



Priyanka Gandhi will be face of Cong. campaign in U.P., says P.L. Punia

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Govt. yet to take final call on COVID-19 vaccination for children

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China tested 'nuclear capable hypersonic missile' in Aug.: report

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Dravid front-runner as BCCI looks for a new head coach for Team India

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IN BRIEF



Lakhimpur Kheri: notices to farmers in second FIR

LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI
After arresting the son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra in connection with the mowing down of farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri, the police have now served notices on local farmers in the second first information report lodged in the incident on the death of three BJP workers.

NEWS PAGE 8

Cricketer Yuvraj Singh arrested, let off on bail

GURUGRAM
Cricketer Yuvraj Singh was arrested by the Haryana Police on Saturday in a case pertaining to offensive remarks against the Scheduled Castes on a social media platform. He was later released on interim bail. Nitika Gahlaut, Hansi Superintendent of Police, said the cricketer was arrested and released on court orders.

NEWS PAGE 10

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EDUCATIONPLUS PAGE 2

Dip in air quality spurs Delhi CM to seek action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

As Delhi's air quality deteriorates with several areas recording "very poor" air quality, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appealed to the Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to understand their responsibilities towards reducing stubble burning and controlling pollution.

The average air quality index (AQI) in the Capital, which is based on the readings of 31 weather stations, stopped two notches short of the "very poor" category on Sunday at 298. Other parts of the NCR such as Gurugram, Faridabad and Ghaziabad entered the "very poor" category with AQI readings of 332, 312 and 310 respectively.

'Pollution on the rise'

Mr. Kejriwal said, "For the past one month, I have been tweeting data of air quality in Delhi. Pollution has increased in the last 3-4 days and it is due to stubble burning in neighbouring States. Farmers in neighbouring States are compelled to burn stubble as their Governments are doing nothing to provide an alternative." He said the Delhi Government was doing its bit to curb vehicular pollution and pollution from stubble burning by spraying bio-decomposer, but could not do much to stop the air quality from deteriorating as neighbouring States were yet to act on stubble burning.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said in the last three days, incidents of stubble burning had increased rapidly in Punjab, U.P. and Haryana, which had an adverse impact on Delhi's air quality that was in the "moderate" category on Wednesday.

Kottayam, Idukki worst hit; Kerala rain toll at 27

Five more NDRF teams deployed; IMD warns of fresh rain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The death toll in rain-related incidents in Kerala rose to 27 on Sunday, with the recovery of more bodies from the landslip-ravaged areas of Kottayam and Idukki districts.

While the State experienced a marked reduction in rain on Sunday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan advised continued caution as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast widespread rain again from Wednesday. The disaster management machinery in the State would function round the clock, he said, urging the public to avoid unnecessary travel.

The bodies of more landslip victims were recovered from Koottickal, taking the overall toll in Kottayam district to 13. In Idukki, the bodies of eight landslip victims have been recovered from Kokkayar and one body from the nearby Peruvanthanam village, Idukki District Collector Sheeba George said.

Kerala also reported a number of drowning deaths, including that of an 18-month-old girl from Eramala in Kozhikode district. Thrissur and Palakkad districts reported one death each — of a 62-year-old man from Kunnankulam and a 75-



Scarred State: An aerial view of the landslip-hit area of Koottickal in Kottayam district, Kerala, on Sunday. •PTI/NAVY

year-old man from Pattambi.

Two persons lost their lives at Kanjar in Idukki on Saturday after their car was trapped in floodwaters.

The State would provide ₹4 lakh each in financial assistance to the kin of landslip victims in Palapally and Kavali areas of Koottickal pan-

chayat, Revenue Minister K. Rajan said.

Five more teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) would be deployed in Idukki, Kottayam, Kannur, Palakkad and Kollam districts, the CM said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

MODI DIALS PINARAYI PAGE 4

2 more migrant workers killed in J&K

All non-local labourers to be moved to camps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SRINAGAR

Terrorists shot dead two more non-local labourers and injured another on Sunday in Kulgam district of south Kashmir, prompting the police to direct that all non-resident labourers in the Valley be brought to the nearest security camps "immediately" for safety, officials said on Sunday.

This is the third attack on non-local workers in less than 24 hours, and is the latest in a series of shootings targeting civilians in recent



In action: Security forces at the site in Kulgam where two labourers were shot dead on Sunday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

weeks. A street vendor from Bihar and a carpenter from Uttar Pradesh were killed by the ultras on Saturday.

"Terrorists fired indiscriminately upon #NonLocal labourers at Wanpoh area of #Kulgam. In this #terror inci-

dent, 2 non-locals were killed and 1 injured," Kashmir zone police said on Twitter. Police and security forces cordoned off the area.

According to officials, the militants entered the rented accommodation of the la-

bourers and fired on them indiscriminately. The deceased were identified as Raja Reshi Dev and Joginder Reshi Dev, while Chun Chun Reshi Dev has been injured. All are residents of Bihar, the officials said.

A message flashed to all 10 district police stations in the Valley said: "All non-local labourers in your respective jurisdiction should be brought to the nearest police or central paramilitary force or Army establishment just now."

The attack drew strong condemnation from political parties across the board.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

ORDER FAKE, SAYS IG PAGE 9

Singhu murder: 3 sent to police custody

Police recover blood-stained clothing, weapons as accused confess to killing man

ASHOK KUMAR GURUGRAM

The three men arrested in connection with the murder of a man at Singhu border over alleged desecration of holy Sikh scripture, were remanded to six days in police custody by a local court on Sunday. Led by accused Narain Singh, the three confessed before the court to having committed the murder, said the Haryana Police.

So far, four people have been arrested by the Haryana Police in connection with the murder of Lakhbir Singh near the farmers' protest site at Singhu border on Friday.



Steel will: Farmers protest against the new farm laws at Singhu border on Saturday. •SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Narain Singh, Bhagwant Singh and Govind Preet were arrested on Saturday. Sarabjit was arrested a day earlier.

"Narain Singh told the court that he along with the

three committed the murder over desecration of the holy Sikh scripture. The three told the court that the man had committed a mistake and they punished him," said Virender Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Law and Order, Sonapat.

Mr. Singh heads a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the murder. Mayank Gupta, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Kharkhoda, heads another SIT in the case. In addition, several Crime Branch teams are also involved in the investigation.

Before his arrest on Saturday, Narain Singh, talking to

the media, had said Lakhbir Singh had been "punished" allegedly for sacrilege.

More arrests likely

Mr. Singh told *The Hindu* that blood-stained clothes of Narain Singh, who had surrendered before the Punjab Police, and the sword he used to commit the murder were recovered. "Narain, who heads one of the *deras*, wore the same set of clothes at the time of his arrest which he wore during the commission of crime. He also got his sword recovered," said Mr. Singh, not ruling out more arrests in the case.

UAVs boost Army watch in eastern sector

DINAKAR PERI MISSAMARI (ASSAM)

The Army Aviation has recently got control of Heron-1 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) in the eastern sector — these were earlier with the Artillery — bringing all aviation assets under

one roof and augmenting its ability to keep an eye on Chinese activities across the border.

The move comes just months after the raising of a new Aviation Brigade at Missamari in Assam.

"Army Aviation got con-

trol of the UAVs in August this year from Artillery. There are certain advantages of UAVs or remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) being with Army Aviation," an officer said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	30	23
Safdarjung	30	23
Palam	31	26

Delhi Palam Today
30°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with strong winds to occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
32°C A mostly dry weather to continue. Day will be warm. Night remains pleasant.

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IN BRIEF

Capital records 32 fresh COVID cases, zero deaths

NEW DELHI
The city saw 32 new COVID-19 cases and zero deaths, according to a health bulletin released on Sunday. The Delhi government said 44,867 tests had been conducted in the last 24 hours, with a positivity rate of 0.07%.

Jumma Namaz: efforts to find a solution in Gurugram futile

Residents stage protest every Friday to prevent prayers in commercial space

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Offering of Jumma Namaz in an open commercial space in upscale Sector 47 near Bakhtawar Chowk here has been in the eye of a controversy for almost a month now. The protests by the residents have been growing with each Friday and the administration's efforts to find an amicable solution by bringing both parties to a negotiation table have proved futile so far.

Several residents assembled at the site for a Jumma Namaz this past Friday as well, chanting the Hanuman Chalisa and playing bhajans on a hand-held portable music system. Holding placards against Namaz in the open, they soon began to march towards the faithful, but the police, deployed at the site, hurriedly intervened to stop them.

Spearheading the protests, local councillor Kul-

There was neither any "information" nor any "formal complaint" of harassment of women or any crime at this site

AMAN YADAV
ACP, Sadar Bazar

deep Yadav argued that the residents were not against any religion, but opposed to the gathering of "outsiders" in their residential area. He also said that the site was earmarked for a market and the same should be constructed at the earliest.

Sector 47 Resident Welfare Association president Sunil Yadav said the permission to hold Jumma Namaz at the said ground was granted only for a day in 2018.

In two rounds of meetings held between the two parties with the initiative of the administration and the police this past week, the

residents have demanded that the place of Namaz be shifted outside Sector 47 and suggested an open space near Subhash Chowk as an alternative.

Altaf Ahmad, part of the talks on behalf of his community, said the site was designated by the administration for holding Namaz and shifting to another place without a valid reason made little sense.

"And it is not going to help in any way because the protests are not about the place but are aimed at the community itself. The local authorities had designated 30-odd places for Namaz after protests by a few Hindu groups against Namaz in the open in 2018. But there had been renewed protests since March this year led by Dinesh Bharti, head of Bharat Mata Vahini. He succeeded in stopping Jumma Namaz in Sectors 39, 40 and 43 in March and April,"

Mr. Ahmad said.

Aman Yadav, ACP, Sadar Bazar, said efforts were on to find a solution and two rounds of meetings were held.

Mr. Yadav told the media that there was neither any "information" nor any "formal complaint" of harassment of women or any crime at this site. He said fake news spread through social media to vitiate the atmosphere.

Ritu Raj, Shiv Sena spokesperson, Haryana, said the administration had in 2018 agreed to gradually bring down the number of designated Namaz places and remove parks and public places from the list, but it was not done.

Mr. Ahmad said the administration had in 2018 brought down the number of open places for Namaz to 30-odd, including three mosques, from around 100 earlier.

CM lays foundation stone of new 1,430-bed hospital

Facility will be ready in 6 months: Kejriwal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

To improve the health infrastructure in the city and prepare for the possibility of further waves of COVID-19, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday laid the foundation stone of a new hospital with a capacity of 1,430 beds at Shalimar Bagh.

Being constructed at a cost of ₹275 crore, the hospital would be ready in six months, he said. He announced the government's plan to build seven new hospitals with a total capacity of 6,800 beds in the next six months.

"The Delhi government is taking all necessary steps in view of the possible third wave of COVID-19. We are going to make such a system under which every citizen of Delhi will have their own health card. Earlier, it used to cost ₹1 crore to make a normal bed, but our government is spending only ₹20 lakh on an ICU bed," Mr. Kejriwal said.

"All the 1,430 beds at the



Arvind Kejriwal •PTI

hospital will have ICU facilities. If you want to use it as a normal bed, then you can and if you want to use it as an ICU bed, then the complete infrastructure of ICU will be available on all 1,430 beds," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Speaking about the Health Information Management System (HIMS), the Chief Minister said within the next one-and-a-half years, every citizen of Delhi will have their own health card. He further said that HIMS will eliminate queues at hospitals and people will be able to make an appointment with the doctor via a computer or an app and receive free treatment.

HC notice to Centre, CRPF over denial of allowances

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has issued a notice to the Centre and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on a petition filed by over 40 Assistant Commandants seeking payment of their transfer travelling allowance (TFR/TA) along with other consequential benefits such as joining time pay.

A Bench of Justice Manmohan and Justice Navin Chawla has directed the Centre and the CRPF, India's largest Central Armed Police Force to respond to the petition within four weeks.

The petition has sought directions to pay TFR/TA as per the statutory rule on transfer of petitioners, who are officers of the rank of Assistant Commandants, from CRPF academy to their battalions after completion of their basic training as per Central Civil Services Rules.

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- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

Kingpin of gang involved in theft of 110 luxury cars held

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Sunday said that they have arrested the kingpin of an inter-State auto-lifting gang, who was involved in the theft of more than 110 luxury cars in Delhi-NCR. The accused, Niraj Sharma alias Vinay, was part of Sarkar Gang and was also in possession of a stolen car. The police said that after they received a tip-off, a team laid a trap near Jasola Park near Sarita Vihar. He was spotted arriving in a car

and was told to stop but he tried to drive away. After a brief chase, he was nabbed. On being asked about the ownership of the car, he couldn't provide any document.

On interrogation, the accused allegedly said that he used to steal cars and sell them in north-eastern States. He also disclosed that he was the kingpin of Sarkar Gang, which had been operating in Delhi and NCR since 2015. He used to work with two associates.

Delhi Metro offers Wi-Fi on Yellow Line

330 access points have been installed at 37 stations: DMRC

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Sunday said that it has introduced free high-speed Wi-Fi service for commuters at all 37 stations on its Yellow Line, which connects HUDA City Centre to Samaypur Badli.

"More than 330 access points have been installed at these 37 stations," the DMRC said in a release, adding that the free Wi-Fi will be particularly helpful for students travelling to and from north

Delhi campus of Delhi University.

Passengers will now be able to use standard internet applications like email, Facebook, Google, WhatsApp, and video and audio calls. They need to select OUI DMRC FREE Wi-Fi on their phones, following which they will have to enter mobile numbers and email ID to get an OTP by SMS. The reafter, one has to enter the OTP and accept the terms and conditions and tap the connect button to access the

Wi-Fi. The free Wi-Fi service is already available at all stations on the Blue Line and the Airport Express Line. "With the launch of Wi-Fi at all stations on the Yellow Line, OUI DMRC FREE Wi-Fi is now available at 94 stations of the Delhi Metro network. This free Wi-Fi is being provided by a consortium led by M/s Techno Sat Comm.," said Anuj Dayal, executive director (corporate communications), DMRC.

THE HINDU

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JAMSHED BHARUCHA

A student's brain is not a blank slate on which we inscribe knowledge. It is not a flash drive onto which we download information. And it is not a processor that executes Python instructions to be obeyed. Learning occurs when the brain's intricate neural networks adapt to the world, driven by an interaction between genes and the environment. Whether during early childhood or adolescence, traditional curricula and pedagogies do scant justice to the extraordinary dynamism and complexity of the developing brain.

As a professor and a parent, I am just as guilty as most adults in believing we can mould children in our image, on our schedule, our methods. If only they would listen instead of doing their own thing, making mistakes we told them to avoid, they would grow up to fulfil our dreams.

Whose dreams? For whom should the curriculum be designed? The time has come to shift the balance from elders' dreams to students' dreams. I am led to this conclusion not by a Utopian fantasy that children should be free, but by the science of learning. As a cognitive neuroscientist, I know that this is not how the child's brain works.

Evolution of learning agenda

The brain evolved to have a learning agenda more relentless, adaptive, and meaningful than any curriculum imposed by adults. From birth, children observe, probe, manipulate. The bustling world captivates their



Encourage a creative curriculum

Instead of transmitting information, we should encourage, shape, and nurture students' own expressive energy

senses and rivets their attention. They vocalise, gesticulate, emote and register how people react. They question incessantly, ideate extravagantly, and process feedback on their own terms. They prod, perturb, and play with everything to see how the world responds — first the toys at home and then the apps on their devices. As the child grows, the specifics of the learning equation

change, but the biological basic holds sway: the brain is wired to explore its physical, social and information environments and it learns from the feedback it receives.

Physical and social feedback to behaviour that originates with the child is more effective than recitations of do's and don'ts. Treating the child's spontaneous utterances and behaviour with respect for its natural learn-

ing mechanisms works better than talking down to a child. The key is not to fight what motivates students but to harness it.

Motivation is the most precious and least understood aspect of schooling. Without the motivation to learn and excel, formal education is futile. It cannot be commanded. Forcing a student to study something — when every fibre in his or

... listen to students, note what inspires them and what they resonate to, then focus on enriching, sharpening, refining, and fine tuning their natural tendencies.

her body resists it — is counterproductive. Professional success, personal fulfilment, and societal advancement arise when the full power of what drives students is understood and unleashed.

Does this mean that students should be entirely free to design their curriculum, without any role for the educator? No. It means that the educator's role should shift from didact to coach, from instructor to mentor, from commander to catalyst. Instead of transmitting information, we should encourage, shape, and nurture the students' own expressive energy. Focus on creating a stimulating and responsive learning environment. Expose students to a rich spectrum of experiences and activities. Instead of trying to manufacture graduates according to a top-down blueprint, listen to students, note what inspires them and what they resonate to, then focus on enriching, sharpening, refining, and fine tuning their natural tendencies.

Shift the balance

Another urgent reform is to shift the curricular balance away from rote subject knowledge and toward fundamental cognitive skills — most important among them being critical thinking and lucid communication. Instead of teaching subject knowledge and fundamental

cognitive skills as separate courses, they should be integrated as far as possible. This can be done by having the students learn subject knowledge by engaging with it critically and then communicating their understanding. Critical thinking is a basket of sub-skills, including analysis, logic, synthesis, objectivity, evaluation of evidence, constructive critique, intellectual risk-taking, being aware of confirmation bias, pondering alternative hypotheses, doing justice to contrary views, questioning one's own preconceptions, evaluating the credibility of sources, challenging orthodoxy, vigorous but civil debate, and seeing mistakes as learning opportunities. Focus more on cultivating fundamental cognitive skills that can be applied across subjects and less on accumulation of subject information — most of which is forgotten.

Let the student influence the destination of the ship of learning and let the educator coach the student on seamanship. A captain who has mastered the art and science of leading a crew and navigating the roughest oceans can travel to any destination. So it is with education. Having acquired critical thinking and communication skills, a student can succeed if these skills are pointed in the direction of his or her interests. Talent, in all its magnificent but chaotic diversity, should not be squeezed into boxes. Let talent speak, and let us find ways to develop that talent so that each child can become the best version of his or her innate self.

The writer is Founding Vice Chancellor, Sai University

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You have guided me throughout the journey- be it essay or interview. When I was down with COVID, your words and trust in my hard work was very encouraging and reassuring. Thank you for all the encouragement and Mentorship.

ANKITA JAIN
IAS 2020
Rank 03

I would like to sincerely thank Mitra sir for philosophy optional and ethics classes. His pedagogy emphasizes on logical approach, conceptual clarity and interlinkages with sound and updated content in both the subjects. Mitras IAS provides a great way to learn and approach the civil service examination.

