Releaser, which minimises Potassium Nitrate and Sulphur use, but matches the sound intensity of conventional crackers, Safe Minimal Aluminium, where Aluminium use is low and Safe Thermite Crackers with low Sulphur and Potassium Nitrate. These crackers are to be identified using unique QR codes to guide consumers. The Supreme Court had also previously ordered that the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation should certify the composition of fireworks only after being assured that they were not made of banned chemicals.

What is the state of the industry?

■ The petitioners argue that out of about 2,000 manufacturers, only 120 had the capacity and inclination to work with the court to green the crackers; the respondents, who are part of an industry that seeks light regulation because it provides jobs to many, must now present their case. Evidently, the new cracker formulations have not had many takers. Firecrackers are not labelled with information on the person responsible for legal compliance, as ordered by the court. At the recent hearing, the Supreme Court Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and A.S. Bopanna took on record the CBI report and noted that there had been a "flagrant violation" of previous orders. It took note of the large volume of crackers burnt almost every day and felt inclined to fix responsibility. "If liability is fixed on the Commissioner of Police, only then can this happen," it remarked.

## Why is the government against caste census?

What are the reasons it has cited for being unable to carry out the exercise? How have those demanding a count reacted?

G. SAMPATH

The story so far: In an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court on September 23, the Union government has ruled out conducting a Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), stating that a caste census (except that for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes done traditionally) was unfeasible, "administratively difficult and cumbersome". The affidavit was in response to a writ petition by the Maharashtra government seeking directions to the Union government to collect data on the Backward Class of Citizens (BCC) of rural India during the enumeration of the 2021 census. The petition also wanted the Centre to disclose the raw caste data on other backward classes (OBCs) collected during SECC-2011. Several political parties, and the Bharatiya Janata Party's Bihar ally, Janata Dal (United) led by Nitish Kumar, have urged the Centre to reconsider its decision.

What is the substance of the Centre's affidavit?

■ The government's affidavit covers three different aspects of the caste census issue, as reflected in the writ petition. It first explains why it cannot make public the caste data collected under the SECC-2011. Then it argues that the judiciary cannot direct the government to conduct a caste census because it is a "policy decision" not to do so, and the judiciary cannot interfere with government policy. And finally, it elaborates on why it is neither practical nor administratively feasible to attempt a caste census.

What is the status of the data collected under the SECC-2011?

■ In its affidavit, the government acknowledges that the SECC-2011's caste data of 130 crore Indians have been with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for five years. Due to flaws in the data, it was decided to form an expert committee headed by the then Vice-Chairman of the NITI Aayog, Arvind Panagariya. But since other members of the committee were not named, the committee never met, and as a result, no action was taken on the raw data to collate it into publishable

Why won't the government make raw data public?

■ The flaws in the data stem primarily from the fact that no registry of castes was prepared before conducting the 2011 caste census. This resulted in mistakes by enumerators, who spelt the same caste in dozens of different ways. With no consistent way to aggregate or segregate same or similar castes with variant spellings, the number of caste categories ballooned. In Maharashtra, for instance, the existing SC, ST and OBC categories, as per government records, are only 494. But the 2011 caste census yielded 4,28,677 castes. While the State's population was 10.3 crore, about 1.17 crore (more than 11%) were found to be of 'no caste'. Also, 99% of the castes enumerated had a population of less than 100 persons. At the national level, whereas the total number of castes as per the last caste census of 1931 was 4,147, the SECC-2011 showed the presence of 46 lakh different castes. Since the total number cannot be "exponentially high to this extent", the government has said this entire data set is flawed and the census unreliable, rendering it



Pressure mounts: Even the BJP's ally, JD(U) led by Nitish Kumar, wants the Centre to reconsider its decision. • PTI

unusable for the purposes of reservations and policy. For these reasons, it has refused to make public even the raw caste data of the SECC-2011.

Why will castes not be counted along with the regular 2021 census?

■ The government has cited numerous administrative, operational and logistical reasons to argue that collecting caste data during the 2021 census - postponed to next year due to COVID-19 - is unfeasible and attempting it could endanger the census exercise itself. It begins by pointing to the difference in caste categories according to different lists. While the Central list contained 2,479 OBC castes, there were 3,150 OBC castes as per the lists of all the States and Union Territories taken together. If a caste-related question is included, it would "return thousands of castes as the people use their clan/gotra, sub-caste and caste names interchangeably". Since enumerators are

In an affidavit to the Supreme Court, the government has cited numerous administrative, operational and logistical reasons to argue that collecting caste data during the 2021 census is unfeasible and attempting it could endanger the census exercise itself

of training and "not an investigator or verifier", the affidavit states, "it would be difficult to meaningfully tabulate and classify caste returns." Secondly, the

part-timers with 6-7 days

preparatory work for a census starts three to four vears earlier. As for the census, the questionnaires have already been finalised and field-tested. It is, therefore, not possible to add additional questions about caste now. Third, unlike in the case of the SCs and the

STs, there is no constitutional mandate for the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner, India, to provide the census figures of the OBCs and the BCCs. And lastly, it has cited the 2014 Supreme Court judgment setting aside two orders of the Madras High Court directing the Centre to conduct a caste census. As per this Supreme Court judgment, what information to collect in a census is a policy decision of the government, and while the court may find a certain policy untenable,

it was "legally impermissible" for the court to dictate to the government what policy it ought to follow.

What are the arguments of those demanding a caste census?

Political parties batting for the caste census cite the need for caste-wise data to justify the extension of reservations to various communities. On the other hand, there is also a large body of scholarly work, done by sociologists, political scientists and historians, which bypass the welfare argument to assert that India's fundamental mistake in its battle to overcome caste was not doing a caste census. According to these scholars, formal blindness to caste in a casteist society results in a denial of the web of caste-based privileges that continue to funnel opportunities to those at the top of the caste hierarchy. They point out that while the very term 'caste' has come to be associated with 'lower castes', the SCs or the OBCs, the upper castes tend to appear "casteless". They argue that in order to abolish caste, it is essential to first abolish caste-derived privileges, and in order to do that, the state must first map castes and their socio-economic status privileges/deprivations, which is what a caste census seeks to do.

Does a caste census enumerate only the OBCs or all castes?

■ The 2011 caste census collected data on all castes, and not just of the OBCs. Though the demands of the OBC-dominated political parties typically focus on expanding the socio-economic mapping of the census from the SCs and the STs to include the OBC castes, they want the caste census to cover the upper castes as well.

What next?

Opposition parties have criticised the government's stand, with three Chief Ministers - Bihar's Nitish Kumar, Jharkhand's Hemant Soren, and Odisha's Naveen Patnaik - reiterating their support for the caste census. The BJP does not want to be seen as opposing the caste census. So the Opposition, especially the regional caste-based parties, can be expected to keep reiterating their demands for a caste census, which has, in the electoral context, become inextricably mixed up with the question of OBC entitlements.

## What are the concerns of digital health mission?

For the ecosystem to work, what are the fundamentals that need to be put in place first?

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPADDAN

The story so far: The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), launched on September 27, aims to give every citizen a unique digital health ID which involves their health records being digitally protected and making health a "holistic and inclusive model". Under the mission, users can access and link personal records with their unique ID to create a longitudinal health history. "The model will stress preventive healthcare and, in case of disease, easy, affordable and accessible treatment," said the Health Ministry. Inaugurating the mission, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it will not only simplify processes of hospitals but also increase ease of living.

How will it work?

■ In order to be a part of the ABDM, citizens will have to create a unique health ID - a randomly generated 14-digit identification number. The ID will give the user unique identification, authentication and will be a repository of all health records of a person. The ID can also be made by self-registration on the portal, downloading the ABMD Health Records app on one's mobile or at a participating health facility. The beneficiary will also set up a Personal Health Records (PHR) address for the issue of consent, and for future sharing of health records. The Ministry said the Digital Ecosystem will enable a host of other facilities like digital consultation, consent of patients in letting medical practitioners access their records, and so forth. It's also geared up to connect the digital health solutions of hospitals across the country with each other. The nationwide implementation of the digital health ID coincides with the third anniversary of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).

Where was the pilot project launched?

