



Monsoon 2021 brings in near-normal rainfall, may withdraw soon

page 8



Vivek Ram Chaudhari takes over as the 27th Chief of Air Staff

page 9



SC Collegium suggests names for appointment as judges in four HCs

page 9

Smriti shines on rain-hit opening day of Pink ball Test

page 13



IN BRIEF



Delhi HC takes suo motu cognisance of shoot-out

NEW DELHI
Taking suo motu cognisance of the Rohini court shoot-out, the Delhi High Court on Thursday said deployment of sufficient police personnel was required in courts.

CITY PAGE 2

Court hands over T.N. rape case to Air Force

COIMBATORE/NEW DELHI
The additional mahila court in Coimbatore on Thursday handed over to the Indian Air Force the case of rape made against a Flight Lieutenant by his woman colleague for court-martial proceedings.

STATES PAGE 3

SOCIOLOGY

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Deadline to renew FCRA registration extended

NEW DELHI
The Ministry of Home Affairs has extended the deadline for NGOs to apply for renewal of their Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act registration certificates till December 31. The registration is mandatory for associations and NGOs to receive foreign funds.

NEWS PAGE 10

Amarinder says he is leaving Congress, but not joining BJP

Prospects of ex-CM floating a party or walking away with some MLAs are open

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh (retd.) on Thursday made it clear that he would be leaving the Congress as he felt "humiliated" by the leadership that had replaced him with Charanjeet Singh Channi. He more or less ruled out joining the BJP as well, despite his much-talked about meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday.



On the move: Captain Amarinder Singh (retd.) addressing the media in Mohali on his return from Delhi on Thursday.

'Won't take such insults' "I will resign... will not stay in the party," he said in a statement, and that he was still thinking through his options in the interest of Punjab and its security. "I will

not be treated in this humiliating manner... I will not take such insults," the statement quoted him as saying, adding that his "principles and beliefs do not allow him to stay in the Congress".

Later, after landing in Mohali, Capt. Singh asserted that "Sidhu is not the right man to lead Punjab and if he contests, I will not let him win."

Capt. Singh met National

Sidhu meets CM Channi

The crisis in the Punjab Congress, after its State chief Navjot Singh Sidhu quit, showed signs of easing on Thursday after he met Chief Minister Charanjeet Singh Channi. A consensus was reportedly reached to set up a panel to serve as a link between the party and the government.

Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Thursday morning, where he said he talked about the security situation in the sensitive border State.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Decisive poll: Mamata Banerjee leaves after casting her vote for the Bhabanipur byelection in Kolkata on Thursday.

Bhabanipur byelection sees low voter turnout

Polling better in other constituencies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

The Thursday bypoll in the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency in West Bengal, which Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is contesting, saw a relatively low voter turnout amidst isolated disturbances, while byelections to two other seats in the State and to the Pipili Assembly seat in Odisha saw a higher turnout.

Till 5 p.m., about 53.32% voters had exercised their franchise in Bhabanipur, compared to 76.12% in Jangipur and 78.6% at Samsanganj, where, along with Pipili, elections were adjourned due to the death of candidates during the Assembly poll in April.

There were no major incidents of violence in any of the three West Bengal constituencies.

In Pipili, 68.4% voter tur-

nout was recorded till 5 p.m., according to Election Commission of India data.

Odisha Chief Electoral Officer S.K. Lohani said there had been no untoward incident, and that polling had been peaceful.

Results on Oct. 3

The results of the four elections will be out on October 3. The Bhabanipur bypoll is crucial as Ms. Banerjee had lost the election from Nandigram in May. She had six months from taking office to get elected to the Assembly in order to retain her post.

Bhabanipur, an urban constituency in south Kolkata, has voters from different communities and religions. Ms. Banerjee, who is also a voter of the constituency, cast her vote at Mitra Institution in the afternoon.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Make farmers parties in case to ease jam: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said the government had to take the initiative to ensure that organisations of farmers, who are blocking the Capital's arterial border roads with Uttar Pradesh and Haryana against the Central agricultural laws, were made parties in efforts to resolve the nearly a year-old impasse.

A Bench led by Justice S.K. Kaul stated that the issue could be resolved either through Parliament debates or in the judicial forum but the blocking of highways, inconveniencing commuters, could not go on perpetually.

Noida resident's plea

The court was hearing a petition filed by Noida resident Monica Agarwal, who highlighted that the blocks caused by the protests had turned her daily commute between Noida and Delhi into a nightmare.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta noted that the farmers were refusing to participate in talks before a high-level committee. Sections of highways had become inaccessible due to their protests.

Mr. Mehta suggested that farmers' organisations be made parties in the current petition.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

CWC meet soon, says Cong. amid crisis

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A day after the Congress's group of 23 (G-23) dissenting senior leaders demanded a meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party on Thursday announced that a meeting of the party's highest body would take place soon.

"Before leaving for Shimla, Congress president Sonia

Gandhi had already indicated that a CWC meeting shall be called very soon, and it will happen in the coming days," Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala told *The Hindu* without specifying a date.

Following the unravelling crisis in Punjab on Wednesday, at an explosive press conference, senior leader Kapil Sibal had asked, "Who

is taking decisions in our party as we don't have a president?"

His colleague and former Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi had written a fresh letter to Ms. Gandhi, demanding the CWC to debate the turmoil within and deserts from the Congress.

On Thursday, the divide between G-23 and loyalists of

the Gandhi family played out on social media as a number of G-23 leaders targeted the party leadership for the hoolliganism outside Mr. Sibal's residence after his press conference.

Lok Sabha MP Manish Tewari called the protests by Youth Congress members a "command performance".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

'LAC incidents will go on till pact is signed'

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh have added to the ongoing legacy challenges on India's active and disputed borders on the western and eastern front, Chief of the Army Staff Gen-

eral Manoj Naravane said on Thursday. According to him, such incidents will continue till a long-term solution is reached, which is to have a boundary agreement.

"The unprecedented developments necessitated large-scale resource mobilisation, orchestration of forces

and immediate response, all this in a COVID-19 environment," he said, referring to the stand-off with China last May. Speaking at the annual session of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Gen. Naravane said, "We are well prepared to meet any misadventure... Such kinds

of incidents will continue to occur till such time a long-term solution is reached - that is to have a boundary agreement. That should be the thrust of our efforts so that we have lasting peace on our northern borders."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Digvijaya Singh recounts help by Shah, RSS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh is among the staunchest critics of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, but on Thursday he revealed how Mr. Shah as well as RSS workers had helped him during his Narmada Parikrama in 2017.

Mr. Singh and his wife, Amrita, undertook the journey on foot along the banks of the Narmada river. "Once, we reached our destination in Gujarat around 10 p.m. There was no way ahead through the forested area and there was no facility for overnight stay," he said during the launch of *Narmada Ke Pathik*, authored by his long-time associate O.P. Sharma.

"A forest officer arrived, and you will be surprised to know that he told me that Amit Shah had directed him to fully cooperate with us," Mr. Singh said.

"Elections were going on [in Gujarat], Digvijaya is their biggest critic, but he [Mr. Shah] ensured that there should not be any problem during our yatra. They found a way for us through the mountains and also arranged food for all of us," he said.

Mr. Singh's 3,000-km-long journey lasted six months. "Till today, I have not met Mr. Shah, but I expressed my gratitude to him through proper channels," he said.

SHUBHRA RANJAN

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IN BRIEF

DU to release first cut-off list today
NEW DELHI
Delhi University will release the first cut-off list for admission to merit-based undergraduate courses on October 1. This year, DU will not release the cut-off list a day earlier as it has been doing over the past few years, a spokesperson said. Students will get time to apply from 10 a.m. on October 4 to 11.59 p.m. on October 6.

2 minors among four gang members arrested
NEW DELHI
Four members of the Nandu gang, including two minors, have been held following an encounter near Jharoda Kalan village. The four accused were allegedly involved in the murder of a 20-year-old youth in Dwarka. DCP (Dwarka) Vikram Singh said the major accused have been identified as Sourabh, 18, and Vinay alias Lahu, 24.

Shoot-out: HC takes suo motu cognisance

Bench seeks suggestions from stakeholders on stepping up security at all court complexes in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Taking suo motu cognisance of the Rohini court shoot-out that left three gangsters dead, the Delhi High Court on Thursday said there was a need for proper and effective deployment of a sufficient number of police personnel in courts here.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh also sought suggestions from the Delhi police, city government, the Centre, the Delhi High Court Bar Association and other stakeholders on the issue of maintaining security at courts.

"We have taken suo motu cognisance of the incident which took place at Rohini court. This court wants valuable suggestions from res-



Police check a vehicle at the Rohini court entrance a day after the shoot-out incident. ■ FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

pondents for security at all court complexes in Delhi," the court said.

Foolproof system

The High Court said there was a need for a foolproof entry system in courts, installation of metal detectors, under vehicle surveillance

system and proper training of police personnel. It will hear the case again on October 5.

On September 24, Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana had expressed concern over the shoot-out inside the crowded Rohini courtroom and had spoken to the Delhi

Gangster Tillu Tajpur sent to police custody

NEW DELHI
Gangster Sunil Tajpur alias Tillu was sent to three-day police custody in connection with the murder of his rival, gangster Jitender Mann alias Gogi, inside a Rohini court on August 24. Screenshots of a video call between Tillu and one of the assailants, Jagdeep, had gone viral on social media earlier this week.

steps taken to ensure adequate security in district courts in the Capital in the wake of the shoot-out.

Security of lawyers

Justice Rekha Palli said the issue of security of lawyers required urgent attention. "We don't want to lose lives. Lawyers could also become victims of incidents like this one. We don't want that," Justice Palli said.

On September 24, Delhi's most wanted gangster Jitender Mann alias Gogi was shot dead inside the Rohini court complex by two gangsters, suspected to be members of Tillu Tajpur gang, dressed as lawyers.

The two assailants were shot dead by the police.

'Give dealers details of cardholders keen on doorstep delivery'

HC asks govt. to issue communication

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the AAP government to issue communications to all the fair price shop dealers here, informing them of the particulars of ration cardholders who have opted for doorstep delivery.

"The Delhi government shall first issue communications to each of the fair price shop holders, informing them of the particulars of the ration cardholders who have opted to receive their rations at their doorstep and, only thereafter, the rations, to the extent that they are being supplied to such beneficiaries, need not be supplied to the fair price shop holders," a Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh said.

The Delhi government scheme for door-to-door delivery of ration - Mukhyamantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana - was challenged by the Delhi Sarkari Ration Dealers Sangh. On March 22 this year, the High Court had directed the city government not to stop or curtail the supply of foodgrains to the members of the ration dealers' association.

'Scheme not stayed'

The Delhi government's counsel submitted that the court had not stayed the implementation of the scheme for door-to-door delivery of



foodgrains or flour.

The counsel said the court had only passed an interim order of protection in favour of the association as it was pointed out that on March 8, the Delhi government had issued an e-mail communication stating that the supplies to be made to the existing PDS distributors was to be stopped, so that foodgrains could be distributed door to door by another agency.

The Delhi government said an "overwhelming majority" of cardholders had opted for the supply of rations at their doorstep, following a survey undertaken by it.

The High Court also took on record the Delhi government counsel's statement that beneficiaries under the PDS scheme, who opt for delivery of rations at their doorstep, would have the option to opt out and go back to the fair price shops..

The court listed the matter for further hearing on October 27.

Vagabond found dead; starvation suspected

'Family left him due to drinking habit'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 52-year-old vagabond was found dead inside a temple in west Delhi's Janakpuri on Thursday. The police suspect the man died of starvation or illness.

A call was received around 10 a.m. after which the police reached the spot and found the body of Ram Sewak. According to the police, Sewak was residing with his family in Sagarpur but they left him and went to

their village in Himachal Pradesh four months ago because of his drinking habit. He then started living near the temple.

The police said his family has been informed and the body has been taken for post-mortem. "It appears that the man died due to starvation and illness. There were no clothes on the body. There are no injury marks on the body. Further probe on on," DCP (West) Urviya Goel said.

DDMA eases curbs on festive gatherings

Chhath Puja celebrations won't be allowed at public places, states official order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Thursday relaxed prohibition on gatherings in the Capital in view of the upcoming festival season.

The DDMA stated that these relaxations would be in place till November 15. While Durga Puja pandals and events such as Ramlilas have been given the go-ahead, Chhath Puja celebrations have not been allowed at public places.

A day after Lieutenant-Gov-

ernor Anil Bajjal reviewed the situation, the DDMA, in an order, stated that a maximum number of 200 attendees would be allowed at such events but with certain riders.

Permission from DM

All event organisers have to obtain requisite permission from the District Magistrate concerned for organising festive events. Fairs, melas, food stalls (inside and outside the venues), rides, rallies and processions have not been permitted as part of the

festivals in Delhi, the order stated.

While events at open spaces will be subject to a ceiling of 200 people, visitors up to 50% capacity of the venues will be allowed. The ceiling on the number of attendees will be decided by the local DM and District DCP keeping in mind the size of the ground and the social distancing norms.

No standing crowds will be allowed at the venues. Event organisers have been directed to ensure separate entry and exits for visitors

and allow only persons with face masks to enter.

Each event site will have a nodal officer in-charge and the activities will be video-graphed by the district administration.

While reviewing the COVID-19 scenario in the city on Wednesday, the L-G had observed that the situation was good but warned against letting one's guard down.

The DDMA had also decided that schools for junior classes will be allowed to resume only after the festival season ends.

JNU should spearhead NEP implementation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Addressing the fifth convocation of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that institutions like JNU had to spearhead the implementation of the National Education Policy.

He told students that graduating from the university was like a "second birth" and the education imparted there would equip them to take on life's challenges.

Over 500 students received their degrees at the convocation.

HC unhappy with govt.'s reply on prohibition of herbal hookahs

Court directs it to specify whether DDMA reconsidered order

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday expressed displeasure over the city government's "silence" on whether prohibition order on sale of herbal flavoured hookahs at restaurants and pubs has been reconsidered by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA).

The High Court said it had on September 17 specifically directed the Delhi government to ask the DDMA to reconsider its August 3, 2020 order prohibiting the use of

herbal hookah in public places to contain the spread of COVID-19.

'Not permissible'

"Unfortunately even though the respondent [Delhi government] has filed an affidavit trying to justify why the sale of flavoured hookah is not permissible, there is no whisper if the decision has been reconsidered by the DDMA or not," Justice Rekha Palli said.

The court granted one week's time to the Delhi government while directing it

to file an affidavit specifically stating whether the DDMA has reconsidered the order and also reasons for continuing with the decision.

The court will hear the case again on October 8.

On September 17, the High Court had asked the Delhi government why the DDMA's order prohibiting the use of herbal hookah in public places to contain the spread of COVID-19 be not reconsidered when breath analyser test was being allowed now.

Man drowns in pool at farmhouse

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old man is suspected to have died in a swimming pool at a farmhouse in South Delhi's Maidan Garhi on Tuesday, the police said, adding that a case has been registered.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Benita Mary Jaiker said that information was received at 9.20 a.m. on Tuesday from Safdarjung Hospital about a person being brought from a farmhouse in Dera village and being declared dead.

The deceased has been identified as Shubham Rawat from Pauri Garhwal who was living on rent at Mahipalpur.

"It was revealed that Shubham used to work as a waiter in a hotel and on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, he along with his colleagues had organised a get-together at the farmhouse," Ms. Jaiker said.

The police said that there was a swimming pool at the backyard of the farmhouse and Shubham entered the pool along with some of his colleagues.

"After they came out of the pool, his colleagues noticed that Shubham was not there. They started looking for him and later found him drowned in the pool. It was also revealed that Shubham didn't know how to swim," the DCP said.

The police said that a case has been registered against the owner of the farmhouse, the police said.

Act against group for disrupting namaz: forum

Delegation submits memorandum

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Members of Gurgaon Nagrik Ekta Manch, a citizens' forum, on Thursday demanded legal action against a Hindu fringe group for alleged repeated attempts to disrupt juma namaz (Friday prayers) through intimidation at various locations across the city.

A five-member delegation of the forum called on DCP (Headquarters) Aastha Modi and complained that Bharat Mata Vahini members were showing up at namaz locations, designated by the local administration for the purpose of offering Friday prayers, and intimidating imams and using provocative and hurtful language to

disrupt the prayers.

The delegation handed over a memorandum saying that the group, in its latest attempt, had on September 24 disrupted Friday prayers in Sector 47. "Before this, the group had appeared at consecutive Fridays in Sector 39 and 40 in March last year. They have been successful in getting the prayers stopped during March and April this year," said the letter.

Reacting, Haryana Shiv Sena spokesperson Ritu Raj said his party was not involved in the disruption of the Friday prayers, but they supported the demand that the designated places of namaz be reduced as agreed upon by both parties in 2018.

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(iv) Last date of Submission of Tenders	: 21.10.2021 by 15.00 Hrs.
(v) Opening of Technical Bids	: 22.10.2021 at 15.30 Hrs.
(vi) Presentation by Eligible Tenderers	: 28.10.2021 at 11.00 Hrs.
(vii) Intimation of results of Technical Bid	: 02.11.2021 at 15.00 Hrs.
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Disaster Management, Relief and Rehabilitation Department
Government of Maharashtra

DGIPR/2021/2022/2155

BJP leader accuses Delhi govt. of 'anti-Hindu mindset'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Terming Delhi government's mindset "anti-Hindu", Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Thursday demanded that it allow entry of devotees into temples immediately.

When schools, cinemas, spas and all public places had opened, the Delhi govern-

ment was not allowing devotees to visit temples due to its "anti-Hindu mindset", he alleged. "It is very important to open the temples in view of the upcoming festival season. Every public place has been opened but it is very surprising that till now the devotees have not been allowed to go to the temples," Mr. Bidhuri alleged.

Timings
DELHI

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SATURDAY, OCT. 02	RISE 06:15	SET 18:06
	RISE 01:44	SET 15:49
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IN BRIEF



Fake currency worth ₹12 crore seized in Manipur

IMPHAL
In a pre-dawn action in Thoubal district of Manipur, a combined team of the civil police and special police commandos recovered fake Indian currency amounting to ₹12 crore and arrested two persons.

9-year-old girl missing from protection home

MUZAFFARNAGAR
A nine-year-old girl has gone missing from a private child welfare home here, its authorities said Thursday. The missing girl, who hails from Bihar, was shifted to Adarsh Child Protective Home here in Gandhi Colony from Baghpat on September 22, they said. The police have been informed about the incident.

Court hands over T.N. rape case to Air Force

NCW writes to IAF chief over banned test conducted on victim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE/NEW DELHI

The additional mahila court in Coimbatore on Thursday handed over to the Indian Air Force the case of rape made against a Flight Lieutenant by his woman colleague for court-martial proceedings.

Sources said N. Thilageswari, in-charge of the Additional Mahila Court, ordered that the case must be transferred from the Coimbatore City Police to the IAF as per provisions of the Air Force Act, 1950. Since both the accused and the survivor were in active service under the IAF and the alleged incident occurred within the premises of the Air Force Administrative College (AFAC) in Coimbatore, the judge observed that only the IAF could carry out further legal proceedings

in this case.

Earlier, the accused, Flight Lieutenant Amitesh Harmukh, 29, was produced in the court. The All Women Police, Coimbatore Central, arrested him on September 25 based on a complaint of the 28-year-old woman IAF officer and he was remanded in judicial custody for four days.

According to the police, the incident occurred in the early hours of September 10 on the AFAC, Coimbatore campus, where both had arrived for a training course. The woman officer, in an FIR registered on September 20 in Coimbatore, alleged that a Flight Lieutenant trespassed into her room and raped her under the influence of alcohol on September 10. She also alleged that her Comman-

dant and senior officers pressured her to withdraw her complaint, and that she was subjected to a two-finger test at the Air Force Hospital.

Meanwhile, the National Commission for Women on Thursday wrote to IAF Chief V.R. Chaudhari on the banned two-finger test conducted on the woman officer following her allegations of rape.

The NCW said it was "utterly disappointed and strongly condemned the action of IAF doctors conducting the banned test on the victim (sic)." In her letter, NCW Chief Rekha Sharma urged the IAF Chief to "take necessary action" and ensure that its medical fraternity is aware of "prevailing guidelines laid down by the government."