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GENERATION DIVISION USHP-4, SUMBAL (Kangan)
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For and on behalf of the Managing Director, J&K Power Development Corporation, sealed bids (Two Cover) valid for 180 days, accompanied with Bid security declaration are invited from Registered firms/ Contractors having sufficient experience of the relevant job

S. No.	Description	Estimated cost (Lacs)	Amount of EMD (Rs)	Cost of tender Documents Rs. (Non refundable)	Time of completion
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CRITICAL DATES

1.	Date of Issue of tender notice	13-10-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents.	14-10-2021 to 25-10-2021
3.	Bid submission start date	14-10-2021
4.	Bid submission end date	25-10-2021
5.	Date & time of opening of Bid (Online).	26-10-2021

1. The complete bidding process shall be two cover. Cover 1 contains techno commercial bid and cover 2 contains price bid. However price shall quoted through online mode only. The bid document along with Bid security declaration, DD and all other required documents shall be uploaded online and also shall be submitted in the office of Superintending Engineer, Generation Circle-II, JKPCD, Bemina Srinagar and same will be considered for technical bid opening. Due to non operation of treasury in JKPCD the Cost of tender document in original shall be submitted in the office of Superintending Engineer, Generation Circle-II, JKPCD, Bemina Srinagar by or before bid submission end date.
2. Bid documents can be seen at & downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bid documents contain Qualifying criteria for the bidders, specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms & conditions and other details.
The following documents are to be uploaded along with the bid; otherwise the bid will be liable for rejection.
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PM Modi calls Pinarayi, offers support to Kerala
Central forces deployed in disaster-hit areas of the State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday and extended support to the State battling a flood and rain havoc situation.

In a Facebook post, Mr. Vijayan said Mr. Modi had telephoned him and sought the details of the situation. Mr. Modi also said the Centre would offer necessary assistance to the State to tide over the crisis.

Mr. Vijayan said National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams had been deployed in Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Malappuram districts. More NDRF teams were headed for Idukki, Kottayam, Kollam, Kannur and Palakkad.

The Army has been deployed in Thiruvananthapuram and Kottayam. It has mobilised a unit of the Engineering Task Force (ETF) from the Dakshin Bharat Area jurisdictional headquarters in Bengaluru for deployment in landslip-ravaged Mundakkayam in Kottayam.

The Indian Air Force has flown in two helicopters from the Sullur airbase in Coimbatore for rescue operations from the Thiruvananthapuram

Rapid Action Force and Kerala Fire and Rescue personnel at a landslip site in Kottayam on Sunday. *WISHNU PRATHAPN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday and extended support to the State battling a flood and rain havoc situation. In a Facebook post, Mr. Vijayan said Mr. Modi had telephoned him and sought the details of the situation. Mr. Modi also said the Centre would offer necessary assistance to the State to tide over the crisis. Mr. Vijayan said National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams had been deployed in Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Malappuram districts. More NDRF teams were headed for Idukki, Kottayam, Kollam, Kannur and Palakkad. The Army has been deployed in Thiruvananthapuram and Kottayam. It has mobilised a unit of the Engineering Task Force (ETF) from the Dakshin Bharat Area jurisdictional headquarters in Bengaluru for deployment in landslip-ravaged Mundakkayam in Kottayam. The Indian Air Force has flown in two helicopters from the Sullur airbase in Coimbatore for rescue operations from the Thiruvananthapuram

Northeast sweats in October heat
Meghalaya capital Shillong at 26.2°C.
"The rise in temperature is due to a low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal. There is less moisture because of the low pressure, resulting in this dry weather," said Sunit Das, a meteorologist at the IMD's Regional Meteorological Centre.
"But the temperature is set to go down with rain or thundershower likely in the next three or four days," he said.

Summer appears to have "encroached" upon autumn's space, resulting in one of the hottest Octobers across the Northeast in the past 50 years. But the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a few spells of rain or thundershowers in the next few days to tame the mercury. Guwahati recorded an average of 37.07°C over three days

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3 injured as car rams crowd in Bhopal
ANUP DUTTA
BHOPAL
Three persons were injured when a speeding car allegedly ran on a group of persons in Bhopal's Bajarai locality on Saturday night.
"The injured are residents of different localities under the Bajarai police station. One of them has been discharged, while two others are undergoing treatment at a hospital," Kamlesh Yadav of Bajarai police station told The Hindu.
The police has seized the vehicle and the driver arrested. "The driver's interrogation is underway," Deputy Inspector General of Police Irshad Wali told reporters on Sunday afternoon.
Earlier in the day, a disturbing video of the incident was circulated on social media.

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1. The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 13-10-2021 (18.00 hrs.).
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Transport Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi



A murder most foul

The farmers' movement must not let their platform to be used by sectarian outfits

The brutal murder of a Dalit Sikh man by a group of Nihangs – a religious sect that has also participated in the protests against the farm laws – at the site of the farm protests at the Singhu border in Haryana has brought the farmers' agitation into the spotlight for all the wrong reasons. The Nihang activists who are responsible for the murder must be apprehended immediately and tried for the horrific crime. Their blatant disregard for the rule of law is evident in the manner in which they have justified their crime and in their nonchalance in accepting responsibility for it citing their religious sect's traditional practices. The Haryana government must spare no effort in bringing the culprits to justice, should appeal for the strictest punishment and a message must be sent that the claims of religious sanction for violence are illegal and are punishable. While the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), which includes various farmer groups and has led the protests, has rightly distanced itself from the Nihangs and their actions and asked that the perpetrators be brought to book, it remains a question as to why groups which base themselves on religious traditions have been allowed to be a part of protests that are based on economic demands in the first place. In its loose nature of agglomeration, the SKM has sought to articulate the concerns by subsuming the interests of several sections of those involved in the farm sector. But it is clear that the nature of the protests – as demonstrations and protests by non-political party groups – has allowed it to be utilised by sectarian outfits for their ends.

The SKM has been a non-political party movement in order to articulate demands related solely to the farm laws and to direct the protests at the Union government. But in doing so, it has unwittingly allowed sectarian groups, whose motives are suspect, to share space with them. By and large, the farm agitations have been peaceful, even if their leaders have refused to give up on their position of repealing the laws passed in Parliament, but the incidence of violence such as those seen on Republic Day featuring a set of the agitators, besides the murder at Singhu suggest that the loose nature of the campaign is allowing such incidents to recur. Detractors of the farmers' movement have sought to denigrate it by reducing it to Sikh separatist and sectarian movements. A political attempt is being made to drive a wedge between the different communities that are a part of the protests, as seen in the reactions in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident in Uttar Pradesh as well. The farm protests cannot be wished away with such a reductive approach. Even as strict actions are taken against violent activists, the atmosphere of distrust that persists between the Government and the farm unions can only be reversed with further talks to address the latter's concerns with the laws.

Top league

The IPL reaffirmed the value of experience while showcasing new talent

The dust has finally settled on a long-winding tournament which also had a pandemic-induced interval. The 14th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) that commenced on April 9 in India, drew to a halt on May 2 following COVID-19's debilitating second wave. After a break, the league found its concluding phase in the desert sands with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) hosting the remaining matches from September 19 to October 15. The context, venues and timelines changed, but for the IPL some truths seemed eternal. Chennai Super Kings (CSK) may not have as many titles as Mumbai Indians (MI) but when it comes to consistency, no other outfit can challenge M.S. Dhoni's men dressed in the yellow shade. CSK emerged champion with a swagger while ignoring the sarcasm around it being a 'Dad's Army' considering the veterans in its ranks starting with Dhoni at 40. Having finished seventh in the previous edition in the UAE, the Chennai unit had the odds stacked against it while defending champion MI with five titles, seemed poised to extend its legacy. But when the cricket caravan moved from India to the UAE, CSK remained the team to beat while MI failed to qualify for the play-offs. CSK claimed its fourth title and is just behind MI in the trophy sweepstakes.

In the final against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), CSK held the momentum and the rival fell short by 27 runs. But, as Dhoni mentioned, it is tough to stay in the bottom half for a large part of the tournament and then qualify for the summit clash. KKR precisely did that under Eoin Morgan before stumbling in the climax. CSK's overwhelming experience as reflected in Dhoni, Dwayne Bravo, Faf du Plessis, Moeen Ali, Suresh Raina, Robin Uthappa and Ambati Rayudu, allied with youngsters like Rituraj Gaikwad, proved to be a combination that kept its calm despite Twenty20's frenzied rush. With Shardul Thakur, Bravo, Deepak Chahar and Ravindra Jadeja chipping in as bowlers, CSK covered all bases. While KKR was the surprise packet, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) and Delhi Capitals failed to break their trophy drought despite making it to the last four. The IPL's penchant to highlight fresh talent was evident too as Rituraj, KKR's Venkatesh Iyer, RCB's Harshal Patel or Sunrisers Hyderabad speedster Umran Malik, to name a few, drew attention. While the league prospered, it is sobering to reflect upon bubble fatigue, a grim reality these days, which forced Chris Gayle to skip mid-way. Financially sound, the IPL however is at an emotional tipping point as the addition of two new franchises for the 2022 season would mean that the next player-auction can alter team-compositions and test fan loyalties.

State elections, limits of caste-based strategies

Caste demographics do not have the deterministic effect on electoral outcomes that is often assumed



GILLES VERNIERS

As a new round of State elections approaches in India, political parties are crafting their electoral strategies. A large part of this exercise consists of constituency mapping, or gathering data about caste and community demographics, information about the local balance of power between groups, and the identification of local caste leaders, with the aim of matching candidates' selection with a particular reading of the socio-political characteristics of each seat.

As a political variable

These caste-based strategies also include larger-scale equations, in which parties target their discourse towards specific segments of the electorate, again defined along caste lines. In recent months, we have seen the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) amplifying gestures towards Brahmin communities, hoping to bank on the resentment generated by an overtly pro-Rajput administration.

Both practices – micro- and macro-caste targeting – have been used in Indian politics, and in Uttar Pradesh in particular, for a long time. The incentives for parties and candidates to look at the electorate through the lens of caste are clear: caste makes a complex social and political scene readable. It simplifies things. It spares parties from having to address what individuals want, by clubbing individual aspirations into collective ones, based on their ascriptive identities.

But reading politics or the electorate exclusively through the lens of caste leads to many over-simplifications and misconceptions about the ways caste operates as a political variable.

For instance, much is made about caste voting and caste and party alignments. Pre-poll and post-poll surveys seek to investigate the electoral behaviour of large groups taken as a whole. In reality, most voters in Uttar Pradesh do not belong to groups that are associated in any stable way with any party. Caste politics is the game of a few and not of many. Most castes are too small or too geographically scattered, or too poor, to constitute a core support base for any party or candidate, even locally.

Findings of a survey

As a result, only a few groups vote cohesively for specific parties, such as the Jatavs for the BSP, the Yadavs for the SP, upper castes with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and so on. And even then, the extent of cohesiveness in these groups' support to the parties that seek to represent them greatly varies through time. According to a Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS)/Lokniti survey data, since 2007, the support of Jatavs and Yadavs for the BSP and SP has eroded. The same survey data reveal a growing rift among Yadavs along class lines, richer Yadavs being more likely to vote for the BJP. Over the past 30 years, upper-caste voters have not always supported the BJP cohesively and neither have the large number of small, non-dominant Other Backward Classes and Dalit groups that today constitute the other core of its electoral base in Uttar Pradesh.

The data available on how people vote suggest an absence of caste-based block voting and show instead caste-party alignments



that are loose, and fluctuate over time.

Micro-targeting strategy

Since 2014, the BJP has successfully developed a strategy based on the micro-targeting of small groups. To achieve this, it has used a combination of approaches or registers of mobilisation that include caste appeal, through the organisation of small caste melas, the induction of non-dominant OBC leaders within the party, the sponsoring of small caste/community events, and so forth. It also uses the rhetoric of inclusion and justice by claiming to be non-discriminatory in the distribution and provision of public goods and welfare benefits. In the process, they depict their adversaries as elitist political parties that treat their core support base preferentially. Lastly, they also use religion and nationalism as mobilisation tools that are meant to bind together segments of the electorate that have otherwise little interest in common, including the upper castes. This is how the BJP has succeeded in building a social coalition of groups that include both traditional upper-caste elites and non-dominant backward groups.

Caste in this context does not lose its salience but is merely part of a strategy that uses a variety of discourses to mobilise voters. Caste arithmetic matters, but is insufficient in and of itself to win an

election. For instance, caste considerations will still largely determine the distribution of tickets, which, in turn, will shape the representation of various groups in the State Assembly. But it does not account for the complexity of voters' electoral behaviour, nor for overall party appeal or campaign effects.

Strongholds and seats

Another indicator of the fluctuating association between caste and politics is the relatively small number of caste strongholds, defined as seats that regularly return MLAs who may belong to different parties but belong to the same caste.

In 2017, 319 seats changed hands in terms of party, owing to the strong performance of the BJP, which won 272 of these seats (it retained 40 of the 47 seats it won in 2012). Of these 319 seats, only 74 elected an MLA from the same caste as in 2012. Overall, the caste retention of seats in an Assembly of 403 was 34% (139 MLAs), which includes re-elected MLAs and new MLAs from the same or from different parties.

Even before the 2007 delimitation, the number of caste strongholds was quite limited. Between 1996 and 2007, voters elected MLAs who belong to the same caste consecutively in only 94 seats (28 of which were won by the same party in the three elections). This fact alone, combined with an overall high electoral volatility, indicates that caste demographics do not have the deterministic effect on electoral outcomes that is often assumed.

Caste-based strategies are also more likely to be effective when the electorate and the party system are highly fragmented. Parties can seek to build minimal caste coalitions at the constituency level to get the minimum number of votes required to garner seats. Be-

fore 2017, the average vote share of winners, or winning thresholds, hovered at around 35%.

This played to the advantage of regional parties, who could combine the strength of their core support base with the votes that candidates belonging to other castes could bring on their own. This was known as the transferability of vote bank.

Uttar Pradesh, post-2012

But after 2012, the rise of the BJP reduced the fragmentation of the party system, which meant the winning threshold was pushed higher. In 2017, the average vote share of winners was 43%, against 35% in 2012. In such a context, strategies that rely mostly on caste arithmetic become insufficient, since it is much harder to mobilise many castes at the same time in fragmented constituencies.

This explains why the BJP holds considerable advantage against its adversaries. Beyond the question of resources and organisational strength, the BJP has developed the ability to reach out to a wide array of groups by using multiple registers of mobilisation, including caste, religion, nationalism, welfare, and an anti-elite discourse targeting its opponents.

In contrast, the BSP and the SP seem to rely on the strategies that helped them win majorities in 2007 and 2012, but that have proved ineffective to counter the BJP's dominance over the past three elections (2014, 2017 and 2019). The future will tell if these parties can reinvent their electoral strategies. The one thing that is certain for them at this point is that time is running short.

Gilles Verniers is Assistant Professor of Political Science and Co-Director of the Trivedi Centre for Political Data, Ashoka University. The views expressed are personal.

A Turkish foreign policy treading on Ottoman footprints

Ankara could soon realise that domestic divisions and economic fragility are what will determine its regional influence



TALMIZ AHMAD

All across the former Ottoman realm, there is today a Turkish presence – diplomatic, economic and even military – as the Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, seeks to reshape his modern nation with the imprint of its earlier Islamic and military glory. Turkish troops have penetrated deep into Iraq and Syria. Turkish officers are advising the Islamist faction in Libya and supporting it with mercenaries from Syrian militia. Turkey's navy has become an aggressive presence in the East Mediterranean and is asserting control over gas reserves that Greece and Cyprus claim as their own.

Military, diplomatic moves

Turkey is also a military player in the south Caucasus; last year, it supported Azerbaijan against its arch-rival, Armenia, and secured a victory for its protégé that gave it a large part of the territory it claimed from its neighbour. And, as the modern-day sultan claims the Islamic heritage of the Ottomans, he has been confronting till recently the opponents of political Islam in the region – Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

These robust initiatives have created concerns among regional players – the Ottomans' traditional rivals, Iran and Russia, and the contemporary superpower, the United States. With them, Turkey is engaged in complex brinkmanship, in turn confrontationalist and accommodative, that imparts tension and uncertainty to these im-

portant relationships.

Turkey's military forays into Syria and Iraq have a contemporary urgency – the aspirations of the Kurds for autonomy, if not independence.

In Iraq, Turkey regularly pounds the Turkish Kurds who have taken sanctuary in the Iraqi mountains, with its air force and carries out targeted killings of local commanders with its lethal drones. In Syria, the contiguity of territories under Kurdish control has been broken by Turkey's three military incursions since 2016 and most of the Syrian-Turkish border is now under Turkish control.

Turkey is also involved in a complex charade at Idlib, the last bastion in Syria in rebel hands. Here, it is trying to get the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the former al-Qaeda-affiliated Jabhat Nusra, to merge with the Syrian National Army, a coalition of rebel forces it has put together. Turkey believes that, with the formidable HTS on its side, it will be able to contain Kurdish aspirations in northern Syria with local militia.

Beyond West Asia, two hotspots have emerged – again in old Ottoman territory. Having obtained control over the Nakhchivan enclave in the west of Armenia, Azerbaijan now demands control over the passageway, called the Zangezur corridor, that would link Azerbaijan with the enclave. This corridor, if connected, would cut off Iran's direct link with Armenia, which is Iran's sole land route to the northern Caucasus, while giving Turkey a direct route to Azerbaijan and the Central Asian republics, bypassing Iran.

This issue has divided the region – Turkey has put together a tripartite security alliance of itself, Georgia and Azerbaijan, while Iran has affirmed its ties with Armenia and has carried out military exercises at the Azerbaijan border.



Again, Turkey is highlighting its ties with Georgia and Ukraine, rejecting Russia's "illegal occupation" of the Crimea and providing Ukraine with military drones. From June this year, it has begun the construction of "Canal Istanbul", a new link from the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara, raising concerns in Russia that Turkey might someday restrict free movement between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.

In the Mediterranean, Greece and Cyprus have been central to France's outreach to Africa. This is now challenged by Turkey's robust outreach to African countries and its plans to obtain a naval presence on the Libyan coast and in the Red Sea. Now, following the AUKUS humiliation – the trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States – France has concluded a new defence agreement with Greece to upgrade the Greek navy to challenge Turkey in the Mediterranean; it is also supplying fighter jets to the air force, but this deal was signed earlier in January 2021.

Turkey versus the U.S., Russia

Both Russia and the U.S. have been watching Turkey's regional shenanigans with grim concern. Turkey has been alarmed by the U.S.'s backing for the Syrian Kurds and is

suspicious of a possible U.S. role in the attempted coup in July 2016 to overthrow Mr. Erdoğan. Violating its status as a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member, Turkey purchased the Russian S-400 missile defence system in 2017. The U.S. then expelled Turkey from the development of America's F-35 jet fighter project and imposed some sanctions.