■ The pilot project was announced by the Prime Minister during his Independence Day speech last year. So far, over 1 lakh unique health IDs have been created across select Union Territories as part of the pilot project. Now, the mission is looking at rolling out features that will support health ID creation with a PAN card or a driving licence. For those wanting ID creation through mobile or Aadhaar, the beneficiary will be asked to share details of name, year of birth, gender, address, mobile number and Aadhaar. The government has also allowed use of one's mobile number for registration, if a person doesn't have an Aadhaar card.



Miles to go: Lack of access to technology and poverty may hamper the mission. • GETTY IMAGES

What about privacy issues?

■ The citizen's consent is vital for all access. A beneficiary's consent is vital to ensure that information is released. Records are stored under retention policies and can be accessed only with the consent of users, said the Health Ministry. Besides, users can delete and exit the service any time they want. The account could be reactivated after which the user can share the ID at any health facility or share health records over the ABDM network. However, there are concerns according to experts. Dr. Sudarshan Ballal, chairman, Manipal Hospitals, said: "The introduction of a unique health identification card at the national level would be a game changer in monitoring, providing and managing healthcare for all citizens. But we will have to wait and see the implementation of the project while making sure that the privacy of an individual is maintained at all costs."

What are some of the challenges?

"India has been unable to standardise the coverage and quality of the existing digital cards like One Nation One Ration card, PM-JAY card, Aadhaar card, etc., for accessibility of services and entitlements. The data migration and inter-State transfer are still faced with multiple errors and shortcomings in addition to concerns of data security. The defence of data security by expressed informed consent doesn't work in a country that is plagued by the acute shortage of healthcare

professionals to inform the client fully. With the minuscule spending of 1.3% of the GDP on the healthcare sector, India will be unable to ensure the quality and uniform access to healthcare that it hoped to bring about," said K.R. Antony, paediatrician and a public health professional who served UNICEF and the State Health Resource Centre, Chhattisgarh.

He pointed out that personalised data collected at multiple levels are a "sitting gold mine" for insurance companies, international researchers, and pharma companies. "COVID-19 has taught us that the availability of the private sector is not homogeneous and it can't provide quality service which is charged transparently and is affordable to the common man. India's public health system has to be strengthened and rejuvenated much more before we bring in the fancy Digital Health Mission," he added.

Other experts add that lack of access to technology, poverty, and lack of understanding of the language in a vast and diverse country like India are problems that need to be looked into. "Just like we saw people reluctant to take COVID vaccination, here too people will accept the system only if it's tried and tested and is known to have some benefit," said another expert.

Meanwhile, for private hospitals wanting to be part of the system, "the National Health Authority certifies and empanels the private hospital. It has to be given access, integrate and test its software and get a nod from the NHA," according to the Health Ministry. It added that it would want all healthcare providers and allied services, including laboratories, to be part of the mission.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

In Focus

emerged as a group of

"reformists"

when 23

Congress

a letter to

President

Sonia Gandhi

in August last

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the decision

## The reformists within the Congress party

The self-proclaimed reformists within the Congress step up their demands and question the leadership as the grand old party is struggling with high-profile exits and crises in State units

SANDEEP PHUKAN

s a former Union Minister who expounded the "zero loss" theory in the allocation of 2G spectrum during the Congressled United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, Kapil Sibal is no stranger to controversies. But his claim that "in our party, at the moment, we have no president " crossed a red line.

Mr. Sibal, who is part of a group of 23 (G-23) leaders that had written to Congress president Sonia Gandhi in August last year to press for inner party reforms, had challenged the Gandhis without naming them. "We are G-23, but definitely not Ji Huzoor [yes-men] 23," he declared at a press conference on September 29.

The rebuttal was swift as a group of party workers from Chandni Chowk - a Lok Sabha constituency that Mr. Sibal had represented earlier descended at the dissenting leader's house with placards reading 'Get Well Soon' and rained tomatoes outside his private residence.

In this Congress versus Congress moment, however, the narrative that the Gandhis are the "glue" that can keep the party together in turbulent times seems to have been undone.

The emergence of G-23, or the reformists as they call themselves, exemplifies this. The lot included Ghulam Nabi Azad, Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari, Anand Sharma, Mukul Wasnik, Bhupendra Singh Hooda, M. Veerappa Moily, Prithviraj Chavan, P.J. Kurien, Renuka Choudhary, Milind Deora, Jitin Prasada, Rajinder Kaur Bhattal, Akhilesh Prasad Singh, Raj Babbar, Arvinder Singh Lovely, Kaul Singh Thakur, Kuldeep Sharma, Yoganand Shastri, Sandeep Dikshit and Vivek Tankha, besides Mr. Sibal.

While Mr. Prasada has quit the party, Mr. Moily has publicly distanced himself from

But most of them, either long-standing Congress members or second generation leaders with unfailing lovalty to the Gandhi-Nehru family, are willing to put many of the decisions taken by the Gandhis, especially the siblings Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, under scrutiny.

#### **Erosion of support**

The Punjab experiment to elevate Navjot Singh Sidhu as the State party chief and un-Captain Amarinder Singh as Chief Minister, and the decision to induct former president of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union, Kanhaiaya Kumar, to the party and several other key decisions in which the Gandhi siblings are seen to be the driving force are being questioned.

"We don't know who is taking these decisions. We know, yet we don't know," said Mr. Sibal, indicating that Mr. Gandhi is calling the shots despite stepping down as the party president two years ago. Be it appointing office bearers, choosing the party's nominees for the Rajya Sabha or deciding the chief ministership, the former Congress chief is still the go-to person for the party.

The G-23 has questioned the high rate of attrition the party faces as well. In the past year and a half, exits of high-profile politicians like Ivotiraditya Scindia, Jitin Prasada, Sushmita Dev, Luizinho Faleiro and P.C. Chacko (all believed to be close to the Gandhi family) have only added to the sense that the 'faith in the leadership of the Gandhis' is eroding.

"The erosion of support base and, in particular, losing the confidence of the youth, is a matter of serious concern. In the last two national elections. India had added 18.7 crore first time voters – 10.15 crore in 2014 and

Exits of high-profile politicians like Jyotiraditya Scindia and Jitin Prasada from the Congress have added to the sense that the 'faith in the leadership of the Gandhis' is eroding

8.55 crore in 2019. The youth voted overwhelmingly for Modi and the BJP. The vote share of the BJP sharply increased from 7.84 crore in 2009 to 17.6 crore in 2014 and to 22.9 crore in 2019. In contrast, the Congress lost its share of 1.23 crore of the votes polled in 2009. We have marginally crossed the

......

2009 numbers in the last Lok Sabha elections," the G-23 pointed out in their August 2020 letter to Ms. Gandhi.

The failure to win recent Assembly elections on their own own, even in former Congress strongholds of Assam and Kerala, has raised a sense of alarm among a section of party leaders. Many are worried about the 'business-as-usual' attitude of the leadership and the lack of a sense of urgency.

#### **Collective leadership**

Some of the reformists privately argue that the absence of 'experienced' political advisers in the team of the Gandhi siblings and running a political party like a 'corporate entity' are some of the reasons for their 'ineptitude'. That's why they have reiterated their demand for an elected party president, CWC and central election committee and the restoration of the Congress Parliamentary Board for collective decision-making.