Sidhu was focussed on Sikh matters alone

An obsession with 'panthic' issues ran the risk of alienating the Hindu vote bank

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Two days ago, cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu quit as president of the Punjab Congress, asserting he would "not compromise on the struggle for Punjab-favoured agenda," even as his politics in the recent past is seen to have been largely revolving around Sikh (panthic) issues in an attempt to politically corner the Badals of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), keeping other potent issues at bay.



Navjot Singh Sidhu

In April, after remaining in political slumber since his resignation from the Punjab Cabinet in 2019, Mr. Sidhu resurrected his political ride by going to a gurdwara in Burj Jawahar Singh Wala, near Bargari village of Faridkot.

The village was the epicentre of sacrilege incidents in 2015. Two Sikh

presenting himself as 'pro-panthic' by evoking the Bargari sacrilege issue repeatedly, Mr. Sidhu possibly does not realise that ahead of 2022 Assembly election, the 'over focus' on 'panthic' issues could end up eroding a substantial section of the Hindu vote bank that, according to many political analysts, has traditionally been with the Congress.

In Punjab, 'panthic' voters have been traditionally associated with the SAD, while Hindu voters have traditionally been inclined towards the Congress.

"The Congress has always had its support base among Hindus and Sikhs. But over-focussing on 'panthic' issues could create problems as it would be playing in the domain of the Akali Dal. The Congress should not go overboard with such issues. Already, the Akali Dal

is on the back foot over the sacrilege issue.

The Congress, in fact, should show some action on the ground rather than making noise.

Mr. Sidhu's attempt to foray into 'panthic' voters could backfire as the Hindu voters could swing," said Ashutosh Kumar, professor, political science department, Punjab University.

Punjab-based writer and political analyst Desraj Kali said resignation over the issue surrounding Bargari was not justified.

"Mr. Sidhu should have realised that there are several other issues beyond the Bargari sacrilege that have plagued Punjab. People in Punjab are facing issues of unemployment, drugs, economic mess, farmer and labourer problems and their suicides. He quit on only one agenda," he said.

Probe on into Telugu Akademi scam

Over 15 persons, including bank officials, questioned for embezzlement

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Central Crime police have expedited the investigation into the alleged financial fraud in the Telugu Akademi bank accounts.

On Thursday, more than 15 people, including bank officials concerned and employees of the Telugu Akademi, were questioned in connection with the misappropriation.

An official associated with the investigation told *The Hindu* that about ₹64 crore allotted to the Akademi, which was made as fixed de-

posit in three public sector banks, was being transferred to the bank accounts of the Agrasen Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., and RBL Bank, by some persons since December last.

"The suspects have left only ₹5 lakh in the Akademi's accounts," the officer said, adding that a total of three cases were registered and a probe was on.

He said the misused money was deposited by the Akademi after the retail sale of textbooks of Intermediate, degree, postgraduation courses and various competitive examination prepara-

tion books. "The State government pays salaries to the Akademi staff. So the misused amount was earned by the institution by retail sale of books which they print," the officer said.

Private agent

Police said a private agent played a key role in the fixed deposit of money in Union Bank of India. "By Saturday we will get some clarity in the case and can zero in on the actual suspects. As of now, everybody will be considered as suspects in the case," an officer said.

The alleged misuse of

funds came to light only after Akademi director Somi Reddy directed the officials to examine the bank accounts following the directions of the Supreme Court for 'bifurcation' of the institution for both the Telugu speaking States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for equal distribution of funds and assets.

Soon, the officials found that ₹43 crore deposited in the Karwan branch of the Union Bank of India was 'missing'. Similarly ₹10 crore and nearly ₹11 crore went missing from two other branches, the investigators said.

Cong. begins drive to set up semi-cadre units in Kerala

It sets up party's first neighbourhood-level body in Palakkad

STAFF REPORTER
PALAKKAD

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran on Thursday kick-started a party reform measure expected to renew verve among Congress workers at lower levels.

The Congress made a historic step towards a semi-cadre character when Mr. Sudhakaran formally inaugurated a micro-level unit committee at Attasseri, near

Mannarkkad, here.

The Irakkal unit committee at Attasseri became the first neighbourhood level body of the Congress in the State. It marked the State-level inauguration of unit-level committees of the party.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sudhakaran said the Congress would stage a comeback with a renewed verve. Now, the unit-level committees would be the party's basic body in the

State. There would be at least five unit-level committees comprising 20 to 30 houses under each booth committee.

Mr. Sudhakaran said the party would form 1 lakh such unit committees in the State within six months. Apart from a president, secretary and treasurer, the unit committee would have two representatives of the booth committee, and one working member from each house.

No OBC quota for Maharashtra bypolls

ZP bypolls a crucial test for all parties

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Supreme Court's March 2021 decision to quash reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in local civic bodies in Maharashtra, and terming it 'statutory', has shaken up the political circles in the State. The court ruled that total reservation for OBCs, SCs and STs should not cross the 50% ceiling.

Following the SC's rejection of the review petition by Maharashtra government, the State issued an ordinance which, while keeping 27% reservation for OBCs, mandates that total reservation of SCs, STs and OBCs will not cross 50% mark.

However, the October 5 bye-elections in Akola, Washim, Dhule, Nandurbar and Nagpur zilla parishads and the very first election for Palghar zilla parishad will, for the first time since 1994, have no OBC reservation.

How did it all start?

In Maharashtra, OBCs include Denotified Tribes (Vimukta Jati), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category. The Mandal commission report relying on the last caste census 1931 had calculated the total OBC population at 52%, based on which 27% reservation to OBCs was extended.

With SCs and STs accounting for a combined 22.7% reservation, the apex court limited the total reservation with a 50% cap after the addition of OBC quota.

Maharashtra extended the 27% OBC reservation in local civic bodies in 1994. In 2018, Vikas Gawali, a former zilla parishad member from Washim district approached the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court and sought a stay on the election process in Washim and Akola districts citing breach of the 50% cap. The court granted status quo and elec-

EXPLAINER

tions were delayed. Mr. Gawali approached the apex court which passed an interim order directing the State Election Commission to conduct the polls subject to the final order of the pending petition. Mr. Gawali again filed a petition against the interim order. Meanwhile, delayed polls in five zilla parishads and panchayat samitis were held in 2020.

Previous verdict referred

Mr. Gawali had referred to the 2010 Supreme Court verdict in the case of K. Krishnamurthy and others versus Union of India and others. Though a five-member Constitution Bench headed by the then Chief Justice K. Balakrishnan validated the 27% OBC reservation, the verdict said, "dedicated commissions need to be appointed to conduct a rigorous empirical inquiry into the nature and implications of backwardness". It also observed that, "in the absence of updated empirical data, it is well nigh impossible for the Courts to decide whether the reservations in favour of OBC groups are proportionate are not". The court also fixed the upper limit of reservation at 50%.

Effect on OBCs

This verdict affected at least 56,000 OBC seats in 28,000 gram panchayats, 350 panchayat samitis, 367 municipal councils, 34 zilla parishads and 27 municipal corporations.

What government did?

The Cabinet cleared an amendment in section 12 (2) (c) of Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961 which said that "while keeping 27% OBC reservation, it will be ensured that total reservation of all including SC, ST and OBCs will not cross 50% limit".

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F. No. 1-4/2020-Skt. II
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

30th September, 2021
Advertisement No. 01/2021

Applications are invited for consideration of appointment to the post of Vice-Chancellor of The Central Sanskrit University, Delhi.

The Vice-Chancellor, being the academic as well as administrative head, is expected to be:

- An eminent scholar in the field of Sanskrit and allied subjects and his qualifications shall be as specified in the Regulations made under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956(3 of 1956).
- Preferably not more than 65 years of age as on the closing date of receipt of applications as prescribed in the advertisement.

Salary and Service Conditions:

- The post carries a pay of Rs. 2,10,000/- (Fixed) per month with Special Allowance of Rs. 11,250/- and other usual allowances.
- The other terms and conditions of the services will be those as set forth in the Central Sanskrit Universities Act, 2020, Statutes and Ordinances of the University.

Procedure for appointment:

- Appointment will be made from a panel of three names recommended by a Search-cum-Selection-Committee constituted in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Central Sanskrit Universities Act, 2020.

Submission of application:

- Detailed particulars regarding the filling up of the post of Vice Chancellor, Central Sanskrit University (CSU) have been uploaded in the websites of the Ministry of Education and Central Sanskrit University, Delhi namely <http://education.gov.in/en> and www.sanskrit.nic.in/ respectively.
- The applications in the prescribed proforma should reach within **15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the newspapers i.e. 15.10.2021** by Registered/Speed Post addressed to the Deputy Secretary (L), Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Room No. 525, 'C' Wing, Shastri Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, New Delhi-110001. The application should be superscripted as "Application for the post of Vice Chancellor of The Central Sanskrit University (CNSU), Delhi" in the envelope. The candidates are also advised to send soft copy of application to Ministry's mail id: vicechancellorcsu@gmail.com.
- The Ministry will not be responsible for the delay in receipt of applications for whatever reasons it may be. In the event of sending their applications by email, they must ensure that their original applications complete in all respects are received in the Ministry before the last date for receipt of application.
- The persons who are already in service should apply through proper channel and submit their applications through their employer along with the NOC/Vigilance Clearance Report given by the Chief Vigilance Officer of their Institutions/Departments along with the applications.
- Incomplete applications/applications received after the last date for receipt of applications will not be considered.

(Suman Dixit)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
Phone No. 011-23070446

Note: Those who have applied earlier need not apply again against this advertisement. However, they may update their application if any fresh data/information is to be furnished in the application. Further, if anybody wishes to withdraw their application they may do so.

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- Police Verification of domestic helps
- Regular Advice on Safety & Security measures
- Identity cards to ensure close monitoring
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PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Kerala Pravasi Association. The office of the Party is located at Karjiamattai Complex No. 11085P at Balar Panchayat, in Malom, Dharkhas Post, Parappu, Kerala-671534. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951. Names/Addresses of the Office bearers are as follows:
National Council Chairman: Mr. Rajendran Vellappan S/o Balakrishnan Nair, aged 49 years, resident of Velloppath House, Kaniyambath Post, Mavoor, Kozhikode, Kerala-673661
National Council President: Ms. Aswari Nambarambath D/o Valsarajan N, aged 30 years, resident of Kunnath House, Meloor Post, Ettayy, Koylandy, Kozhikode, Kerala-673106
National Council General Secretary: Mr. Jey Raju S/o Jacob Raju, aged 30 years, resident of Pukkassery House, Perikeri P.O., Vilamuna, Kannur, Kerala - 670706
National Council Treasurer: Mr. Nabin Joseph Philip S/o Joseph P.P., aged 32 years, resident of Panvanthani House, Maloth, Darks, Kasargod, Kerala-671533
If any one has any objection to the registration of Kerala Pravasi Association, they may send their objection with reasons thereof to the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi, 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Mrs. Jyoti Kaur w/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh having citizenship of Nairobi, Kenya (British) by birth is applying to the secretary to the govt of India in the ministry of home affairs for citizenship by marriage and that any person who knows any reason why citizenship by marriage should not be granted, and send a written, signed statement of the facts to the secretary, Dharmender Sharma, Advocate Seat 180, Sector 12 Faridabad

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In the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Samba
Present : Mr. Arvind Sharma Jo Code : JK00123
File No: 231/Challan
State Vs Sarita Devi and Ors
FIR No: 224/2021 of P/S Samba
22/09/2021: Ld. APP Present. All accused lodged in District Jail Kathua through virtual mode present. The details with respect to salary account of accused namely Rajinder Singh S/o Surinder Singh R/o Chak Shian Tehsil R.S Pura District Jammu is produced by the prosecution. The lookout notice against the accused absconder Rajinder Singh S/o Surinder Singh R/o Chak Shian Tehsil R.S Pura District Jammu issued by the department of police is also part of file. Accordingly considering the investigating officer, the lookout notice, this is the fit case for initiation of proceedings under section 82 of CrPc and as such the written proclamation is issued against the absconder namely Rajinder Singh S/o Surinder Singh R/o Chak Shian Tehsil R.S Pura District Jammu and is serving police official with direction to appear before this court on next date of hearing that is 28.10.2021 failing which the attachment proceedings shall be initiated against the accused namely Rajinder Singh S/o Surinder Singh R/o Chak Shian Tehsil R.S Pura District Jammu.
Put up on
Announced: Chief Judicial Magistrate Samba
22.09.2021 DIP/J- 7368/21

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Mrs. Jyoti Kaur w/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh having citizenship of Nairobi, Kenya (British) by birth is applying to the secretary to the govt of India in the ministry of home affairs for citizenship by marriage and that any person who knows any reason why citizenship by marriage should not be granted, and send a written, signed statement of the facts to the secretary, Dharmender Sharma, Advocate Seat 180, Sector 12 Faridabad

READ SPORTSTAR EVERY FORTNIGHT

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 40 Years, **Height:** 5' 5", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Green Colour jacket and Black Colour coat Pink colour Shirt and Blue Colour Pant and bare footed, who was found dead in front of Bhairon Mandir Gate footpath, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 8A, dated 04.01.2015 has been registered at P. S. Tilak Marg, Delhi.
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.
Sd/- SHO
DP/337/NDD/2021 P.S: Tilak Marg, Delhi
Tel. No.: 011-23382100, 9868762440

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General Public is hereby informed that Three boys (depicted in the photos), **Name:** 1. Lakshya Kumar S/o Ram Lakhan R/o A-30, Gali No. 10, West Vinod Nagar, Mandawali, Delhi, 2. Pradeep Kumar S/o Satya Dev R/o E-394, Gali No. 7, West Vinod Nagar, Mandawali, Delhi and 3. Akhilesh S/o Chandra Pal Singh R/o E-330, Gali No. 10, West Vinod Nagar, Mandawali, Delhi have been missing since 13.09.2021 from their houses. In this regard a case vide DD No. 43A dated 16.09.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Mandawali, Delhi. Their physical description are as under:
1. **Lakshya:** Age: 21 Years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Yellow Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour Jeans and Sports shoes in feet.
2. **Pradeep:** Age: 23 Years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Red Colour Shirt and Black Colour Payjama.
3. **Akhilesh:** Age: 22 Years, **Height:** 5'0", **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour Jeans.
Any person having any information/ Clue about these missing boys, may inform SHO, Mandawali, Delhi at E-mail
Id-cic@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in
Phone: SHO 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Mandawali, Delhi
Fax No. 011-24368639 East Distt., Delhi
DP/714/ED/2021 Ph. No. 011-22720808, 22720030

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F) Email- sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
LOOK OUT NOTICE
SDPO City East, Jammu vide communication No. 211677/SDCEJ dated 22.09.2021 intimated that on 18.09.2021 one un-identified Male dead body recovered from Matador Stand, Railway Station Jammu. Accordingly, an Inquest proceeding U/S 174 Cr. P. Code DDR No. 17 dated 18.09.2021 was initiated at P/S Bahu Fort, Jammu and dead body was shifted to mortuary room of GMCH, Jammu for identification.
For the identification of unidentified Male dead body below description roll is required to be published on daily newspapers for identification / Public in general, having any clue related to the unidentified dead body, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact / Telephone Numbers.
Description Roll
Age : About 50-55 years
Colour : Wheatish
Height : 5'6"
Complexion : Shady
Body Built : Lean
Hair Colour : Black
Eye Colour : Brown
Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-
1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000
4. SP City South : 0191-2433778
5. SDPO City East : 0191-2474700
7. P/S Bahu Fort : 0191-2475133
Sd/-
Sr. Superintendent of Police, Jammu
DIP/J-7357/21

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REGD. OFFICE: PSEB HEAD OFFICE, THE MALL, Patiala
Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
(Contact No. 96461-11060)
Tender Inquiry No. 199/TLC/PTA/2021-22 Dated: 30/09/2021
By Chief Engineer/TL Circle PSPCL Officer's Flat No. 11, Shakti Vihar, Patiala invites E-tender for Replacing existing Rail pole/Tower (Old Type) S/C on DC tower from 220 KV S/S Rajpura to 66 KV Naushera. For detailed NIT & Tender specifications please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 30/09/2021 from 5.00 P.M onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C - 356/21 PSPCL 76155/12/469/2021/8420

Government of Maharashtra
Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Protection Department,
Madam Cama Road, Hutatma Rajguru Chowk, Mantralaya, Mumbai-400032.

Notice for Tender
Once Used Servicable Empty B-Twill Gunny (Jute) Bags of 50 k.g. Packaging Capacity

Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Protection Department, Government of Maharashtra, invites proposals from reputed and experienced companies to participate in the competitive bidding process to purchase Once Used Servicable Empty 8-Twill Gunny (Jute) Bags of 50 k.g. packaging capacity for KMS 2021-22 & RMS 2022-23.

For the detailed Tender document, interested bidders should visit <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
Tender submission would be online and the deadline to submit the proposals is 25/10/2021, till 4.00 PM.

Sd/-
Jt. Secretary
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department,
DGIPR/2021/2022/2158 Government of Maharashtra

'Centre shouldn't show bias in giving aid'

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI
Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar on Thursday said that the Centre should not be biased in extending financial aid to the Marathwada region ravaged by incessant rains.
"For some States, the Centre has given relief of thousands of crores without even them seeking aid. The Union government is that of the entire country. It should not be biased," Mr. Pawar said.

WEATHER WATCH
RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Nagaland, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Rayalaseema

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	68	26	42	21	35	Good
Bangaluru	6	47	72	28	88	Good
Chennai	7	37	81	50	60	Good
Delhi	31	52	114	—	105	Good
Hyderabad	39	35	29	38	60	Good
Kolkata	8	25	71	19	26	Good
Lucknow	7	24	70	68	97	Good
Mumbai	23	10	—	63	103	Good
Pune	18	18	82	55	44	Good
Visakhapatnam	12	49	15	57	101	Good

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Yamanagar, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 140 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Gadag, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH
OBITUARY
M.K. BHUVANESHWAR (Shankar), 82 years
Who grew up in Kanpur, Chennai & Bombay and settled in New York, left for his heavenly abode on Tuesday the 21st of September, 2021.
He will be fondly remembered by his loving wife MEENAKSHI, Daughter CHAYA (Muhamet), Son GANESH and his Grandchildren ORHAN & NAZLI.
He was devoted to his Brothers KUPPAN and SUNDAR and his Sister NALINI. He was someone who never forgot his roots, even after spending half a century in the west.
E-mail: som.mosur@gmail.com

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES
IN FOND MEMORY OF
Shri. K.S. Ayodhyanath, Director (Retd.), Central Water Commission. D.O.D: 01.10.2018
Loving family members: Radha, Shubha, Sandhya, Sridhar, Srivatsan, Padmavati, Sharada and Sridaya
THIRTY SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY
Our respectful Homage to
Shri.A.K.SAMBASIVAN FCA. 22.08.1905 to 01.10.1984
Partners & Staff of R.G.N.PRICE & Co., & Members of the Family

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES
15TH ANNIVERSARY
Shri R. RAGHUPATHY NAIDU 10.08.1924 - 01.10.2006 E.E. PWD & TTD, A.P. (Retd.) Ex-President, All India Nayudu Sangam, Ex.Vice-president, All India Sai Samal. You are Still Living with us
Fondly Remembered by Dr.R.Ravinder M.E., Ph.D., Dr.J.Jayaram Rami M.D., Dr.R.Durga M.B.B.S., M.S. (OG) & Baby Lakshya, Dr.R.Dhanush M.E., Ph.D. (IT-M), Dr. Subalatha Dhanush M.E., Ph.D. Mobile : 93801 23020.
In memory of your loved ones To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact: 011-43579797 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

Gist of e-tender
NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/138/e-tendering
Dated:-27.09.2021

On the behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders are invited from original equipment manufacturers or their authorized dealers/ representatives or reputed and experienced firms for the below mentioned works:

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SITC of 500LPM PSA based Oxygen Generation Plant along with maintenance for Three years at SDH Achabal.	90.00	2000	60	106 - CMOA of 2021 Dt- 07.09.2021	MED/KT/ 81 DT- 08.09.2021	Available

- Downloading of Bids:-**The NIT 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 from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 28.09.2021(18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 28.09.2021(18.00 hrs).
- Uploading:-** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 29.09.2021 (10.00 hrs) to 08.10.2021 (14:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids :-** The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 09.10.2021 at 15.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar
DIPK-9637/21

CELEBRATING THE 72ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA 1949-2021

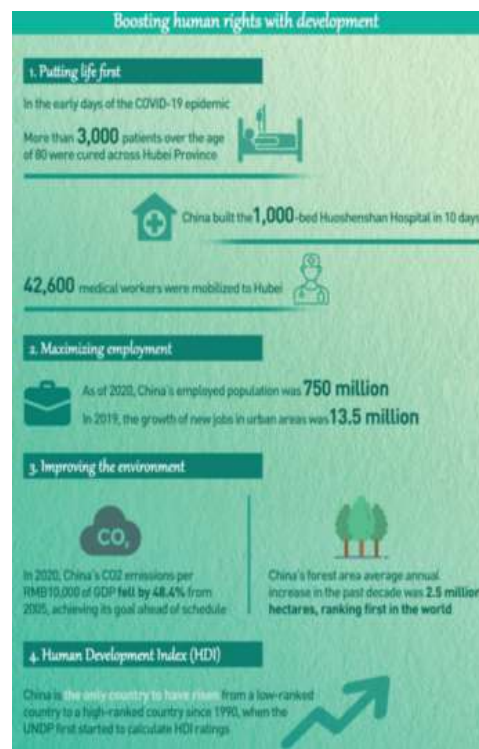


China's Great Moments in This Year



First centenary goal achieved

On July 1, 2021, at a ceremony marking the centenary of the CPC, President Xi Jinping solemnly declared China had realized the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects!