While Mr. Erdoğan's personal relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin have flourished, there have been regular downturns as well. Turkey and Russia are on opposite sides in Syria, Libya, Ukraine and in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict, but have somehow ensured that these differences do not reach breaking-point. Mr. Putin prioritises detaching Turkey from NATO and has adopted 'strategic patience' in dealing with the prickly Turkish leader.

Recently, in an attempt to ingratiate himself with U.S. President Joe Biden, Mr. Erdoğan has quite unexpectedly asked the U.S. to supply 40 F-16 fighter jets and 80 modernisation kits for its existing aircraft. But observers believe this could be Mr. Erdoğan's "last test of confidence" for the Biden administration. Knowing well the hostility directed at Turkey in the U.S. Congress, the expected rejection of this request will enable Mr. Erdoğan to shift irrevocably to Russia – Mr. Putin has already promised him Russia's fifth-generation Sukhoi Su-57 aircraft in place of the F-35 jet and even a second battery of the S-400 defence system.

Resetting relationships

As the U.S. disengages from the region, West Asia is experiencing a churn. Saudi Arabia and Iran, whose rivalry has defined regional politics for over a decade, are now talking about re-establishing di-

plomatic ties and addressing their bilateral and regional concerns.

Turkey has reached out to both Egypt and Saudi Arabia to improve their relations; the latter are holding back to see evidence of real change on the Turkish side – particularly in regard to its support for the Muslim Brotherhood. Turkey has also signalled a new approach in Libya that would accommodate its rivals – Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Russia. Here, Turkish priority is to detach Egypt from its ties with Greece, Cyprus and Israel, and make it its own ally in the ongoing competition in the Mediterranean.

With Iran, Turkey is pursuing a dual-track approach – confronting it in the Caucasus, while building substantial bilateral energy and economic ties. It is also keeping open the option of closer strategic relations in case Egypt and Saudi Arabia remain lukewarm to Turkey's overtures.

The outlook for Turkey's ties with the big powers – the U.S. and Russia – remains uncertain. Turkey insists on asserting its strategic autonomy and independence of action, and enjoys sitting at the global high table, its counsel being respectfully solicited by both powers – as it was in the heyday of the Ottoman empire.

But what Turkey could soon discover is that the era of the sultans is over and its domestic divisions and economic fragility – unemployment, inflation, currency collapse, and capital flight – will finally determine its regional influence. And here, it will be found seriously wanting – as the Ottomans were in the late 19th century.

Talmiz Ahmad is the former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, and holds the Ram Sathie Chair for International Studies, Symbiosis International University, Pune

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

At the CWC meeting

It is surprising that Mrs Sonia Gandhi, as "a full-time and hands-on Congress President", has not utilised the occasion of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting to carry along with her the leaders, including the G-23 members (Page 1, "Congress announces organisational polls", October 17). A deep introspection of why some leaders had to vent their

concerns openly could have been beneficial to the top leadership and the cadre. The Congress needs to attract talent and ensure that leaders, veterans and youngsters, are not alienated. It is not clear as to what the five-hour long CWC meeting has achieved except announcing an organisational poll schedule which will result in "electing" a new President after one year! One year is a very long

period in politics. It is evident that the ground is being prepared for Rahul Gandhi, who is still at a "will consider it" stage, to take over as the President. It is no secret that Mr. Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are running the show.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

CSK's win

The victory of Chennai Super Kings in the Indian

Premier League 2021 is much deserved. The team's adherence to experience paid off through Mahendra Singh Dhoni's brilliant captaincy. As Ian Bishop said, "CSK's performance is consistent throughout the IPL and is what makes them a classic team."

RINS PADAMATTUMMAL S.J.,
Thiruvananthapuram

Capturing MDT23

It is a great relief that the Mudumalai tiger, 'MDT23',

has been captured successfully. The Tamil Nadu Forest Department's efforts to resolve this episode of man-animal conflict peacefully is praiseworthy. Animal lovers also thank the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court who quashed the order to kill the tiger. We need to understand the problems of wild animals as 'MDT23' was old and injured and, going by his

pictures, needs help.

MONITA SUTHERSON,
Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu

■ Every creature reflects God's beauty and tigers are magnificent and majestic. No doubt, two lives have been lost, allegedly because of this tiger. But it is we humans who have occupied or encroached into habitats.

T. ANAND RAJ,
Chennai

Alarming hunger or statistical artefact?

The low rank on the Global Hunger Index should push India to look again at its policies and interventions



SUNNY JOSE
& MD ZAKARIA SIDDIQUI



SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

This year's Global Hunger Index (GHI) did not go down well with the government. This was expected given that it ranks India 101 out of 116 countries for which reliable and comparable data exist. To add insult to injury, the GHI puts India far below some of its neighbouring countries. Barring last year's rank of 94 out of 107 countries, India's rank has been between 100 and 103 since 2017. This year's slide in the rank assumes significance especially in the context of COVID-19.

Is India's performance on hunger as dismal as denoted by the index or is it partly a statistical artefact? This question assumes immediacy, especially since the government has questioned the methodology and claimed that the ranking does not represent the ground reality. This calls for careful scrutiny of the methodology, especially of the GHI's components.

The GHI has four components. The first – insufficient calorie intake – is applicable for all age groups, whereas the remaining three – wasting (low weight for height), stunting (low height for age) and mortality – are confined to children under five years. The data on deficiency in calorie intake, accorded 33% weight, is sourced from the Food and Agriculture Organization's Suite of Food Security Indicators (2021). Had the GHI been estimated using the latest data on calorie intake, usually provided by the National Sample Survey Office, things might have looked even worse given that the leaked report of 2019 indicated that consumption expenditure in India declined between 2011-12 and 2017-18 by 4%. In rural India, it was worse at about 10% per annum.

The data on child wasting and stunting (2016-2020), each accounting for 16.6% of weight, are from the World Health Organization, UNICEF and World Bank, complemented with the latest data from the Demographic and Health Surveys. Under-five mortality data are for 2019 from the UN Inter-Agency Group for Child

Mortality Estimation. Contrary to what is being claimed by the government, the assessment of the situation of hunger is not based on the results of a 'four question' opinion poll, conducted telephonically by Gallup. However, this does not mean that the GHI is free from inadequacies.

A problematic component

Conceptually, the GHI is largely children-oriented with a higher emphasis on undernutrition than on hunger and its hidden forms, including micronutrient deficiencies. The first component – calorie insufficiency – is problematic for many reasons. The lower calorie intake, which does not necessarily mean deficiency, may also stem from reduced physical activity, better social infrastructure (road, transport and healthcare) and access to energy-saving appliances at home, among others. Recent analysis establishes that 'physical disease environment' at the State level also significantly influences the calorie intake. For a vast and diverse country like India, using a uniform calorie norm to arrive at deficiency prevalence means failing to recognise the huge regional imbalances in factors that may lead to differentiated calorie requirements at the State level. From this vantage point, a large proportion of the population in Kerala and Tamil Nadu may get counted as calorie deficient despite them being better in nutritional outcome indicators. So, prevalence of calorie deficiency in these States may be overestimated.

Conversely, there are States that have a higher average level of calorie intake, such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, but their needs may even be higher than the earmarked level of required calories for India as a whole because these States have high prevalence of communicable diseases and low level of mechanisation in the

economy. Thus, it is likely that the existing methodology might underestimate the prevalence of calorie deficiency in these States. All this raises questions on the appropriateness of the calorie component of the index. India's own official estimates of prevalence of calorie deficiency are not free from this anomaly.

Tackling wasting and stunting

The GHI highlights India's dismal record in a domain that it can hardly defend, which is child undernutrition. India's wasting prevalence (17.3%) is one among the highest in the world. Its performance in stunting, when compared to wasting, is not that dismal, though. Child stunting in India declined from 54.2% in 1998-2002 to 34.7% in 2016-2020, whereas child wasting remains around 17% throughout the two decades of the 21st century.

Stunting is a chronic, long-term measure of undernutrition, while wasting is an acute, short-term measure. Child wasting can manifest as a result of an immediate lack of nutritional intake and sudden exposure to an infectious atmosphere. Quite possibly, several episodes of wasting without much time to recoup can translate into stunting. However, a higher order of priority was accorded to stunting, both in research and policy, for the right reasons as it is a stable indicator and does not oscillate with minor changes in circumstances, while wasting does. Sporadic emergent circumstances in different regions may increase wasting prevalence. Effectively countering episodes of wasting resulting from such sporadic adversities is key to making sustained and quick progress in child nutrition. Thus, variations in wasting prevalence across the region should guide the relative emphasis of policy attention.

If India can tackle wasting by effectively monitoring regions that are more vulnerable to socioeconomic and environmental crises, it can possibly improve wasting and stunting simultaneously. There seems to be no short-cut way of improving stunting without addressing wasting. Additionally, studies say that COVID-19 is likely to exacerbate child undernutrition in general and child wasting in particular. Such insights should have driven social policy to counter the adverse impacts of COVID-19 on food and nutrition insecurity. Unfortunately, India lost this opportunity as Integrated Child Development Scheme services were either non-functional or severely disrupted – partly because the staff and services were utilised to attend to the COVID-19 emergency.

An exception

India's relatively better performance in the other component of GHI – child mortality – merits a mention. Studies suggest that child undernutrition and mortality are usually closely related, as child undernutrition plays an important facilitating role in child mortality. However, India appears to be an exception in this regard. India's child mortality rate has been lower compared to Sub-Saharan African countries despite it having higher levels of stunting. This implies that though India was not able to ensure better nutritional security for all children under five years, it was able to save many lives due to the availability of and access to better health facilities.

The low ranking does not mean that India fares uniformly poor in every aspect. Should we then dismiss the GHI as it shows India in a bad light and relegate it to political white noise because it does not suit us? Or should we gracefully accept its insights informing us that our performance in some aspects might actually be dismal and requires urgent attention and course correction? This ranking should prompt us to look at our policy focus and interventions and ensure that they can effectively address the concerns raised by the GHI, especially against pandemic-induced nutrition insecurity.

Sunny Jose is RBI Chair Professor at Council for Social Development, Hyderabad and Md Zakaria Siddiqui is Associate Professor at Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram. Views are personal

The founder of a 'mini-India'

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's ideas on religious unity and the use of education for national integration are still relevant



TARIQ MANSOOR

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, an iconic social reformer and founder of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), which has completed 100 years, was born on October 17, 1817. That was a long time ago, but his thought process is as relevant today as ever before.

Integration through education

With the new National Education Policy, the role of education in national integration has been rekindled. National integration is a reality today. During colonialism, it was an ideal for Sir Syed. His distinctiveness lay in the way he used education as a tool for national integration. He said in 1883: "It is the... verdict of all the nations and great seers of the world that national progress depends on education and training (of the people). If, therefore, we desire the prosperity and development of our nation, we should strive for a national system of education to educate our people in science and technology."

Some scholars on colonial history have criticised some of Sir Syed's statements on social order and his perceived closeness with the colonial government. However, to draw a generalised conclusion on Sir Syed's convictions merely through the lens of some quotes without understanding their context would not be a fair way to assess his legacy. A person's text should be judged in the context of the time in which they lived. The period of Sir Syed's life was characterised by rapid transition – Mughal rule yielding to British imperialism. We must not underestimate the challenges posed by the new order for someone brought up in the old order. Sir Syed embraced change against all the odds.

When Sir Syed started his project of educational renaissance, he invited all Indians to come together to join hands in the struggle against illiteracy. This arose from his wish to unshackle Hindus and Muslims from medieval thinking towards broad-mindedness, reason and progress. It is critical to understand that while his approach always remained inclusive, he gave special attention to Muslims as Hindus had embarked on the path to scientific education much earlier than Muslims. It is a known fact that the debate on the tension between religion and science had settled earlier among Hindus than Muslims. Sir Syed laid out his vision for Hindu-Muslim unity in a speech in January 1883 where he said, "India is like a bride which has got two beau-

tiful and captivating eyes – Hindus and Muslims. Within the ranks of the Hindus or Muslims themselves, or even between brothers as also between fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, there is dissension. But to make it perennial is a symptom of the decay of the family, the country, and of the nation."

Inter-faith understanding

The bonhomie between the two communities has always existed since the inception of the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College, the precursor of AMU. This was not a small task. During colonial rule, a narrative of hatred had been engineered by the British. Sir Syed led by example. During the Bismillah ceremony of his grandson Ross Masood, Sir Syed placed him in the lap of his friend Raja Jai Kishan Das. When Sir Syed established a madarsa in Ghazipur, he elected Raja Dev Narayan Singh as patron of the school. Sanskrit was one of the five languages taught at this school. The managing committee of MAO College comprised 22 members of whom nine were Hindus.

Sir Syed laid the foundation of comparative religious studies and revived the spirit of Dara Shikoh's philosophy – to bring major communities of India together by finding commonalities in their religions and assimilate them as a one mighty stream. This is why AMU established the Dara Shikoh Centre for Interfaith Understanding. Section 5 (2)(b) of the AMU Act empowers the university to promote the study of religions, civilisation and culture of India.

In AMU's 100 years, it has not only contributed to nation-building but also played a role in India's quest for building friendly ties with the Muslim world. For this, AMU is recognised as an institution of national importance under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. During the course of history, AMU has passed through many challenges but never has it abandoned its inclusive character. Apart from drawing students from 26 other countries, it has students from 31 States and Union Territories and thus represents India's multi-religious, multi-racial and multi-lingual character. This is why Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the centenary celebrations of AMU in 2020, called the institution a "mini-India". Mr. Modi underscored the principles of 'nation first' and 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas', while emphasising that Sir Syed established AMU with a rational, progressive and scientific mindset. It is appreciable that the Prime Minister invoked the contribution of a 19th century reformer in the making of 21st century India. This is a testament to the vision of a man who was far ahead of his times.

Tariq Mansoor is Vice-Chancellor, AMU

Powering the energy sector

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill is a game-changer

T.V. NARENDRAN

In an energy-dependent country like India, the availability of energy supplies at affordable rates is pivotal for fulfilling developmental priorities. But the energy sector is beset with problems. The distribution sector has for long been the bane of the power sector, consistently making huge losses owing to problems such as expensive long-term power purchase agreements, poor infrastructure, inefficient operations, and leakages and weaknesses in State-level tariff policies. Most discoms are deep into the red as high aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses are chipping into their revenues.

Dismantling state monopoly

Against this backdrop, the Electricity (Amendment) Bill of 2020 is a game-changing reform. The wide-ranging provisions of the Bill will set the process of de-licensing power distribution after the monopoly of the state is dismantled. This will provide the consumers with an option of choosing the service provider, switch their power supplier and enable the entry of private companies in distribution, thereby resulting in increased competition. In fact, privatisation of discoms in Delhi has reduced AT&C losses significantly from 55% in 2002 to 9% in 2020.

Open access for purchasing power from the open market should be implemented across States and barriers in the form of cross subsidy surcharge, additional surcharge and electricity duty being applied by States should be reviewed. Discoms and regulators should be brought on board for proper implementation of open access, which will provide more options to consumers to choose their discom just as they are able to choose telecom providers.

The question of tariffs needs to be revisited if the power sector is to be strengthened. Tariffs ought to be reflective of average cost of supply to begin with and eventually move to customer category-wise cost of supply in a defined time frame. This will facilitate reduction in cross subsidies. All this will happen when discoms are made autonomous and are allowed by regulatory authorities to

revise tariffs without interference from the States.

Electrical energy should be covered under GST, with a lower rate of GST, as this will make it possible for power generator/transmission/distribution utilities to get a refund of input credit, which in turn will reduce the cost of power. Other antidotes to the problem include use of technology solutions such as installation of smart meters and smart grids which will reduce AT&C losses and restore financial viability of the sector.

Push for renewal energy

The impetus to renewal energy, which will help us mitigate the impact of climate change, is much needed. One option is to encourage rooftop solar plants. Despite its inherent benefits, the segment has shown relatively slow progress with an estimated installed capacity of 5-6 GW as on date, well short of the 2022 target.

Another welcome feature of the Bill is the strengthening of the regulatory architecture of the sector. This will be done by appointing a member with a legal background in every electricity regulatory commission and strengthening the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity. This will ensure faster resolution of long-pending issues and reduce legal hassles.

The Bill also underpins the importance of green energy by proposing a penalty for non-compliance with the renewable energy purchase obligations which mandate States and power distribution companies to purchase a specified quantity of electricity from renewable and hydro sources. This will ensure that India gradually moves towards non-fossil fuels thereby helping it meet its global climate change commitments.

Some other significant features of the Bill such as the creation of an Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority to supervise the fulfillment of contractual obligations under power purchase agreement, cost reflective tariffs and provision of subsidy through DBT are commendable. Early passage of the Bill is critical as it will help unleash a path-breaking reform for bringing efficiency and profitability to the distribution sector.