"The Nehru-Gandhi family will always remain an integral part of the collective leadership of the Congress party," the G-23 argued in their letter. While not everyone is rooting for a change in the leadership of the family, some like former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, who is not a part of the G-23, have rued about the inability to start 'meaningful conversations' within party forums. "I feel helpless when we cannot start meaningful conversations within party forums. I also feel hurt and helpless when I see pictures of Congress workers raising slogans outside the residence of a colleague and MP. The safe harbour to which one can withdraw seems to be silence," Mr. Chidambaram tweeted a day after Mr. Si-

party workers. But the Congress's internal strife is not only about the party's free fall in elections or a tussle between the reformists and the loyalists, with loyalists alleging that the G-23 is guided by motives like securing positions such as Rajya Sabha berths; it is also about Mr. Gandhi's attempt to recast the party without the old guard.

bal's house was targeted by

Cut to December 2018 when the party won Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and

Rajasthan under stewardship of Mr. Gandhi. Despite being the party president, he was unable to push people of his choice for chief ministership, something that led to the collapse of the government in Madhya Pradesh (M.P.) and

Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. While he wanted his one time-friend, Mr. Scindia, to be at the helm of affairs in M.P., the old guard is said to have prevailed over his mother in favour of Kamal Nath. Ditto for Sachin Pilot and Ashok Gehlot in Rajasthan when the old guard en-

sured Mr. Gehlot becomes

the CM

has become sore points in

In 2019, Mr. Gandhi owned up to the Lok Sabha poll debacle but not before pointing out that he fought a 'lonely' battle. "I personally fought the Prime Minister, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the institutions they have captured with all my being. I fought because I love India. And I fought to defend the ideals India was built upon. At times, I stood completely alone and am extremely proud of it," Mr. Gandhi had said in his resignation letter

As the Congress's internal divide becomes a matter of public debate, some of the Gandhi family loyalists have questioned the 'agenda' of the reformists while others have urged to place faith in time-tested leadership.

"We know that personal agendas are pursued mostly in the name of high principle," said former Union Minister Ashwani Kumar, adding: "Those who claim that their actions are inspired by a reformist zeal should know that a point of principle can be invoked only by those who have not been the beneficiaries of the system that they now conveniently question".

Salman Khurshid, another former Minister, wrote in a Facebook post on October 1: "Our leaders have led us from the front and for decades together ensured that we have the comfort of being in power." With the Congress seeming to be in the grip of an 'existential crisis' now, it is, perhaps, incumbent upon the leadership to restore this faith in every ordinary Congress worker, not just the

#### **FUMIO KISHIDA**

### The man on the throne

From economic woes to China, a host of challenges are awaiting the new leader

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

s Japan stands on the cusp of a significant Lachange in political leadership, the man of the hour is former Foreign Minister and newly elected leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, Fumio Kishida (64). As Japan's 100th Prime Minister, Mr. Kishida will be stepping into the shoes of his predecessor Yoshihide Suga, after the latter's approval ratings plunged precipitously in the wake of Japan's tepid coronavirus pandemic response, including on the economic front. Mr. Kishida is expected to take charge in his new capacity after the Diet, the Japanese Parliament, convenes in October.

When he does so, he will find the task ahead of him to be near gargantuan. He will inherit responsibility for managing the world's thirdlargest economy. Add to this the pre-existing structural problems of an ageing population, soaring public debt, and extreme vulnerability to climatic shocks and natural disasters, and it is evident that his plate is full.

Reworking the blueprint At the heart of this challenge is the imperative for Mr. Kishida's party, the LDP, to back a transformative fiscal programme that can boost spending through stimulus packages. Industries reeling from the impact of nearly six months of lockdown restrictions could certainly use a shot in the arm of consid-



erable magnitude.

Being a moderate and liberal voice within a party known for conservatism and Japanese nationalism at a broad level, Mr. Kishida is ideally positioned to shepherd such reforms through the Diet. He has already indicated his inclination to increase public expenditure to give the Japanese economy a leg-up as it limps back to commercial normalcy; yet he has hinted that he will avoid immediate tax hikes even if the deficit expands.

This puts his approach in sharp contrast to a Japan's longest serving Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, whose 'Abenomics' was focused on delivering economic growth led by rising corporate bottom lines. In this regard, making a name for himself through a distinct style of political leadership will be important for Mr. Kishida, primarily because he will likely have to contend with a general election at the latest by November 28 under the Japa-

nese Constitution, following the end of the term of the lower house of Parliament on October 21.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

In facing the hurdles ahead in his new role, the Kishida family's long involvement in politics may be an asset. Both Mr. Kishida's father as well as grandfather were members of Japan's powerful lower house, the House of Representatives. When, in 1993, the mantle passed to Mr. Kishida from his father, who held the parliamentary seat from Hiroshima, he succeeded in winning that constituency. This would mark the early days of a strong career in mainstream Japanese politics, which culminated in Mr. Kishida serving as the longest standing Foreign Minister in the country since

World War II. In this capacity, he was also likely drawing on his experience living in the U.S. as a child, and his exposure to other cultures during that time. In the early 1960s, his

father, who was at the time a trade official in the Japanese government, secured a role in New York, leading to the young Mr. Kishida, then six years old, relocating there with his family and studying at a public school in Elmhurst, Queens.

Later, he wrote that despite occasionally brushing up against subtle racism in certain contexts, as a student he mingled with a diversity of ethnic people, including white, Indian, Native American, and Korean, and although "the U.S. was an enemy of Japan during the war and the nation that dropped the nuclear bomb on Hiroshima... I was young, and to me, the U.S. was nothing but a country that was generous-hearted and filled with diversity."

#### In China's backyard

The obvious focal point in Japanese foreign policy going forward will be Japan-China relations. During his tenure as Foreign Minister, Mr. Kishida made it very clear that Tokyo would always foster warm relations with the U.S., India, Australia, and other democratic Asian powers, both strategically and economically. Yet with Beijing pursing aggressive territorial policies relating to Taiwan and the South China Sea, and North Korea once again veering towards testing ballistic missiles, Mr. Kishida will have to work assiduously and creatively to successfully walk the tightrope across regional political rivalries.

#### NAJLA BOUDEN ROMDHANE

## Tunisia's first woman PM

The geologist has to steady the economy amidst a worsening political crisis

STANLY JOHNY

n September 29, Tunisia's embattled President Kais Saied, faced with growing criticism of his power grab, made a surprise move by appointing a little-known geologist as the country's first woman Prime Minister. Mr. Saied had dismissed the Prime Minister and suspended Parliament in July. Ever since he consolidated power in his hands and announced that he would rule by decree, moves his opponents call a coup. With the appointment of Najla Bouden Romdhane, the 63-year-old professor at the Tunis National School of Engineering with practically no political experience, Mr. Saied is seeking to put his rule by decree in an administrative frameworks. In a video message released on September 29 introducing Ms. Bouden to Tunisians, the President said: "This is a historic moment, an honour for Tunisia and a tribute to Tunisian women." Ms. Bouden did not speak in the video.

When Mr. Saied ousted the government of Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi that was backed by the Islamist Ennahda party, the largest bloc in the suspended Parliament, many Tunisians welcomed the move. Mr. Mechichi had faced widespread public criticism over his handling of the Covid-19 pandemic and the country's economic woes. Tunisia, a country of 11 million people, has one of the highest per



tatorship. Mr. Saied's moves

raised questions and wor-

ries about Tunisia's transi-

tion story.

Angry opposition If Mr. Saied hoped that the appointment of Ms. Bouden would placate the opposition, he was wrong. The new Prime Minister will not have the backing of Parliament, a Constitutional requirement. Ennahda legislators have asked their leader, Speaker Rached Ghannouchi to convene the Assembly in defiance of President Saied and question the legality of the appointment of Ms. Bouden as the Prime Mi-

nister. The influential UGTT labour union has also spoken against Mr. Saied's power grab. But Mr. Saied appears determined to go ahead with his plans and Ms. Bouden emerges as his lieutenant.

ILLUSTRATION: J,A. PREMKUMAR

Born in the central Kairouan province in 1958, Bouden holds a doctorate in geology. The Paris-educated academic has held several senior positions in Tunisia's education sector. In 2011, she was appointed Director General in charge of Quality at the Ministry of Higher Education, according to the official TAP news agency. In 2016, she headed the 'management by objectives unit' for the implementation of the higher education reform project. Currently, she is serving as the World Bank's Programme Implementation Officer at the Ministry of Higher Education. According to Turkey's Anadolu news agency, Ms. Bouden doesn't have any known political affiliations.

It's not clear what led Mr. Saïed to pick a university professor for the Prime Minister's job, nor is there any clarity on Ms. Bouden's vision for governance. The President's critics say that by choosing a technocrat with no political experience and popular base, Mr. Saïed could make sure that there's no challenge to his authority from the Cabinet. Under the Tunisian Constitution, the Prime Minister, the President and the Speaker are the three pillars of the State and the Cabinet is responsible to Parliament. But Mr. Saïed's decree made it clear that the PM and the Cabinet would be responsible to him. The new Prime Minister's mandate, according to the President, is to "combat corruption and chaos that pervaded in many state institutions".