Farewell to absolute poverty

On February 25, 2021, President Xi Jinping solemnly declared that China has secured a complete victory in the battle against extreme poverty, eliminating overall and extreme poverty for the first time in its history of thousands of years, and realizing a century-long aspiration of the Chinese people.



Return in glory



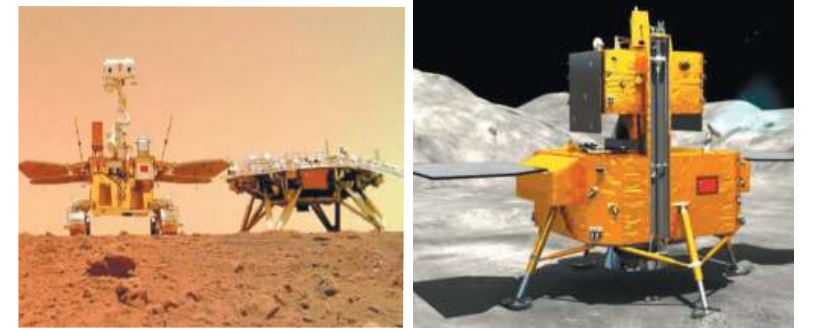
China ranked second in the medal count with 38 golds, 32 silvers and 18 bronze medals at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, and won 96 gold, 60 silver and 51 bronze medals at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, topping the medal table for the 5th Paralympic Games in a row.

Hi-tech breakthroughs

Having worked in Tianhe, China's own space station core module for three months – the longest-ever human space mission in Chinese history, three astronauts of the Shenzhou-12 crew returned home on Sept. 17, 2021.

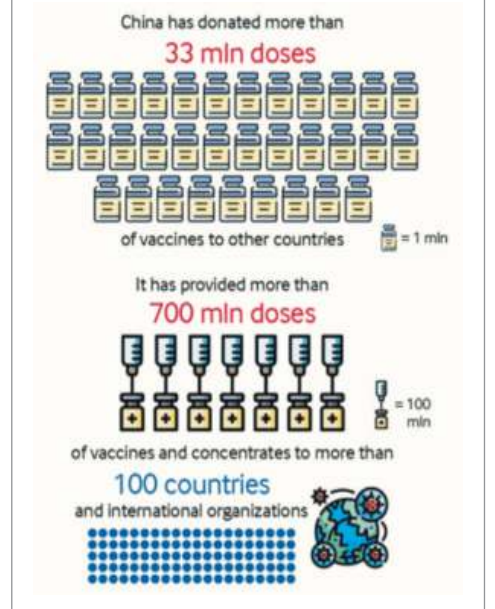
China's first Mars rover, Zhurong, drove down from its landing platform to the Martian surface, leaving the country's first "footprints" on the red planet.

Chang'e-5 mission has achieved the extraterrestrial sampling and returning for the first time, marking a great step forward in China's space industry.



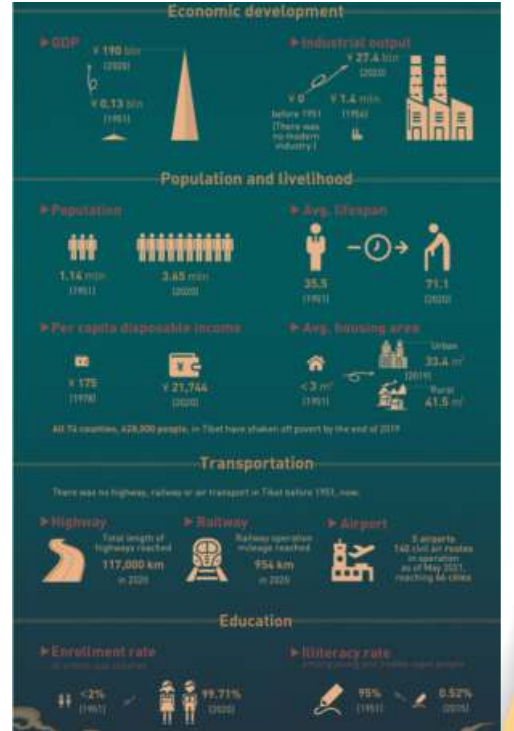
China's vaccines contributions

President Xi Jinping stressed that committed to building a global community of health for all, China is providing vaccines to the world. In the course of this year, China will strive to provide 2 billion doses of vaccines to the world. China has decided to donate US\$100 million to the COVAX Facility for distributing vaccines to developing countries.



Leap across the millennium

Since the peaceful liberation in 1951, the Tibet autonomous region has achieved a historic leap from a system of feudal serfdom to socialism. With equal rights to development, people of all ethnic groups in Tibet forged ahead in unity with the rest of the Chinese nation toward common prosperity. Seventy years on, the age-old Tibetan plateau takes on a new look and presents itself proudly to the world.



The year 2021 is special for the Chinese people. It marks the centenary of the Communist Party of China (CPC). On July 1st, President Xi Jinping solemnly declared that we have realized the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. We have brought about a historic resolution to the problem of absolute poverty in China. We are now marching in confident strides toward the second centenary goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects.

The rejuvenation of the Chinese nation has been the greatest dream of the Chinese people since the beginning of modern times. The "Chinese Dream" proposed by President Xi Jinping is to make the country prosperous and strong, rejuvenate the nation, and see that the people are happy.

The Chinese Dream is the dream of both the country and the nation. The path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the fundamental achievement of the CPC and Chinese people made through countless hardships at enormous cost. The Party and the Chinese people will keep moving confidently forward in broad strides along the path we have chosen, and we will make sure the destiny of China's development and progress firmly grasped in our own hands.

The Chinese dream is also the dream of all the Chinese people. We will continue to enhance people's sense of gains, happiness and security. The sense of gains means that people can truly enjoy the fruits of reform and development. The sense of happiness means that people have goals to strive for. People all enjoy opportunity to live a brilliant life and realize their dreams. The sense of security comes from sound social security system and good public security. We have established the world's largest social security system. Nearly 1 billion people are covered by basic old-age insurance and 1.36 billion people are covered by basic medical insurance.

In the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, we have always put people and life first. Through our enormous efforts, China has made a major strategic achievement in fighting the virus. Now the new local cases in China are limited to double digits every day. We are willing to do whatever it takes to protect people's lives.

The Chinese dream is a dream of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit for all. China is committed to follow the path of peaceful development. We will never seek hegemony or expansion. We advocate peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, which are the common values of humanity. We promote the building of a new type of international relations and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

China has worked vigorously to promote common development. A few days ago, President Xi Jinping solemnly proposed the Global Development Initiative, called on the international community to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for more robust, greener and more balanced global development.

China has global solidarity in the 19 pandemic. China billion doses of vaccines to more than international will strive to provide a of vaccines to the this year. In addition million to COVAX, another 100 million other developing course of this year.

Ambassador's Message



H.E. Sun Weidong

China hopes to grow into a better country in the process of realizing the Chinese dream. We believe that the world will be a better place with China's development. At the same time, our firm resolve to safeguard sovereignty, security and development interests will remain steadfast.

China and India are the two largest developing countries and emerging economies in the world. If we live in harmony and join hands in cooperation, it will be of great significance to Asia and the globe.

China and India should stick to the right direction of the bilateral relations. We should view the bilateral ties from a historical and strategic perspective, and uphold the strategic consensus that China and India are opportunities of development and cooperation partners to each other instead of being threats or competitive rivals.

China and India should expand mutually beneficial cooperation. Despite the impact of the pandemic, our economic and trade cooperation has bucked the trend. In the first 8 months this year, bilateral trade reached \$78.5 billion with a growth of about 52% year-on-year. As major Asian countries, China and India should work together with other countries in the region to promote Asian solidarity and cooperation.

China and India should properly handle differences. We should place the boundary question in an appropriate position in bilateral relations and seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution through dialogue and consultations. Both sides need to meet each other halfway to move the situation towards stability and shift it from urgent dispute settlement to regular management and control, so as to jointly safeguard the peace and tranquility in the border area.

China and India should strengthen the foundation of people-to-people friendship. We need to tap our potentials and create innovative formats to advance communications in areas such as culture, education, think-tanks and media. Let us join hands to bring China-India relationship back on the track of healthy and stable development, in order to benefit the two countries and the two peoples.



Welcome to Beijing 2022 Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games



Chinese President Xi Jinping with members of the Chinese Short Track Speed Skating Team in the Shougang Training Centre.



See You in Beijing in 2022!



National Speed Skating Oval for Beijing 2022, also known as the "Ice Ribbon"



National Sliding Center in Yanqing Zone

Having won the bid for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games on 31 July 2015, Beijing has become the first city in the world to have hosted both the summer and winter editions of the Olympic Games.

With a vision of "Joyful Rendezvous upon Pure Ice and Snow," Beijing

2022 will build on the legacies of the landmark Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and expects to encourage millions of people across China to embrace winter sports.

The 109 events in seven Olympic winter sports will be held from February 4 to 20, 78 events across six Paralympics winter sports will be held from March 4 to 13. These events will be held in the three competition zones of central Beijing, Yanqing and Zhangjiakou.



Gathering storm

No outside talent can help the Congress unless it nurtures its roots and respects its workers

The Congress party is gripped by a crisis after its Punjab strategy to unseat Captain Amarinder Singh as Chief Minister went haywire. The reformist group within the party has questioned the authority of the family triumvirate comprising Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, in a manner it had avoided until now. While the Gandhis were resolute about ejecting Captain Amarinder, they were clueless about what would come afterwards. As it happened, Charanjit Singh Channi emerged as Chief Minister out of a factional scramble, and the party sought to find virtue in his accidental elevation by highlighting his Dalit identity. The Dalits in Punjab are largely with the Congress. Whether the party will accrue additional votes owing to Mr. Channi's identity remains an open question. Meanwhile, resentment is streaming forth. Navjot Singh Sidhu, who never deserved to be the president of a Congress state unit to begin with, resigned in a huff, embarrassing the Gandhi siblings. Captain Amarinder, now bruised and humiliated, is vengeful and appears willing to do anything to derail the Congress's prospects in next year's Assembly election. He could join hands with the BJP or explore other options. Many social fault lines in Punjab may have resurfaced now. Mr. Sidhu has been playing the Sikh communal card, which could have dangerous ramifications.

Mr. Gandhi's impatience with the party old guard is understandable and even justified to a great extent. What he lacks is a coherent strategy and transparent plan to revamp the party. He owned up to the party's debacle in the 2019 general election and resigned as party president, but continued to retain ultimate authority. He appoints and removes office bearers and Chief Ministers, while posturing that he is above the fray. This is untenable as his authority without accountability is far too evident. If he wants to be the leader of the Congress, it cannot be in the informal and whimsical manner as it is now. It needs to be formal and consultative, for which he needs to return as the party president. Reviving the Congress will require the leadership's constant engagement with workers, and the management of the egos and ambitions of individual leaders. The Congress cannot be revived by stealth and subterfuge, or by recruiting boastful charlatans. The burden of revitalising it cannot be shifted to the shoulders of random, untested new recruits, as Punjab shows. Mr. Gandhi is taken in by the self-defeatist notion that the Congress as it exists cannot be revived until there is a purge and parallel induction of outside talent. No knight in shining armour can help the Congress unless it nurtures its roots and respects its workers. The disastrous Punjab experiment underscores that elementary fact.

Failing on food

Recent data on child malnutrition underscore the value of good school meals

The approval of the PM POSHAN scheme by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs until 2025-26 comes at a critical time when real income declines and the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic have affected the ability of families to ensure good nutrition. The findings in Phase I of the NFHS-5 for 22 States and Union Territories in December 2020 were shocking: childhood stunting rose in 13 States, there was high prevalence of anaemia among children and women, and wasting was a serious concern in 12 States. The slippage over the previous survey period exposes the worsening scourge of malnutrition, threatening to deprive millions of children of a fully productive adult life. It will take a serious effort to address this hidden crisis, backed by strong budgetary commitment. The centrally supported hot meal programme in Government and Government-aided schools, covering 11.8 crore children, will be supplemented with nutritional elements in identified aspirational districts and areas with high anaemia. The scheme, which is proposed to be extended to pre-primary children, provides for social audit, creation of school nutritional gardens to source fresh produce, involvement of farmer-producer organisations as providers, and lays emphasis on local food traditions. While these are positive features, momentum towards eradicating malnutrition hinges crucially on annual budgetary outlays and proof of POSHAN's working will lie in measurable outcomes.

Support for the PM POSHAN, which the Government has been approved over the five-year period at ₹1,30,794 crore, including ₹31,733 crore from States and UTs, must remain elastic. While some child growth metrics such as stunting require a longer window to measure, problems such as anaemia and low weight lend themselves to speedy amelioration. The Government must demonstrate that Saksham Anganwadi-Mission POSHAN 2.0, which amalgamates the POSHAN Abhiyan and schemes covering anganwadis, crèches and adolescent girls, is fiscally stronger than its erstwhile component parts. There must be a meaningful increase in the current Budget estimate over the combined past outlay for the subsumed individual schemes. On nutritional planning, the renewed plan should introduce a greater diversity of diets that compensates for micronutrient and protein deficiency. Strong supplementation of nutrition at school, in the community, and at childcare centres is critical at a time when criticism of food inflation has met with a tone-deaf response, and pandemic-induced income declines have depressed essential consumption. The lower offtake of foodgrains for the noon meal scheme during the pandemic over the previous year and patchy food distribution mechanisms in many States should set alarm bells ringing. The future of a generation of Indians is at stake.

At the Quad, forming habits of cooperation

The institutionalisation of the organisation has begun and it is a chance for India to work with the advanced economies



RAJIV BHATIA

The first in-person summit of the Quad powers – Australia, Japan, India and the United States – has clearly advanced the work begun by the virtual summit in March. The September 24 meeting, hosted by U.S. President Joseph Biden, drew global attention both for its symbolism and substance. The photograph showing the four leaders sitting behind separate desks imaginatively placed in a circular format in the elegant East Room of the White House, conveyed a signal of mutual warmth, purpose and resolve. It is necessary to critically analyse the summit's outcome in order to appreciate the development and formalisation of a new plurilateral and its direction in the coming years.

Self-perceptions

The opening remarks by the Quad leaders were remarkably succinct. Mr. Biden portrayed the Quad as a group of democratic partners "who share a worldview and have a common vision for the future". Prime Minister Narendra Modi was confident that the Quad would "play the role of a force for global good".

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison blended a preview of upcoming agreements with a dose of sharp Aussie candour by laying stress on the point that the grouping wanted the Indo-Pacific region

to "be always free from coercion". It was a thinly-veiled criticism of China's policy. Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga was the only participant who addressed the U.S. President as "Joe". He projected the Quad as "an extremely significant initiative", designed to promote "a free and open international order based on the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific". Another dig at Beijing.

Practical cooperation

The joint statement issued following the summit, began with the compromise formulation crafted last March, to emphasise the leaders' commitment to "a free and open Indo-Pacific, which is also inclusive and resilient". Promoting security and prosperity in this region is the *raison d'être* of the Quad, a goal to be achieved through practical cooperation among the four powers.

The Washington summit added new areas of collaboration: infrastructure; cybersecurity and space; education and people-to-people relations. On the first, the plan is to promote "sustainable infrastructure", with a stress on aligning the Quad with the G7's Build Back Better World (B3W) Partnership, based on the G20's quality infrastructure investment principles. Here, the Quad can focus on four key B3W elements: digital connectivity, climate, health security and gender equality infrastructure. There was no mention of any specific projects or countries where they are envisaged. However, the formation of an infrastructure coordination group composed of senior officials was announced. It will map and coordinate infrastructure needs and catalyse priv-



ate-sector investment.

On cybersecurity, the Quad will cooperate on combating cyber threats and securing critical infrastructure. On the space front, the plan is to identify new collaboration opportunities, especially sharing of data to monitor climate change, disaster response and preparedness, and sustainable uses of ocean and marine resources. A senior cyber group and a new working group on space will be established. On education, the Quad fellowship programme will award 100 graduates – 25 scholars from each Quad country – opportunities in leading STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) programmes in the U.S. This is not a government programme but a philanthropic initiative.

The three working groups on vaccines, climate and emerging technologies established last March, have reported progress. On vaccines, the Quad stands committed to donate over 1.2 billion doses globally, although only 79 million doses have been delivered so far. The production of vaccines in India – with the target of "at least 1 billion doses" of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2022 – is on track. Vaccines are slated for free distribution in the Indo-Pacific region, beginning next February. Ample funding has been assured by Japan and Australia.

Besides, new measures are contemplated to conduct research and step-up preparedness to handle future pandemics.

The Quad working group on climate change has focused on three thematic areas: climate ambition, clean-energy innovation, and climate adaptation and resilience. The Quad leaders emphasised enhanced action for achieving global net-zero emissions preferably by 2050, with an important caveat – "taking into account national circumstances" – added at India's instance. A Quad shipping task force has now been launched to build a green-shipping network and green port infrastructure. As regards critical and emerging technologies, a slew of steps is under consideration relating to 5G and beyond 5G networks; supply chains of critical minerals including semiconductors; and emerging advances in biotechnology. To be successful, building the supply chains will need expert resources and coordination from each country. A contact group on Advanced Communications and Artificial Intelligence will focus on standards-development and foundational research.

Political facets

Cooperation among the Quad members in the six areas mentioned will help the grouping to address the economic and technological challenges posed by China.

But what of the pressing strategic, defence and maritime security aspects of the challenge? Those will stay outside the formal framework of the Quad for now. Maritime security will continue to be strengthened through bilateral 2+2 Ministerial tracks; the four-powers

Malabar Exercise; and other bilateral or trilateral arrangements such as AUKUS (the new trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom and the U.S.). Defence cooperation will not be lowered in priority; it will just be handled differently. The Quad wants a positive orientation, rather than be seen as an 'Asian NATO'.

Regionally, the Quad sees the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as "the heart of the Indo-Pacific region". Together with the small island States in the South Pacific, ASEAN countries will stand to benefit from growing cooperation within the Quad. So will the European Union (EU), whose new EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific was welcomed by the four leaders. On Afghanistan, the decision to "closely coordinate" policies and next steps will be watched as the U.S. comes under strong pressure to show flexibility towards the interim Taliban government.

The institutionalisation of the Quad has begun to gather speed. For India, this grouping is critical. It is the first major plurilateral organisation in years where India is on the ground floor, an equal partner of the new P4. It has much to contribute and leverage, beyond its market. This is an opportunity for India to work with the advanced economies to "build habits of cooperation", while confronting the 21st century challenges in its Indo-Pacific neighbourhood.

Rajiv Bhatia is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House. He served as India's envoy to Myanmar, Mexico, Kenya and South Africa

A State, a 'clean sweep' and the art of sanitation

The citizens of Madhya Pradesh and the State machinery have enabled a transformation, down to the grassroots



SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

It was on October 2, 2014 that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, newly elected, launched a nationwide cleanliness campaign on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. Coupled with tackling open defecation through behavioural change, the now famous Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, or Clean India Mission, aimed to provide every family with sanitation facilities, including toilets, solid and liquid waste disposal systems.