T.V. Narendran is President, CII

DATA POINT

Passport power

The 'strength' of the Indian passport has weakened in the last decade, according to the Henley Passport Index for 2021. The index ranks normal passports (non-diplomatic, not issued for emergency or temporary use) of countries according to the number of destinations its holders can visit without a visa or can avail themselves of a visa, a visitor's permit, or an electronic travel authority on arrival. The more such destinations for a country's passport, the 'stronger' the passport. India is ranked 90 out of 199 countries. In 2011, its rank was 78. Between 2011 and 2021, only five destinations were added to India's visa-free access list. By Jasmin Nihalani and Sumant Sen



Passport holders of Japan, Singapore, Germany and South Korea can visit at least 190 destinations without a visa, according to the 2021 rankings



Afghanistan passports are at the bottom of the table. Holders have visa-free access to only 26 countries



The U.A.E. jumped 49 spots in the 2021 ranking compared to 2011

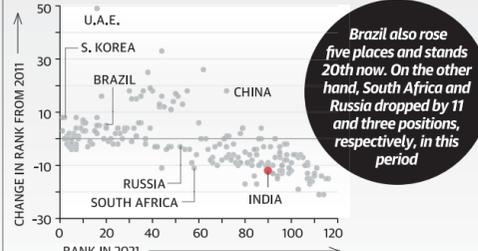
1. WHERE INDIA STANDS | Indian passport holders are allowed visa-free travel to 58 countries as of 2021. Japan and Singapore are the two top-ranked nations – their passport holders are allowed visa-free travel to 192 countries

Rank	Countries	Countries with visa-free access
1	Japan, Singapore	192
2	Germany, South Korea	190
3	Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain	189
4	Austria, Denmark	188
5	France, Ireland, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden	187
6	Belgium, New Zealand, Switzerland	186
7	Czech Republic, Greece, Malta, Norway, U.K., U.S.	185
8	Australia, Canada	184
9	Hungary	183
10	Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia	182
90	India, Burkina Faso, Tajikistan	58

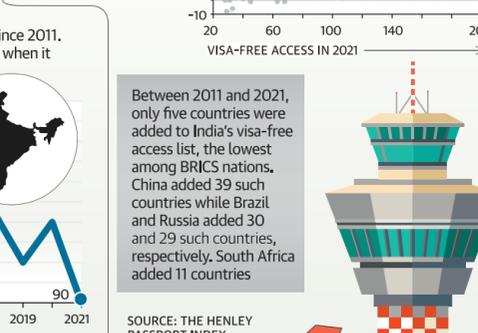
2. RANKING OVER TIME | India's latest rank is its lowest since 2011. Between 2011 and 2021, India's best ranking was in 2013 when it stood 74th among 199 countries



3. CHANGE IN RANK | The chart plots a country's rank in 2021 against the change in its rank from 2011. India's rank fell 12 positions in this period. Among other BRICS nations, China is ranked 72 in 2021, advancing 18 positions between 2011 and 2021



4. CHANGE IN ACCESS | The chart plots the total number of visa-free destinations for a country in 2021 against the change in such destinations for the country from 2011



Between 2011 and 2021, only five countries were added to India's visa-free access list, the lowest among BRICS nations. China added 39 such countries while Brazil and Russia added 30 and 29 such countries, respectively. South Africa added 11 countries

SOURCE: THE HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 18, 1971

"Stress on degrees should go"

Ahmedabad, Oct. 17: Dr. Atma Ram, former Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, has called for a drastic change in the present educational system to make it more job-oriented. The present system laid stress only on the student's acquiring a degree and not on skill and capacity. Punjab, Haryana, and Gujarat had made economic strides by the skill of its workers and not by the degrees of the universities, he added while delivering the convocation address of the Gujarat Vidyapith here on October 15. While engineering degree-holders were not getting a job, there was acute shortage of skilled technicians in the industrial field. This paradox should be removed, he said. To make education more purposeful, it was essential that no "undue importance" was attached to degrees. In a developing country like India, importance should be given to small, industrial workers who could build huge projects. The university degree-holders, who were simply capable of criticising "the works of Kalidas and Shakespeare", had no use for the country, he remarked.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 18, 1921

Action with rebels

Simla, October 17: Telegrams received at Army headquarters, Simla, from the Officer Commanding, Madras District, show that in Malabar on the 15th scattered rebel bands were reported in the vicinity of Nilambur. Kunhammed Haji with 200 rebels at Vettikatti three miles northwest of Pandikkad fired on convoy on the 14th. Fire was returned by the same piquet. Three other bands seen in this vicinity were fired on by the same piquet. Rebels were more active north of Perintalmanna and were engaged by patrol killing two. Fourteen rebels were killed in engagement near Perintalmanna instead of 12 as reported in the previous telegram and three firearms were captured. Chin Kachin battalion reached Malapuram on the 15th. On 16th increased numbers of rebel bands were reported in the vicinity of Nilambur including one band from outside that area. Wellicuttu Bridge between Manjeri and Pandikkad were reported destroyed on 5th night and rebels were still on road. Moveable column has left Manjeri to deal with them. Chin Kachin battalion reached Manjeri and 2-8th Gurkhan detrained at Tirur.

Sidhu touts his 'Punjab Model' in letter to Sonia

Missive to Congress chief reflects differences with Channi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Days after meeting top party leaders, including former party president Rahul Gandhi, in Delhi, Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu on Sunday made public his letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, in which he listed priorities for the State Government to deliver upon and claimed that it was "Punjab's last chance for re-surrection and redemption".



Navjot Singh Sidhu

In his letter of October 15, Mr. Sidhu also sought an appointment with Ms. Gandhi to present before her "a Punjab Model with a 13-Point Agenda to be part of the Congress manifesto for the 2022 Assembly Elections".

Mr. Sidhu also reminded the Congress president of the party's 18-point agenda that was "given" to the previous Chief Minister of Punjab, and stressed that it was still relevant. "The issues at Punjab's heart as understood very well by you, and signified by the 18-Point agenda given to the last Chief Minister are equally relevant today. I stood for each point in that agenda through the responsibility vested in me of the organisation, keeping the executive under check, to be guardian of Punjab's rights," he wrote.

His latest letter, written just a day after he met Mr. Gandhi and All India Congress Committee (AICC) Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat in Delhi, indicates that Mr. Sidhu's differences with the Charanjit Singh Channi Government persist despite his public statement earlier that "everything has been sorted".

The Punjab Congress chief said the people of Punjab demand justice for the 2015 police firing at Kotkapura and Behal Kalan in Faridkot following the desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib during the previous Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)-BJP regime.

While he asked the people of Punjab to reject the "three black farm laws" at any cost, Mr. Sidhu said the State Government must release a white paper on power purchase agreements (PPAs) and cancel "all faulty PPAs as promised by us".

Sonia's stand seeks to formalise Rahul's role

It is also a clear message to G-23 leaders, who are seeking internal reforms, that she is still the boss

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Sonia Gandhi's assertion of being a "full time, hands-on" Congress president was, perhaps, aimed at achieving two immediate objectives. First, it was a clear message to the group of 23 (G-23) leaders – the group that is seeking internal reforms and a "visible and effective leadership" – that she is still the boss.

Second, and more important, it was meant to convey her endorsement of some of the recent decisions taken by the party that had clear imprints of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Under scrutiny

Whether it was the elevation of Navjot Singh Sidhu as the Punjab Congress chief or unseating of Amarinder Singh as Punjab Chief Minister or the induction of former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Students Union president Kanhaiya Kumar into the party, several decisions believed to be driven by the



Clear message: Sonia Gandhi seemed to endorse the recent party decisions that had clear imprints of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Gandhi siblings have come under scrutiny.

"In our party, at the moment, there is no president. So, we don't know who is taking these decisions" – senior G-23 leader Kapil Sibal's comments at a press conference had thrown an open challenge to the Gandhis.

Ms. Gandhi's sharp rebuttal at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on Saturday seems to have had the desired effect.

Inside the CWC, G-23 lead-

ers Gulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma reiterated their faith in her leadership and were satisfied with the concession of holding the organisational elections (a key G-23 demand); at a press conference outside, general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal took on journalists who had asked in what capacity Mr. Gandhi was trying to resolve the leadership crises in Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Punjab.

"We will take decisions as per our party interests. The entire Congress, its rank and file, support Shri Rahul Gandhi for his commitment and dedication to fight on principles. I want to tell you one more thing. Every single decision of the party is taken by honourable Congress president, Smt. Sonia Gandhi. She is competent, capable and nobody can question her leadership," he told reporters on Saturday.

Ms. Gandhi's statement at the CWC sought to formalise the informal arrangement:

NEWS ANALYSIS

Mr. Gandhi would be central to decision making whether or not he enjoys any formal position.

In fact, on Saturday evening, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who had been delaying, if not avoiding, an expansion of his Cabinet to accommodate supporters of arch rival Sachin Pilot, called

on Mr. Gandhi to discuss the issue.

Before this, on Thursday, Mr. Sidhu had met Mr. Gandhi to iron out his differences with Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi.

And in Chhattisgarh, the former Congress chief is already playing the role of an umpire between Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo in their leadership tussle.

Eventual elevation

But beyond the immediate context, by deciding to elect a new party chief only by September 20 next year, the Congress and Ms. Gandhi seem to be preparing the ground for Mr. Gandhi's eventual elevation ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

In the next 11 months, Mr. Gandhi will have enough time and space to take the party in a direction that he thinks is best suited to take on the Narendra Modi Government.

Rajior Dal hopes to add to Assembly seat tally

Ties with Cong. had failed to materialise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

More than a fortnight after a pre-poll alliance with the Congress failed to materialise, the Rajior Dal has exuded confidence about adding to its Assam Assembly seat tally.

The party has its president and former activist, Akhil Gogoi, as the lone representative in the 126-member House. Mr. Gogoi had in September asked the State unit of the Congress to support its candidates for two of the five Assembly seats – Mariani and Thowra in eastern Assam – where by-elections are scheduled for October 30. The deal did not work out as the Congress offered one seat each to the Rajior Dal and the Assam Jatiya Parishad. The latter's candidate is expected to contest the Majuli Assembly seat, vacated by Shipping

and Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal when the by-election is announced later.

The Rajior Dal has fielded Sanjib Gogoi for the Mariani seat and Dhajiya Konwar for the Thowra seat. Both are contesting as Independents. The front runners in these two seats are believed to be BJP candidates Rupjyoti Kurmi (Mariani) and Sushanta Borgohain (Thowra), both former MLAs who defected from the Congress recently. "We are confident of winning both the seats," Mr. Gogoi said while campaigning for his party candidates.

BJP leader and Water Resources Minister Pijush Hazarika said the people of Sibsagar Assembly constituency had started regretting their decision to elect Mr. Gogoi, and this was likely to reflect on Mariani and Thowra.

Work in progress



In full swing: Construction work as part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project going on in full swing at the Rajpath in New Delhi on Sunday.

Afghanistan, Indo-Pacific on agenda of British Foreign Secretary, CDS

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and outgoing Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS), General Nick Carter, will visit India this week even as the Indo-U.K. naval exercises involving the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) in the Bay of Bengal gets under way from October 21 to 27, and ahead of a pending visit by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, sources said here.

While the strategic pur-

pose of the visits is to discuss the U.K.'s Indo-Pacific strategy and the newly announced Australia-U.K.-U.S. (AUKUS) alliance, both sides are also expected to focus on the situation in Afghanistan, amidst the perception in Delhi that the British Government had played a major role in talks with the Taliban that led to them taking control of the country.

The visits, beginning October 22, are also being scheduled ahead of the Climate



Liz Truss

Change COP26 summit in Glasgow on October 31 and November 1. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, who is likely to visit Italy for the G-20 summit on October 30 and 31, is yet to decide on his plans for COP26, said officials.

Gen. Carter is expected to meet CDS Gen. Bipin Rawat and the three service chiefs. He is also likely to call on National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, who is planning to host a regional conference on Afghanistan in November. New Delhi has been seeking space on events in

Afghanistan, given the Taliban control and links to Pakistan, and discussions with the British military leadership will focus on countering the regional terror threat from Afghanistan.

Gen. Carter raised eyebrows in Delhi for comments he made in an interview on August 18, just days after the Taliban takeover of Kabul, where he called the militant group "country boys". He claimed that the Taliban would recognise the need for

an inclusive government, and would allow women to work. He later said not just he but "everybody had got it wrong" on Afghanistan.

The comments – and his frequent meetings in Kabul, Islamabad and Doha in the last few months – had been noted by the South Block, and Mr. Doval and Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla are understood to have raised them with the U.K. officials.

(With inputs from Dinakar Peri)

Circular on non-local labourers fake: IG

Amid a social media backlash, J&K police distance themselves from it

VIJAYTA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Amid spate of killings of non-local workers in the Kashmir Valley, the Jammu and Kashmir police issued directive to all police stations to bring all "non-local labourers" to the nearest police station, or Army or Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) camps.

Vijay Kumar, Inspector General, (Kashmir division), however, told *The Hindu* that the order was "fake."

There was no clarity if a First Information Report (FIR) was being lodged to trace the persons who allegedly circulated the "fake" order.

As a copy of the order circulated on social media triggered panic, it being a tourist season, the police distanced themselves from the missive that was sent to all district police stations and offices of the Deputy Inspector General in the Kashmir division.

Explaining the rationale behind the unprecedented order, a senior government official said, "there has been several inputs to



Security personnel cordonning off an area where a street vendor was killed on Saturday

target non-locals over the past 2-3 months. In the wake of serial killings, it is better to provide them security. For the time being, if they feel secure living in a security camp, they can do so."

The series of attacks on civilians come days before Home Minister Amit Shah is to make his maiden visit to Srinagar and Jammu after Article 370 that gave special status to the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir was read down by Parliament in August 2019.

The State was bifurcated into two Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Targeted attacks

Officials of several Central agencies were rushed to the Valley after three civilians – a Kashmiri Pandit pharmacist, a street vendor from Bihar and a taxi operator from Bandipora – were killed in targeted attacks on October 5.

The Resistance Front (TRF), which the police believe is a front for the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Islamic State in Jammu and Kashmir, claimed responsibility for the killings.

On October 16, Mr. Kumar in a press statement said that "13 terrorists have been eliminated in nine anti-terrorist operations including three out of five terrorists of Srinagar city who were killed within less than 24 hours."

The statement added that as of now "only two terrorists were active in Srinagar city – Mehran and Wasim" – and efforts were on to nab them.

ANNA UNIVERSITY
CHENNAI - 600 025

TENDER NOTICE

On-line Tenders in Two Bid System are invited for Supply and Installation of following equipment for the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Anna University, Chennai-600 025.

Sl. No.	Tender Ref. No.	Name of the equipment	Qty.	Approx. cost Rs.
1.	163_1/CPOL/CLSM/DME/2021	Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope	1	₹60,00,000/-
2.	163_2/CPOL/LCAU/DME/2021	Laser Cladding Assembly Unit	1	₹68,00,000/-
3.	164/CPOL/EFM/DME/2021	Electromagnetic Forming Machine (EMPT Standard Pulse Generator 25kV or more)	1	₹70,50,000/-

The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website <https://tntenders.gov.in> from 11.00 am on 18.10.2021. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website upto 03.00 pm on 06.11.2021 and will be opened at 03.00 pm on 08.11.2021. Other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website (<https://tntenders.gov.in>).
DIPRI/2962/Tender/2021
REGISTRAR i/c

"சேர்த்துள்ள தரவுகளைப் பற்றி வினாக்கள், சந்தர்ப்பம் ஏற்பட்டால் எளிதில் பதிலளிப்போம்."

JOINT ADMISSION COUNSELING DELHI, 2021

CLOSING NOTICE FOR FIRST ROUND OF B.TECH. AND B.ARCH. COUNSELING

The last date for closing of registration for First Round of counseling for **B. Tech.** and **B. Arch.** Programmes offered by the following Universities/Institutes established by Government of NCT of Delhi is 24-10-2021 (11:59AM):

- Delhi Technological University (DTU)
- Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT*)
- Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW)
- Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-D)
- Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU)

For detailed information regarding Eligibility Criteria, Reservation, Admission Procedure, Counseling Schedule, Application Process etc., please visit website: www.jacdelhi.nic.in

*The revised seat matrix for B. Tech. programmes offered by NSUT (including ten percent supernumerary GIRLS quota) is now available at www.jacdelhi.nic.in

APPOINTMENT

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE
NABH Accredited, (an autonomous centre under Government Of Kerala)
Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala-670 103, Phone: +91 490 2399207/2355881
Fax: +91 490 2355880/Email: mccdl@yahoo.com, Web: www.mccdelhi.gov.in

IMMEDIATELY REQUIRED ON CONTRACT BASIS/TRAINEE

FIXED TERM CONTRACT BASIS IN MALABAR CANCER CENTRE

01. VIGILANCE OFFICER	02. STAFF NURSE
03. ASSISTANT PHARMICIST	04. TECHNICAL CLINICAL LAB
05. RESIDENT PHARMICIST (Trainee)	06. RESIDENT STAFF NURSE (Trainee)
07. RESIDENT ENDOSCOPY TECHNICIAN (Trainee)	08. RESIDENT TECHNICIAN BIOCHEMISTRY (Trainee)

FIXED TERM CONTRACT BASIS IN INSTITUTE OF NURSING SCIENCES AND RESEARCH (INSR) MALABAR CANCER CENTRE

09. VICE PRINCIPAL CUM PROFESSOR	10. ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
11. LECTURER	12. ASSISTANT LECTURER

Last date of submission of Online application for post 01 is 06/11/2021 and submission of hard Copy is 10/11/2021. Last date of submission of Online application for posts 02 to 12 is 25/10/2021 and submission of hard Copy is 28/10/2021. Application form and details are available in www.mccdelhi.gov.in. Sd/-Director

EASTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P. LTD
Corporate Office, P&T Colony, Seethammadhara, Visakhapatnam - 13

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Tenders are invited from APEPDL registered vendors for supply of Cables, PTRs, AB Switches, Hardware for Insulators, Fabrication Material, GI Flat, through e-Procurement. For further details please visit www.aeprocurement.gov.in

"e-Auction Notice" Tenders are invited from EPDCL for auction of Copper Scrap through 'Konugolu' platform. For further details please visit www.konugolu.ap.gov.in

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Email: cgm_pmm2@aepower.com Advt-81 Chief General Manager (P&MM)
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EOI NO 001/MYS/MMD/2021-22

BRBNMPL invites applications for Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible, resourceful and qualified tenderers for "Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Plate Making Waste Solution Treatment Plant (PWSTP)" at BRBNMPL Mysuru. Filled in applications for the above EOI are to be submitted to the General Manager, BRBNMPL, Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru - 570003, Karnataka, India by 1430 hrs on or before 17/11/2021. For eligibility criteria and other details kindly visit our website www.brbnmpl.co.in

Any further amendment/s, if any, shall be notified on the website of the company only. Interested applicants are requested to visit our website periodically to know any changes / amendments.

General Manager

Children's vaccination still away: Govt.

Scientific rationale and supply situation will dictate final call for approval of jabs, says V.K. Paul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Union Government will take a final decision on vaccinating children and adolescents against COVID-19 on the basis of overall scientific rationale as well as the supply situation of vaccines available for those below the age of 18, COVID Task Force chief V.K. Paul said on Sunday.

Mr. Paul, who has been playing a key role in the Government's efforts in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, said that though infections were coming down and the second wave was subsiding, it would not be fair now to say that the worst was over since many countries had seen more than two waves.

Currently, three vaccines — Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik V — being administered in the country were only for those above 18 years of age.

The Zydus Cadila's indigenously developed needle-free COVID-19 vaccine, ZyCoV-D, was set to become



No deadline: The Government said it would be impossible to give a timeline for vaccination of children. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the first vaccine that would be available in India for those in the age group of 12 to 18 years. It had received Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA).

Multiple factors

"We do know that several countries have introduced vaccination for adolescents and children. We will take a final decision based on the overall scientific rationale and the supply situation of

the child-licensed vaccines, going forward," Mr. Paul said.

The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) was looking at how ZyCoV-D should be positioned for most optimum use. According to Mr. Paul, Covaxin was a part of the adult vaccination programme and how to provision the vaccine, if at all for children, had to be also examined in the totality of the

requirements of the vaccination programme. "A pragmatic decision [on vaccination of children and adolescents] can be taken [only] by balancing the supply and the potential eligibility," he said.

'Preparations on'

While noting it would not be possible now to give a particular timeline on when the COVID-19 vaccination would start for children, Mr. Paul said, "The preparation for incorporation of Zydus Cadila's vaccine into the vaccination programme is proceeding well, training is already being held. NTAGI advice for the best use of the vaccine is explored. Soon, this will be rolled out."