Ms. Bouden's surprise elevation to the top echelons of power comes at a challenging particularly time. The country's public debt stands at 88% of GDP. The dinar, it currency, has lost half its value over the past 10 years. Unemployment is high at 18%. The government had initiated talks with the IMF for a bailout, but those discussions were paused after Mr. Saied's power grab. Domestically, the opposition is trying to mobilise support for a lasting showdown with Mr. Saied and his cherry-picked PM. All these suggest that the North African Arab country's first woman PM could get the going tough.







#### REUTERS

Zee Entertainment Enterprises said on Saturday it had filed a petition in court against a notice issued by two institutional investors pushing the firm to call for a meeting of shareholders.

Zee's board on Friday rejected calls from Invesco Developing Markets Fund and OFI Global China Fund for an extraordinary general meeting, citing the lack of approvals required from India's capital markets regulator and the broadcasting ministry for initiating changes to a company's board. Invesco and OFI, which together own 17.88% of Zee, want its CEO Punit Goenka to be removed and a board revamp.

The investors filed a petition at the NCLT after Zee signed a merger deal with Sony Group's India unit.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The DoT has amended li-

cence norms to rationalise

the interest rate for delayed

payment of licence fees. The

move is expected to ease the

financial burden on the tele-

com sector and promote

charge 2% interest above the

one-year marginal cost of

lending rate (MCLR) of State

Bank of India for delay in

payment of licence fee or

any other statutory dues

and the interest will be com-

Earlier, telecom firms

pounded annually.

ease of doing business. The department will now

DoT amends licence

norms to ease penalties

Interest rate for delayed payment cut

## Reliance floats UAE arm for trading in oil, petro products

RIL invests \$1 million in the Abu Dhabi-based subsidiary Reliance International

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Reliance Industries has incorporated a new subsidiary in the UAE for trading in crude oil, petroleum products and commodities.

Reliance International Ltd. (RINL) has been incorporated as a wholly owned subsidiary in Abu Dhabi Global Market, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), RIL said in a stock exchange filing.

#### **Equity investment**

"The company has invested ₹7.42 crore, or \$1 million in cash, in 10 lakh equity shares of \$1 each of 'Reliance International Limited'," RIL said in the filing.

The plans follow an announcement in June that the



Widening horizons: RINL has been incorporated as a wholly owned subsidiary in the UAE. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Indian conglomerate would invest in projects of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company to produce chemicals that could be used for infrastructure and consumer goods.

"RINL is incorporated to

undertake activities relating to, amongst others, trading of crude oil, petroleum products, petrochemicals and agricultural commodities.

RINL is yet to commence its

business operations," the

RIL said in June that it would invest in the projects of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company to make chemicals

company said.

#### The investment in RINL does not fall within related-party transactions and the promo-

'No promoter interest'

ter/ promoter group/ group companies do not have any interest in RINL, it said adding no governmental or regulatory approvals were required for the investment.

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) operates the world's largest oil refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat and has several petrochemical units in the country.

## 'India generating meaningful views for YouTube Shorts'

Number of channels earning ₹1 lakh rose 60%: Raghavan

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

YouTube Shorts, which was introduced a year ago to compete with Instagram Reels and TikTok, is generating 15 billion views globally on a daily basis with a 'meaningful part' coming from India, said Satya Raghavan, director, YouTube Content

Partnerships, India. Shorts, which is still in the beta phase, was first unveiled in India last year, and was subsequently rolled out in other markets.

"We have actually seen a



have come onto the platform right with the launch of Shorts," Mr. Raghavan told The Hindu.

"And, in that process, a whole lot of existing creators have adapted as well. Shorts allows you to create a video

on the fly. It has made creation very easy for a whole lot of people."

In the first step to build a monetisation model for 'Shorts,' where the firm does not run advertisements yet, YouTube had recently announced a \$100 million fund distributed over 2021-2022, from which eligible creators can claim payments.

Mr. Raghavan said for YouTube, the number of channels in India making ₹1 lakh and above in revenue had grown by more than 60% year-on-year, as of June.

INTERVIEW | NAGESH BASAVANHALLI

## Goal is to create ecosystem for EVs: Greaves Cotton MD

'Will serve needs for parts, maintenance, multi-brand items'

LALATENDU MISHRA

Engineering firm Greaves Cotton is engaged in transforming itself into a greenenergy entity with a focus on electric mobility. It has made acquisitions in the electric vehicle (EV) space. The company has planned capital investment of ₹700 crore over 10 years in its upcoming plant in T.N., said MD and Group CEO, Nagesh Basavanhalli. Excerpts:

#### How are you transforming into a green-energy entity?

■ We have a rich legacy of over 162 years and change is not new for us. The past four years have been strategic in terms of enabling that move towards a transformation into a green-energy company. Our goal is to get closer to the consumer; hence this shift towards a more B2C and B2B approach.

#### What is your strategy for the EV business?

Our strategy is geared toward fostering inclusivity among Greaves' primary business verticals. We hope to achieve this by leveraging enablers within the company, such as Greaves Financing, Greaves Retail, and Greaves Technology, to create synergies among our verticals, which include automotive, non-automotive and electric mobility.

We [also] have over 7,000 retailers and 12,000 mechanics who are being reskilled in EV technology. Our primary goal is to create an entire ecosystem that caters to both B2B and B2C seg-



We are seeing first-time buyers like Gen Z, millennials and college students opting for EVs

ments, serving as a one-stop shop for EV needs ranging from spare parts to periodic maintenance, multi-brand EV products, and aftermarket solutions.

#### What is the roadmap?

■ We have made 3 strategic acquisitions in the EV domain - Ampere scooters, ELE rickshaws and MLR autos. The long-term plan is to retool for the future. Our Ranipet plant will be ready by this year-end. We are making a total capital investment of ₹700 crore over the next 10 years here. This plant will have a capacity to produce up to a million units.

#### What are your plans for multi-brand EV retail?

The notion of multi-brand electric vehicle store may be found all over the world, but it is a relatively recent phenomena in India. We are inspired by the response we have received for this format. Our goal is to be present not only in major metro and small communities with an emphasis on Generation Z and millennials. We've successfully started 'AutoEV-Mart,' our first multi-brand EV retail store in Bengaluru.

#### How are you ensuring domestic sourcing?

 Battery cells are imported from outside India... Greaves is on a Make-in-India mission, with committed and planned resources, localised in accordance with the FAME II strategy, and continuing to cooperate with a large number of Indian suppliers and developing a stillevolving supplier ecosystem. One reason we chose Ranipet is, it is located in the Bangalore-Chennai corridor and regarded as an automotive belt; a large portion of our supply chain is located here.

#### Who is buying EVs? Which region is fuelling demand?

■ Thanks to FAME II and government policies of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi... [here] high demand is witnessed; in many cases demand is surpassing supply as due to the government subsidies, there has been a change in consumer behaviour. Bengaluru has been the EV capital, thus there has always been a demand there. We are also seeing first-time buyers like Gen Z, millennials, college students, retail consumers buying EVs. Increase in petrol prices, too, has been a factor for faster adoption of EVs.

In B2B, people who [offer] shared rides and those transporting goods... have seen deliveries skyrocketing during [the pandemic].

## India women bag skeet gold

were required to pay 4% in-

terest above the one-year

MCLR of SBI and the interest

was compounded monthly.

com (DoT) has also removed

the licence clause under

which telcos were charged a

penalty equivalent to 50% of

the short payment they

made for licence fees.

The Department of Tele-

Defeat Italy 6-0; Men beat Turkey to clinch the bronze

#### SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU

The trio of Ganemat Sekhon. Raiza Dhillon and Areeba Khan won the women's skeet team gold for India with a 6-0 victory over Italy in the Junior World Championship.