For social reformation

His call to achieve the goal by October 2, 2019 and make this an appropriate tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, on his 150th birth anniversary was well-received by all Indian citizens and the international community, too. Indeed, this was a historic moment in the development story of India, as this campaign was to become the largest cleanliness drive by any country.

This path-breaking idea initiated by the Prime Minister was beyond partisanship and politics. It lit up the spirit of a patriot and became known as a masterstroke to unify a nation that had suffered much at the hands of some divisive forces.

This visionary and courageous idea for social reformation inspired me to rally the people of Madhya Pradesh and make open defecation, truly, a thing of the past.

Before launching the pro-

gramme in the State, it was important for me to understand the ground realities. We initiated a comprehensive exercise to identify the sanitation issues people faced through a series of interactions with all identified stakeholders. This was an opportunity for us to initiate social change that the world had never seen before, all the while contributing to the story of an Atmanirbhar India.

Driven by the individual

Through a succession of such stakeholder interactions, we gathered insights that would go on to inform our strategy to make Madhya Pradesh 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2019. We understood that while people, as individuals, abhor unclean environments and attempt to keep their homes clean, nobody takes the responsibility when it comes to the collective whole. Instead, people believe it is the responsibility of the government to keep their surroundings clean. What the Prime Minister's idea did was to make Swachhata an individual's responsibility, both at a personal and public level. We wanted to ride this wave of a renewed public understanding towards cleanliness and ensure that *janbhagidari* (people's participation) was the driving force behind the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in Madhya Pradesh.

As the Chief Minister of the State, it would have been much easier for me to issue a directive to only construct toilets, guarantee the provision of piped water supply, and levy fines to offenders to ensure that the goal was achieved. But a lesson I have learnt is not to go in for short-term solutions, but, instead, to address all issues with a long-term view in sight. Hence, I



A.M. FAROUQ

decided upon a multi-pronged strategy involving the construction of toilets, implementing tough regulatory steps such as levying fines for open defecation, and encouraging behavioural change through innovation – both communication-based and engineering solutions. This approach guaranteed the sustenance of changed behaviours and the longevity of the impact of our efforts.

The power of simple solutions

We capitalised on the age-old understanding that good leadership encourages a sustained change of behaviour. Consequently, we ensured that right – from a Collector to a local level leader at the gram panchayat level – took the message of cleanliness to the people within their precincts. This catapulted the pace of the movement. The more the leaders engaged with the people, the better they were able to open fresh lines of communication and build deeper bonds of trust.

What followed was a remarkable change in the attitudes of the people as they began to own the movement at the grassroots and began to evangelise their peers and community members with the message of Swachhata.

We encouraged and recognised simple yet path-breaking engineering innovations at the local level. I remember one of our Collectors from Sehore district devised

an innovation called 'Tippy-Tap.' This is a simple foot-operated device, which uses a can with a hole to dispense water for handwashing. We implemented this 'tippy-tap' solution across all anganwadis and schools in Sehore district, and this easy-to-operate solution was welcomed by all. Another simple solution was the installation of a small hook in the toilet to enable seniors and those with disabilities to rise with ease from a squatting position. Following the success of these simple solutions, my belief that simple solutions can bring about lasting change has been strengthened.

The record so far

As a result of this comprehensive and scientific approach, Urban Madhya Pradesh received its ODF certification on October 2, 2017 – much ahead of time; rural Madhya Pradesh received its ODF certification the following year on October 2, 2018. As of today, it is, therefore, no surprise that Madhya Pradesh ranks third in the country in the cleanliness survey, 2020. Not only this, several of our cities have been consistently spearheading the list of clean and green cities in India.

Take Indore, for instance, which has been ranked the cleanest city in the country in Swachh Survekshan (Cleanliness Survey) since 2017. Leading from the front lines, Indore has become India's first 'Water Plus' city in Swachh Survekshan 2021. It achieved this feat by treating its wastewater to a satisfactory level, before releasing it into rivers, thus maintaining cleanliness in rivers and drains under its administration.

The capital city of Bhopal, which has been known as the 'city of lakes', has also shown the way for other State capitals by bagging

the title of the cleanest and the greenest capital of the country in the cleanliness survey of 2020. The result is clear: the steps taken by the State government towards realising the Prime Minister's call to enable cleanliness have become lifesavers during the novel coronavirus pandemic by ensuring reduced interaction during the lockdown, and preventing the transfer of infection.

The formula

My approach to providing holistic sanitation facilities to the people of Madhya Pradesh emanates from my understanding of travelling and interacting with numerous people and observing and learning from their struggles. Without our "all-hands-on-the-deck" approach and the 'provision of an integrated sanitation approach that includes water supply, water connections, and waste management', our efforts to construct toilets and implement regulatory measures alone would have not brought about a tangible behavioural change at the grassroots. The status of ODF Plus received by 355 urban bodies of the State, and the status of ODF double plus received by 71 urban bodies in the past year alone are a reverberating testament to the effectiveness of our strategy.

I experience unbridled joy when I see that the collective efforts of the citizens of Madhya Pradesh and the State machinery have brought about an irreversible positive transformation in sanitation, right down to the grassroots, giving credence to Gandhiji's words – that "sanitation is more important than independence".

Shivraj Singh Chouhan is Chief Minister, Government of Madhya Pradesh

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.

Floundering party

The crisis in Punjab is a clear indicator that the Congress is fast sinking after being rocked by one crisis after another. The Gandhi siblings are inexperienced and the way in which party veterans are being sidelined is distasteful and disgraceful.

S.P. SHARMA,
Mumbai

The manner in which the Congress's Kapil Sibal, of the so-called 'G-23 group', did not mince words while expressing his serious concerns about the state of the party leadership, shows that the Grand Old Party is in danger of imploding. Are we about to witness a repeat of

1969, when the Congress party virtually split?
A. MOHAN,
Chennai

This seems to be a fight that is getting out of control, where some in the party are now turning on their own as the heckling of Mr. Sibal shows. The high command is weak too. Is all this the result of there being conflict within the Gandhi family, with the siblings on one side?

DEVADAS V.,
Talapp, Kannur, Kerala

Things can change overnight or in hours, but if the party leadership is smart – if there is leadership in the first place – it should capitalise on what is a weak

moment for Navjot Singh Sidhu. It should expel or sideline him for his antics as he is proving himself to be a chameleon and a cobra.

K. NEHRU PATNAIK,
Visakhapatnam

Once the dominant force in the political landscape of the country, the Congress has now been reduced to a position where it could not even officially claim the chair of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. Rather than indulge in honest introspection of its failure to win the trust of voters, address the leadership vacuum and script its resurgence, the top leaders seem nonchalant. The weakening of the Congress, a prominent

political force with secular and liberal credentials, does not augur well for our parliamentary democracy.

M. JEVARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

It has been more than a year since the G-23, a well-meaning group of leaders of some standing within the party, wrote a letter appealing for reforms. Instead they have been castigated by the acolytes close to the Gandhis. Had the family paid heed, there would have been appropriate fora within the party for meaningful discussions on issues confronting the party. Even now, after the mess in Punjab, petty actions such as organising protests against

party leaders like Mr. Sibal are being undertaken. The Gandhis need to take along with them the leaders still left in the party and work towards the revival of the party from the grassroots. The next three years are most crucial especially as the Gandhis hold all the cards.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

No RTI here

The article, "A fund without a care for the RTI" (Editorial page, September 30), raises serious questions on the legitimacy of the PM Cares Fund. It is ironic how a government which is near forcing its people to provide documents dating all the way back to 1987 to prove their

citizenship, is now using dodgy arguments to justify why it cannot show the records of a "public charitable trust" of which the PM himself is the face.

GOVARDHANA GAYATHRI,
Hyderabad

The stand taken by the Government is clearly unsustainable. If one is to go by the affidavit filed by an Under Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, then the use of the word 'PM' should not have been permitted at all; nor can this be allowed to continue as it amounts to deception.

S.N. SHUKLA,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Should universities avoid teaching controversial texts?

PARLEY

Doing so would violate academic autonomy, critical pedagogy and freedom of expression

Kannur University has decided to retain lessons on the works of V.D. Savarkar and M.S. Golwalkar – 'Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?' by Savarkar and 'A Bunch of Thoughts' by Golwalkar – in the post-graduate course, Governance and Politics, after a controversy erupted over the texts in the syllabus. In a conversation moderated by Anuradha Ramman, Kuldeep Kumar and Yogendra Yadav discuss the larger implications of regulating academic texts. Edited excerpts:

Would it have been justified if Kannur University dropped the writings of Hindutva ideologues?

Kuldeep Kumar: Ideas should be fought with ideas; ideas cannot be banned. Second, students at the postgraduate level are mature enough to understand and decide which idea to support and which idea to oppose. So, nothing should be excluded from the curriculum. If a curriculum is being structured for school students, who are of an impressionable age, educationists can decide on the manner of presenting the subject to the students. But at the postgraduate level, the original writings of these thinkers must be made available for discussions. We might like them or dislike them, but nobody can deny that these are important thinkers, especially in today's India where the ideology they espoused is ruling the country – at the Centre and in some States. Students have to understand what this ideology is, what its implications are, and then decide for themselves.

We have witnessed several instances where school and college curricula have succumbed to an ideology. Yogendra, you have faced this when you edited the NCERT textbooks. How important is it to counter ideas with ideas?

Yogendra Yadav: To my mind, what happened there violates three fundamental principles. One, it violates the principle of academic autonomy. It is the university's business to decide what it wishes to teach, not the business of the government

of the day [In this case, there was pressure from political parties to drop these writings]. The second is critical pedagogy – students should be introduced to all kinds of ideas and be invited to critically examine them. I think we take a very poor opinion of students' minds – and these are postgraduate students. But I would apply the same even to Class 12 students. Lastly, it violates the fundamental democratic principle of freedom of expression.

In today's context, it is also insidious, because it gives ammunition to the current regime, which believes in stifling all sorts of ideas of freedom of expression. The regime can have ammunition to do something similar in some other university and say, 'Look what the LDF did in Kannur'.

You mentioned the earlier episode about the NCERT textbooks. Those were for Classes 9, 10, and 12. Professor Suhas Palshikar and I were the chief editors of those books. A vicious controversy erupted, sparked off by a cartoon that was seen as anti-Ambedkar. It went on to include all other cartoons, which were seen as anti-politician, anti-establishment. The Congress was in power then. Then too, similar principles were violated. There was no respect for the autonomy of NCERT as an institution, for the fact that there were several layers of scrutiny before these textbooks were written. Parliament took a sovereign view of it. The minister decided what he wanted thrown out and got a rather pliable committee to simply enforce his will. In the entire debate, there was little attention to critical pedagogy. Everyone believed that students are empty vessels. Everyone believed that by simply looking at those cartoons, their minds would be vitiated; no one was interested in examining what the textbook actually had to say about Ambedkar's contribution, and the overall tenor of those books. There was no serious argument on freedom of expression.

Kuldeep, you wrote in an article about the Indian tradition of debate and bemoaned the loss of this tradition.



KK: I will just add one or two sentences to what Yogendra just said. This cartoon appeared when both Nehru and Ambedkar were alive. Neither of them had any problems with the cartoon. There is a famous quote of Nehru's where he tells Shankar, the cartoonist, not to spare him. This is the kind of democratic spirit with which India began its journey as an independent nation. Almost all our political parties have laid the ground for the kind of impunity with which Hindutva stifles dissent. Second, this tradition of intellectual debate, popularly known as *shastrarth*, was not confined to the hoary past. Intense debates took place between the proponents and opponents of widow remarriage. Even in the 20th century, when the marriageable age of young girls was raised and debated, there were discussions between the orthodox sections of society and the reformists. In the much-maligned courts of Moguls, regular philosophical discussions took place among scholars of various religions. My point is, why should one shy away from debate? But for the past several decades, we have been witnessing a tradition of complaints being filed on the pretext of religious sentiments. It is regrettable that in independent India, we are facing this kind of a situation which is blatantly anti-democratic in spirit.

Virtually every government in independent India seems to have taken offence to something or the other. Is it time to look at freedom of expression in the Indian context now?

YY: It's not just the Left Front regime in Kerala or the BJP at the

We might like or dislike certain thinkers, but nobody can deny that they are important, especially in today's India where the ideology they espoused is ruling the country.

KULDEEP KUMAR
Centre today. The record of Congress regimes on all these principles has been somewhat mixed. The record of the Left Front governments, especially in West Bengal, has been rather embarrassing. So, when we say today that the BJP is doing this, the party can always turn around and say, 'well, you started it'.

I think the real problem is that in our public culture, we don't have any space for any of the three principles I stated. I suspect no one believes in the principle of academic autonomy. We don't have procedural ethics at all; we believe in substantive ethics: this needed to be done, it has been done, forget the procedure. Curriculum has always been seen as a political battleground. The idea is to stuff children's heads with material that can be partisan in the foolish belief that once you paste something onto a textbook, it automatically enters the minds, hearts and souls of the students. And on the freedom of expression, I really suspect that we as a country don't value it. Political liberalism does not exist.

So, when you speak about freedom of expression and say, 'well I dislike this film, but there is no reason for it to be banned or censored', you appear to be generous to a fault and needing some correction. Sadly, unlike in western democracies, I think we are weaker and poorer. We have been unable to develop this fundamental tenet of democracy.

The tradition of *shastrarth* was made famous by Amartya Sen in his *The Argumentative Indian*. However, in the last more than 100 years, we have been unable to cultivate this as a value. Our Constitution mentions it. But it does not enjoy great popular support. And this is only one more instance of a deeper rupture that we see between constitutional values on the one hand and popular values on the other. We're looking at something that goes beyond regimes, beyond one university, beyond one vice chancellor, and beyond one episode.

Are we looking at a structural malaise now?

KK: Yes. On the issue of the Ambedkar cartoon, almost all the political parties ganged up in Parliament. We as a society tend to idolise people. We put them on such a high pedestal that they become demigods. Nobody these days can freely criticise Ambedkar for fear of being dubbed anti-Dalit. Ambedkarites do not tolerate any criticism of Ambedkar. This is bhakti. Ambedkar himself wrote that bhakti is okay in religion, but in politics it leads to dictatorship. This tendency militates against democracy. When you do not counter ideas with ideas and you effectively ban writings, whose loss is it? In many ways, it also helps those whose ideologies you need to engage with to make sense of the present. If you withhold discussions on such contentious issues, the consequences are far-reaching.

YY: Clearly, it is society's loss. And this goes back to the classic argument for freedom of expression given by John Stuart Mill in *On Liberty*. His argument was that bad arguments should be allowed to flourish; false things should be allowed to be said. Because it's only by countering falsehood that you establish the truth. By pushing falsehood under the carpet, you only encourage the suspicion that the falsehood was something valuable which has suddenly been taken away. And I suspect that this actually happened during the dominance of secular academia in our country. Although this is not germane to the debate today, I do think that in our anxiety and over-enthusiasm, we played with certain aspects of our history in the belief that if our stu-

dents get to know it, they might become communal. This tendency to brush under the carpet aspects of our history which were unpleasant actually helped the BJP in the long run. Because it could always say, 'see, you were never told about it'. The BJP will blow it up as if this was the only thing in history. So, in the long run, society, democracy and good ideas suffer because bad ideas are not being allowed to be stated.

To what extent do you think bans help those with contentious ideologies to hold on to them when those ideologies are not introduced in public spheres?

KK: Whether it is a university curriculum or the free market where books can be bought, I don't think banning any book is going to help anybody. Look at the whole debate on the National Register of Citizens. Or the new public distribution rules being changed by the Uttar Pradesh government. If you do not read Golwalkar's book or Balraj Madhok's book on so-called Indianisation, you will not understand that these decisions directly flow from the writings and ideas of these thinkers.

YY: To my mind, the story is not just saffronisation. I think what the BJP has done and what Kannur University has done should not make us forget the larger context. Because what is happening today is that in universities, colleges and schools, the tinkering with syllabi curricula is not only partisan. One, there is absolute degradation of academic exercise. You have people who have no business to sit in committees sitting in them. Two, what is being dishied out in many of these textbooks now is just factually wrong. This is a fanciful history. And three, this is against constitutional values. Now, that's more serious than the partisan games that parties play when they are in power. No regime should be allowed to do things which go against constitutional values, and this is what is being perpetuated right now. And sadly, this episode of Kannur University will only go on to provide ammunition to the BJP and to those who are acting on behalf of the party in the educational sector to perpetuate crimes which are much worse than what has been done by Kannur University.



Kuldeep Kumar is a bilingual journalist and a Hindi poet who writes on politics and culture



Yogendra Yadav is a member and former president of Swaraj India



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

Making parties constitutional

This will ensure in-party democracy, make them transparent, and de-communalise them

FAISAL C.K.

A political party is an organised group of citizens who hold common views on governance and act as a political unit that seeks to obtain control of government with a view to further the agenda and policy they profess. They are indispensable links between the people and the representative machinery of government. Political parties maintain a continuous connection between the people and those who represent them either in government or in the opposition.

Political parties have extralegal growth in almost every democratic country. The American Constitution does not presume the existence of political parties. In Britain too, political parties are still unknown to the law. Nonetheless, Sir Ivor Jennings, in *The British Constitution*, opined that "a realistic survey of the British Constitution today must begin and end with parties and discuss them at length in the middle". Similarly, political parties in India are extra-constitutional, but they are the breathing air of the political system.

The German model

The Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany (1949) gives constitutional status to political parties. Article 21 of the Basic Law deals with their status, rights, duties and functions. It provides: "(1) Political parties shall participate in the formation of the political will of the people. They may be freely established. Their internal organisation must conform to democratic principles. They must publicly account for their assets and for the sources and use of their funds. (2) Parties that, by reason of their aims or the behaviour of their adherents, seek to undermine or abolish the free democratic basic order or to endanger the existence of the Federal Republic of Germany shall be unconstitutional... (4) The Federal Constitutional Court shall rule on the question of unconstitutionality... (5) Details shall be regulated by federal laws." The German model of constitutionalising political parties is more desirable for India than the U.S. and the U.K. models. Section 29A(5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 is the only ma-

nor statutory provision dealing with political parties in India. It orders that a political party shall bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, and to the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy, and would uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.

Political parties in developed nations maintain high levels of internal democracy. In the U.K., the Conservative Party has the National Conservative Convention as its top body. It has a Central Council and an Executive Committee. The Central Council elects its President, a Chairman and Vice Chairmen at its annual meeting. It also elects an Executive Committee which meets once a month. In the U.S., both the Democratic and the Republican Party have the National Committee as their top decision-making body. The National Committee plays an important role in the presidential election and agenda setting.

The Indian Constitution is one of the longest Constitutions in the world. It even elaborately deals with the co-operative societies. The right to form co-operative societies is a fundamental right under Article 19 (1) (c), but the right to form political parties is not. It is astonishing that such a meticulous Constitution overlooked political parties, the vital players in the political system, for constitutional regulation. Most of the parties are openly caste- or religious-based. Their finances are dubious and opaque. Almost all the parties – the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Samajwadi Party, the All India Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimeen, the Indian Union Muslim League, etc. – are family fiefdoms. The Congress high command is only a euphemism for the Gandhi family. There are no periodical in-party elections in Indian parties except in a few like the CPI(M).

Political parties are the agents of democracy and safety valves in the political system. They desperately need reform. Hence, it is high time to constitutionalise political parties to ensure in-party democracy, to impart transparency in their finances, and to de-communalise them.