According to Mr. Paul, children were part and parcel of the chains of COVID-19 transmission and were infected in large numbers. But COVID-19 infections in children were very mild or asymptomatic. On the other side, he said once there was enough vaccine available that could be used in chil-

dren, "so why not protect them".

Schools have reopened in many States, mainly for higher classes. Asked if the worst of the pandemic is over, Mr. Paul said, "It is reassuring that the number of COVID cases are now on the decline and the second wave is now subsiding but to say that the worst is over will not be fair because we have seen in other nations, there have been more than two waves."

Cautioning that the country is passing through a phase when there are festivals and potential gatherings, he said this is a critical phase as the virus can spread again. "We have seen that even in other countries where vaccine coverage is good, the escalation in the pandemic can happen and has happened," he said.

"Therefore, certainly we should not assume that this situation of the declining trend will continue and definitely we should not think that the worst is over, we have to be ever watchful," he emphasised.

COVID-19 possible despite earlier infection: doctors

Vaccination will enhance protection against new strains

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Stressing the need for vaccination, doctors say COVID-19 infection will not protect everyone against reinfection. Vaccination, in fact, can give a higher rate of protection, they say.

"We can't say with certainty that past natural COVID infection offers 100% protection against reinfections," said Sarita Sharma, consultant paediatrician at PSRI Hospital, New Delhi. Pointing out that the pandemic is evolving, Dr. Sharma stressed that not everybody who had been infected would have protection.

An infection is believed to be approximately as effective as vaccination, but the protection offered by the former can be enhanced by vaccination, through "hybrid immunity", said Rajeev Jayadevan, vice-chairman of the Research Cell of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Kerala.

WHO's meeting on
Covaxin by October 26

UNITED NATIONS/GENEVA
The World Health Organization's technical advisory group will meet on October 26 to consider the Emergency Use Listing (EUL) of Covaxin, a vaccine developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech protecting against COVID-19, the health agency's chief scientist said on Sunday.

He said recurrent infections within the same community was the theme of SARS-CoV-2, adding that reinfections were mild or asymptomatic, and did not cause death or serious disease in this cohort.

"Multiple studies from India have shown rates of 8.2% (KIMS, Thiruvananthapuram), 9.6% (Vellore), 16% (Kozhikode) and 25.3% (MAX Hospitals) of breakthrough infections within a few months of vaccine rollout. These were mild or

asymptomatic," Dr. Jayadevan said.

"This data will help us redirect our strategies. 'Herd immunity' is a myth for this virus. We need to understand that clearly, so that we don't continue to make wrong policy decisions based on that," he added.

Explaining the basis for durable protective immunity after COVID-19 infection or vaccination, Hari Kishan Gonuguntla, consultant interventional pulmonologist at Yashoda Hospitals in Hyderabad, said that following COVID-19 infection, the immune system retained a memory of the virus.

Most studies have shown that durable memory can last more than 12 months.

"However, this will not protect everyone from reinfection. People can still have reinfection. However, the severity of illness and rates of hospitalisation is less in people with prior infection," Dr. Gonuguntla said.

Yuvraj Singh arrested, let out on bail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Cricketer Yuvraj Singh was arrested by the Haryana police on Saturday in a case pertaining to offensive remarks against the Scheduled Castes on a social media platform. He was later released on interim bail.

Confirming the arrest, Nitika Gahlaut, Hansi Superintendent of Police, said the cricketer was arrested and released on court orders.

An FIR was registered against Mr. Singh on February 14 for allegedly making offensive remarks against the Scheduled Castes on a social media platform during a live video chat with fellow cricket players.

The case was registered under Section 3 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and others on the complaint of Rajat Kansal, a Dalit rights activist.

Mr. Kansal had then told *The Hindu* that Mr. Singh had made unsavoury comments against the Scheduled Castes when talking about fellow cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal in June 2020. He said the video went viral on the social media platforms, and crores of people watched it.

Mr. Singh had expressed regret for the comments, and apologised for unintentionally hurting public sentiments.

Tamil Nadu police warn of likely attack on fishermen

Alert issued due to differences between fishers from T.N., Sri Lanka

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu police have issued an alert on the possibility of an attack on fishermen crossing the Internal Maritime Boundary Line for fishing in Sri Lankan waters. Law-enforcing agencies along the coastal districts have been advised to sensitise the fishing community to the risks in the backdrop of simmering differences between fishermen from India and Sri Lanka over the catching of fish in the Katchatheevu area.

According to police sources, fishermen with mechanised boats in Rameswaram were on a week-long protest, demanding that the Central and State governments permit fishermen from India and Sri Lanka to fish in the Katchatheevu sea area. They also demanded suitable compensation for boats seized by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Katchatheevu, an uninhabited off-shore island in the Palk Strait, is administered by Sri Lanka. Though the island was jointly managed by India and Sri Lanka, allowing fishermen from both countries to dry their nets there, it was ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974. Since then, Katchatheevu has remained an issue, with some parties from Tamil Nadu demanding that the island be returned to benefit the fishermen from India.

With the fishermen with



Sensitisation efforts: Officials from the Coastal Security Group talking to fishermen in Nagapattinam.

mechanised boats set to enter the sea for fishing from October 16, security agencies have perceived the need to mount a vigil at sea.

The Coastal Security Group of the Tamil Nadu police have issued an alert, stating that the possibility of an attack on Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan fishermen cannot be ruled out. Stating that it had received inputs on the crossing of the IMBL by Tamil Nadu fishermen, which was objected to by their counterparts in Jaffna and Mannar, the agency said Sri Lankan fishermen had planned to stage an agitation at sea on October 17 and 18, demanding the implementation of the Trawler (Mechanised Boat) Prevention Act.

When contacted, Additional Director-General of Police, Coastal Security Group, Sandeep Mittal said the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard had been alerted to provide enhanced security in vulnerable areas.

However, incidents of aggression by the Sri Lankan Navy against Indian fishermen had increased over the last eight months. "The Sri Lankan Navy needs to be sensitised against the use of aggressive force against Indian fishermen," Dr. Mittal said.

AIADMK's plea

In a related development, the AIADMK has called for the Union government's intervention to ensure the release of 23 fishermen arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on October 13.

AIADMK coordinator O. Panneerselvam, in a letter, drew the attention of the Prime Minister to the arrest of the fishers at Point Pedro, where they had gone from Nagapattinam for fishing. The Sri Lankan Navy seized their boats and took the fishermen into custody.

Mr. Panneerselvam said fishers were venturing into the sea with constant fear of attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy.

'Only 3.9% children malnourished'

Govt. slams publishing agencies of Global Hunger Index, says data is inflated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The value of a key indicator used in the Global Hunger Index is 'inflated' as only 3.9% of the anganwadi children were found to be undernourished, the Union Government said on Sunday.

"The real-time data of beneficiaries registered on the Anganwadi platform include 7.79 crore children aged between 6 months to 6 years as per real-time Poshan Tracker data [as on 16-10-2021].

Corresponding number of undernourished children reported on Poshan Tracker is 30.27 lakh which comes to only 3.9%," according to a reply from the Ministry of Women and Child Development to a report in *The Hindu*, "Global Hunger Index



Stunted future: The Global Hunger Index 2021 ranked India at 101 out of 116 countries. ■ FILE PHOTO

not based on an opinion poll", published on October 17.

It said, "These beneficiaries are representative of the poorest strata of society and the low levels of undernourishment in them surely reflects that the Indian data is

highly inflated."

The GHI 2021 ranked India at 101 out of 116 countries. The index is based on four indicators — undernourishment, wasting, stunting and under-five mortality. Of these, India's performance is shown to dete-

riorate only for undernourishment, which is what the Government has challenged. According to FAO's data, which is used in the Index, the prevalence of undernourishment in India rose from 14% in 2017-2019 to 15.3% in 2018-2020 which the Government has called exaggerated.

However, undernourishment and undernutrition used as synonyms by the Government are treated as two different indicators by FAO and in the GHI.

The Government has also alleged that there has been a "selective approach adopted to deliberately lower India's rank" by relying on higher values of indicators such as stunting and wasting from different datasets available.

Unorganised workers' portal sees good traffic

Domain for unorganised workers records over 4 crore entries in under 2 months

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over four crore unorganised sector workers had been registered on the e-Shram portal in under two months of its launch, Labour and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said on October 17.

Marking the milestone, the Minister said in a tweet that once registered on the portal, the unorganised workers would be able to access the benefits of various welfare schemes easily.

The portal was launched on August 26 with the aim of creating a national database of unorganised workers. As on October 17 morning, the portal (eshram.gov.in), showed 4.15 crore registrations.

In a statement, the Ministry said, 50.02% of the registered workers were women and the remaining 49.98% were men. Forty-three per cent of the registered workers were from the OBC communities, 27% from the gen-

eral category, 23% from Scheduled Castes and 7% from Scheduled Tribes, the statement said.

Agriculture sector

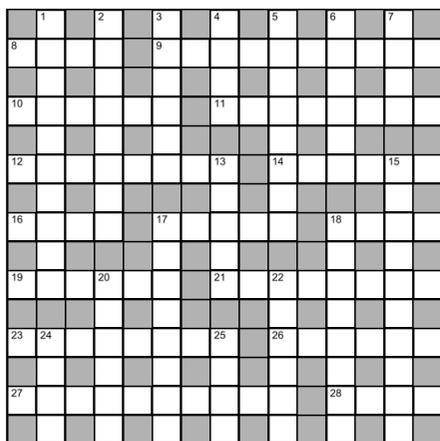
"As per the latest data, the States of Odisha, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are at the forefront of this initiative with the highest number of registrations," the Ministry said.

"The largest number of workers registered are from

agriculture and construction, given the sheer volume of these two sectors in employment generation," it added.

Domestic, apparel sector, automobile, education, healthcare, tourism and hospitality and food industry workers were among those who had registered. "Around 65.68% of these registered workers are in the age group of 16-40 years and 34.32% are in the age group of 40 years and above," it said.

TH **CROSSWORD** + 13379 Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids: @ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjptn> SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

- 8 Food consumed by Alfred Doolittle (4)
- 9 Boss's wonderful, having more wisdom, I hear (10)
- 10 Is rare formation in mountain range in America (6)
- 11 Settler's a resident of city in Panama? (8)
- 12 Designed usual tin vessel used by Nemo (8)
- 14 Wrongly grant money finally for supporting structure (6)
- 16 Col.'s father's ship (4)

- 17 Say, "Sin to hide love" (5)
- 18 Member of school hiding in Gaddafi's home (4)
- 19 Visit local... Drunk? No! (4,2)
- 21 Hard-working man's after princess at 51! (8)
- 23 Person wearing a couple of wrist-watches or seeing a couple of girls? (3-5)
- 26 On paper, put down emir leaving dancing marionette (6)
- 27 Vanuatu ore used to build decorative architecture (3,7)
- 28 Free European and go on (4)

DOWN

- 1 Dad is excited over a small cake in African capital (5,5)
- 2 Old Greek's distress message about container (8)
- 3 Sir, ale is brewed in country (6)
- 4 Classic record by Chip (4)
- 5 Introduction: Introduction to prototype Luger designed to contain two rounds separately (8)
- 6 No gins? Bad contract! (4,2)
- 7 Plenty of empty sites in the US (4)
- 13 Saw moved fast around beginning of incision (5)
- 15 Edit, "Increasing height of sea water, for example" (6,4)
- 17 Polavenu mouse contains toxin (8)
- 18 Excitedly gifts her war-planes! (8)
- 20 Tale re-written before book is hidden (6)
- 22 Place sweet stuff under net for monkey (6)
- 24 Fight with daughter and minor under care (4)
- 25 Marine feature in Muree forest (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13378

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Greatness of Sri Rudram

Most of us are devoted to God and engage in worship, prayer, dhyana, etc, as part of propitiating Him. But when each one asks himself the true purpose for propitiating God, the answer is best known to him and to God, of course. Generally people being bound to this world, often tend to seek worldly goals from the Lord. These are, of course, necessary to cross this world of samsara. But the Lord is so compassionate towards the ignorant devotee who is sadly missing out on the chance of seeking salvation from Him, pointed out Sri. B. Sundarkumar in a discourse. It is by His grace that the desire for salvation can take root in the devotee.

There is a very astonishing section of the Vedas, Sri Rudram, that teaches man what to seek from God and also ask for forgiveness of sins. It is a powerful mantra in the Taittiriya Samhita that is in the Krishna Yajur Veda. Sri Rudram is the fifth Prasna placed carefully in the central and fourth kanda. Namakam and Chamakam are the fifth and seventh chapters in this section and herein the Vedas pay homage to Siva, the supreme deity in Saivism and extol His omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience. The Namakam enumerates the various epithets and names of Rudra. The Chamakam asks for fulfilment of wishes that encompass all the requirements of all beings in all walks of life. In this list is also included Moksha or salvation which is subtly shown to be the ultimate requirement over all else which are ephemeral.

Appayya Dikshitar in his Siva Ashtottara praises the Lord as "Apavarga Pradayakaya Namaha." This means one who is capable of granting the highest Purushartha Moksha. The Lord is so magnanimous that He is satisfied with even the offer of the simple Tumbha flower and in return grants moksha to one who sincerely wishes it.

China tested 'nuclear capable hypersonic missile', says report

'The advanced space capability caught U.S. intelligence by surprise'

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China's military has carried out its first-ever test of a "nuclear capable hypersonic missile", according to a report on October 17.

The missile in August "circled the globe before speeding towards its target, demonstrating an advanced space capability that caught U.S. intelligence by surprise," the *Financial Times* reported.

The newspaper quoted five people familiar with the test as saying the Chinese military launched a rocket that carried a hypersonic glide vehicle "which flew through low-orbit space before cruising down towards its target."

The missile "missed its



New challenge: The missile reportedly "circled the globe before speeding towards its target". •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

target by about two-dozen miles", three people told the newspaper, but two others added that it "showed that China had made astounding progress on hypersonic weapons and was far more advanced than U.S. officials realised."

The *Financial Times* not-

ed that only the U.S., Russia and China were developing hypersonic glide vehicles, that are launched on rockets and then orbit the earth on their own speed. They are difficult to track because unlike ballistic missiles, they "do not follow the fixed parabolic trajectory".

The newspaper said the test would post a big challenge to U.S. missile defence systems because "the weapon could, in theory, fly over the South Pole." "That would pose a big challenge for the U.S. military because its missile defence systems are focused on the northern polar route," the report said.

The newspaper quoted security experts as saying the test was conducted in August. It noted that the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, which carries out launches, had in July announced its 77th launch of a Long March rocket, and in end-August said it had carried out a 79th flight, sparking speculation about a secretive 78th launch that had not been reported.

Group of U.S. missionaries and kin kidnapped in Haiti

They were in the country for building an orphanage: reports

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SAN JUAN

A gang blamed for kidnapping five priests and two nuns earlier this year in Haiti is now accused of kidnapping a group of 17 missionaries and their family members, including a 2-year-old, near Port-au-Prince, police said on Sunday.

The 400 Mawozo gang kidnapped the group — which also included some elderly people — in Ganthier, a commune that lies east of the capital of Port-au-Prince, Haitian police inspector Frantz Champagne said.

The gang, whose name roughly translates to 400 "inexperienced men," controls the Croix-des-Bouquets area that includes Ganthier, where they carry out kidnappings and carjackings

and extort business owners, according to authorities.

Haiti is once again struggling with a spike in gang-related kidnappings that had diminished in recent months, after President Jovenel Moïse was fatally shot at his private residence on July 7 and a 7.2 magnitude earthquake killed more than 2,200 people in August.

The missionaries were on their way home on Saturday from building an orphanage, according to a message from Ohio-based Christian Aid Ministries sent to various religious missions.

"This is a special prayer alert," the one-minute message said. "Pray that the gang members would come to repentance."

The message said the mission's field director is work-

ing with the U.S. Embassy, and that the field director's family and one other unidentified man stayed at the ministry's base while everyone else visited the orphanage.

A U.S. government spokesperson said officials were aware of the reports on the kidnapping. "The welfare and safety of U.S. citizens abroad is one of the highest priorities of the Department of State," the spokesperson said, declining to comment further.

At least 328 kidnappings were reported to Haiti's National Police in the first eight months of 2021, compared to 234 for all of 2020, according to a report issued last month by the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, known as BINUH.

Iran to resume nuclear talks, says MP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran is to resume nuclear negotiations with world powers on October 21 that were suspended in June, an Iranian lawmaker said on Sunday after a meeting with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

The Minister said that "talks with the 4+1 Group will restart on Thursday in Brussels", Ahmad Alireza-beigui told the conservative news agency Fars after a closed-door session with Amir-Abdollahian.

The lawmaker was referring to four UN Security Council permanent members — Britain, China, France and Russia — along with Germany.

Indirect negotiations

Iran and these five nations opened talks in Vienna in April with the European Union (EU) also attending while the U.S. has taken part in indirect negotiations.

The U.S., China, Russia, Germany, France and Britain struck an accord in Vienna with Iran on its nuclear programme in 2015.

But then-U.S. president Donald Trump pulled America out of the deal in 2018 and reimposed biting sanctions.

Since then, Tehran — which insists its nuclear program is for civilian purposes only — has also retreated from many of its commitments under the accord.

Mr. Trump's successor Joe Biden has said he is ready to return to the agreement if the Islamic republic re-adheres to its nuclear commitments.

The Vienna talks aimed at reviving the deal were suspended in June, when Iran elected Ebrahim Raisi as President.

ELSEWHERE



Former U.S. President Clinton leaves hospital

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton was released from a California hospital on Sunday after spending five nights in treatment for an infection unrelated to COVID-19. AFP

'Fukushima wastewater release can't be delayed'

TOKYO Japan's PM Fumio Kishida on Sunday said the planned mass disposal of wastewater stored at the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant cannot be delayed, despite concerns from locals and neighbouring countries. AP

'165 Yemen rebels killed near Marib'

Saudi-led coalition says 10 military vehicles destroyed in strike on the Houthis

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RIYADH

The Saudi-led military coalition supporting Yemen's government said on Sunday it had killed at least 165 Huathi rebels in strikes south of Marib, as the battle for the strategic city rages.

The strikes "destroyed 10 military vehicles and killed more than 165" rebels in the past 24 hours in the Abdiya district, the coalition said in a statement cited by the official Saudi Press Agency.

The coalition has said it has killed around 1,000 Iran-backed rebels in strikes in the area in the past week, making daily announcements of at least dozens of rebel deaths.



Vantage point: Fighters loyal to the Saudi-led coalition in the northeastern province of Marib on Sunday. •AFP

The Houthis rarely comment on losses and the tolls could not be independently verified by AFP.

The Houthis began a major push to seize Marib, the internationally recognised

government's last bastion in oil-rich northern Yemen, in February, and have renewed their offensive in recent weeks after a lull.