The men's skeet team of Rajveer Gill, Ayush Rudraraju and Abhay Singh Sekhon won the bronze behind Italy

In mixed air pistol, Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh topped the second stage of qualification with 386, one point ahead of Shikha Narwal and Naveen. The Indian team of Atmika Gupta and Rajpreet Singh will face USA for gold. Sarabjot Singh, Naveen and Shiva Narwal were facing Belarus for the gold in the air pistol team event. Similarly, Rhythm Sangwan,

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA

Local favourite Mohamme-

dan Sporting will be bank-

ing on its partisan suppor-

ters when it takes on FC Goa

in the final of the 130th Du-

Sporting has been on fine

form since the group league

stage winning five and los-

Sporting, which regained

the crown in 2013, will be

drawing inspiration from

history and home advan-

tage to upstage the notion

rand Cup on Sunday.

ing just once.

KOLKATA



On target: Raiza Dhillon, Areeba Khan and Ganemat Sekhon came up with a splendid display. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Manu and Shikha meet Belarus for the gold in junior women's air pistol team event.

In the junior women's air rifle team event, Nisha Kanwar, Zeena Khitta and Atmika Gupta will meet Hungary for gold. Dhanush Srikanth, Rajpreet Singh and Paarth Makhija will cross swords with USA for gold in the ju-

of FC Goa's invincibility.

Sporting will be hoping

that the names like Marcus

Joseph, Brandon Vanlalrem-

dika and Nikola Stojanovic

retain the form that helped

FC Goa is a better side on

paper with superior fo-

reigners and Indian re-

cruits. But the Gaurs will be

missing the Indian players

like Brandon Fernandez,

Glan Martins and Sertion

Fernandez, who are cur-

rently in Maldives on na-

tional duty.

the team reach the final.

nior men's rifle team event. The results: Skeet team: Ju-

niors, men: 1. Italy 6 (488); 2. USA 4 (487): 3. India (Raiveer Gill. Avush Rudraraju, Abhay Singh Sekhon) 6 (453); 4. Turkey 0 (449).

Women: 1. India (Areeba Khan, Raiza Dhillon, Ganemat Sekhon) 6 (457); 2. Italy 0 (460); 3. Germany 6 (411); 4. Slovakia 4 (427).

### Rafiq claims a double

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bengaluru's Mohd. Rafiq dominated the opening day's proceedings in the second round of the MMSC-FMSCI National motorcycle drag racing championships at the MMRT here on Saturday, claiming a double while local challenger Soundari Sindy topped the girls' category.

Rafiq was in imperious form as he won in both 2-Stroke 165cc and 130cc categories comfortably.

The results: 2-Stroke (up to 165cc): 1. Mohd. Rafiq (Bengaluru) 12.761; 2. Prashanth (Chennai) 12.817; 3. Aiyaz Rem (12.969). Up to **130cc:** 1. Mohd. (12.962); 2. Touheed (Bengaluru) 13.438; 3. G. Abdul (Bengaluru) 13.513. Girls (4stroke. up to 165cc): 1. Soundari Sindy (Chennai) 16.462; 2. Lani Zena Fernandez (Chennai) 16.522; 3. Nivetha Jessica (Chennai) 17.291.

## Will be playing a style which will bring results: Stimac

Head coach says India would be fearless in SAFF Championship

### **FOOTBALL**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A couple of days before India is scheduled to start its SAFF Championship campaign against Bangladesh, head coach Igor Stimac hoped that the team will be able to play with confidence and shed the "nervousness" that affected its recent perfor-

"I just hope that it just doesn't happen like in the recent games where we had to change three or four players after first 45 minutes when we were not happy with their performance. We need to understand that from the very first second we need to start in disciplined and organised man-



ner. We have to show maximum aggressiveness both with the ball and after losing

the ball," Stimac said. understanding that



Stimac with Udanta.

Stimac said the team will play without fear. "We are having short practice sessions to reduce the risk of injury and are relying on the players know each other very well and are also aware of what we expect of them. So, I am confident about the tournament," said Stimac. "We will be playing a style

which will bring us results. We don't know what each game will bring to us on the plate. We will adapt to everything that is thrown at us," the coach said referring to the two matches played on the inaugural day (October 1). Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka by a solitary goal in the other match and now has three points to its credit.

Indian captain Sunil Chhetri said: "The mood in the camp is upbeat. There is a lot of familiarity in the squad. The balance of the team is quite good and everyone in the squad is looking to give out his best.

Owners: Mr. Mehernosh H. De-

boo & Mrs. Auzita M. Deboo. Trainer: P. Shroff.

ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB

CUP (Div. II) (1,200m), 4-y-o &

upward, rated 20 to 45: BEAUTY ON PARADE (A.A. Vikrant) 1, Blissful (Nakhat Singh) 2, Four One Four (Deepak Singh) 3 and

Star Babe (Akshay Kumar) 4. 2, 1 and 1/2. 1m 13. 72s. ₹129 (w), 33,

15 and 39 (p). SHP: 54, THP: 83, SHW: 219 and 24, FP: 950, Q:

418, Tanala: 8,810. Favourite:

Owners: Mr. Prakash Babu, Mr.

K. Rama Krishna & Mr. Shai-

Skater) (Bhawani) 4.

### Jeevan and Purav win title

**INDIANS ABROAD** 

SPORTS BUREAU

Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Purav Raja clinched the doubles title in the €44,820 Challenger with a 7-6(5), 6-3 victory over Nuno Borges and Francisco Cabral on Saturday.

It was the top seeds' first Challenger title as a team. They collected 80 ATP points and €2,670.

In the Challenger in Romania, eighth seed Sumit Nagal lost 6-4, 0-6, 6-0 to top seed Stefano Travaglia of Italy in the semifinals. The results:

€44,820 Challenger, Lisbon, Portugal: Final: Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja bt Nuno Borges & Francisco Cabral (Por) 7-6(5), 6-3.

€44,820 Challenger, Sibiu. Romania: Semifinals: Stefano Travaglia (Ita) bt Su-

mit Nagal 6-4. 0-6, 6-0. \$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Semifinals: Honoka Kobayashi (Jpn) & Ma YeXin (Chn) bt Ginevra Peiretti (Ita) & Jennifer Luikham

### Namit and Devanshee are champions

6-1, 6-4.

NEW DELHI: Namit Bhatia and Devanshee Prabhu Desai won the boys' and girls' titles in the AITA Championship series under-14 tennis tournament at the Baidyanath Prasad Academy in Azadpur.

The results:

Under-14: Boys (final): Namit Bhatia bt Mayank Ujjainwal 6-1, 6-0; Semifinals: Namit bt Adhiwan Deshwal 6-1, 6-1; Mayank bt Raghav Popli

Girls (final): Devanshee Prabhu Desai bt Ela Pandey 6-2, 6-1; Semifinals: Ela bt Samaira Kohli 5-7, 6-3, 7-5; Devanshee bt Anandita Upadhyay 6-2, 3-6, 7-5.

### Deepanshu shines NEW DELHI: Deepanshu Phore

Md. Sporting has the edge

(62 and 2/23) helped Gyanti Academy beat M-10 Academy by 17 runs in the Swas-

The scores: Gyanti Academy

256 in 39.5 overs (Deepanshu Phore 62, Anurag Sanjay 44, Rishabh Manchanda 3/41) bt M-10 Academy 239 in 39.4 overs (Akshay Saini 75, Arvind Verma 3/29).

## HYDERABAD: Trainer Pesi Shroff's unconquered filly Mir-

acle, piloted by jockey P.S. Chouhan, won the Golden Jubilee Deccan Derby (Gr.1) in a record time of 2m 3. 68s, the pres tigious event of Hyderabad Monsoon races here on Saturday

The winner is owned by Mr. Mehernosh H. Deboo & Mrs. Auzita M. Deboo.

Chouhan confidently kept Miracle at sixth position in the early part of the race, later she was improved to fourth at 800m, as they were homeward-bound this Multidimensional filly sailed away stylishly to score a very easy victory over her rivals and broke the course record.

1. SMT. TEEGALA SULOCHANA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,800m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): BISATE (P.S. Chouhan) 1, N R I Valley (Akshay Kumar) 2, Balius (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Staridar (Abhay Singh) 4. Not run: Ashwa Yashobali. 1-1/4, 10-3/4 and 3/4. 1m 50. 98s. ₹12 (w), 10, 11 and 20 (p). SHP: 22, THP: 44, SHW: 10 and 14, FP: 36, Q: 24, Tanala: 200. Favourite: Bisate.