Faisal C.K. is an Under Secretary (Law) to the Government of Kerala

DATA POINT

A crude shock to Indian consumers

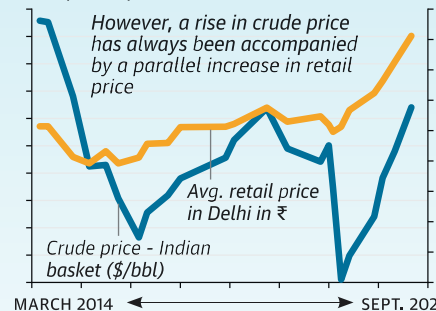
In India, crude oil prices have risen to a near three-year high. Subsequently, the retail prices of petrol and diesel, which were already high due to heavy tax rates, became higher. Notably, in recent times, whenever crude prices have been on the rise, the burden has been passed on to consumers. However, when crude prices dropped, the Centre's excise duty was increased in proportion and consumers continued to pay more. In contrast, the State's share of taxes has not moved much. The Centre has raked in nearly ₹16 lakh crore through excise duty on petroleum products between FY15 and FY21. And now that fuel consumption is reaching to pre-pandemic levels, consumers may have to pay more. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Sumant Sen and Jasmin Nihalani

\$35/bbl to \$78/bbl
Increase in crude price - Indian basket from March 2016 to September 2021

₹61/litre to ₹101/litre
Increase in retail price of petrol in Delhi between March 2016 and September 2021

₹22/litre to ₹33/litre
Increase of Centre's share in the retail price of petrol in Delhi between March 2016 and September 2021

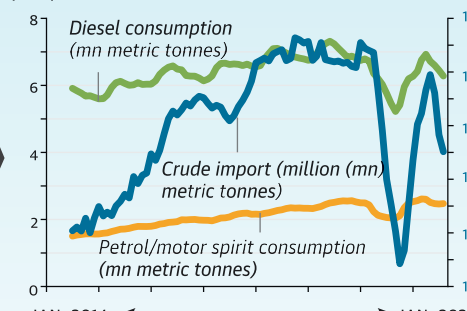
1. DOUBLE STANDARDS | The chart depicts the crude price – Indian basket – and the retail petrol price in Delhi. Since late-2014, crude prices have crashed on multiple occasions. But this has rarely translated into a reduction in retail petrol prices.



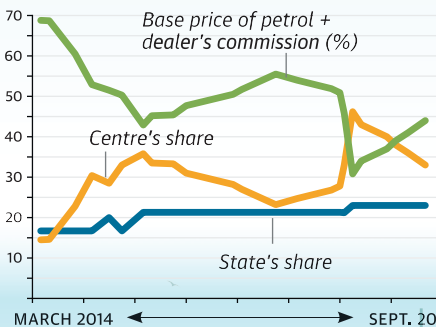
₹25
Rise in retail petrol prices in the past year

At the same time, while the demand for petrol has improved, the consumption of high-speed diesel has not picked up much

3. RISE IN CONSUMPTION | The chart depicts India's average crude imports (right axis) and the average consumption of petrol and high-speed diesel in India. While imports have significantly recovered from the pandemic lows, they are yet to reach the pre-pandemic levels due to local restrictions



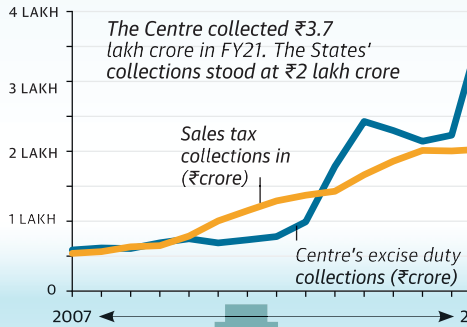
2. SHARE IN RETAIL PRICES | The Centre's excise duty is a major reason for the surge in retail price in recent times. While the States' share in retail price has remained steady, the Centre's share has increased many times after 2014. Excise duty was revised sharply upward in 2020 when crude prices crashed due to the pandemic



46%
Centre's share in retail petrol price in April 2020

The hike in excise duty continues in 2021, even as the crude price is on the rise

4. FILLED COFFERS | The chart shows the revenue earned by the Centre and States through excise duty and VAT, respectively, on petrol and petroleum products. The Centre's revenue rose sharply in FY2021 after the hike in excise duty



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 1, 1971

Forfeiture of Mao book set aside

Ahmedabad, Sept. 30: An order of the Gujarat Government forfeiting a Gujarati book captioned "Quotations from Mao Tse Tung" on the ground that some of the passages in the book constituted seditious matter, was set aside on Tuesday by a special Bench of the Gujarat High Court consisting of the Chief Justice, Mr. P.N. Bhagwati, Mr. Justice B.J. Diwan and Mr. Justice D.A. Desai. The court held that the passages in question did not constitute seditious matter and as the publishers of the book had made it clear, the thoughts of Mao Tse Tung as expressed in these passages were presented to the public with a view to enable them to study the principles and practice of Communism. "To condemn them as seditious would be to close the doors of knowledge, to ostracise a philosophy, because it challenged the most cherished values of society and held up for acceptance a new way of life vastly different from that to which our people were presently accustomed. It is not for the Government of the day nor for the Judges presiding over the courts to decide what doctrine or philosophy is good for our people. It is for the people to choose what is best for them and to help them to make a wise and intelligent choice, free propagation of ideas is an essential requisite," the court observed.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 1, 1921

Indians in Kenya

(From an Editorial)

The position of Indians in Kenya is becoming more and more one of great gravity. Not content with plotting with the South African Whites to undermine the legitimate rights of the Indians in the Crown Colony, the Whites have commenced a campaign of persecution and boycott against the Indian residents. As will be noticed from a review of this new development which we publish elsewhere, the European settlers are resorting to cut-throat competition with the Indian traders so that, deprived of the custom, they might leave the country or submit themselves to the bondage of Europeans. One curious fact to notice is that they do not boycott the Indian wholesale dealers, but purchase goods from them at the prices demanded, corner the goods, undersell Indian retailers even at a loss and thus seek to drive them out of the market and, hence, out of the Colony as well. Further, it would appear that transport services under European control are refused to Indians and the Indians are otherwise hampered.

FROM PAGE ONE

Leaving Cong., but not joining BJP: Amarinder

"My experience showed that the people of Punjab tend to vote for a single party, irrespective of the number of parties in the fray. Misgovernance in Punjab would give Pakistan the opportunity to create trouble in the State and in the country," he said, adding that his meeting with Mr. Doval was centred on this theme.

The long-running farmers' protest against the three contentious farm laws were issues that he discussed with Mr. Shah and tangentially with Mr. Doval, as the agitation with no end to the confrontation was inimical to the security of the State.

Capt. Singh said those undermining the growing Pakistani threat in Punjab were playing into the hands

of anti-India forces by being in denial mode, a direct hit at Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu.

"They [Pak-backed elements] are killing our soldiers every day. They are pushing weapons into the State through drones. How can we overlook such dangers?" he asked.

For his own party, the Congress, which he is set to exit, Capt. Singh had some home truths: "Senior Congressmen are the thinkers but they are being sidelined." He condemned the attack on former Union Minister Kapil Sibal's residence by Youth Congress workers for what he termed "choosing to express views that were not palatable to the party leadership".

CWC meet soon, says Congress amid crisis

Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Anand Sharma asserted that "intolerance and violence" had no place in the Congress.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said he felt "helpless" when meaningful conversations could not start within party forums and hurt when he saw pictures of Congress workers "raising slogans outside the residence of a colleague and MP".

"The safe harbour to which one can withdraw seems to be silence," added Mr. Chidambaram, who is not a part of G-23.

Mr. Azad tweeted: "I strongly condemn the orchestrated hooliganism @KapilSibal's residence last night. He is a loyal congressman fighting for the party both inside and outside the Parliament. Any suggestion from any quarter should be welcomed instead of sup-

pressing, hooliganism is unacceptable."

Members of the Youth Congress from the Chandni Chowk area protested outside his house on Wednesday evening. Apart from holding placards with "Get Well Soon" messages, Youth Congress workers reportedly threw tomatoes and roses inside Mr. Sibal's compound.

Though there was complete silence from the Gandhis, others like former Law Minister Ashwani Kumar, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and general secretary Ajay Maken were among leaders who strongly defended them.

"Sonia Gandhi ji and Rahul Gandhi ji have handled the party under difficult circumstances. We have full faith in them. Those who are raising questions now have been given a lot by the party," Mr. Baghel tweeted.

Bhabanipur byelection sees low voter turnout

BJP candidate from Bhabanipur Priyanka Tibrewal raised allegations of electoral malpractices at some of the booths. The office of the Chief Electoral Officer denied the allegations, saying no irregularities took place. The BJP also raised allegations against Ministers Firdad Hakim and Subrata Mukherjee, claiming that they were moving around polling booths and trying to influence voters.

Both denied the allegations, saying they were

merely interacting with party supporters at different party offices and did not try to influence voters.

A vehicle of BJP leader Kalyan Chaubey was attacked and damaged at Bhabanipur. According to the police, there was no political connection with the incident and the attack was due to an altercation with a person on a motorbike.

About 6.97 lakh voters were eligible to exercise their franchise in the three Bengal constituencies.

Make farmers parties in case to ease jam, says SC

The court urged the government to take the initiative to make them parties rather than depend on Ms. Agarwal and other private citizens.

Justice Kaul observed, "How will they know which

organisations have to be made parties?"

The Bench asked the government to file an application seeking permission to implead farmers' bodies in the case. The court listed the case on Monday.

'LAC incidents will go on till a pact is signed'

Referring to issues in defence procurement, he observed that with the cycle of new and disruptive technologies getting shorter and faster, avoiding technological obsolescence remained a big challenge.

"The danger that our long-drawn procurement processes and bureaucratic speed-breakers would prevent us from acquiring cutting edge technology is a real one," he pointed out. Much work had been done to bring about systemic changes with the aim of ease of doing business.

"This however remains a

work in progress. There are still archaic rules and processes that defy logic and are at variance to modern best practices. This needs to be addressed," he urged.

In this regard, he referred to a recent initiative that gave "extremely positive results", which was the invoking of emergency powers under the Delegation of Financial Powers to Defence Services (DFPDS) 2020 for emergency procurement that was initially invoked in June last year till March 31 this year and subsequently extended till August.

Monsoon may withdraw from next week

September figure ensures close to normal rainfall across country, with an average 87 cm

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The monsoon is likely to begin withdrawing from the mainland from October 6, said the India Meteorological Department as the country recorded an average of nearly 87 cm of rainfall across subdivisions, just short of the nearly 88 cm it normally receives during the monsoon. The quantum of rainfall during the monsoon is counted as that received between June 1 and September 30.

The September rainfall, at 223 millimetres (mm), has been the second highest since 1993 when it got 239 mm (40% above normal). In 2019, India recorded nearly 250 mm, or about 52% more than normal.

Had it not been for the extraordinary rainfall last month, India could very well have ended up with deficit rainfall. With a weakening of the rainfall that began in mid-July and lasted most of August, the rainfall deficit in India had widened to nearly 24%. As of Thursday India has received 99% of its monsoon rainfall.

At the start of the monsoon, the IMD had forecast



Unusual weather: While September is usually the month that marks the beginning of the end of the monsoon, rainfall spiked during the month in 2020 and 2019. *AP

rainfall in the four months to be "above normal" or around 101% of the Long Period Average (88 cm). After a staggering deficit in August, the second rainiest month, it revised it to saying that this would be "at the lower end of normal" without specifying a fresh number.

As predicted

However, the IMD did also say that September rainfall would be above normal, or

"greater than 110%" of the normal for the month. September rainfall was expected to be good on the back of transitioning temperatures in the Central Pacific Ocean where a La Nina - characterised by colder than normal sea surface temperatures - was taking shape.

While September is usually the month that marks the beginning of the end of the monsoon's four-month sojourn over India, both 2020

and 2019 have seen rain spikes during the month.

In 2019, September rain was a staggering 152% or close to 25 cm, close to what the country gets in August (26 cm), considered the second rainiest of the monsoon months.

That year also saw India get the highest monsoon rainfall since 1994. Last September's rainfall at 17.7 cm was not too high but more than normal.

D.S. Pai, Head, Climate Research Services, IMD, Pune said while three Septembers of excess monsoon rains was unusual, it wasn't yet indicative of a trend.

"There is always variability within the monsoon and the rainfall that we saw in September was part of it. We'll have to wait for longer to see if there's any trend," Mr. Pai said.

Across the regions, central India saw 83% more rain than normal, northwest India 40% and southern India 24% above normal. However, northeastern and eastern India saw a 30% reduction. M. Mahapatra, Director General, IMD, said typically, heavy rains in central India correspond to weaker rains in the northeast because of the movement of the monsoon system.

Other factors that contributed to strong September rains were favourable conditions in the Indian Ocean as well as a rain-bearing system in the Bay of Bengal that resulted in Cyclone Gulab that passed through Andhra Pradesh but whose effects were felt as far as Maharashtra, bringing in torrential rain in the State.

J&K speeds up action on property cases

Thousands of applications by Pandits

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has stepped up action to redress the grievances raised by migrant Pandits regarding their properties in the Kashmir Valley.

In the first three weeks of the launch of a designated portal for a time-bound redressal of grievances related to Kashmir migrants' immovable properties by the Lieutenant Governor's administration, thousands of applications have been moved by Pandits living outside Kashmir.

An official spokesman said at least 660 complaints were addressed in Srinagar. "Of the 660 grievances, 390 alleging alienation by fraud or distress sale were resolved. Around 129 grie-

vances alleging encroachments on migrant properties were also verified and resolved," Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad said.

Necessary demarcation and eviction notices were carried out in 20 cases. "Twelve of them are sub-judice before the High Court," Mr. Asad said.

Around 16 cases of tampering with revenue records were verified in Srinagar. "Eighteen cases of trespassing were verified, of which few were found lacking the exact details of the properties and the same have been sought for final resolution," he said.

In south Kashmir's Anantnag, 22 evictions on land and property of Pandit migrants have been carried out so far.

'China can join Quad initiatives'

Group not in the business of containing it, says Australian Prime Minister

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

The Quad is a partnership among "like-minded" countries and is not "designed" to be a security alliance, said Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison who argued that even China is welcome to contribute to the objective of ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Addressing journalists after his return from the U.S. where a security alliance consisting of the U.S., the U.K. and Australia - AUKUS - was launched, Mr. Morrison said members of the Quad are not in the business of containing China.

"Our objective of working together is to ensure that we promote a free and open Indo-Pacific and everybody who wants to participate in that, including China, is a welcome partner in that



Scott Morrison says Quad is a partnership of 'like-minded' countries and not 'designed' to be a security alliance. *REUTERS

cause. I, we, don't rally want to see the region in such binary terms," said Mr. Morrison to a question that had raised critical comments made by certain Chinese officials about the Quad.

The Quad, said the Australian leader, is certainly aimed at deterring any challenge that disturbs peace and stability in the Indo-Pac-

ific region or "in any way seeks to limit" the sovereignty of nearby countries. He said such a perspective is probably also shared by China and India.

"We are not in the containment club when it comes to China. We have greatly benefited from their economic development, and they have been very successful indeed

Six dead as bus plunges into river in Meghalaya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Six people died and 15 were injured when a Meghalaya State Transport Corporation bus plunged into a river early on September 30.

The police said the night service bus, travelling from Tura to the State capital Shillong, fell off a bridge into Ringdi river in East Garo Hills district.

"Five people died on the spot. The injured were first taken to the Rongjeng primary health centre, from where the critically injured were shifted to the civil hospital at Williamnagar," a police officer said.

The passengers were asleep when the accident took place.

The driver was among the dead.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma tweeted: "Pained by the unfortunate MTC bus accident at Nongchram Bridge that claimed precious lives. My deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and I wish speedy recovery to those injured."

merely interacting with party supporters at different party offices and did not try to influence voters.

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'LAC incidents will go on till a pact is signed'

Referring to issues in defence procurement, he observed that with the cycle of new and disruptive technologies getting shorter and faster, avoiding technological obsolescence remained a big challenge.

"The danger that our long-drawn procurement processes and bureaucratic speed-breakers would prevent us from acquiring cutting edge technology is a real one," he pointed out. Much work had been done to bring about systemic changes with the aim of ease of doing business.

"This however remains a

work in progress. There are still archaic rules and processes that defy logic and are at variance to modern best practices. This needs to be addressed," he urged.

In this regard, he referred to a recent initiative that gave "extremely positive results", which was the invoking of emergency powers under the Delegation of Financial Powers to Defence Services (DFPDS) 2020 for emergency procurement that was initially invoked in June last year till March 31 this year and subsequently extended till August.

ED attaches assets in Unitech case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has attached 29 land parcels having on-paper value of ₹30.29 crore, taking the total attachment of assets so far to ₹672.52 crore in the case against Unitech group. The land measuring 13,600 sq.m. is located in Noida Sector 96-98. The land parcels were illegally allotted to Carnoustie Management (India) Private Limited by the Unitech group promoters.

New Delhi hits out at Beijing for blame on Ladakh stand-off

China's provocative behaviour disturbed peace: MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India on Thursday hit out at China for attempting to blame it for the eastern Ladakh stand-off, asserting that the "provocative" behaviour and "unilateral" attempts by the Chinese military to alter the status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the region seriously disturbed peace and tranquillity in the region.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said China continued to deploy a large number of troops and armaments in the border areas and it was in response to Chinese actions that Indian armed forces had to make appropriate counter deployments.

He said China's allegations had "no basis in facts" and that it was India's expectation that the Chinese side

would work towards an early resolution of the remaining issues while fully abiding by bilateral agreements and protocols.

India's reaction came in response to China's fresh allegation that the "root cause" of the tensions between the two countries was New Delhi following a "forward policy" and "illegally" encroaching on the Chinese territory.

Adityanath offers job to wife of dead trader

He died during police check in a hotel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The wife of Kanpur trader Manish Gupta who died during a police check in a hotel at Gorakhpur said on Thursday that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had accepted all her demands - better compensation, a government job and shifting of the case to her home district.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav visited the trader's family in Kanpur and announced that his party would provide them a support of ₹20 lakh. He demanded that the government provide ₹2 crore as compensation and conduct a probe under a sitting judge of the Allahabad High Court.

Meenakshi Gupta, who accused the policemen of assaulting and murdering her husband in Gorakhpur on Monday, said she met Mr. Adityanath and that he

"deeply and properly understood" her case and situation.

"I am fully satisfied," said Ms. Gupta to a news channel, adding that the Chief Minister had accepted her demand for a job and had himself offered to shift the case to Kanpur. Ms. Gupta was later appointed as an OSD in the Kanpur Development Authority.

The government had earlier announced an ex gratia of ₹10 lakh to the family.

Six policemen were suspended while three were booked for murder on the complaint of Ms. Gupta. After meeting the family, Mr. Yadav said the BJP government and its administration were "equally responsible for the murder."

The autopsy report of the trader revealed he died of "coma due to injuries" and listed several injuries including swelling in the head and a cut above the elbow joint.

APPEAL

Name of Patient: **Baby Aadhyia Aji** 6 months.
Hospital Name: **Christian Medical College,**
Diagnosis: **Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis Syndrome (HLH).** The treatment option for her would be to undergo **Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation.** The estimated cost of Mud Transplant in this hospital is approximately **Rs. 35,00,000/-.**

We request Kind Hearted Philanthropists to save her. Kindly send donation by **Cheque/D.D./M.O** on the back of Cheque write **A/C Aadhyia Aji. Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaiapuram Branch, and IFSC Code: SBIN0001855. You can donate Google pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@okets which is exempted under 80G of IT Act.

Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (ADMIN DIVISION) Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No.76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai-600028. Ph: 044-42044165, Mobile: 9884607377, E-mail: savepoorlives@gmail.com Our website: www.savepoorlives.com.



IN BRIEF

Petrol and diesel prices hiked again

NEW DELHI
Petrol and diesel prices on Thursday neared record levels across the country after rates were hiked by 25 paise and 30 paise a litre, respectively. The price of petrol was hiked to ₹101.64 a litre in Delhi and to ₹107.71 per litre in Mumbai, as per a price notification of State-owned fuel retailers. Diesel rates increased to ₹89.87 a litre in Delhi and ₹97.52 in Mumbai. PTI

Validity of vehicle documents extended

NEW DELHI
Vehicle permits, driving licence and documents related to vehicle registration and fitness will be valid till October 31, according to a government advisory. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has extended the deadline for these documents for the seventh time since the outbreak of COVID-19. The advisory covers all documents whose validity expired since February 1, 2020, or will expire by October 31.

RSS chief Bhagwat in Jammu on four-day visit

SRINAGAR
Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat arrived in Jammu on Thursday on a four-day visit of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This is his first visit since the Central government ended Jammu & Kashmir's special constitutional position in 2019.

Bombay HC denies furlough for blast convict

MUMBAI
The Bombay High Court has refused to release a 2002-2003 triple blast convict Farhan Abdul Malik Khot on furlough. Lodged in the Kolhapur Central Prison, Farhan has undergone 14 years of imprisonment but was never released on furlough. A Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and N.J. Jamadar was hearing a criminal petition filed by Farhan's brother Zeeshan. Farhan was arrested on May 1, 2003 and was sentenced under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) and the Explosive Substances Act by a Special POTA court on April 6, 2016.