The Houthis said on Twitter on Sunday that they had

taken control of several fronts around Marib, including Abdiya, which lies about 100 km south of the city.

The Yemeni civil war began in 2014 when the Houthis seized the capital Sanaa, 120 km west of Marib, prompting Saudi-led forces to intervene to prop up the government the following year.

Tens of thousands of people have died and millions have been displaced in what the UN calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The UN this week called for a halt to fighting in Abdiya, where it said the movement of aid to tens of thousands of people had been "extremely restricted".

Minorities call for hunger strike in Bangladesh

'Temples, businesses vandalised, robbed'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA

A Hindu temple has been vandalised in Bangladesh in a fresh case of communal unrest amid days of violence and protests over alleged blasphemy, prompting a minority group to announce a countrywide hunger strike, media reports said on Sunday.

Hindu-owned temples and shops in Feni, about 157 km from the country's capital, have been vandalised and robbed during fresh clashes on Saturday, which broke out after an attack on demonstrators who were protesting against the attacks on Durga Puja venues

in several places in Bangladesh, the *Dhaka Tribune* newspaper reported.

The clashes left at least 40 people, including the officer in-charge Nizamuddin of Feni Model Police Station, injured, it said.

On Saturday night, authorities deployed additional police forces and the paramilitary force — Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), after several temples and businesses were vandalised and robbed, the report said.

Meanwhile in Chittagong, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council announced a sit-in and hunger strike from October 23.

U.K. says it will beef up MPs' security

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LEIGH-ON-SEA

Britain's Interior Minister on Sunday said MPs' security would be beefed up, after a lawmaker was stabbed to death as he held a public meeting with constituents, in the second such attack in five years.

Veteran Conservative MP David Amess, 69, was talking with voters at a church in the small town of Leigh-on-Sea, east of London, when he was killed on Friday.

The attack has spread fear among MPs, coming just over five years after the similar killing of Labour MP Jo Cox in the febrile run-up to the Brexit referendum.

Police have said they are investigating "a potential motivation linked to Islamist extremism". The investigation is being led by Scotland Yard's Counter Terrorism Command.

Home Secretary Priti Patel ordered a review of security measures for lawmakers and said that "we need to close any gaps" in security provision for MPs, whose work includes regular meetings with constituents, called "surgeries".

She said that police and parliamentary authorities were implementing "immediate changes and measures that are actively being put in place, and discussed with MPs".



Shoot for the stars: Yulia Peresild disembarking after the Russian capsule landed in a remote area in Kazakhstan. •AFP

Russians land after first movie shoot in space

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

A Russian actress and a film director returned to Earth on Sunday after spending 12 days on the International Space Station (ISS) shooting scenes for the first movie in orbit.

Yulia Peresild, 37, and Klim Shipenko, 38, landed as scheduled on Kazakhstan's steppe at 0436 GMT, according to footage broadcast live by Russia's Roscosmos space agency.

Mr. Shipenko appeared distressed but smiling as he exited the capsule, waving his hand to cameras before being carried off by medical workers for examination.

Ms. Peresild, who plays the film's starring role and was selected from 3,000 applicants, was extracted from the capsule to applause and a bouquet of flowers.

The actress said she is "sad" to have left the ISS. "It seemed that 12 days

was a lot, but when it was all over, I didn't want to leave," she told Russian television. "This is a one-time experience."

The team was ferried back to terra firma by cosmonaut Oleg Novitsky, who had been on the space station for the past six months.

The filmmakers had blasted off from the Russia-leased Baikonur Cosmodrome in ex-Soviet Kazakhstan earlier this month, travelling to the ISS with veteran cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov to film scenes for *The Challenge*.

If the project stays on track, the Russian crew will beat a Hollywood project announced last year by *Mission Impossible* actor Tom Cruise, together with NASA and businessman Elon Musk's SpaceX.

The Russian movie's plot centres around a surgeon who is dispatched to the ISS to save a cosmonaut.

Maduro govt. halts talks with rivals

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MIAMI

Venezuela's government said on Saturday it would halt negotiations with its opponents in retaliation for the extradition to the U.S. of a close ally of President Nicolás Maduro who prosecutors believe could be the most significant witness ever about corruption in the South American country.

Jorge Rodríguez, who has been heading the government's delegation, said his team wouldn't travel to Mexico City for the next scheduled round of negotiations.

The announcement capped a tumultuous day that saw businessman Alex Saab placed on a U.S.-bound plane in Cape Verde after a 16-month fight by Mr. Maduro and his allies, including Russia, who consider the Colombian-born businessman a Venezuelan diplomat.

A few hours after news of Mr. Saab's extradition broke on social media, six American oil executives held on house arrest were taken back to jail — a sign that relations between Washington and Caracas could be upended after months of quiet diplomacy since Joe Biden entered the White House. Families of the executives expressed frustration with both governments.

Tibetans protest in Greece over Beijing Olympics, held

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ATHENS

Tibet activists on Sunday staged a protest at the Acropolis in Athens against the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, ahead of the lighting ceremony in Ancient Olympia on Monday. Three acti-

vists were arrested, according to the Greek police.

The activists waved the Tibetan flag, chanting 'Boycott Beijing 2022' and 'Free Tibet', "just 48 hours before the Olympic Torch will be handed to Beijing in the very same place".

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान बंगलूर
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
BANGALORE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NIT No. NIIMB/EOI/ARC/2021-22/01

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Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

ASK US

VIDYA BALA

Q. I am a 39-year-old single mother with a 14-year-old daughter. I am employed with a leading NBFC. My monthly gross earnings come to ₹72,000 and net take home is ₹51,000 (after deduction of VPF of ₹10,000 over and above my regular deductions). I have nil liabilities. I used to invest ₹17,000 per month (now stopped as I didn't want to put all eggs in one basket) in various SIPs, a monthly LIC premium of ₹6,000 (continuing), ₹5,000 monthly for NPS and ₹10,000 as monthly RD for 12 months. Kindly advise as to how I can further build my wealth. Do I need to restart my SIPs or continue with my savings habit?

JAYALAKSHMI

A. Your VPF, recurring deposit and NPS alone make up ₹25,000 per month of savings and investment. We are not counting your LIC premium as investment unless you are invested in any market-linked plans there. Your current savings are commendable. Please keep it up!

Investing in mutual fund SIPs does not mean you are putting all eggs in one basket as long as you are investing in a good mix of equity and debt funds. Without equity, even the best of savings and investment habits may not fetch you inflation-beating returns in the long term. You will have some equities through your NPS but that is unlikely to be sufficient. Yes, a wrong mutual fund product that is mis-sold can lead to trouble. To avoid this, ask for simple Nifty, Nifty 500 and Nifty Next 50 index equity funds. These are low-commission products and few will offer you the option unless you ask.

These will reduce the need to maintain your portfolio as they are passive funds, mimicking the market. With this, mix some simple ultra-short, short-duration and banking and PSU funds and restart your SIP. Do not worry if the market falls, as long as you are investing for a minimum of 7 years. For any short-term goals, use safe avenues such as bank deposits.

Q. I am 26 years old; I work in a private IT firm. My net monthly income is ₹57,000 and I have investments of ₹6,200 per month as LIC premium and spend ₹8,000 per month on room rent. But still, tax is getting deducted from my salary. Could you please recommend some long-term investment plans that could save me from paying tax in future and which could start on soon?

ADITYA RAI

A. The easiest you can do is to ask your employer to deduct a higher provident fund – called voluntary provident fund. This will provide you with a higher tax deduction since it is unlikely your current PF is large enough to get full deduction under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act. Other than this, you can consider opening a PPF account. If you are a risk taker, tax-saving funds (ELSS) also work.

Q. I recently retired from a manager's post at a government undertaking; I received about ₹1 crore as superannuation benefits. Now, I have about ₹2 crore, including my life-long savings. About 90% of the amount has been deposited in multiple banks as fixed deposits. Kindly guide me on investing the sum to get better returns on investments to beat inflation.

TARIQ KHAN

A. Our first suggestion to manage your corpus is to go for a fee-based financial planner and do a cash flow to ensure that the corpus lasts through your retired years. Avoid using agents and distributors for this purpose. If not, considering the following: keep an emergency corpus that is 3-6 months of your expenses in large public or private banks that are systematically important. This would be SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank.

For regular income, invest up to ₹15 lakh in the Senior Citizens' scheme if you have turned 60. If you are less than 60, then you will have to stick to FDs and RBI Floating Rate Bonds we have mentioned further down.

Similarly at 60, use LIC's Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana – a safe pension plan. This also has a limit of ₹15 lakh. Post these two, consider RBI's Floating Rate Savings Bond, available with select large banks, including SBI, and select brokerages. This has no limit and is sovereign guaranteed. Interest is floating but will always be 35 basis points above the NSC rate.

Stick to fixed deposits across large private and public sector banks and perhaps use a couple of small finance banks for FDs (for slightly higher interest) up to ₹5 lakh each. ₹5 lakh is the amount up to which there will be insurance cover for your bank FD. Avoid going to risky banks beyond this amount.

Q. I am due for retirement from government service in a few months. I would be getting a significant amount at the time of retirement. I have a home loan worth a few tens of lakhs. Is it wise to pay back the home loan? What are the best options for investments?

SURESH

A. It is best to start your retired life without any liabilities. To this extent, if you have a large corpus and you will also earn a pension, you must consider closing your loan, even if it fetches you tax benefits. On investments, you can go for a mix of Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme, RBI Floating Rate Savings Bond, LIC's Vaya Vandana Yojana and some 10-15% in equity index mutual funds. Add the equity index funds only if you do not need this part of your corpus for the next 5-10 years.

(The adviser is Co-founder, Primeinvestor.in)



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



* GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Maintaining a high credit score through responsible behaviour is a continuous process

RADHIKA BINANI

A strong credit score is key to your financial health as it can provide you with access to the best offers on loans and credit cards. However, building or maintaining a high credit score through responsible behaviour is a continuous process. One needs to be aware of 'good and desirable' actions that impact your credit score positively and stay away from the bad ones. Here are some common myths around credit scores:

Myth 1
Checking my credit score frequently will lower the score

When you apply for any kind of loan or a credit card, the lender fetches your credit report from a credit bureau to gauge your creditworthiness. This is commonly known as a 'hard enquiry'. Too many hard enquiries from lenders within a short span can reduce your score as it indicates credit hunger.

However, when you check your credit score on your own, it is known as a 'soft enquiry'. Soft enquiries have no impact

on your score. In fact, it is advised to check your credit report every 2 or 3 months, to track your credit score and take action to build it. Regularly checking your credit score can also help detect errors that may emerge in your credit report.

Myth 2
My score will improve with increase in income

Your credit score is determined by your behaviour with credit and is not related to income. Missing EMI repayments, high credit-utilisation ratio, frequent and multiple applications for loans and cards can severely damage your credit score, irrespective of your income. However, higher income does impact your overall loan eligibility, as it reflects higher repayment capacity. Despite a strong credit score, those with lower income may not be eligible for select credit cards or high-ticket loans.

Myth 3
Settling a credit account helps in improving credit score

Settling your loan or credit card account is different from closing your loan or card account. Closure of an account means deactivating a loan or credit card after full repayment of outstanding dues as per schedule, with no outstanding amount remaining.

When one is unable to pay the outstanding amount for some time, the lender may choose to extend the option to settle the account through a one-time payment option, where a certain amount of the debt may also be written off.

When you decide to settle your credit account, the credit bureaus are informed; this starts reflecting in your credit report as a 'settled' account. You need to know this 'settled' account remains in your credit report for a long time, and all your future loan or credit card applications are likely to be adversely impacted.

Since you missed repaying as per the schedule and settled the account, lenders will consider you as a 'risky' borrower in future and may be hesitant to

approve your loan or credit card applications.

Myth 4
Banks will lend to me because I have never taken any credit in the past

Many people assume that having no loans or credit cards can make it easy for them to

One needs to be aware of 'good and desirable' actions that impact credit score positively and stay away from the bad ones

avail credit as they do not have any existing credit obligations to fulfil. This is not correct. Having active credit accounts and displaying good repayment behaviour against them is a positive sign for lenders.

If you have fared well with your credit obligations in the past and continue to do so, your risk of defaulting in future is relatively less and you can get credit approval with better offers and at preferential rates. On the other hand, indiscipline in handling credit in the past

makes you a risky customer and bureaus give you a low credit score making it difficult to avail loans and cards.

But, if you have never taken any loan or credit card in your life, you do not have any credit history. Having no credit history leaves providers with no data to analyse the risk of credit provided to new to credit applicants. Many large lenders refrain from approving credit applications of such applicants. If you are new to credit, you also miss out on pre-approved loans and card offers from various lenders, apart from several benefits such as preferential rates.

Myth 5
Closing old credit cards is good for my credit score

We often tend to close old credit cards to save annual fees or just because we don't use them any more. However, this may not be advisable if you do not have a long credit history, haven't availed many credit products, or have a low credit score.

Before closing an old credit

card, do consider a couple of aspects.

First, it's always good to have a good mix of credit products in your portfolio because it shows your ability to manage different types of credit. So, before closing an old credit card, do take a close look at the total account in your credit report. If you have not taken too many credit products, you may want to continue with the card for a stronger product mix.

Second, lenders look at the length of your credit history when you apply for any kind of loan or a credit card and, having a credit card here with a long history and good repayment record may help. So, if your credit history with other credit products is not very long, continuing with an older credit card is recommended.

Also, remember that when you close a credit card, your credit limit would reduce, which may lead to a higher credit utilisation ratio that would negatively impact your score.

(The writer is Chief Product Officer, Paisabazaar.com)

COVER NOTE: BUNDLING BENEFITS

Keeping the policy alive and kicking

Package and multi-year policies offer convenience and practicality while buying, maintaining your insurance covers

K. NITYA KALYANI

Some time ago, the Madras High Court ordered all vehicles in the State of Tamil Nadu to be sold only with a 'five-year, bumper-to-bumper' cover. That order is now on hold as insurers have asked for time to design such policies and get the required regulatory permissions.

The court's idea was for a multi-year policy with a bundle of covers. We had explained in Cover Note in the edition dated September 6, how such bundled, or package, policies can serve us better and can offer more efficient pricing.

Multi-year policies have the added advantage of protecting us from our own forgetfulness to keep our insurance renewed!

Let us look at a few package and multi-year policies. A basic motor-vehicles policy from the point of view of what is mandated is the Third-party (TP) Liability policy. This is packaged with an own-damage cover to make a comprehensive

policy and can be further bundled with a menu of other optional covers like personal accident for the occupants, no-depreciation cover, roadside assistance, a cover ensuring a service vehicle while yours is being repaired and so on. The bells and whistles come at an additional cost but have their utility.

Multi-year motor-vehicle policies have also been available. A 10-year TP policy for two-wheelers was introduced in 2014, but hasn't caught on much. A multi-year cover for cars was introduced in July 2018 and made compulsory for new vehicles including two-wheelers, from June 2020. However, this was withdrawn in August that year.

Health insurance policies have been offered for two and three-year terms for quite some time now. This is attractive because of the premium discount as well as the fact that one is protected against the premium increases that have become sig-



Added advantage: Multi-year policies protect us from our own forgetfulness when it comes to renewals. * GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

nificant. Home-insurance policies have been package policies for the longest time. The Householders' Comprehensive, policy dating back to the nationalised era of general insurance, had ten different covers packaged as one, including even personal-accident cover for household staff and continues to be on offer and many further options are now available, includ-

ing some multi-year policies.

Package policies and multi-year policies lend a dimension of convenience and practicality to buying and maintaining our portfolio of insurance.

Linking to dates

One more convenient insurance hack that will save our skins when we forget to renew is to fix convenient renewal

dates. Life policies are often linked to birthdays or wedding anniversaries which makes it easy for people to remember. If your policy is linked to a tax benefit, more the reason you should meet the March 31 deadline and hence, its renewal date should give you enough breathing room.

Premium timing

You can ask your insurance firm to align all your policies to the same renewal date. They can do this by extending some policies/ cutting short others as a one-time exercise and bringing them all to the target date.

If a single renewal date for all policies is too much of a financial outgo all at once, then spread them out to some on the first date of each quarter or a conveniently remembered trigger date. It could be timed for your Deepavali bonus date or the date of interest on a fixed deposit.

And if you are like a significant number of people who

misplace policies, ensure you have registered on your insurance company's website so that you can access policy details online for reference at the time of renewal, for checking details while filing your I-T returns or indeed, when you are filing a claim.

You can pool all your policies from various insurers, life, health, motor and so on into an e-insurance account and have them all in one place at the click of a mouse. This demat account, available through any insurer and even other financial service entities, will also come in handy for any policy updates such as address change or registered mobile number will be updated across policies and across insurers with one piece of communication.

If you have moved home often, and are missing policy renewal notices, you will know what a blessing that can be!

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

PERSONAL LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure - 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure - 5 years	
HDFC Bank	10.50-21.00	10,747-13,527	2,149-2,705	Upto 2.5% (Max Rs 25,000)
ICICI Bank	10.50-19.00	10,747-12,970	2,149-2,594	Upto 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	9.10-15.35	10,403-11,987	2,081-2,397	2% (Min Rs 1,000 and Max Rs 10,000)
State Bank of India#	9.60-13.85	10,525-11,595	2,105-2,319	Upto 1.5% (Max Rs 15,000)
Punjab National Bank^	7.95-14.50	10,126-11,764	2,025-2,353	Upto 1%
Federal Bank	10.49-17.99	10,744-12,694	2,149-2,539	Upto 3%
South Indian Bank	10.25-14.45	10,685-11,751	2,137-2,350	2%
IDFC First Bank^^	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Upto 3.50% (Min Rs 2,999)
Bank of Maharashtra*	9.45-12.80	10,489-11,325	2,098-2,265	Upto 1%
Indian Overseas Bank	11.30-12.05	10,946-11,135	2,189-2,227	Upto 0.75%
Indian Bank**	9.05-13.65	10,391-11,544	2,078-2,309	1%
Dhanlaxmi Bank	11.90-15.70	11,097-12,079	2,219-2,416	Upto 2.5% (Min Rs 1,250)

#Festive Offer: 100% Waiver in Processing Charges from 15th August 2021 till 31st January 2022 on SBI pension loan, for individuals having SBI salary or other account holders and on personal loans applied through SBI YONO app.