Owners: Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy rep. Five Stars Shipping Company Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

NOTE: Lombardy (S. Zervan up) planted in the starting stalls and did not participate in the race 2. ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB CUP (Div. I), (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): TRUMP STAR (Deepak Singh) 1, Amyra (Neeraj) 2, Nearest (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Flamingo Fame (Santosh Raj) 4. Not run: Castlerock. 2-1/4, 1/2 and 3. 1m 12. 96s. ₹18 (w), 13, 12 and 68 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 150, SHW: 11 and 11, FP: 58, Q: 36, Tanala: 1,067.

Favourite: Trump Star. Owners: Mr. G. Raghunandan Chary, Mr. P. Ranga Raju, Mr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni & Mr. Eswarchandra Rajago pal Tripuraneni. Trainer: D. Netto.

3. MADRAS RACE CLUB CUP (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): SCRAMJET (P. Trevor) 1, Watch My Stride (Akshay Kumar) 2, Mark My Day (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Southern Princess (Zervan) 4. Not run: All Time Legend. Nose, 3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m 26. 52s. ₹16 (w), 10, 11 and 45 (p). SHP: 26, THP: 110, SHW: 10 and 14, FP: 37, Q: 19, Tanala: 426. Favourite: Scramjet.

Owners: United Racing and Bloodstock Breeders Ltd.

4. ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF

Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

CLUB CUP (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): COSMIC RUN (Kiran Naidu) 1, House Of Diamonds (Akshay Kumar) 2, N R I Elegance (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Xfinity (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 3/4, 1/2 and Nk. 1m 13. 07s. ₹39 (w), 14, 10 and 34 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 96, SHW: 17 and 15 (p). FP: 198, Q: 70, Tanala: 2,556. Favourite: House Of Diamonds. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. Shapoor P.

Miracle wins Golden Jubilee Deccan Derby in record time

Mistry rep. Manjri Horse Breeders Farm Private Limited & Mr. Гееgala Vijender Reddy. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.5. TURF AUTHORITIES CUP

(1,400m), rated 80 and above (Cat. I): ASHWA BRAVO (Ashad Asbar) 1, Smashing Blue (Akshay Kumar) 2, Victory Parade (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Corfe Castle (Gaurav Singh) 4. 3/4, 1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m 24. 79s. ₹14 (w), 11, 13 and 11 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 28, SHW: 10 and 28 (p). FP: 51, Q: 42, Tanala: 133. Favourite: Ashwa Bravo. Owners: Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla, Mrs. Behroze Z. Poon-

awalla rep. Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Private Limited, Mr. Yohan Z. Poonawalla, Ms. Delna Z. Poonawalla & Mrs. Simone Z. Poonawalla & Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chauhan. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy. 6. MYSORE RACE CLUB CUP

, Super Angel (Abhay Singh) 2, 5-1/4, 2-3/4 and 2-3/4, 2m 3, 68s. Zamazenta (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Dillon (B. Nikhil) 4. 1-1/2, 3/4 and 2. Im 54. 09s. ₹22 (w), 11, 20 and 12 (p). SHP: 55, THP: 61, SHW: 18 and 31, FP: 223, Q: 132, (record time). ₹12 (w), 12, 16 and 81 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 171, SHW: 10 and 48, FP: 45, Q: 48, Tanala: 1,120. Favourite: Miracle. Tanala: 368. Favourite: Painted

(1,800m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat.

III): PAINTED APACHE (P. Trevor)

Owner: Mr. Aditya P. Thacker

sey. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.
7. BANGALORE TURF CLUB CUP (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): SOLOIST (Akshay Kumar) 1, Win Vision (Santosh Rai) 2, Gen eral Atlantic (B. Nikhil) 3 and Moonlight Ruby (Kuldeep Singh) 4. 1/2 , 3-3/4 and Nk. 1m 26. 38s ₹19 (w), 14, 26 and 26 (p). SHP: 83, THP: 81, SHW: 14 and 56 (p). FP: 239, Q: 194, Tanala: 2,334.

Apache.

Favourite: Soloist. Owners: Mr. Gurpal Singh, Mr. N.P. Sharma & Mr. Alluri Ajay Kumar. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira. 8. GOLDEN JUBILEE DECCAN DERBY (GR. 1), (2,000M) (TERMS),

KHALILA) (P.S. CHOUHAN) 1, Zuccarelli (Western Aristocrat-Circle Of Bliss) (Neeraj) 2, Southern Dynasty (Multidimensional-Set Aside) (C.S. Jodha) 3

lendra Singh. Trainer: D. Netto. MIRACLE (MULTIDIMENSIONAL

Jackpot (i): 70%: ₹989 (351 tkts.). 30%: 200 (741 tkts.). (ii): 70% 2.768 (285 tkts.), 30%: 64 (5.252 (ii): 497 (119 tkts.), (iii) 489: (215 tkts.). Mini jackpot (i): 561 (84 tkts.), (ii): 1,900 (104 tkts.). Aries (Corporate Jungle-Olympic

## India calls the shots on first clear day of Pink ball Test

Australia trails by 234 runs after the visitors declare their first innings at 377 for eight riding on Deepti's half-century

#### INDIA IN AUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CARRARA

India dictated terms as Australia struggled to survive the difficult overs under lights and finish the third day of the Day-Night Test at 143 for four here on Saturday

Australia trailed by 234 runs after veteran seamer Ihulan Goswami (2/27) struck twice to leave the hosts at 63 for two at one stage. India declared its first innings at 377 for eight.

Mithali Raj's side was lucky the umpire gave Australia captain Meg Lanning (38) out despite an inside edge, bringing to an end her ominous stay in the middle. The lucky bowler was Pooja Vastrakar (2/31).

After Tahlia McGrath (28) hit Pooja's wide and short delivery straight to Smriti



In full flow: Jhulan Goswami had the Australians on the backfoot with two early strikes, including that of Beth Mooney. • GETTY IMAGES

Mandhana at point to leave the hosts at 119 for four, Jhulan was brought back with two slips, a gully and a silly mid-off, but Ellyse Perry (27) and Ashleigh Gardner (13)

stuck it out. Earlier, Deepti Sharma made a fine 66. Resuming at 276 for five, India scored 83 for the loss of Taniya and Pooja to reach 359 for seven at dinner

Deepti, who started the day on 12, got to her second Test fifty (148b, 5x4) with a sweep behind square.

Ellyse Perry picked up her 300th international wicket

when she had Pooja brilliantly caught by Mooney at gully. Perry thus became the only woman cricketer with 5,000 international runs and 300

The pink ball, I found, moves older

initially but not as much as the red one once it gets

#### **SCOREBOARD**

#### **INDIA - IST INNINGS**

Smriti Mandhana c McGrath b Gardner 127 (216b, 22x4, 1x6), Shafali Verma c McGrath b Molineux 31 (64b, 4x4), Punam Raut c Healy b Molineux 36 (165b, 2x4), Mithali Raj run out 30 (86b, 5x4), Yastika Bhatia c Mooney b Perry 19 (40b, 3x4), Deepti Sharma lbw b Campbell 66 *(167b, 8x4)*, Taniya Bhatia c Healy b Campbell 22 (75b, 3x4), Pooja Vastrakar c Mooney b Perry 13 (48b, 2x4), Jhulan Goswami (not out) 7 (5b, 1x4), Meghna Singh (not out) 2 (6b); Extras (b-3, lb-6, w-13, nb-2): 24; Total (for eight wkts. decl in 145 overs): 377.

#### **FALL OF WICKETS**

1-93 (Shafali, 25.1 overs), 2-195 (Smriti, 68.1), 3-217 (Punam, 80.4), 4-261 (Yastika, 92.5), 5-274 (Mithali, 98.1), 6-319 (Taniya, 126.2), 7-359 (Pooja, 142.3), 8-369 (Deepti, 143.4).