Amid crisis, Sidhu meets Channi

Panel likely to be set up to coordinate between State government and party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

The fresh crisis in the Congress in Punjab, emerging after its State chief Navjot Singh Sidhu quit his post on the issue of inducting "tainted" leaders and controversial officials in the new government, showed sign of easing on Thursday, though Mr. Sidhu has not yet announced a withdrawal of his resignation.

A meeting was held here between Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, Mr. Sidhu and other party leaders in which, it has been learnt, a consensus was reached to set up a coordination panel of senior party leaders that would coordinate between the government and the party.

As the situation in the Congress continues to be volatile, the Congress's State in-charge Harish Rawat said it would take another five to seven days to get all things in place. Mr. Rawat said he would be going to Punjab soon to take stock of the situation.

A close aide of Mr. Sidhu told *The Hindu* that the demands put forth by him had been met during the meeting. However, there is no



Back and forth: Former PCC president Navjot Singh Sidhu leaving after a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi in Chandigarh on Thursday. •PTI

confirmation by the party that any assurance was given to the former cricketer-turned-politician.

Voicing concern

Mr. Sidhu resigned on September 28, voicing concern over the appointments of 'tainted' leaders and officers in the new government. He had specifically raised questions over the appointments of the Director General of

Police and the State's Advocate-General. The Punjab government has appointed A.P.S. Deol as the A-G and given additional charge of DGP to Iqbal Preet Singh Sahota.

Ahead of the meeting with the Chief Minister, targeting the new appointments, Mr. Sidhu on Twitter, said "DGP IPS Sahota was head of SIT investigating Beadbi case under Badal Govt; he wrongfully indicted two Sikh youth

for sacrilege & gave clean chit to Badals. In 2018, I along with INC Ministers, then PCC President & present Home Minister assured them of our support in fight for Justice."

Earlier in the day, former Punjab Congress Committee president Sunil Jakhar, in a veiled attack on Mr. Sidhu, accused him of undermining the authority of the Chief Minister.

AAP promises to revamp health infra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Stating that the health infrastructure in Punjab was in a shambles, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said if his party formed the next government in the State, free and best treatment facilities would be available at government hospitals.

Mr. Kejriwal, who was on a two-day Punjab visit ahead of the Assembly polls scheduled for early next year, said in Ludhiana: "If you go to a government hospital, primary health centre or a community health centre in Punjab, you will not get any treatment. No doctor is there, there are no medicines and even machines are not working."

"In Delhi too, when we took over seven years ago, the condition was very bad. But we changed the condition and will do it in Punjab also," he said.

Promising that medicines, tests, treatment and surgeries will be free of cost, Mr. Kejriwal said: "We have done this in Delhi and will do it in Punjab too."



New role: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari, right, in Delhi. •PTI

New IAF chief promises to enhance capabilities

Chaudhari takes over from Bhadauria

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Vivek Ram Chaudhari on Thursday took over as the 27th Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) from ACM R.K.S. Bhadauria, who superannuated after over 41 years of service.

"An alumnus of National Defence Academy (NDA), the CAS was commissioned in December 1982 in the fighter stream of the IAF. He has flown more than 3800 hours on multiple fighter and trainer aircraft," the Air Force said in a statement. Prior to the present ap-

pointment, he was the Vice Chief of the Air Staff.

On September 29, the government announced the appointment of ACM Chaudhari as the next Air Chief. "Protection of our nation's sovereignty and integrity is to be ensured at any cost," ACM Chaudhuri said. Enhancement of operational capability through integration of newly inducted platforms, weapons and equipment with the existing assets and dovetailing the same in concepts of operations would remain a priority area, he added.

PCI panel to probe 'harassment' of scribes

Move comes after Mehbooba letter

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

The Press Council of India (PCI) has constituted a three-member fact-finding committee to look into the alleged cases of intimidation and harassment of journalists in Jammu and Kashmir.

It has asked the authorities in the Union Territory (UT) "to extend full cooperation and assistance to this committee for the discharge of its function".

"The committee is required to make a thorough probe into the matter, holding discussion with the authorities concerned and the affected journalists and collect such information as it deems fit to submit its report to the Council at the

earliest," the council added.

The members of the committee include Prakash Dubey, convener and group editor, *Dainik Bhaskar*, Gurbir Singh, journalist, *The New Indian Express*, and Suman Gupta, Editor of *Jan Morcha*.

The PCI's move comes after former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on September 27 wrote a letter to the PCI and the Editors Guild of India highlighting the cases of "intimidation, snooping and harassment of journalists in Kashmir".

"Reporting truth to power is being criminalised with every passing day," Ms. Mufti said in the letter.

Marathon month for SC Collegium

Appointments to the High Courts of Punjab and Haryana, Gujarat, Orissa, and Bombay recommended

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

In a month of marathon recommendations to fill up long-pending vacancies in the High Courts, the Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana has suggested the names of 16 judicial officers and advocates to the government for appointment as judges in four different High Courts.

September has seen the Collegium meet frequently, that is, more than once every week, to recommend appointments, transfers, and re-transfers, and reiterate its recommendations to various High Courts.

The Collegium recommendations have been sent through the month, starting

from September 1 till September 29. The Collegium includes Justices U.U. Lalit, A.M. Khanwilkar, D.Y. Chandrachud and L. Nageswara Rao.

In its latest set of resolutions, the Collegium has suggested appointments to the High Courts of Punjab and Haryana, Gujarat, Orissa, and Bombay on September 29.

In Punjab and Haryana, the Collegium has proposed the elevation of advocate Sandeep Moudgil as judge.

The names of advocates Mauna Manish Bhatt, Samir J. Dave, Hemant M. Prachhah, Sandeep N. Bhatt, Aniruddha Pradyumna Mayee, Niral Rashmikant Mehta and Nisha Mahendrabhai Thakore have been proposed as



Justice N.V. Ramana

judges of the Gujarat High Court.

The Collegium has recommended advocates Aditya Kumar Mohapatra and Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo, and judicial officers Radha Krishna Pattanaik and Sashikanta Mishra, as judges of the Orissa High Court.

Four judicial officers have been recommended for appointment as judges of the

Bombay High Court. They are A.L. Pansare, S.C. More, U.S. Joshi-Phalke and B.P. Deshpande.

Within days of successfully getting nine new judges appointed to the Supreme Court in one go in August, the Collegium had yet again scripted history by recommending 68 names in one stroke for elevation as judges of various High Courts.

Following this, the Collegium recommended eight new Chief Justices to High Courts, the transfer of five High Court Chief Justices and the shuffling of 28 High Court judges across the country. The proposed shuffle, probably one of the largest in the higher judiciary in recent times, recommended the transfer of judges from

across 14 of a total 25 High Courts in the country. The Collegium recommendations had covered the High Courts of Allahabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Madras, Orissa, Patna, Punjab and Haryana, Rajasthan and Telangana.

Earlier this month, Chief Justice Ramana had described judicial appointments as an "ongoing process". The CJ had said the Collegium intended to "live up to the Herculean task of filling up 41% of vacancies existing in all the High Courts". He had made it clear that the Supreme Court Collegium was united in its resolve to fill up the vacancies in the High Courts.

Gujarat HC suspends life term of former MP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AHMEDABAD

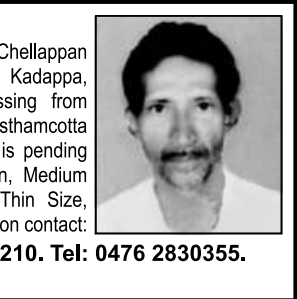
The Gujarat High Court on Thursday suspended the life sentence awarded to former BJP parliamentarian Dinu Solanki, convicted in an RTI activist murder case, and granted conditional bail to

him. In July 2019, he was sentenced to life in the case of gunning down of RTI activist Amit Jethwa outside the High Court in 2010.

The High Court held that the conviction should be suspended because it appeared unsustainable.

MISSING

GopalaKrishna Pillai, Age 56, S/o. Chellappan Pillai, Chamavila Vadakkathil, Kadappa, Mynagappally, Kollam. He is missing from Mynagappally on 09.06.2020. Sasthamcotta P.S Cr. 1503/2020 U/S 57 KP Act is pending in this regard. Height 5 Feet, Thin, Medium Complexion White mixed hair & Thin Skin, speak only Malayalam. Any information contact: **CI 9497987036, 9497980210. Tel: 0476 2830355. 1656/F2/2021/I&PRD**



TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI

NOTICE INVITING TENDER - CUM - REVERSE TENDERING
Adv.No.ITD-44021(36)/3/2021-Press SEC ITD. Dt:29-09-2021
e-tenders are invited for **Outsourcing Printing and supply of Saphagiri Magazine on Annual Rate Contract basis.** For Tender Notice & details - e-tenders log on the web site <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in>. For further details contact: 0877-2264533 (or) 0877-2264292.

ICAR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF RICE RESEARCH

(Formerly Directorate of Rice Research) Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030 (Telangana State). Phone : 040-24591256. FAX : 040-24591217
F.No. 8-IV-01/Annual Rate Contract/Outsourcing of Services/P/2021-2022 Date : 29.09.2021
TENDER NOTICE
Sealed tender are invited by the Director, Indian Institute of Rice Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030 (Telangana State) for entering into **OUTSOURCING OF SERVICES for the year 2021 - 2022** at this Institute. For details please visit IIRR website <http://www.icar-iirr.org> & CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> Sd/- Administrative Officer IIC

PSPCCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813/Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461 47777)
SHORT TERM OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY No. TSQ-1124/TD-II dated 29.09.2021 SE/TL (Design), B-1, Shakti Vihar Patiala invites E-tenders for Manufacturing, Fabrication, Galvanization, Testing, Supply and Delivery of 4000 MT 66 kV Tower Material and Sub-Station Structures as per PSPLC Specification No. TSQ-1124/TD-II/2021-22 For detailed NIT and Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 30.09.2021 from 11.00 AM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C - 354/21 PSPLC 76155/12/467/2021/8391

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500 004, T.S.
e-TENDER NOTICE
EP. No. 05/CGME/STP Circle-I STP's - North of Musi- Pkg-I/ 2021-22. Dated:30.09.2021.
Construction of 8 STPs of 402.50 MLD capacity (Decentralized) along North of Musi under Sewerage Improvement Project of Sewerage Master Plan of Hyderabad Urban Agglomeration area under Hybrid Annuity Mode of contract including O&M for 15 years.
ECV put to tender is Rs.660.12 Crores > O&M cost Rs. 378.69 Cr. for 15 years and quoted TP applicable on O&M cost. (Total cost Rs. 1038.81 Crores)
(1) The bid documents download starts online from 08.10.2021. (2) Name and address of Chief General Manager (Engg), concerned- Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, HMWSSB, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500004. (3) The contractors/firms are requested to upload the information in the 'ZIP' format preferably. (4) Further details can be seen @ <http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in>
Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500 004, T.S.

Government of Telangana HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), PCC-II, Khairatabad, Hyderabad - 04, Telangana State.
e-TENDER NOTICE
EP. No. 03/CGME/STP's South of Musi - Pkg-II/2021-22, dated : 30.09.2021
Name of Work: Construction of 6 STPs of 480.50 MLD capacity (Decentralized) along South of Musi under Sewerage Improvement Project of Sewerage Master Plan of Hyderabad Urban Agglomeration area under Hybrid Annuity Mode of contract including O&M for 15 years.
Approximate Estimate Contract Value (In Crores)
ECV put to tender is Rs. 764.29. O&M cost Rs.380.19 for 15 years and quoted TP applicable on O&M cost. (Total cost Rs.1144.48 Cr)
1. The bid documents download starts online from Date : 08.10.2021. 2. Name and address of Chief General Manager (Engg), concerned - Chief General Manager (Engg), Project Construction Circle-II, HMWSSB, Khairatabad, Hyderabad - 500004. 3. The contractors/firms are requested to upload the information in the 'ZIP' format preferably. 4. Further details can be seen @ <http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in>
Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), PCC-II, Khairatabad, Hyderabad - 04, T.S.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED REGION I JODHPUR
Tete-0291-2651750 E-Mail: rj_acejo@nic.in
No.ACE/Region I/Ju/Ar, Pali/2021-22/5331 dated 22/9/2021
Notice Inviting Bid (NIT No. 29-30/2021-22)
Bids for following works are invited from interested bidders up to 6.00 pm of 25.10.2021.
S. No. NIT No. Work Description Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs) Unique Bid No. (UBN)
1. 29/2021-22 Execution of 4 Nos. RWSS, 15 Villages of Sub Division Sajat, Division Pali, District Pali under JJM to provide FHTCs and associated works including O&M for five years after one year defect liability period. 1199.93 PHE2122WLOB07775
2. 30/2021-22 Execution of 3 Nos. RWSS, (7 Villages) of Sub Division Sajat, Division Sajat City, District Pali under JJM to provide FHTCs and associated works including O&M for five years after one year defect liability period. 1230.69 PHE2122WLOB07777
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal- <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://spgp.ta.in> of the state, and PHED department website. (SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE)
(Neeraj Mathur) ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER PHED REGION (I) JODHPUR
DIPR/CR/9651

TIRUPPUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CORRIGENDUM TO THE BID DOCUMENT
Date of issuance of this Clarification 27.09.2021
Name of the Work : Transforming the existing intermittent water supply to continuous 24 x 7 water supply distribution system for the water zone 30 & 50 in Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation.
Invitation for Bid No. E/16897/2017
SL. No. Reference to Invitation for Bids As given in Bid Document To be Read as
1. Name of Website from where tender documents can be downloaded www.tenders.in.gov.in and www.tenders.gov.in
Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation
DIPR/ 2819 /TENDER/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Mail ID:- sepwdsb@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE: SAMBALPUR
e - Procurement
BID IDENTIFICATION No CCENC(R AND B)/08/2021-22
No.2617 Dtd.24.09.2021
1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of Building works as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
2. No of works = 01 (One) (Synthetic Athletic Track, Basket Ball, Volley Ball and Football Field).
3. Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/-
4. Class of contractor : "A" Class and "Special" Class having experience in similar nature of work.
5. Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids : From 05.10.2021 to 17.00 Hours of 21.10.2021.
6. Date of opening of Technical Bid : 22.10.2021 at 11.00 Hours.
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
8. Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
(G.C.Ray)
Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur.
B-432: OIPR-34035/11/0008/2122

पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका, पिंपरी - ४११ ०१८
पर्यावरण विभाग, ई - निविदा सूचना क्र. ENV-४/१/२०२१-२२
पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिकेच्या पर्यावरण अभियांत्रिकी विभागाकडून खालील नमुद केलेल्या कामांसाठी ई-टेंडरिंग पध्दतीने परसेटेंट रेट निविदा मागविण्यात येत आहे. सर्व टेकेदार यांना GST बिलात वेगळा अदा केला जाईल. त्यामुळे GST गाळून वर द्यावेत.

अ.क्र	कामाचे नाव	निविदा रर.	सॅल्टी रक्कम	सॅल्टी वजा निविदा रक्कम	बयाणा रर. १% प्रमाणे रर. १.५ कोटीचे वर ०.५% प्रमाणे	अनामत रर. ५% प्रमाणे	कामाची मुदत	निविदा फॉर्म की (परत न मिळणारी) १२% GST सह
१.	कासारवाडी टप्पा १,२ व ३ या प्रत्येक ४० व. ल. लि क्षमतेचे मैलाशुध्दीकरण केंद्राचे चालन, देखभाल व दुरुस्तीचे कामकाज करणे.	१५,०२,०३,२०१/-	०/-	०/-	७,५१,१००/-	७५,१०,२००/-	३ वर्ष	३७,४३०/-

निविदेचे वेळापत्रक
ई निविदा उपलब्ध कालावधी :- दि. ०१/१०/२०२१ ते दि. २८/१०/२०२१
निविदा स्विकृती अंतिम दिनांक व वेळ :- दि. २८/१०/२०२१ दुपारी ३.०० वाजेपर्यंत
निविदा पूर्व बैठक दिनांक व वेळ :- दि. १२/१०/२०२१ रोजी दु. ३.०० वा. मा.सह शहर अभियंता (पर्यावरण) यांचे कार्यालयत
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MARKET WATCH

	30-09-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,126	-0.48
US Dollar	74.23	-0.12
Gold	44,976	-0.32
Brent oil	78.54	-0.69

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	737.90	-4.10
Asian Paints	3244.65	-78.40
Axis Bank	766.55	-15.60
Bajaj Auto	3832.65	-66.60
Bajaj Finserv	17786.75	353.00
Bajaj Finance	7668.10	152.70
Bharti Airtel	688.30	-5.80
BPLCL	432.20	-4.70
Britannia Ind.	3948.95	-23.80
Cipla	983.55	-4.05
Coal India	185.10	-0.60
Divis Lab	4798.70	-7.75
Dr Reddys Lab	4880.70	-0.30
Eicher Motors	2790.20	-53.05
Grasim Ind	1669.45	-0.45
HCL Tech	1279.55	-1.65
HDFC	2754.30	7.85
HDFC Bank	1594.95	1.10
HDFC Life	722.40	-12.35
Hero MotoCorp	2832.50	-53.65
Hindalco	487.95	-6.20
Hind Unilever	2701.80	16.50
ICICI Bank	700.85	-8.65
IndusInd Bank	1111.90	-11.30
Infosys	1675.20	-17.05
Indian Oil Corp	125.30	-2.15
ITC	236.15	-1.95
JSW Steel	668.30	-11.50
Kotak Bank	2005.50	-24.95
L&T	1702.95	-18.05
M&M	803.05	-9.05
Maruti Suzuki	7338.05	-46.00
Nestle India Ltd.	19445.55	-61.20
NTPC	141.85	1.20
ONGC	144.50	-0.25
PowerGrid Corp	189.90	-5.15
Reliance Ind	2519.25	-8.60
SBI Life	1215.10	9.15
State Bank	453.00	-7.00
Shree Cement	28901.55	-480.85
Sun Pharma	818.25	6.95
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	813.60	-9.85
Tata Motors	333.35	3.10
Tata Steel	1288.90	-6.65
TCS	3775.55	-16.35
Tech Mahindra	1380.60	-14.75
Titan	2161.85	14.35
UltraTech Cement	7396.10	-68.45
UPL	707.70	-9.45
Wipro	634.10	-6.65

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 30

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.03	74.35
Euro	85.72	86.09
British Pound	99.5	99.94
Japanese Yen (100)	66.12	66.41
Chinese Yuan	11.46	11.51
Swiss Franc	79.05	79.4
Singapore Dollar	54.38	54.62
Canadian Dollar	58.08	58.35
Malaysian Ringgit	17.68	17.76

Source: Indian Bank

Bharti's Nxtra to invest ₹5,000 cr. in data units

NEW DELHI Bharti Airtel's arm Nxtra will invest ₹5,000 crore to triple its data-centre capacity by 2025 to more than 400 MW to cater to the needs of the fast-growing digital economy.

Core sector grew 11.6% in August

Output also 3.9% higher than pre-COVID level as cement, coal, electricity buoy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India's core sector output accelerated for a second straight month in August, rising 11.6%, buoyed in part by the year-earlier month's 6.9% contraction. Four of the eight sectors registered strong double-digit growth, even as output of fertilizers and crude oil declined.

The output was also 3.9% higher than the pre-COVID August 2019 level, quicker than July's 1.6% increase from the comparable pre-pandemic month of 2019.

Cement production jumped 36% as compared with a 14.5% contraction in August 2020, while coal and natural gas registered a similar 20.6% surge. Electricity and refinery products expanded by 15.3% and 9.1%, respectively, and steel output grew 5.1%, data from the



Building back: The uptick in steel and cement output was tied to construction activity, says CARE's Sabnavis. ■ REUTERS

Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade showed.

All sub-sectors except refinery products and crude oil saw output above pre-COVID levels, noted ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar. "The lull in rains supported the growth in coal, cement and electricity, while higher mobility propped up... petro-

leum" products, she said. Core sector output had expanded 9.9% in July and 9.3% in June.

'Govt. spending helps' CARE chief economist Madan Sabnavis noted that the uptick in steel and cement could be attributed to higher government spending and construction activity. Higher power production was re-

flective of general buoyant activity in the economy and would have driven up output in mining as well, he said.

"On the whole, core sector growth is encouraging as it points to further acceleration during the course of the year as the government gets down to spending more," Mr. Sabnavis said.

Ms. Nayar cautioned that gains in mining, construction and electricity were likely to be washed out by the September rains, even as the statistical effect of the negative base from last year's lockdown normalised.