^Full waiver of upfront/processing fees and documentation charges from 01.09.2021 to 31.12.2021

^^50% off on Processing Fees on Personal Loans under Festive Offer valid from 1st October to 30th November 2021

*Interest rate of 8.45% p.a. offered to BPCL (Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd) employees

**For pensioners, NIL processing fees for loan upto Rs 25,000, and fees of Rs 250 for loan above Rs 25,000.

Rates and charges as on October 11

Source: Paisabazaar.com

NEW CAR LOAN-RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure-5 years	
Union Bank of India	7.25-7.50	9,959-10,019	Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	7.35-9.20	9,983-10,428	Up to Rs 1,500
Bank of Baroda	7-10.05	9,901-10,636	Rs. 1500 flat
Canara Bank	7.35-9.90	9,983-10,599	0.25% (Rs 1,000-5,000)
Bank of India	7.35-8.55	9,983-10,270	Up to 0.25% (Max: Rs 5,000) For Rural Areas: Rs 1,500 - 20,000
UCO Bank	7.7	10,067	1% (Max: Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India*	7.25-7.95	9,960-10,126	NIL till 31.01.2022
IDBI Bank	9.20-9.90	10,428-10,599	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra**	7.40-10.40	9,995-10,722	NIL till 30.09.2021
Indian Overseas Bank	7.55	10,031	Rs 500-Rs 10,000
ICICI Bank	7.90-9.85	10,114-10,587	Rs 3,500-Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	7.95-8.30	10,126-10,210	0.5% (Rs 3,500-Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	7.95-10.00	10,126-10,624	0.5% (Rs 2,500-Rs 10,000)
Dhanlaxmi Bank	8.10-9.20	10,162-10,428	1% of the loan amount
Federal Bank	8.5	10,258	Rs 2,000-4,500
Axis Bank	7.45-14.50	10,007-11,764	Rs 3,500-Rs 7,000
South Indian Bank	9.05-10.50	10,391-10,747	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
RBL Bank	12.00-14.00	11,122-11,634	Up to 2%
City Union Bank	12.25-12.75	11,185-11,313	1% (Min: Rs 250)

*Further interest rate concession of 0.20% on purchase of electric vehicle (Green Car Loan)

**0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holder. 0.05% concession on interest rate to women & armed forces personnel subject to minimum floor ceiling of RLLR.

Rates and charges as on October 12

Source: Paisabazaar.com

Dravid likely to be head coach

Batting, bowling and fielding coaches for Team India to be appointed too

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has initiated procedure to appoint coaching staff for the Indian men's team, including that of the head coach. Rahul Dravid, the former India captain, has emerged a front-runner to take over the reins from Ravi Shastri after the T20 World Cup.

The BCCI, on Sunday, invited applications for five posts – head coach, batting coach, bowling coach, fielding coach for the men's senior team and the Head - Sports Science and Medicine at the National Cricket Academy.



Almost there: Dravid's elevation to the head coach's post seems a mere formality. • FILE PHOTO

Criteria

The head coach applicants – who have played at least 30 Tests or 50 ODIs or have two years experience at international level or three years a rung below it – have been set a deadline of Oct. 26 to email their application. Aspirants for the other posts have been asked to formally apply by Nov. 3.

With Dravid having been involved in informal discus-

sions with the BCCI hierarchy over the last week about his elevation from the Head of Cricket at the NCA position to the head coach's role, it will be interesting to see if any other candidate throws his hat into the ring.

In case of multiple applications, the BCCI will have to first reconstitute the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) and then conduct interviews

of shortlisted candidates to adhere to its rulebook.

Once the head coach's appointment is formalised, he will be consulted by the national selection panel that will finalise the coaching staff. It is understood that Paras Mhambrey, who has been Dravid's trusted ally in developmental coaching structure for four years, will be handed over the bowling

coach's role while Vikram Rathour is set to be retained as the batting coach.

Abhay Sharma, who has been the India-A and Under-19 fielding coach and has had a short stint with the senior team, may be considered for the fielding coach's role.

The tenure of each of the coaching roles will be two years.

India takes on England today

Management keen to iron out batting line-up concerns

WC WARM-UPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

All-rounder Hardik Pandya's form and a few batting slots will be foremost on captain Virat Kohli's mind as India looks to make the most of two T20 World Cup warm-up matches starting with a game against England on Monday.

With all the Indian players coming straight from the recently-concluded IPL, match practice isn't a problem, but getting the perfect combination on the park before the high-profile opening game against Pakistan on October 24 is a priority.

Against England and Wednesday's game versus Australia, the Indian team management would look to give the players who are still not automatic choices in the playing XI, more over to bat or bowl to gauge their current form.

Rohit Sharma's opening partner would be a tough choice between Ishan Kishan and K.L. Rahul. Rahul will be the favourite considering his experience and IPL form. Kishan was brilliant as Ro-



Back in the fold: Dhoni, in his new role as the mentor of Team India, with Shastri, Arun, Sridhar and Rathour.

• INSTAGRAM/INDIANCRICKETTEAM

hit's opening partner in the last two games as he nearly took Mumbai Indians into the play-off.

If Rahul is preferred, Kishan might force Hardik into

the No. 6 slot, which is ideal for a finisher. But the question that needs to be addressed is, what would be the best slot for him: above Rishabh Pant at No. 5, or No.

■ Rohit's opening partner would be a tough choice between Ishan Kishan and K.L. Rahul

■ Bhuvneshwar and Bumrah are expected to be the two pacers

6.

Similarly, in the spin department, Ravindra Jadeja may have two spinners playing with him and Varun Chakravarthy is all but confirmed if he remains fit. The third spinner could be either Rahul Chahar and R. Ashwin. Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah are expected to be the two pacers.

For England, a rejuvenated Jos Buttler with his pyrotechnics will hold the key along with the flamboyant Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow. If the IPL is any indicator, some of the English players like Liam Livingstone and Dawid Malan seemed to struggle when the ball didn't come on to the bat. Skipper Eoin Morgan was brilliant as a leader at KKR but he would also like to score a few runs going into the tournament.

Jatinder, Maqsood star in Oman's facile win

PNG bowlers fail to make impression

T20 WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AL AMERAT (OMAN)

Ludhiana-born Jatinder Singh smashed an unbeaten 73 as co-hosts Oman thrashed Papua New Guinea (PNG) by 10 wickets in the opening Group-B first round match of the T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

Oman chased down a modest 130-run target in only 13.2 overs, courtesy Jatinder's 42-ball-knock and his opening partner Aqib Ilyas' unbeaten 50 off 43 balls.

None of the PNG bowlers could trouble Jatinder and Aqib as they went about their business confidently from the word go.

Jatinder's knock had seven fours and four sixes in his knock.

Earlier, skipper Assad Vala struck a fine half-century before rival captain Zeeshan Maqsood (4/20) restricted PNG to 129/9 with his slow left-arm orthodox bowling.

Oman will play Bangladesh in its next match on Tuesday, while PNG will take on Scotland the same day.

The scores: Papua New Guinea 129/9 in 20 overs (Assad Vala 56, Charles Amini 37, Bilal Khan 2/16, Kaleemullah 2/19, Zeeshan Maqsood 4/20) lost to Oman 131/0 (Aqib Ilyas 50 n.o., Jatinder Singh 73 n.o.)

Toss: Oman.
Oman beat Papua New Guinea by 10 wickets.

Scotland stuns Bangladesh

Shakib becomes leading wicket-taker in T20Is

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MUSCAT

Chris Greaves starred with bat and ball as Scotland shocked Bangladesh with a six-run win in the Twenty20 World Cup on Sunday.

Greaves' 28-ball 45 guided Scotland to 140 for nine and he then took two key wickets with his leg-spin to restrict Bangladesh to 134 for seven in the second first-round match of the day.

Greaves, who had earlier rescued Scotland from a precarious 53 for six, sent back Shakib Al Hasan (20) and Mushfiqur Rahim (38) to dent Bangladesh's chase.

Bangladesh spinners Mahedi Hasan and Shakib picked up wickets regularly, but Greaves gave Scotland crucial runs with his late ca-



Delivering the goods: Man-of-the-match Chris Greaves' all-round show was the cornerstone of Scotland's win. • AFP

meo. Shakib's wicket of Michael Leask for nought took him past Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga as the leading wicket-taker in T20Is.

The scores: Scotland 140/9 in 20 overs (George Munsey 29,

Chris Greaves 45, Mustafizur 32, Shakib 2/17, Mahedi 3/19) bt Bangladesh 134/7 in 20 overs (Mushfiqur 38, Brad Wheel 3/24, Chris Greaves 2/19).

Toss: Bangladesh.

Scotland won by six runs.

Sri Lanka looks for winning start

Takes on Namibia, returning to the big stage after 18 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ABU DHABI

Still undergoing a difficult transition phase, former champion Sri Lanka will seek a perfect start to its T20 World Cup campaign when it clashes with Namibia, which is returning to the big stage after 18 years, in the Qualifiers here on Monday.

Sri Lanka won the 2014 edition of the tournament and from next year onwards its champion players retired one after another, leaving the side with a challenging job of finding replacements.

Its rankings plummeted and as a result, it found itself in the first round of the showpiece instead of getting a direct berth. As if losing its legends



Young talent: Sri Lanka's Charith Asalanka did well against South Africa and will have a big role to play. • FILE PHOTO

was not enough, Sri Lanka is also dealing with year-long suspensions handed to performers like Niroshan Dickwella, Kusal Mendis and Danushka Gunathilaka for breaching the bio-secure bubble in England.

Monday's matches

- Ireland vs The Netherlands, 3.30 p.m. (IST)
- Sri Lanka vs Namibia, 7.30 p.m. (IST)

CSK bullish on retaining Dhoni

CEO Viswanathan praises his leadership qualities



A successful campaign: CSK CEO K. Viswanathan with M.S. Dhoni, Suresh Raina, Stephen Fleming and other support staff. • SPORTSPICS/IPL

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

"According to me M.S. Dhoni will play for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL next season. But I have not spoken to him on the subject yet," said Chennai Super Kings CEO K.S. Viswanathan after a triumphant campaign.

Speaking to *The Hindu* from Dubai on Sunday, Viswanathan spoke about Dhoni's leadership qualities and big match temperament.

"Our team meetings were very brief. They did not last more than two minutes; you would not believe this. Yet Dhoni managed to convey to every player what his role was," revealed Viswanathan.

And it was Dhoni's idea to start the CSK camp in Dubai early. "This really helped the team," observed Viswanathan.

About Dhoni, despite lack of runs, arriving before Ravindra Jadeja and conjuring a match-winning cameo against Delhi Capitals in Qualifier 1, Viswanathan said, "He has this big match temperament. He backs himself to deliver."

Viswanathan said, "Remember we have reached nine finals and won four of them. Our victory in 2018 was special because we were coming back."

He added, "We lost narrowly in the final in 2019. 2020 was a bad year, the law of averages caught up with us. To bounce back from that and lift the Trophy in 2021 is hugely satisfying."

"Age was only a number," Viswanathan said and spoke about criticism from some quarters after CSK bought Robin Uthappa.

He said, "They said Uthappa was 35 and we are again signing an older player. But we knew Uthappa had experience and was a match-winner. His knocks in Qualifier-1 and final were crucial."

Asked whether CSK would rebuild from the next auction, Viswanathan did not commit himself. "Only after we receive the rules for the auction that we will decide on our strategy."

Viswanathan had words of praise for the net bowlers. "Bowlers like Tushar Deshpande, Tanvir-ul-Haq, Mu-

kesh Chaudhary, Rakshan Reddy, and bowlers from the MRF Pace Foundation, really helped our batsmen prepare."

On the opening combination of Ruturaj Gaikwad and Faf du Plessis, Viswanathan said, "We always knew Ruturaj was a special player. And Faf is a proven customer, who performs when the chips are down."

He appreciated the effort from the bowlers. "If you do not pick wickets, you are not in the game. Josh Hazlewood is a very good red ball bowler. We picked him because we felt if someone is such a capable red ball bowler, he should be good with the white ball too. Hazlewood proved us right."

"Ravindra Jadeja is a match-winner with the bat, ball and on the field. Shardul Thakur was a bit expensive but picked vital wickets. Moeen Ali hit the ball a long way and chipped in with the ball when the conditions were right."

"We will be going for title No. 5 in the next edition," concluded Viswanathan.

Chhetri credits youngsters for triumph

SAFF C'SHIPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MALE

Talismanic skipper Sunil Chhetri played a pivotal role in India's eighth SAFF Championships title triumph by striking five goals but he credited the young brigade for the team's victory.

The 37-year-old Chhetri went past the legendary Pele and equalled Lionel Messi when he scored the team's opener – and his 80th goal – against Nepal in the summit clash on Saturday.

"Look at the youngsters – it feels good for all of them. It's all due to their hard work. We were here for 20 days till the final, staying on an island, riding the waves every day for practice sessions, and matches," Chhetri said in a release from All India Football Federation.

"We made it special as we were not so good in the first two games. It was tough from there to come up and play the way we did," added Chhetri after his third tri-

umph in the SAFF Championship as a player.

Chhetri has won the regional tournament in 2011 and 2015 also.

"Didn't start like we should have, but ended exactly how we wanted to. Proud of this bunch and the way we got things on track," he later said in a tweet.

Chhetri was all praise for

the other two Indian goal getters on Saturday – Suresh Singh and Sahal Abdul Samad.

"I enjoyed watching that, Sahal. Suresh, of all the things you copy from me, this is up there. Make it a habit," said the captain.

Sahal, on his part, said it was an "unbelievable" moment and "a miracle".



Big moment: The Indian team celebrates its SAFF Championships title win. • TWITTER/INDIANFOOTBALL

Chelsea staves off a spirited Brentford

Rocky start for Newcastle under new owners; Inter loses its head against Lazio

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEWCASTLE

Newcastle's new dawn under the ownership of the Saudi sovereign wealth fund got off to a disappointing start as Tottenham silenced St James' Park with a 3-2 win on Sunday. The defeat leaves Newcastle still in the Premier League relegation zone.

Earlier on Saturday, Ben Chilwell sent Chelsea back to the top of the Premier

League as his blistering strike and a superb display from Edouard Mendy sealed a hard-fought 1-0 win at Brentford.

Reigning champion Inter Milan suffered its first Serie A defeat of the season as it lost a bad-tempered game 3-1 to Lazio, while AC Milan fought back from two goals down against Verona to go top of the table.

The results: Premier League: Everton 0 lost to West Ham 1 (Ogbonna 74); Newcastle 2

(Wilson 2, Dier 89-og) lost to Tottenham 3 (Ndombele 17, Kane 22, Son 45+4).

Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Schick 55) lost to Bayern Munich 5 (Lewandowski 4, 30, Muller 34, Gnabry 35, 37).

Serie A: Empoli 1 (Di Francesco 30) lost to Atalanta 4 (Ilicic 10, 26, Viti 49-o.g., Zapata 89); Cagliari 3 (Joao Pedro 4, 90+4, Caceres 74) bt Sampdoria 1 (Thorsby 82); Udinese 1 (Beto 82) drew with Bologna 1 (Barrow 67); Genoa 2 (Destro 27, Vazquez 90) drew with Sassuolo 2 (Scamacca 18, 21).

La Liga: Rayo Vallecano 2 (Hernandez 26, Nteka 66) bt Elche 1 (Boye 14); Celta Vigo 0 lost to Sevilla 1 (Mir 54).

Saturday: Premier League: Brentford 0 lost to Chelsea 1 (Chilwell 45+1).

Serie A: Lazio 3 (Immobile 64-pen, Anderson 81, Milinkovic-Savic 90+1) bt Inter Milan 1 (Perisic 12-pen); AC Milan 3 (Giroud 59, Kessie 76-pen, Gunter-78-og) bt Hellas Verona 2 (Caprari 7, Barak 24-pen).

La Liga: Levante 0 drew with Getafe 0; Real Sociedad 1 (Lobete 90) bt Real Mallorca 0.

Uber for China, Thomas for Indonesia

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AARHUS

China beat defending champion Japan 3-1 in the Uber Cup final.

Later Indonesia lifted the Thomas Cup for the first time since 2002 after sweeping past defending champion China 3-0.

TV PICKS

Men's T20 World Cup (first round): Star Sports 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.; **Warm-up game**: India vs England: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

IN BRIEF



Rotich and Memuye win Paris Marathon titles

PARIS Kenya's Elisha Rotich set a new course record in winning the Paris Marathon on Sunday, while Tigist Memuye led an Ethiopian podium sweep in the women's race. Rotich, 31, won in 2hr 04min 23sec (old: 2:05.04, Kenenisa Bekele, 2014). Ethiopia's Hailemariam Kiros was second and Kenya's Hillary Kipsambu third. Memuye timed 2:26:12s ahead of Yeneshe Dinkesa and Fantu Jimma. AFP

Goyat downs Tshibangu in third round

DUBAI Indian professional Neeraj Goyat notched up a technical knockout win in the third round over Congo's Bebe Rico Tshibangu in the Amir Khan-supported Super Boxing League's Crypto Fight Night here on Saturday. The victory in the welterweight bout continued Goyat's three-year unbeaten streak in the circuit. PTI

Shiva Keshavan to stand for IOC Athletes' Commission election

NEW DELHI Star Indian luger Shiva Keshavan will seek to become a member of the International Olympic Committee's Athletes Commission when the elections are held during the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. The 40-year-old six-time Winter Olympian has been approved as one of the 17 candidates to fill in two vacant places of the IOC's Athletes Commission. PTI

Shafali and Radha excel for Sixers

HOBART Shafali Verma struck 57 off 50 balls with six fours and Radha Yadav claimed two for 31 in Sydney Sixers' five-wicket win over Hobart Hurricanes in the Women's Big Bash League here on Sunday. Hurricanes made 125 for nine in 20 overs and Sixers replied with 129 for five in 19.3 overs. In another match, Poonam Yadav's spell of two for 25 was not enough as Brisbane Heat lost to Perth Scorchers in one-over eliminator after both teams finished on 137. PTI

Bangalore Winter Meeting to begin on Oct. 31

BENGALURU The Managing Committee, at its meeting held on Sunday (Oct. 17), has decided to reschedule the Bangalore Winter Meeting 2021-2022 due to inclement weather and it will now commence on Sunday (Oct. 31). The rescheduled programme will be published in due course.

Sharath will look to break the jinx

Defending champion Sreeja heads the women's field

TABLE TENNIS

RAKESH RAO
CHANDIGARH

The presence of A. Sharath Kamal at the top of the heap of the country's leading players taking part in the UTT National-ranking table tennis championship (North Zone) is in keeping with the importance of the domestic season-opener.

Eight months after the National championship, Panchkula's Tau Devi Lal Stadium is once again set to host the men, women and newly-introduced under-19 sections over the next five days.

Quality competition

Over 250 entries in men and in excess of 160 in women are testimony of how keen the players are to get the feel of quality competition in these days of the pandemic.

Sharath, the Indian spearhead in the World championship late next month, will be around to test his preparedness in Tunisia before heading to two events in Slovenia.