**AUSTRALIA BOWLING** 

Perry 27-4-76-2, Brown 10-0-49-0, Campbell 14-2-47-2, Mc-Grath 16-3-40-0, Molineux 23-8-45-2, Gardner 30-11-52-1, Sutherland 17-6-31-0, Wareham 8-2-28-0.

#### **AUSTRALIA - 1ST INNINGS**

Alyssa Healy c Taniya b Jhulan 29 (66b. 3x4). Beth Mooney b Jhulan 4 (16b), Meg Lanning lbw b Pooja 38 (78b, 7x4), Ellyse Perry (batting) 27 (98b) 3x4), Tahlia McGrath c Smriti b Pooja 28 (68b, 4x4), Ashleigh Gardner (batting) 13 (34b, 1x4); Extras (lb-3, w-1): 4; Total (for four wkts. in 60 overs): 143.

#### **FALL OF WICKETS**

1-14 (Mooney, 6.4), 2-63 (Healy, 22.4), 3-80 (Lanning, 32.1), 4-119 (McGrath, 49.4).

#### **INDIA BOWLING**

Jhulan 14-3-27-2, Meghna 11-1-32-0, Pooja 16-6-31-2, Rajesh-7-4-14-0.

### Shreyas, Ashwin take DC over the line

MI batters struggle against Axar on the slow Sharjah strip; Avesh, too, impresses



Telling spell: Axar kept MI on a leash • SPORTZPICS/IPL

### IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

Chreyas Iyer held his nerve Sand R. Ashwin provided the much-needed support to help Delhi Capitals virtually seal a top-two finish and deal Mumbai Indians' campaign a big blow in the IPL on Satur-

On a slow strip at Sharjah that continued to be nightmarish for batters, DC restricted the defending champion to 129 for eight. Despite the MI bowlers repeating their DC counterparts' heroics, Shreyas (33 n.o., 33b, 2x4) and Ashwin (20 n.o., 21b, 1x6) registered the highest partnership of the match (unbroken 39 off 36b) to see their team home.

Change of pace was the motto for pacers on a sultry afternoon. When Shimron Hetmyer joined a spree of batsmen to fall in the trap, top-edging Jasprit Bumrah to Rohit Sharma at covers, Delhi was in a spot of bother. With 37 required off 41 balls and six batters back in the hut, Shreyas looked to Ashwin to hang in there with

With the asking rate not too steep, the duo played risk-free cricket, Shreyas exploiting every loose ball offered by Nathan Coulter-Nile and Bumrah. Ashwin, fittingly, finished the match off the first ball of the last over, a

#### **SCOREBOARD**

#### **MUMBAI INDIANS**

Rohit Sharma c Rabada b Avesh 7 (10b, 1x4), Quinton de Kock c Nortie b Axar 19 (18b. 1x4, 1x6), Suryakumar Yadav c Rabada b Axar 33 (26b, 2x4, 2x6), Saurabh Tiwary c Pant b Axar 15 (18b, 1x4), Kieron Pollard b Nortje 6 (9b), Hardik Pandya b Avesh 17 (18b, 2x4), Krunal Pandya (not out) 13 (15b, 1x4, 1x6), Nathan Coulter-Nile b Avesh 1 (2b), Jayant Yadav c Smith b Ashwin 11 (4b, 1x4, 1x6), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (w-5, nb-1): 6; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs):

#### **FALL OF WICKETS**

1-8 (Rohit, 1.5 overs), 2-37 (de Kock, 6.2), 3-68 (Suryaku-12.5), 5-87 (Pollard, 14.1), 6-109 (Hardik, 18.1), 7-111 (Coulter-Nile, 18.4), 8-122 (Jayant, 19.2).

#### **CAPITALS BOWLING** Nortie 4-1-19-1, Avesh 4-0-

15-3, Ashwin 4-0-41-1, Rabada 4-0-33-0, Axar 4-0-21-3. **DELHI CAPITALS** 

#### Prithvi Shaw lbw b Krunal 6

(7b, 1x4), Shikhar Dhawan run out 8 (7b, 1x6), Steve Smith b Coulter-Nile 9 (8b, 1x6), Rishabh Pant c Hardik b Jayant 26 (22b. 3x4. 1x6). Shrevas Iver

slog sweep off left-arm spinner Krunal Pandya sailing over the fence for his first boundary. While Avesh Khan's pace

turned out to be too hot to handle for MI at the start and the death, Anrich Nortje's back-of-the-hand slower balls had the high-profile batting line-up searching for answers.

Axar Patel's spin did the trick in the middle overs, as he dismissed Quinton de (not out) 33 (33b, 2x4), Axar Patel lbw b Boult 9 (9b, 1x4), Shimron Hetmyer c Rohit b Bumrah 15 (8b, 2x4), R. Ashwin (not out) 20 (21b, 1x6); Extras (lb-2, w-4): 6; Total (for six

#### wkts. in 19.1 overs): 132. **FALL OF WICKETS**

1-14 (Dhawan, 1.6), 2-15 (Shaw, 2.4), 3-30 (Smith, 4.1), 4-57 (Pant, 8.2), 5-77 (Axar, 11.4), 6-93 (Hetmyer, 13.1), **MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING** 

Boult 4-0-24-1, Jayant 4-0-31-1, Krunal 2.1-0-18-1, Bumrah 4-0-29-1, Coulter-Nile 4-0-19-1, Pollard 1-0-9-0. Toss: DC; MoM: Axar.

Capitals won by four wickets with five balls to spare.

#### Innings scan

MI		DC
54	Dots	45
9	Fours	9
5	Sixes	4
35/1	PP	46/3
6.44	RR	6.88

#### Next assignment DC: Oct. 4 vs CSK

Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST MI: Oct. 5 vs RR Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

Kock, Suryakumar Yadav and Saurabh Tiwary to expose the lower middle-order to the pacers yet again.

Had it not been for Jayant Yadav, who replaced Rahul Chahar, and Krunal tonking a six each off Ashwin in the last over, MI would have struggled to set a target of 130. But Ashwin made up for his bowling with a courageous display with the bat to help Capitals continue their stupendous run.

## Jaiswal and Dube keep Royals in the hunt

SPORTS BUREAU

/ashasvi Jaiswal (50) and **Y** Shivam Dube (64 n.o.) clobbered the Chennai Super Kings bowlers with brilliant half-centuries to keep Rajasthan Royals alive with a six-wicket win in the Indian Premier League at Abu Dhabi on Saturday. Chasing 190, Jaiswal and Dube's display of brute power-hitting left the CSK bowlers nowhere to hide as Royals romped home with 15 balls to spare.

#### Maiden ton by Ruturaj

The duo's fireworks overshadowed a fine maiden IPL century by Ruturaj Gaikwad (101 n.o., 60b, 9x4, 5x6) earlier in the day that helped CSK to what seemed like a formidable total of 189 for four after being asked to bat

Jaiswal made full use of an early reprieve - he was dropped on 12 by Ambati Rayudu. The stylish lefthanded opener went after Josh Hazlewood slamming him for three boundaries in his first over.

In the fifth over, Jaiswal again launched into the Australian, with two sixes over mid-wicket followed by a four and another six down the ground to bring up his fifty off just 19 balls.

Jaiswal and fellow opener Evin Lewis powered Royals to 75 in just five overs.

#### Clean striking

After the fall of the openers in quick succession, Dube ensured Royals stayed on course as he put his big frame to good use with some clean striking.

The all-rounder struck down the ground against the

Silken assault: Ruturaj was all elegance in his century knock, but it was not enough for CSK ■ SPORTZPICS/IPL

spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Moeen Ali, smashing three sixes early on in his innings. Along with skipper Saniu Samson (28), Dube added 89 for the third wicket as the CSK bowlers struggled with the dew factor.

Royals' fifth win of the season helped it move to

sixth in the table and stay in the hunt.

Earlier, Ruturaj started with a crisp straight drive down the ground off the first ball of the innings and ended it with a slog over mid-wicket to bring up his ton off the last ball of the innings.

In between, Ruturaj un-

leashed some breathtaking strokes, but his knock went in vain.