"Electricity demand has plunged below 1% in the ongoing month, as agricultural and domestic demand subsided with the heavy rainfall. Overall, we expect the core sector growth to moderate to 4-6% in September," Ms. Nayar observed.

Fiscal deficit touches 31.1% of FY target

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The government's fiscal deficit stood at ₹4.68 lakh crore or 31.1% of Budget estimates at the end of August, as per data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Thursday.

The deficit figure in the current fiscal stands lower than it did a year earlier, when it had soared to 109.3% of the estimates, mainly on account of a jump in expenditure to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit or gap between expenditure and revenue was ₹4,68,009 crore at end of August, the CGA said.

For the current financial year, the government expects the deficit at 6.8% of GDP or ₹15,06,812 crore.

Current account surplus slides to \$6.5 billion in Q1

Trade deficit narrows sequentially

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

India's current account balance saw a far lower surplus of \$6.5 billion (0.9% of GDP) in the first quarter ended June 30, compared with a surplus of \$19.1 billion (3.7% of GDP) a year earlier.

The balance of payments had registered a \$8.1 billion deficit (1% of GDP) in the quarter ended March, Reserve Bank of India data released on Thursday show.

Services exports lift

The surplus in the current account in Q1FY22 was primarily on account of a contraction in the trade deficit to \$30.7 billion, from \$41.7 billion in the preceding quarter, and an increase in net services receipts, the Reserve Bank said.

Net services receipts in-

Q1 The quarter ended March saw a deficit of \$8.1 bn due to a higher trade deficit

creased, both sequentially and on a year-on-year basis, on the back of robust performance of net exports of computer and business services. Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians overseas, grew 14.8% from a year earlier to \$20.9 billion.

Net foreign direct investment recorded inflow of \$11.9 billion, against an outflow of \$0.5 billion in the year-earlier period.

Net foreign portfolio investment was \$0.4 billion (\$0.6 billion), data showed.

Net external commercial borrowings to India recorded inflow of \$0.5 billion (outflow of \$0.6 billion).

India, Australia to conclude free trade pact by end 2022: Tehan

Bilateral trade may double to A\$52 bn: Australian Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India and Australia agreed on Thursday to conclude a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by end 2022, with an interim agreement that will be finalised by this Christmas, said Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan after meeting Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

"The economic partnership will cover trade in services and goods, investments and we will begin discussing government procurement, energy and resources, logistics and transport, standards, rules of origin," Mr. Tehan said at a



Dan Tehan

joint briefing. "We have agreed to exchange offers by the end of October.

"This is an extraordinarily ambitious and a big day for the economic partnership between India and Australia," he asserted, adding that the bilateral trade could double from the current le-

vel of A\$26 billion once a full-fledged FTA is in place.

"This growth will be across all areas because of the complementarities in the two countries' industries. Our merino wool could be used by Indian textiles makers to produce the best product," he said.

Jammu and Kashmir's Pashmina could similarly be an attractive proposition for Australians, said Mr. Goyal. "We have set out some ambitious targets and timelines to meet and negotiating teams will begin work immediately to reach an important outcome towards expanding the Australia-India trading relationship," he said.

Adani signs \$700-mn deal for Lanka port

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

Adani group on Thursday signed a more than \$700-million agreement with the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) and conglomerate John Keells Holdings, becoming the largest foreign investor in the island nation's ports sector.

The three parties signed a build-operate-transfer agreement spanning 35 years to jointly develop a container terminal at Colombo Port, the SLPA said.

The Adani group and its local partner will together bring in 85% of the investment in the West Container Terminal, while SLPA will hold the remaining 15% stake, port officials said.

Govt. leaves small savings rates for Q3 unchanged

Interest rates on PPF, NSS to remain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The government has decided to leave the interest rate on small savings instruments unchanged for the October-December quarter, the sixth quarter in a row that the rates on instruments such as the Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificates (NSS) have been retained.

Earlier this year, the Finance Ministry had announced rate cuts ranging from 0.4% to 1.1% on such instruments for the April-June quarter but reversed it within hours, citing an 'oversight'.

On Thursday, the Department of Economic Affairs in



the Ministry said in an office memo the rate of interest on small savings schemes for Q3 FY22, 'shall remain unchanged from the current rates applicable for the second quarter.'

Economists said that the status quo on rates was expected, considering there was little change in the average overall yields on government securities in the recent months.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India said it expects an adverse impact on production at its two plants in Haryana and parent Suzuki's Gujarat plant in October on account of supply constraints in electronic components due to semiconductor shortage.

The company, in a filing said, "It is estimated that the total vehicle production volume across both locations could be around 60% of normal production.

"The company is expecting an adverse impact on vehicle production in October in both Haryana (plants) and its contract manufacturing company, SMG (plant) in Gujarat."

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Hidden debt rising for partners of China's BRI plan

42 countries now have debt exposure to China in excess of 10% of GDP

ANANTH KRISHNAN

A new study has found under-reported debts to the tune of \$385 billion in projects carried out in dozens of countries under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with a rise in "hidden" debt on account of an increasing number of deals struck not directly between governments but structured through often opaque arrangements with a range of financing institutions.

The study by AidData, a development research lab at the College of William & Mary in the U.S., found that "Chinese debt burdens are substantially larger than research institutions, credit rating agencies, or intergovernmental organisations with surveillance responsibilities previously understood" and "42 countries

now have levels of public debt exposure to China in excess of 10% of GDP."

The total debt, the study added, was "systematically under-reported to the World Bank's Debtor Reporting System (DRS) because, in many cases, central government institutions in LMICs [low and middle income countries] are not the primary borrowers responsible for repayment".

It estimated that the average government "is under-reporting its actual and potential repayment obligations to China by an amount that is equivalent to 5.8% of its GDP" and "collectively, these under-reported debts are worth approximately \$385 billion."

The report studied 13,427 projects across 165 countries worth \$843 billion, in the time period from 2000 to



In a fix: Pakistan topped the list of countries with the most number of projects hit by scandals and corruption. • FILE PHOTO

2017, and examined how President Xi Jinping's BRI plan, launched in 2013, has changed China's overseas lending.

The big difference between China and other prominent sources of overseas financing was that Chinese banks have used "debt rather than aid to establish a domi-

nant position in the international development finance market". Since the introduction of the BRI, China "maintained a 31-to-1 ratio of loans to grants and a 9-to-1 ratio of Other Official Flows (OOF) to Official Development Assistance (ODA)", although Chinese agencies sometimes do not differentiate between

loans and grants in public statements of financial assistance. The report found the average loan from China has a 4.2% interest rate, a grace period of less than two years, and a maturity length of less than 10 years.

Biggest recipients

From 2000 to 2017, Iraq (\$8.5 billion), North Korea (\$7.17 billion) and Ethiopia (\$6.57 billion) were the biggest recipients of ODA, while Russia (\$15.8 billion), Venezuela (\$81.96 billion) and Angola (\$50.47 billion) were the biggest recipients of Chinese loans. India ranked 23rd in the list of top recipients of Chinese loans from 2000 to 2017, receiving \$8.86 billion, according to the report.

What has, however, led to many countries, such as Nepal and Sri Lanka in South Asia, turning to Chinese loans at higher interest rates is the lack of financing options elsewhere for infras-

structure projects.

This has seen a surge in lending from Chinese institutions over the past two decades. What has changed under the BRI, the study found, was that while earlier most overseas lending involved central government institutions, now nearly 70% of China's overseas lending is now directed to state-owned companies, state-owned banks, special purpose vehicles, joint ventures, and private sector institutions. These debts "do not appear on government balance sheets in LMICs" although "most of them benefit from explicit or implicit forms of host government liability protection, which has blurred the distinction between private and public debt and introduced major public financial management challenges for LMICs."

The other change with the BRI is the rising number of "mega projects" (worth

\$500 million or more), which has prompted Chinese banks to work through lending syndicates and financing arrangements to share the risk. The share of projects thus co-financed accounts for 32%, and is another reason behind the debt being "hidden".

Scandals, corruption

The report found that Chinese institutions use collateralisation to mitigate risk, for instance with loans collateralised against future commodity export receipts to minimise repayment risk, or later priced at higher interest rates, up to 6%.

The report said 35% of the BRI infrastructure project portfolio has encountered major implementation problems, such as corruption scandals or labour violations, with Pakistan topping the list of countries with the most number of projects hit by scandals and corruption.

Taliban fire into the air to break protest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

The Taliban on Thursday violently cracked down on a small women's rights demonstration, firing shots into the air and pushing back protesters.

A group of six women gathered outside a high school in eastern Kabul demanding the right for girls to return to secondary school.

The women unfurled a banner that read "Don't break our pens, don't burn our books, don't close our schools", before Taliban guards snatched it from them. They pushed back the women protesters, while a foreign journalist was hit with a rifle and blocked from filming.

A Taliban fighter also released a brief burst of gunfire into the air with his automatic weapon.

Ethiopia to expel seven UN staff for 'meddling'

They flagged crisis situation in country

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia said on Thursday it would expel seven senior UN officials for "meddling" in its affairs, a move that came after aid workers sounded the alarm on humanitarian access to conflict-torn Tigray.

The foreign ministry said it had "declared a 'persona non grata' for seven individuals who are working for various international NGOs in Ethiopia for meddling in the internal affairs of the country".

"According to the letters addressed to each of the 7 individuals listed below, all of them must leave the territory of Ethiopia within the next 72 hours," it said on its

Facebook page.

The statement named seven officials working for various UN agencies.

Ethiopia's northern-most region of Tigray has been mired in conflict since November.

The United Nations has previously estimated that 4,00,000 people face famine-like conditions there, and fears are growing of deaths from starvation.

The UN has said the region remains under a de-facto blockade and warned of a "looming catastrophe" as fighting between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) has spread to neighbouring areas.

U.S. Senate votes to avert government shutdown

Bill expected to be cleared by House of Representatives

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Senate approved a stopgap funding Bill Thursday in a rare show of cross-party unity to avert a crippling government shutdown, as Democratic leaders struggled to broker peace among their own warring members over President Joe Biden's imperiled domestic agenda.

The vote to keep the lights on for another two months passed comfortably with opposition Republicans supporting the Democrats, and is expected to be green-lit by the House of Representatives before the midnight deadline.

"This is a good outcome, one I'm happy we are getting done," Chuck Schumer, the top Democratic senator, told colleagues.

"With so many things to take care of here in Washington, the last thing the American people need is for the government to grind to a halt." The rare example of bipartisan cooperation comes with Democratic leaders trying to hammer out a deal over Mr. Biden's faltering \$3.5 trillion social spending package, which has no Republican support, and a bipartisan \$1 trillion infrastructure Bill.

Democratic progressives and moderates are deeply

entrenched in a war of words over the programmes, as Republicans enjoy the disarray from the sidelines with one eye on next year's midterm elections.

The Senate-passed bipartisan infrastructure Bill is due for a crucial vote in the House that appears to have no chance of passing, with the Democrats' left wing in open revolt.

The progressives don't trust that centrists, who object to the size and scope of the larger social spending package, will honour an agreement to pass the legislation once infrastructure is across the line.

From Afghanistan to AUKUS, a Biden doctrine takes shape

He is offering a strategic framework to rivalry with China

STANLEY JOHNY

In early July, when the U.S. was fast-tracking the troop pullout from Afghanistan, President Joe Biden said, "America didn't go to Afghanistan to nation-build". He said the U.S. met its strategic objectives in Afghanistan — bringing Osama bin Laden to justice and disrupting al-Qaeda's networks.

On August 31, the last day of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, Mr. Biden gave another statement, defending the pullout that led to a quick Taliban victory. According to Mr. Biden, the era of military operations to remake other countries is over.



Joe Biden

He invoked any of Mr. Trump's key foreign policy decisions. Rather, he appears to be offering a strategic framework based on pragmatic realism to what Mr. Trump began — the geopolitical contest with China.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Pragmatic realism

An establishment Democrat with decades of experience in foreign policy, Mr. Biden had been a supporter of the U.S.'s regime-change wars. As a Senator, he voted for the 2003 Iraq invasion. He was number 2 in the Obama administration that invaded Libya in 2011. But now, Mr. Biden is distancing his administration from the liberal internationalism of his predecessors and, in a way, following Donald Trump's strategic reluctance.

Mr. Trump was the first American President in decades who did not start a new war. It was Mr. Trump who imposed trade tariffs on China and reached a withdrawal agreement with the Taliban. While Mr. Trump reined in America's interventionist tendencies and turned the foreign policy focus towards China, his approach was largely transactional. Except on climate change, Mr. Biden hasn't re-

In 2001, President George W. Bush launched the 'global war on terror'. Mr. Obama continued it and Mr. Trump used it to target the Iranian power in West Asia. But Mr. Biden doesn't believe that it's the U.S.'s responsibility to defeat terrorism globally. He is re-interpreting the war on terror as a war focused on preventing attacks on the American homeland. This approach would allow the U.S. to retreat from other conflict theatres, and refocus its resources on tackling China's rise.

The AUKUS alliance

The withdrawal from Afghanistan raised credibility questions on America's power. There were criticisms that the U.S. abandoned its ally in Afghanistan — the Kabul government. But in Mr. Biden's new realist world, supporting the Afghan government or fighting the Ta-

liban endlessly doesn't serve any national security purpose to America. But tackling China's rise is vital to America's interests because an increasingly powerful China could challenge the U.S.'s global pre-eminence. After completing the withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Biden administration did not waste any time to announce its most ambitious new alliance — the AUKUS.

Under the AUKUS deal, announced on September 15, Australia would get nuclear-powered submarines from the U.S. and the U.K. Australia will also host American bombers on its territory and get access to advanced missile technology. Mr. Biden, by convening the first Quad summit of leaders from India, Australia and Japan, in March had signalled where his focus would be on.

But Quad, which has been around for some time, hasn't acquired any security dimension yet. AUKUS, on the other side, is Washington's most emphatic effort to rebalance to the Indo-Pacific, a move that would harden the belief in Beijing that the U.S. was seeking to contain China.

While Mr. Biden ruled out a new Cold War in his UNGA address on September 21, six days after the AUKUS announcement and three days before the first Quad in-person leaders' summit, he left no ambiguity on what the focus of his foreign policy would be. It's not war on terror; nor Russia, America's traditional foe. It's going to be China, and that the new great power contest would unfold in the Indo-Pacific.

Tamil prisoners move Lanka's top court

They seek interim relief after Prisons Minister threatened them at gunpoint

MEERA SRINIVASAN

As many as eight Tamil prisoners in Sri Lanka's Anuradhapura prison on Thursday petitioned the country's Supreme Court, seeking relief after a 'gun-wielding' Prisons Minister allegedly threatened them a fortnight ago.

The prisoners stated that they fear for their lives, asking to be transferred to a prison in the Tamil-majority Northern Province. Jaffna parliamentarian and senior lawyer M.A. Sumanthiran will appear for them in the case, media reports said.

On September 15, Lohan Ratwatte, who was State Minister of Prison Management and Prisoners' Rehabilitation, stepped down from the

portfolio amid enormous pressure, after allegations of his asking Tamil prisoners to kneel, threatening them at gunpoint, surfaced. Mr. Ratwatte is still a junior Minister in the Rajapaksa administration, overseeing the Gem and Jewellery portfolio, although government critics have demanded that he be sacked from all positions, citing the reported incident that sparked much public outrage.

In their petition, the prisoners accused the Minister of asking the detainees to stand in a semi-circle and "ordered them to kneel before him". "He then started to abuse them in Sinhala saying that His Excellency the President had given him all

the power in relation to PTA prisoners and that he could either release them or shoot them dead. He had a pistol in his hand and appeared to be intoxicated," the petition stated. The Minister's office earlier denied any wrongdoing on his part.

Repeal of PTA

The eight Tamil men — who have sought relief from the Supreme Court through Colombo-based lawyer Moahan Balendra — are in the remand following their arrest under Sri Lanka's infamous Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA).

Rights activists and Tamil political leaders have for long demanded repeal of the PTA, pointing to different go-

vernments' tendency to use the law to target dissidents or arbitrarily detain "terrorism suspects" for long periods without trial.

Soon after the violent incident in the prison complex — allegedly involving the Prisons Minister — was reported in the media, the country's Human Rights Commission started a suo motu investigation. International human rights watchdogs were swift to condemn the Minister's actions. Human Rights Watch said the incident reflected "the disregard for human rights that prevails under the administration of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, and in particular the vulnerable position of people held under the PTA."

Rohingya leader killed in Bangladesh

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DHAKA

An international representative of ethnic Rohingya refugees was shot to death in a camp in Bangladesh by unknown gunmen late on Wednesday, police said.

Mohibullah, who was in his 40s, was a teacher who emerged as a key refugee leader and a spokesman representing the Muslim ethnic group in international meetings.

He visited the White House in 2019 for a meeting on religious freedom with then-President Donald Trump.

No groups claimed responsibility and it was not clear immediately who was behind the attack.

SPORT

Rupinder and Birendra Lakra announce retirement

Both played crucial roles in the historic bronze-winning campaign at Tokyo Olympics



Birendra Lakra. • FILE PHOTO

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Drag-flicker Rupinder Pal Singh and defender Birendra Lakra, who played crucial roles in the Indian hockey team's historic bronze-winning campaign at the Tokyo Olympics, announced international retirements on Thursday.

While Rupinder quit "to make way for youngsters" and announced his decision by posting a statement on his twitter page, Lakra's retirement was confirmed by Hockey India (HI).

It has been learnt from reliable sources that both decided to quit after they were informed they would not find an place in India's

scheme of things going forward and would be ignored for the national camp starting in Bengaluru next week.

The 30-year-old Rupinder, regarded as one of the best drag-flickers of the country, represented India in 223 matches. Rupinder scored four crucial goals, including a penalty stroke in the third-place match against Germany, in the Tokyo Olympics.

"The past couple of months have been the best days of my life. Standing on the podium in Tokyo along with my teammates is a feeling I will cherish forever," Rupinder said. "I believe it is time for me to make way for young players."

Lakra is yet to make a statement.

"A solid defender and one

of the most influential Indian men's hockey team figures, the Odisha star has announced his retirement from the Indian national team. Happy Retirement, Birendra Lakra," HI tweeted.

The 31-year-old Lakra was one of the vice-captains in Tokyo. He was also part of the 2014 gold-winning Incheon Asian Games team and the side that claimed bronze in 2018 Jakarta.

Reliable

Lakra played 201 matches for India. A reliable centre-back known for his calm and composed attitude, Lakra made his debut in 2012 in a Test series against South Africa and was part of the team that finished last in the 2012 London Games.



Rupinder. • FILE PHOTO

Sania & Shuai bow out

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
CHICAGO

Sania Mirza and Shuai Zhang of China lost 6-1, 5-7, [10-6] to American wild cards Caroline Dolehide and Coco Vandeweghe in the doubles first round of the \$565,530 WTA tennis tournament here.

Other results: €44,820 Challenger, Sibiu, Romania: Second round: Sumit Nagal bt Jiri Lehecka (Cze) 7-5, 6-3.

€44,820 Challenger, Lisbon, Portugal: Quarterfinals: Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja bt Francesco Forti & Giulio Zeppieri (Ita) 6-3, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF men, Lubbock, USA: First round: Suraj Prabodh bt Ozan Colak (USA) 6-7(3), 6-1, 4-0 (retired).

India in semifinals

Mary Ann excels against Kazakhstan

SPORTS BUREAU
STIGES (SPAIN)

A tenacious Mary Ann Gomes won her games to decide India's fate in each set against Kazakhstan and paved the way for a place in the semifinals of the FIDE world women team chess championship on Thursday.

After holding promising positions on all four boards, India just about managed to win 2.5-1.5 in the second set of the quarterfinals. Even in the first, India had its moments before managing to make it 2-2. India plays formidable Georgia in the semifinals on Friday.

In the second set, Tania Sachdev blundered under time-pressure to lose the first decisive game. R. Vaishali drew before D. Harika

came up with a clinical finish to help India draw level. Mary Ann, whose victory in the first set helped India make it 2-2, then posted a match-clinching victory.

The results: Quarterfinals: Set 1: India drew with Kazakhstan 2-2 (D. Harika drew with Zhansaya Abdumalik; R. Vaishali drew with Dinara Saduakassova; Bhakti Kulkarni lost to Meruert Kamildenova; Mary Ann Gomes bt Gulmira Dauletova); Georgia bt Azerbaijan 3.5-0.5; Ukraine lost to Armenia 1-3; Russia bt FIDE Americas 4-0.