Though favourite to win the top prize of ₹84,000, Sharath will be keen to break the title-jinx at this sprawling venue. In his two previous



Favourite: Sharath, who lost to Snehit and Sathiyam in his two previous visits to the venue, will hope to turn things around. *AP

visits here, Sharath lost to the young Fidel Snehit in the 2018 edition of this championship and to G. Sathiyam in the National final in February.

With Sathiyam giving the tournament a miss, Manav Thakkar is seeded second, followed by two former National champions — Soumyajit Ghosh and Sanil Shetty.

Depth in field

The depth of the field is such that Commonwealth champion Harmeet Desai, defending champion A. Amalraj,

Ronit Bhanja and Sushmit Sriram are more than capable of going beyond the quarterfinals.

In the women's section, where Manika Batra has expectedly stayed away after engaging the Table Tennis Federation of India in a legal battle, defending champion Sreeja Akula heads the field.

Interestingly, the top half of the draw features National runner-up Reeth Rishya and two semifinalists Sreeja and Takeme Sarkar.

The lower half includes Olympian and second seed

Sutirtha Mukherjee, third seed Ayhika Mukherjee, Anusha Kutumb and Kritika Sinha Roy among those expected to be in the quarterfinals.

The seedings:
Men: 1. Sharath Kamal, 2. Manav Thakkar, 3. Soumyajit Ghosh, 4. Sanil Shetty, 5. Harmeet Desai, 6. Anthony Amalraj, 7. Ronit Bhanja, 8. Sushmit Sriram.

Women: 1. Sreeja Akula, 2. Sutirtha Mukherjee, 3. Ayhika Mukherjee, 4. Reeth Rishya, 5. Takeme Sarkar, 6. Anusha Kutumbale, 7. Kritika Sinha Roy, 8. Prapti Sen.

Francis Bacon should score an encore

HYDERABAD: Francis Bacon, who won well in his last start, may score an encore in the G. Sudhakar Reddy Memorial Cup, the chief event of Monday's (Oct. 18) races.

1. NEARCO PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only — 1.00 p.m.: 1. Briar Ridge (10) Kiran Naidu 56, 2. Cosmico (5) Akshay Kumar 56, 3. My Master (4) B.R. Kumar 56, 4. Salisbury (11) Neeraj 56, 5. Sea of Class (6) Mukesh Kumar 56, 6. Star Cruise (8) R. Ajinkya 56, 7. Garnet (7) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 8. Hot Seat (3) Md. Ismail 54.5, 9. Sally (1) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 10. Thanks (9) Nakhat Singh 54.5 and 11. Wild Card (2) Aneel 54.5.

1. THANKS, 2. COSMICO, 3. SEA OF CLASS
2. BELOVED PRINCE PLATE (Div. II) (1,600m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III) — 1.30: 1. Solo Winner (10) B.R. Kumar 61, 2. N R I City (8) Rohit Kumar 59.5, 3. That's My Way (1) Aneel 59.5, 4. Gurbaaz (2) Kuldeep Singh 58.5, 5. Southern Lady (4) Ajeeth Kumar 57, 6. Bravo (5) Khurshad Alam 57, 7. Lightning Fairy (9) Ajeeth Kumar 57, 8. Shelly Anne (7) Santosh Raj 56.5, 9. Royal Girl (3) Gaurav Singh 55.5 and 10. Lightning Pearl (6) Surya Prakash 50.5.

1. SOLO WINNER, 2. N R I CITY, 3. GURBAAZ
3. NEARCO PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) — 2.05: 1. Bruno (11) R. Ajinkya 56, 2. Flying Rudolf (9) Kiran Naidu 56, 3. Quality Warrior (6) Akshay Kumar 56, 4. Unsung Hero (3) Mukesh Kumar 56, 5. Gray Hawk (1) Aneel 54.5, 6. Inside Story (2) Nakhat Singh 54.5, 7. Morior Invictus (5) Rafique Sk. 54.5, 8. Riva-

davia (4) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 9. Spectacular Cruise (10) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 10. Total Darc (7) Afroz Khan 54.5 and 11. Visionary (8) Neeraj 54.5.

1. VISIONARY, 2. QUALITY WARRIOR, 3. UNSUNG HERO

4. LOYAL MANZAR PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) — 2.40: 1. Cheltenham (2) Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. N R I Sun (5) Mukesh Kumar 59.5, 3. Zamazenta (8) Neeraj 59, 4. Advance Guard (3) Nakhat Singh 57.5, 5. Icicle (11) Ashad Asbar 57, 6. Show Me Your Walk (7) Akshay Kumar 57, 7. Horse O' War (9) B. Nikhil 55.5, 8. Lightning Power (10) R. Ajinkya 55.5, 9. Sweet Melody (1) Kuldeep Singh 55.5, 10. Greek's Ace (6) Gaurav Singh 54.5 and 11. Grand Finale (4) Md. Ismail 54.

1. N R I SUN, 2. SHOW ME YOUR WALK, 3. CHELTENHAM
5. ALIJAH PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) — 3.15: 1. N R I Magic (7) Mukesh Kumar 60.5, 2. Mind Reader (5) R.S. Jodha 58, 3. Blissful (3) Nakhat Singh 57.5, 4. Pedro Planet (4) Neeraj 56, 5. Whiskey Martini (9) Gaurav Singh 54.5, 6. Alluri's Pride (11) B. Nikhil 53.5, 7. Angelita (8) Kuldeep Singh 53.5, 8. Soul Empress (6) Aneel 53.5, 9. Artemis Arrow (2) Rafique Sk. 52, 10. Secret Circle (1) G. Naresh 51.5 and 11. Armani Candy (10) Surya Prakash 50.

1. N R I MAGIC, 2. BLISSFUL, 3. PEDRO PLANET

6. G. SUDHAKAR REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (2,000m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) — 3.50: 1. Saffron Art (3) Ajit Singh 60, 2. Francis Bacon (4) Ashad Asbar 59.5, 3. Mark

My Word (1) Nakhat Singh 59, 4. Lamha (6) Akshay Kumar 56.5, 5. King Maker (5) Surya Prakash 55.5, 6. Sublime (2) S.S. Tanwar 55.5 and 7. Just Incredible (7) Aneel 54.5.

1. FRANCIS BACON, 2. LAMHA, 3. SAFFRON ART

7. ALIJAH PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) — 4.25: 1. Brilliant View (5) Santosh Raj 60, 2. Stunning Force (10) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. Proud (1) Nakhat Singh 59, 4. Curcumin (7) R. Ajinkya 56.5, 5. Blazing Jupiter (2) A.A. Vikrant 55.5, 6. Sacred Lament (4) Ajit Singh 55.5, 7. Aibak (6) Aneel 54.5, 8. Art In Motion (9) N.B. Kuldeep 54, 9. Look Of Love (8) Rafique Sk. 53.5 and 10. Classy Dame (3) C.P. Bopanna 53.

1. BRILLIANT VIEW, 2. STUNNING FORCE, 3. ART IN MOTION

8. BELOVED PRINCE PLATE (Div. I) (1,600m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III) — 5.00: 1. Smart Memory (7) G. Naresh 61, 2. Tenth Attraction (8) Rafique Sk. 61, 3. Hip Hop (9) C.P. Bopanna 59, 4. Serendip (3) Santosh Raj 59, 5. Red River (6) R.S. Jodha 58.5, 6. Sputnik (2) Md. Ismail 57.5, 7. Wor's Up Jay (4) Abhay Singh 57, 8. Astronaut (10) Khurshad Alam 56.5, 9. Jo Malone (11) Afroz Khan 56, 10. Proud Legacy (5) Kuldeep Singh 51.5 and 11. Cephalonia (1) B. Nikhil 50.

1. SERENDIP, 2. SPUTNIK, 3. PROUD LEGACY
Day's Best: FRANCIS BACON
Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8. Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8.
Tanala: All races.

Xfinity bags feature event

HYDERABAD: Mr. Akshay Karan's Xfinity ridden by Akshay Kumar won the S. Malakonda Reddy Memorial Cup, the feature event of Sunday's (Oct. 17) races.

The winner is trained by Anant Vatsalya.

1. GOODWOOD PLATE (Div. I) (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): ARCHANGELS (A.A. Vikrant), 1. Sri (B.R. Kumar), 2. Sive Ra (Ajeeth Kumar), 3. Amal-itana (Nakhat Singh), 4. 1/2, 3 and Nk. Im 28.71s. ₹54 (w), 15, 11 and 75 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 107, SHW: 31 and 29 (p). SHP: 304, Q: 122, Tanala: 4,522. Favourite: N R I Sugar. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: D. Netto.

2. INDIAN NAVY ROLLING CHALLENGE TROPHY (1,400m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): CITY OF WISDOM (Mukesh Kumar), 1. N R I Elegance (Gaurav Singh), 2. Strategist (Nakhat Singh), 3. Angel Tesoro (G. Naresh), 4, 2, 2 and 1-1/4. Im 26.43s. ₹176 (w), 29, 24 and 31 (p). SHP: 55, THP: 69, SHW: 37 and 35 (p). SHP: 1,164, Q: 958, Tanala: 8,955. Favourite: Dandy Man. Owner: Mr. K. Thirubhuvan Reddy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

3. HALLMARK PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): GOOD CONNECTION (Gaurav Singh), 1. Top Diamond (Akshay Kumar), 2. Moon-

light Ruby (Kuldeep Singh), 3 and N R I Sport (Mukesh Kumar), 4, 3-1/2, 2 and Sh. Im 26.68s. ₹24 (w), 12, 12 and 23 (p). SHP: 25, THP: 46, SHW: 17 and 11, FP: 80, Q: 40, Tanala: 386. Favourite: Top Diamond. Owners: Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta & Mr. Sushel Kumar Gupta rep. Vijay Racing & Farms Private Limited, Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla & Simone Z. Poonawalla rep. Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Private Limited & Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

4. BLUE MAX PLATE (1,600m) Maiden, 3-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): NIGHTMARE (Mukesh Kumar), 1. Star Dancer (Kiran Naidu), 2. Special Effort (Nakhat Singh), 3 and N R I Touch (Akshay Kumar), 4. Not run: Paladino, 3/4, Nk and 3/4. Im 42.19s. ₹50 (w), 14, 12 and 18 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 47, SHW: 48, FP: 595, Q: 306, Tanala: 1,554. Favourite: N R I Touch. Owner: Mr. Maddali Sai Kumar. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.

5. FLORINA PLATE (1,600m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): MISS MARVELLOUS (Akshay Kumar), 1. Story Teller (R.S. Jodha), 2. Sun Dancer (N.B. Kuldeep), 3 and Call Of The Blue (Gaurav Singh), 4, 2, 1 and 1. Im 40.58s. ₹13 (w), 10, 31 and 24 (p). SHP: 86, THP: 68, SHW: 10 and 44, FP: 137, Q: 118, Tanala: 791. Favourite: Miss Marvellous. Owners: Mr. Srinivas Pangam & Mrs. Nirupama Chodagam. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

6. S. MALAKONDA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): XFINITY (Akshay Kumar), 1. Amyra (Ashad Asbar), 2. Kingstone (Nakhat Singh), 3 and Mystery (G. Naresh), 4, 1-1/2, Hd and 6-1/2. Im 13.53s. ₹25 (w), 13, 16 and 16 (p). SHP: 62, THP: 37, SHW: 13 and 45, FP: 202, Q: 121, Tanala: 854. Favourite: Xfinity. Owner: Mr. Akshay Karan. Trainer: Anant Vatsalya.

7. GOODWOOD PLATE (Div. II) (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): KIMBERLEY (S.S. Tanwar), 1. Pacific Command (Akshay Kumar), 2. Silk (Mukesh Kumar), 3 and Cash Register (Ashad Asbar), 4, 3-3/4, 3/4 and 2. Im 28.23s. ₹15 (w), 11, 14 and 16 (p). SHP: 43, THP: 50, SHW: 11 and 37, FP: 84, Q: 56, Tanala: 322. Favourite: Kimberley. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Laxman Singh. Jackpot: 70%: ₹7,225 (76 tkts.), 30%: 366 (242 tkts.). Mini Jackpot: (i) 16,826 (2 tkts.), (ii) 2,084 (23 tkts.). Treble: (i) 2,604 (9 tkts.), (ii) 209 (253 tkts.).

Praggnanandhaa marches into final

To take on American Christopher Yoo in the title clash

CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Continuing his irrepressible form, R. Praggnanandhaa destroyed second-seeded German Vincent Keymer 2.5-0.5 to march into the final of the \$40,000 Challengers Chess Tour Finals on Saturday.

In the final of this online rapid chess event, the third-

seeded Indian will take on Christopher Yoo, who blanked his higher-rated American compatriot Awonder Liang 3-0.

Praggnanandhaa, winner of his best-of-four-game quarterfinal 3-0, won the first two games against Keymer to stretch his winning sequence to five.

In the first game, playing black, Praggnanandhaa came up with a brilliant fin-

ish gaining a bishop for an advanced pawn. Keymer resigned on the 56th move when he saw no way of stopping another pawn from becoming a queen.

Even in the second game, Praggnanandhaa emerged with an extra knight and threatened to throw the knockout punch after advancing a pawn to the seventh rank. Keymer resigned on his 53rd move.

In the third game, Praggnanandhaa gained a winning position after a desperate Keymer erred on the 38th move.

In a position that involved rook pairs and pawns, Praggnanandhaa chose to draw by perpetual checks to gain the half a point to advance.

The semifinals (best of four rapid games): R. Praggnanandhaa bt Vincent Keymer (Ger) 2.5-0.5; Christopher Yoo (USA) bt Awonder Liang (USA) 3-0.

Getting the balance right is important: Fleming

T20 WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

Former New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming, who will be assisting head coach Gary Stead during the Black Caps' T20 World Cup campaign, feels their players' skill levels are very high and the team only needs to get the balance right.

Fleming has joined the New Zealand team after guiding Chennai Super Kings to their fourth IPL title on Friday.

"It's a good squad. We've never had as much talent as this within New Zealand Cricket, so getting the right balance and the way you want to play the game is very important.

"The skill set and what these guys put out, and entertain us with, is very high,"



Stephen Fleming. *FILE PHOTO

Fleming told *stuff.co.nz* on Sunday.

Key to success

Fleming said that acclimatising to the conditions would be the key to success in the tournament.

"Coming to grips with these conditions will be the challenge in warm-up games... is going to be very important, and there's a couple of key games first up

so dealing with pressure and starting the tournament well is a priority.

"There's a little bit of time before my MIQ (Managed Isolation and Quarantine) spot and it's just a great opportunity. We've talked for a while about sharing ideas and coming into the camp and watching these players who I'm a big fan of," Fleming added.

New Zealand has two warm-up games lined up, against England and Australia, before it plays Pakistan in the tournament proper.

"I'm doing five days now pre-World Cup and talk about the conditions in Dubai and Abu Dhabi which we've been playing in, and also cast an eye over and get some ideas back from him (Stead). I'm very proud to get the Black Caps kit back on as well."

Broad feels relentless pressure will be the key

England fast bowler says it would be great to have Archer in Australia

ASHES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

England fast bowler Stuart Broad says it won't be express pace but creating relentless pressure that will hold the key for his side in the Ashes tour in Australia later this year.

Broad, who was included in coach Chris Silverwood's 17-member squad for the Ashes due to begin in Brisbane on December 8 after recovering from a calf injury, said England has a Plan-B and it should work for it against Australia.

"I've been doing quite a bit of research and looking at every right-arm over wicket to right-handers and every right-arm round wicket to left-handers that's fallen in Australia in the last six years," Broad was quoted as

saying by *The Telegraph*. "We often, in England, talk about express pace, but that's not what I'm seeing. It's relentlessness with the ball. It's (Glenn) McGrath-like that you do for a long period of time.

Brilliant record

"Kyle Abbott and (Vernon) Philander have got brilliant records there. It's bringing the stumps into play and, as a whole bowling unit, repeating it, repeating it and repeating it for long periods of time. That's how you get success in Australia. So I'm not too worried."

He said it would be great to have Archer in Australia and have that express pace, but his side's bowlers would need to move the ball and to be relentless.

"That's what we've got to aim to do."



Plans in place: Broad has revealed the key to success in Australia this year and would be interesting to see if the hosts can counter it. *GETTY IMAGES

We want nothing less than title: Starc

Australia going into T20 WC full strength, says the fast bowler



Raring to go: Starc believes Australia has overcome a difficult phase. *FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ABU DHABI

Australia fast bowler Mitchell Starc on Sunday asserted that they can defy their recent slide in the shortest format and win the T20 World Cup since they are going into the tournament full-strength.

Australia has just six wins from its last 21 games in T20 cricket and has lost five consecutive series — against England, India, New Zealand, the West Indies and Bangladesh. "We had some really young, inexperienced players and some young guys playing their first games of cricket for Australia come into some really foreign conditions and thrown in the deep end really quickly," Starc told reporters.

"We have had to navigate a few difficulties, being back

home for the guys that have been in lockdown in Sydney or Melbourne or playing very little amount of cricket for their states."

Misleading picture

Starc said Australia's slide from being at the top in May last year to seventh in the T20 rankings is misleading and irrelevant to the T20 World Cup. "It's a huge positive that we have got our full-strength team here available to us for the World Cup. Obviously we didn't have that through the West Indies and Bangladesh," Starc said.

"It's no secret that we haven't won a T20 World Cup so I'm looking forward to hopefully being a part of our first one," Starc said.

Australia begins its campaign against South Africa here on October 23.

GENERAL

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GENEVA

The International Olympic Committee said it has "concerns" about FIFA's push for football World Cups every two years. Though IOC president Thomas Bach said last month "we will not interfere in this discussion," his organisation stepped in on Saturday after meeting in Athens to detail objections it shared with soccer stakeholders.

Clashes in the schedule with other sports, the men's World Cup overshadowing women's editions of the tournament, and "a further massive strain" on athlete welfare were all cited in an IOC statement after an executive board meeting.

The IOC did not refer to potential future World Cup-



Collision course: FIFA president Gianni Infantino's plans could lead to friction with IOC's chief Thomas Bach. *AP, REUTERS

Olympics clashes — potentially as soon as 2028 when the Summer Games are hosted by Los Angeles — in its statement.

The IOC did criticise FIFA's tactics in promoting the biennial World Cup project by noting a wider consultation across football "has obviously not taken place." FIFA revealed its detailed plan



tions in the World Cup strongholds of Europe and South America.

Those regions' governing bodies, UEFA and CONMEBOL, have warned of a World Cup boycott if FIFA pushes ahead with a plan that would undermine their continental championships, which are organised on the same four-year cycle as the IOC's Summer Games. All are next due in 2024.

The IOC cited "tennis, cycling, golf, gymnastics, swimming, athletics, Formula One and many others" as sports which would be affected by more World Cups. "This would undermine the diversity and development of sports other than football," the Olympic body said.

FIFA has not set a formal date for a decision on its proposal.