#### Next assignment

CSK: Oct. 4 vs DC

RR: Oct. 5 vs MI

### Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

### **SCOREBOARD**

#### **CHENNAI SUPER KINGS**

Ruturaj Gaikwad (not out) 101 (60b, 9x4, 5x6), Faf du Plessis st. Samson b Tewatia 25 (19b. 2x4, 1x6), Suresh Raina c Dube b Tewatia 3 (5b), Moeen Ali st. Samson b Tewatia 21 (17b. 1x4. 1x6), Ambati Rayudu c Phillips b Sakariya 2 (4b), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 32 (15b, 4x4, 1x6); Extras (w-5): 5; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 189.

**FALL OF WICKETS** 1-47 (du Plessis, 6.5 overs), 2-57 (Raina, 8.3), 3-114 (Moeen, 14.3), 4-134 (Rayudu, 16.2).

ROYALS BOWLING

Akash 4-0-39-0, Sakariya 4-0-31-1. Mustafizur 4-0-51-0. Te-

watia 4-0-39-3, Markande 3-0-26-0, Phillips 1-0-3-0

#### **RAJASTHAN ROYALS** Evin Lewis c Hazlewood b

Shardul 27 (12b, 2x4, 2x6), Yashasvi Jaiswal c Dhoni b Asif 50 (21b, 6x4, 3x6), Sanju Samson c Ruturaj b Shardul 28 (24b, 4x4), Shivam Dube (not out) 64 (42b, 4x4, 4x6), Glenn Phillips (not out) 14 (8b, 1x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-1, w-4, nb-2): 7; Total (for three wkts. in 17.3 overs):

**FALL OF WICKETS** 1-77 (Lewis, 5.2), 2-81 (Jaiswal, 6.1), 3-170 (Samson,

SUPER KINGS BOWLING

Sam Curran 4-0-55-0 Hazlewood 4-0-54-0, Shardul 4-0-30-2, Asif 2.1-0-18-1, Mo-2.2-0-23-0, een 1-0-9-0.

Toss: RR; MoM: Ruturaj. Rovals won by seven wickets with 15 balls to spare.

Innings scan							
CSK		RR					
33	Dots	32					
1.0		17					

russia Moenchengladbach 3

(Embolo 5, Hofmann 7, Scally 90+5): VfB Stuttgart 3 (Kempf

18, Mavropanos 60, Massimo

81) bt Hoffenheim 1 (Bruun

Larsen 84); Hertha Berlin 1

(Piatek 70) SC Freiburg 2 (Lien-

hart 17, Petersen 78).

10.85

44/0

### KKR has everything to play for

SPORTS BUREAU

Asprightly Kolkata
Knight Riders will face Kolkata a battered Sunrisers Hyderabad in Dubai on Sunday.

KKR now needs to win both its remaining matches to stand a chance of reaching the playoffs. Its aggressive makeover has revived fortunes in the second leg. Venkatesh Iyer's inclusion has provided the impetus in the PowerPlay. Dinesh Karthik's evolution as a middle-order finisher has

It is not clear if Andre Russell and Lockie Ferguson will be available.

helped.



## Upbeat Kohli's RCB eyes playoffs berth

SPORTS BUREAU

🕽 oyal Challengers Banga- $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  lore will look to secure its second successive berth in the IPL playoffs when it meets Punjab Kings at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Sunday. RCB (14 points) is coming off two convincing wins, against Mumbai Indians and Rajasthan Royals, kindling hopes of a maiden IPL title in Virat Kohli's last season as skipper.

Central to this is Glenn Maxwell's inspired form that has fetched back-to-back fifties. With A.B. de Villiers yet to fire, the possibilities seem immense for RCB. Harshal Patel's league-leading 26 wickets and Yuzvendra Cha-

SHARJAH, 3.30 P.M. IST

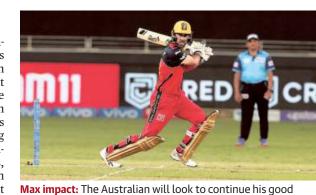
**HEAD-TO-HEAD** 

Played: 27

In 2021

Played 1 | RCB 0 | PBKS 1

RCB 12 | PBKS 15



hal's wily wrist spin have ensured that RCB remains well-

form when RCB takes on PBKS. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

rounded. PBKS, on the other hand, has blown hot and cold. But Friday's five-wicket win over

**DUBAI**, 7.30 P.M. IST

Played: 20

In 2021

Played 1 | KKR 1 | SRH 0

KKR 📵 | SRH 🔽

TODAY'S MATCHES

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

help, for the K.L Rahul-led outfit (10 points) found a way to end on the right side of a capricious encounter and remain in the race for the playoffs. Kolkata Knight Riders should However, Nicholas Pooran's form will be a worry with the Caribbean big-hitter totalling just 22 runs in the last three matches. But Shahrukh Khan, playing his first match of the se-

cond leg, showed glimpses of his bona fide ability as a T20 finisher with a nine-ball 22 against KKR. Arshdeep Singh (16 wickets) and Mohammad Shami (15 wickets) lead a bowling

This being an afternoon match, heat is set to be more of a factor, especially for the side fielding first.

attack that continues to be

Sharjah has thus far been a low-scoring venue, making the contest all the more in-

### **POINTS TABLE**

Team	М	w	L	PTS	NRR
Chennai Super Kings (Q)	12	9	3	18	0.829
Delhi Capitals (Q)	12	9	3	18	0.551
Royal Challengers	11	7	4	14	-0.200
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	5	7	10	0.302
Punjab Kings	12	5	7	10	-0.236
Rajasthan Royals	12	5	7	10	-0.337
Mumbai Indians	12	5	7	10	-0.453
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	11	2	9	4	-0.490
fter the RR-CSK match on Oct	. 2	Q	: Quali	fied; E:	Eliminated

### Three Indian pairs through

SPORTS BUREAU

Three Indian pairs made it to the quarterfinals of the Asian table tennis championships here on Saturday.

The results:

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals)** Men: Manav & Harmeet bt Naif Al Jadai & Al-Abbad Abdulaziz (KSA) 11-4, 11-9, 11-9; Sharath & Sathiyan bt Kirill Gerassimenko & Alan Kurmangatiev (Kaz) 11-9, 11-6, 9-

Women: Sutirtha & Ayhika bt Chen Szu-Yu & Ali Yu-Jhun (Tpe) 11-9, 12-10, 8-11, 11-9; Doo Hoi Kem & Lee Ho Ching (HKG) bt Sreeja Akula & Archana Kamath 12-10, 11-7, 10-

## Chelsea on top

ASSOCIATED PRESS Late goals by Timo Werner

and Ben Chilwell sent Chelsea to the top of the Premier League after a 3-1 win over 10-man Southampton on Saturday

Important results:

Premier League: Manchester United 1 (Martial 43) drew with Everton 1 (Townsend 65); Chelsea 3 (Chalobah 9, Werner 84, Chilwell 89) bt Southampton 1 (Ward-Prowse 61-pen).

90+1) bt Rayo Vallecano O; Real Mallorca 1 (Baba 74) bt Levante 0. Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 2 (Guerreiro 10-pen, Brandt 51) bt Augsburg 1 (Zeqi-

ri 35); VfL Wolfsburg 1

(Waldschmidt 24) lost to Bo-

LaLiga: Osasuna 1 (Sanchez

### India finishes with silver

SPORTS BUREAU SITGES (SPAIN)

mier championship.

Favourite Russia stopped India 2-0 to regain the FIDE World women's team chess Gomes). title on Saturday. For India, the fourth seed, the silver is the first medal in this pre-

The results (final): Set 1: Russia bt India 2.5-1.5 (Aleksandra

#### Vaishali; Kateryna Lagno bt Bhakti Kulkarni; Alina Kashlinskaya drew with Mary Ann Set 2: India lost to Russia 1-3

Goryachkina lost to D. Harika;

Alexandra Kosteniuk bt R.

(Harika drew with Goryachkina; Vaishali drew with Kosteniuk: Tania Sachdev lost to Lagno; Mary lost to Alina Kashlinskaya).

#### **TV PICKS** Australia Women vs India

Sony Ten 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m. IPL 2021: Star Sports 1 & SS

Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.

& 7.30 p.m. Durand Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 6 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m. & 9