Set 2: Kazakhstan lost to India 1.5-2.5 (Abdumalik lost to Harika; Saduakassova drew with Vaishali; Kamalidenova bt Tania Sachdev; Dauletova lost to Mary); Azerbaijan drew with Georgia 2-2; Armenia lost to Ukraine 0.5-3.5; FIDE Americas lost to Russia 1-3.

Smriti shines on rain-hit opening day

India opener, unbeaten on Test-best score, makes Aussies rue decision to bowl first

INDIA IN AUS

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CARRARA**
Smriti Mandhana headlined a rain-hit opening day with an elegant, career-best unbeaten 80 as India finished on 132 for one in the one-off women's Day-Night Test against Australia here on Thursday.

Smriti, who peppered the off-side repeatedly with some gorgeous shots to reach 80 off 144 balls with 15 fours and a six, put on 93 for the first wicket with Shafali Verma (31, 64b).

Most of the second session was washed out. When play resumed, Smriti surpassed her previous best of 78. She pulled Tahlija McGrath for a six over deep square-leg and also carted her over mid-wicket for a four.

Play halted

Giving her company is Punam Raut (16, 57b), the two having added 39 for the unbroken second wicket before rain halted the day's proceedings in the 45th over.

Australia's decision to put India in on a green strip



Picture of elegance: Smriti Mandhana brought all the grace of a left-hander's strokemaking as she left the Australia bowlers bamboozled. • GETTY IMAGES

backfired as Smriti went on the attack. An astounding 16 fours were hit in the first 16 overs, mostly by Smriti, as Meg Lanning shuffled her bowlers around without much success.

Debutant Darcie Brown

got some special treatment as Smriti hit her for several fours on the off-side as well as a few whipped on the leg-side. Ellyse Perry also took a few overs to find the right length.

Smriti reached her run-a-

ball fifty with a cover drive off Tahlija McGrath. Not once did the elegant left-hander look like she had muscled any of her strokes, instead they appeared to have been caressed with immaculate timing. Shafali, meanwhile,

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS
Smriti Mandhana (batting) 80 (144b, 15x4, 1x6), Shafali Verma (64b, 4x4), Punam Raut (batting) 16 (57b, 1x4); Extras (w-5): 5; Total (for one wkt. in 44.1 overs): 132.

FALL OF WICKET
1-93 (Shafali, 25.1 overs).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Perry 7-1-24-0, Brown 4-0-28-0, Campbell 3-0-14-0, McGrath 10-1-34-0, Molineux 9-4-18-1, Gardner 10.1-3-14-0, Sutherland 1-1-0-0.
Toss: Australia.

Smriti's tempo was excellent. She was punishing the bad ball and defending the good ones. She sort of counterpunched a fair bit... but we feel we are still in the game

MEG LANNING
— Australia captain

hit four fours but also looked a bit scratchy and offered a couple of chances.

Finally she was gone trying to hit left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux against the turn and offered a sitter to McGrath at mid-off.

Pink-ball gazing pays dividends

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

For the last three months, Smriti Mandhana has had a pink Kookaburra ball in her kit. And, she has been "looking" at it as often as possible.

That probably helped, as she took the pink ball on on the opening day of India's Day-Night Test against Australia as if she had been doing it all her life. That she had had just two training sessions with the pink ball didn't seem to matter.

The elegant left-hander was unbeaten on 80 when rain brought an early end to the first day's play at Carrara. At a virtual press conference she revealed she had ordered the pink ball while playing The Hundred in England.

"I had placed the order for the ball because I knew there was going to be a Test match," she said, smiling. "I thought I could at least look at the ball and understand (it). I carried it in my kit for three months and I thought I could have a session to use it, but didn't get the time."

Yet, Smriti, along with her opening partner Shafali Verma, frustrated the Australians. "We enjoy batting with



Spoilsport: The rain interruptions must have frustrated Smriti Mandhana while leaving Meg Lanning relieved. • GETTY IMAGES

each other (regardless of the format," she said. "We back each other. (For instance), when I chased a wide ball outside off-stump, she came up and told me it

was going too far away." She said the Australians bowled too short at the start. "The wicket wasn't as hard as they would have (wanted)," she said.

Super Kings become the first team to qualify for playoffs

After Hazlewood and Bravo restrict Sunrisers to 134 for seven, Raturaj and du Plessis come good in the chase

IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

Josh Hazlewood's bowling of subtle movement and alterations in speed, length and angles is like a revolving door. You never know what's in store.

Hazlewood, his run-up, load-up and release, in perfect harmony, proved a game-changer with three for 24 as Chennai Super Kings, restricting Sunrisers Hyderabad to 134 for seven, won by six wickets to ensure qualification in their IPL clash at Sharjah on Thursday.

MS seals it with a six

With two runs required off three balls, CSK skipper M.S. Dhoni wristed paceman Siddharth Kaul over mid-wicket for a rousing six to deliver the winning blow.

Earlier, Raturaj Gaikwad, all footwork, balance and timing, smacked Bhuvneshwar Kumar over mid-wicket for a six. It was excellent batting on a sluggish pitch where a few deliveries kept low.

Bhuvneshwar is not at his best in the IPL and Faf du Plessis smashed him over wide long-on. The CSK openers were up and running. du Plessis moves around the crease, goes back to use the depth of the crease and also jumps down the track.



Game-changer: Hazlewood was in his element, striking thrice and putting the skids on SRH. • SPORTSPICS/IPL

Raturaj (45 off 38) fell to seamer Jason Holder, attempting to clear the in-field. Moeen Ali promised much, but played on to leg-spinner Rashid Khan.

Holder made inroads even as the winning line was in sight for CSK. Suresh Raina

fell to a yorker. And du Plessis (41 off 36) miscued a pull.

Rayudu shines

But then, when the intrepid Ambati Rayudu drove Kaul to cover fence and then clubbed Bhuvneshwar over mid-wicket for the maxi-

mum, it opened the winning door for CSK. And Dhoni shut it on Sunrisers.

In the first half, Hazlewood delivered telling blows with his stump to stump bowling.

He dismissed influential opener Jason Roy, after CSK

SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Jason Roy c Dhoni b Hazlewood 2 (7b), Wriddhiman Saha c Dhoni b Jadeja 44 (46b, 1x4, 2x6), Kane Williamson lbw b Bravo 11 (11b, 2x4), Priyam Garg c Dhoni b Bravo 7 (10b), Abhishek Sharma c du Plessis b Hazlewood 18 (13b, 1x4, 1x6), Abdul Samad c Moeen b Hazlewood 18 (14b, 1x4, 1x6), Jason Holder c Deepak Chahar b Shardul 5 (5b), Rashid Khan (not out) 17 (13b, 2x4), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 2 (2b); Extras (lb-5, w-4, nb-1): 10; Total (for seven wickets in 20 overs): 134.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-23 (Roy, 3.3 overs), 2-43 (Williamson, 6.3), 3-66 (Garg, 10.5), 4-74 (Saha, 12.3), 5-109 (Abhishek, 16.3), 6-110 (Samad, 16.5), 7-117 (Holder, 18.2).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING
Deepak Chahar 4-0-32-0, Hazlewood 4-0-24-3, Shardul 4-0-37-1, Bravo 4-0-17-2, Jadeja 3-0-14-1, Moeen 1-0-5-0.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Raturaj Gaikwad c Williamson b Holder 45 (38b, 4x4, 2x6), Faf du Plessis c Kaul b Holder 41 (36b, 3x4, 2x6), Moeen Ali b Rashid 17 (17b, 2x4), Suresh Raina lbw b Holder 2 (3b), Am-

bati Rayudu (not out) 17 (13b, 1x4, 1x6), M.S. Dhoni (not out) 14 (11b, 1x4, 1x6); Extras (w-3): 3; Total (for four wickets in 19.4 overs): 139.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-75 (Raturaj, 10.1), 2-103 (Moeen, 14.4), 3-107 (Raina, 15.3), 4-108 (du Plessis, 15.5).

SUNRISERS BOWLING
Sandeep 3-0-18-0, Bhuvneshwar 4-0-34-0, Holder 4-0-27-3, Rashid 4-0-27-1, Kaul 2-4-0-24-0, Abhishek 2-0-9-0.

Toss: CSK; **MoM:** Hazlewood. CSK won by six wickets with two balls to spare.

Innings scan		
SRH	CSK	
46	Dots	54
7	Fours	11
4	Sixes	6
41/1	PP	47/0
6.70	RR	7.06

Next assignment

CSK: Oct. 2 vs RR, Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST

SRH: Oct. 3 vs KKR, Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

across one that nipped back.

Saha (44), he had pulled and off-driven Deepak Chahar for sixes, was another batsman who succumbed to the playing-across-the-line malice.

CSK then closed in like a hungry pack.

Chris Gayle to miss the remainder of IPL 2021

Wants to mentally refresh and help West Indies in the T20 World Cup

SPORTS BUREAU

Kolkata Knight Riders will be keen to pull off its second win of the season against Punjab Kings and get closer to a playoffs berth in IPL 2021 when the two meet on Friday.

The intensity of the contest is expected to be high at the Ring of Fire in Dubai. KKR, fourth with 10 points, will look to remain in the top half, while PBKS, with eight points, will be desperate to win its remaining three matches.

The Eoin Morgan-led KKR has players who have contributed in key moments to provide a distinct momentum to the side in the Gulf of the event.

Performers like eye-catching all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer, Sunil Narine, Rahul Tripathi, Nitish Rana, Lockie Ferguson and promising spinner Varun Chakravarthy have taken the responsibility at the time of need.

The win over the formidable Delhi Capitals and a better head-to-head record (19 wins, nine losses) against PBKS should spur the team, which will play an evening match after two consecutive day encounters. PBKS has enough resour-

TODAY'S MATCH

DUBAI, 7.30 P.M. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: **28**

KKR **19** | PBKS **9**

In 2021

Played **1** | KKR **1** | PBKS **0**

STAR SPORTS 1 & 5S SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

■ After being part of the CWI, CPL and IPL bubble over the last few months, I wish to mentally recharge: Gayle's tweet

■ I want to refocus on helping West Indies in the T20 World Cup, he added

es, but it has not managed to seize the important moments.

Recovering from its defeat to Mumbai Indians, PBKS will rely on captain K.L. Rahul and Aiden Markram in the batting department while hoping that Nicholas Pooran regains his form.

Efficient bowlers in Mohammed Shami, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh and Nathan Ellis have it in them to go for the kill.

Role is to rotate the strike: Bharat

ASHWIN ACHAL

K.S. Bharat may not be an explosive hitter, but that does not necessarily mean that he has no place in Twenty20 cricket.

Bharat is tasked with a less glamorous role at Royal Challengers Bangalore, one that requires him to build a strong launch pad for big guns like Glenn Maxwell and A.B. de Villiers.

The Andhra Pradesh wicketkeeper-batsman has done his job in the last couple of outings. Steady knocks at one-drop – 44 (35b) against Rajasthan Royals, and 32 (24b) against Mumbai Indians – have come in winning causes.

"At No. 3, my role is to rotate the strike and run well. If you keep the scoreboard ticking at 8-9 an over, you have a good base for Maxi (Maxwell) and others coming in later. If we keep wickets in hand, we can go all out in the death," Bharat said after RCB's win against Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday.

Bharat enjoyed batting alongside Maxwell on Wednesday, with the duo discussing tactics to help each other in the chase. "Maxwell and I



Keep it going: Bharat's brief is simple – run well and give the strike to big-hitters like Maxwell. • SPORTSPICS/IPL

POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Chennai Super Kings (Q)	11	9	2	18	1.002
Delhi Capitals	11	8	3	16	0.562
Royal Challengers	11	7	4	14	-0.200
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	5	6	10	0.363
Mumbai Indians	11	5	6	10	-0.453
Punjab Kings	11	4	7	8	-0.288
Rajasthan Royals	11	4	7	8	-0.468
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	11	2	9	4	-0.490

After the SRH-CSK match on Sept. 30
Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated

spoke about the areas we can target, and boundary options.

"We also discussed the number of overs a bowler will bowl, and what lengths he will bowl. We talked tactical matters, which we ex-

cuted well," he said.

On playing with stars like Virat Kohli, Maxwell and de Villiers, Bharat said, "Each and every individual you play with will add something to your game, and help you understand the game better."

TV PICKS

Australia Women vs India Women: Only Test, day 2, Sony Ten 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
Badminton: Sudirman Cup, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m.
IPL 2021: Star Sports 1 & 5S Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12 a.m. (Saturday)

A confident India takes on Korea in the semifinals

SPORTS BUREAU

DOHA

India men will be brimming with confidence when it takes on the Republic of Korea, the top seed, in the semifinals of the 25th-ITTF-ATTU Asian table tennis championships here on Friday.

Korea will be the overwhelming favourite with Jang Wooin (world-ranked 12) and Lee Sangsu (22) spearheading the attack, but star paddler Sharath Kamal expects India to provide a tough fight, and possibly even a memorable win.

"Korea is a strong team. We lost to them in the semifinals of the 2018 Asian Games. But I have been in good form, and the team has been having good confidence especially after the win over Iran the other day. If we can win the semis, we will be the favourite to win

the title," Sharath told *The Hindu*.

First ever medal

Earlier on Wednesday night, the men had assured themselves of a bronze – the country's first ever medal – with a 3-1 win over Iran. Sharath said: "This medal is something I have been chasing for the last 20 years and finally I could get that. Really happy and proud with this achievement."

Meanwhile, the women's team defeated Chinese Taipei 3-1 for positions 5-8 on Thursday.

The results: Women (positions 5-8): India bt Chinese Taipei 3-1 (Archana Kamath bt Hsien-Tzu Cheng 11-4, 11-9, 10-12, 13-11; Sutirtha Mukherjee lost to Hsing-Yin Liu 11-4, 12-14, 5-11, 4-11; Sreeja Akula bt Yu-Jhun Li 11-4, 11-6, 7-11, 11-4; Sutirtha bt Hsien-Tzu Cheng 11-2, 11-4, 11-5).

Deepika misses a medal



Close, but... Deepika lost to Kroppen in the bronze-medal contest. • TWITTER/ARCHERYWORLDGUP

SPORTS BUREAU

WANKTON (USA)

World No.2 Deepika Kumari lost to Olympic team bronze winner Michelle Kroppen of Germany in the shoot-off to narrowly miss out on the recurring women's individual bronze medal in the Archery World Cup Final (WCF) here on Thursday.

Deepika shot well but found Kroppen too good in the first two sets. The German put together perfect scores to win 30-28 and 30-29 and take a 4-0 lead. Deepika, who collected

28s in the next three sets, fought back to level the match 5-5 and force a shoot-off.

Shooting wide

The Indian shot wide for a 6 while Kroppen got a 9. She became the first German to win a WCF medal.

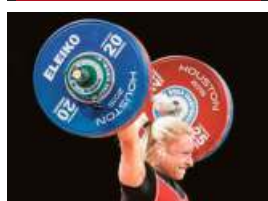
Deepika had defeated Olympic team silver medalist Svetlana Gomboeva of Russia 6-4 in the quarterfinals, but lost to another Russian, double Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Elena Osipova, 6-2 in the semi-

nals. In the semifinals, Osipova shot consistently to win the first two sets 29-27, 29-26 and establish a 4-0 lead.

Though Deepika raised her game to get a 10 each in the third and fourth sets, Osipova matched the Indian's efforts to split points and advance to the final.

On Wednesday, Abhishek Verma, the lone Indian compound archer in the fray, crashed out in the men's individual quarterfinals, losing 142-146 to American Braden Gellenthien.

IN BRIEF



Weightlifter Kostova banned again for doping

LAUSANNE
Former weightlifting World champion and world record-holder (2015, 58kg) Boyanka Kostova — born in Bulgaria, moved to Azerbaijan — was banned for eight years for doping on Thursday after her comeback from an earlier sanction for performance-enhancing drug use at the 2012 Olympics. Kostova tested positive for stanozolol on way to winning the 59kg title at the European championship in April. **AP**

Qatar's first Formula One Grand Prix in November

DOHA
Qatar will hold its first ever Formula One Grand Prix in November replacing the cancelled Australian GP, organisers announced on Thursday. The race will be held at the Losail International Circuit on November 21 and will form the first part of a Middle Eastern ending to the season as it will be followed by races in Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi. Qatar has signed a 10-year deal to host Formula One from 2023. **AFP**

400m Natls. moved from HP to Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI
The Athletics Federation of India has changed the venue of the third National Open 400m championships from Dharamshala (Himachal Pradesh) to New Delhi. It will be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on October 11 and 12.

The federation has also relaxed the entry standards in the under-18 category and removed them altogether for the under-16 age group.

Revised entry standards:
Men: 49.00s. **Boys, under-20:** 50.00s. **Under-18:** 53.50s.

Women: 56.00s. **Girls, under-20:** 59.00s. **Under-18:** 1:06.00s.

DELHI LOCALS

Sapience wins title
Vaibhav Rawal (44) and Rahul Dalal (43) were instrumental in Sapience Club beating Ambika Club by 22 runs to win the all India RV Sports prize-money tournament. Sapience Club received ₹21 lakh while Ambika collected ₹11 lakh. Satendra Thakran (best all-rounder and best bowler) and Nihal (best batsman) were also honoured.

The scores: Sapience Club 142/4 in 20 overs (Vaibhav Rawal 44, Rahul Dalal 43) bt Ambika Club 120/7 in 20 overs (Sarang Rawat 27 n.o.).

Kshiti Negi shines
Kshiti Negi (3/32) helped Ashish Nehra Academy beat Pioneer Club by 34 runs in the Skillz youth (u-16) tournament.

The scores: Ashish Nehra Academy 144 in 35 overs (Ronit 56, Laxman 4/30) bt Pioneer Club 110 in 33 overs (Kshiti Negi 3/32).

Narrow win for Players Academy
Aatrey Tripathi (3/14) and Yash Bhardwaj (3/43) helped Players Academy beat Sporting Club by four runs in the D. Force tournament.

The scores: Players Academy 160 in 37 overs (Mayank Malhotra 42, Rahul Dagar 38, Bhuvan Rohilla 5/22, Mayank Janghu 3/40) bt Sporting Club 156 in 39 overs (Rohan Rathi 41, Aatrey Tripathi 3/14, Yash Bhardwaj 3/43).

Ishan, Pranav excel
Ishan (6/17) and Pranav Pant (50 not out) helped AB Rising Star by nine wickets in the Ratan Lal Saini (u-16) tournament. **The scores:** AB Rising Star 97 in 36.2 overs (Aniket Dhankar 32, Ishan 6/17) lost to Manthan Academy 99/1 in 11.2 overs (Pranav Pant 50 n.o., Himanshu Balyan 31).

Ronaldo's extra-time effort does it for United

Juventus hands out a defeat to Chelsea; Benfica embarrasses struggling Barcelona

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Cristiano Ronaldo grabbed a precious last-gasp winner for Manchester United against Villarreal, holder Chelsea was beaten by Juventus, and Barcelona plunged further into crisis with a thumping defeat at Benfica in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Ronaldo popped up in the last of five minutes of stoppage time to score and give United a 2-1 win at Old Trafford.

Jesse Lingard cutely set up Ronaldo to score his record-extending 136th goal in the competition as United bounced back from its defeat to Young Boys in Bern last time out.

Superb volley

Alex Telles had earlier hauled the host back level with a superb first-time volley from a Bruno Fernandes delivery for his first goal for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side.

Paco Alcacer had given Villarreal the lead in what was a rematch of last season's Europa League final,



Joy unbound! Two-goal hero Darwin Nunez is cock-a-hoop, as Lucas Verissimo joins in the celebration, after slotting in a penalty for Benfica's third against Barcelona. **GETTY IMAGES**

won by the Spanish outfit on penalties.

Chelsea will still be expected to qualify for the last 16 despite losing 1-0 to Juventus in Turin with Federico Chiesa scoring the only goal of the game 10 seconds into the second half.

The star of Italy's Euro 2020-winning side latched onto Federico Bernardeschi's assist to beat Edouard

Mendy and give Massimiliano Allegri's team a second straight win in Group H.

Ronald Koeman's Barcelona side already looks at a real risk of an early exit after suffering a second 3-0 defeat in as many games in Group E and finishing the match in Lisbon with 10 men.

Uruguayan forward Darwin Nunez starred for Benfica, opening the scoring early

on, and completed the rout from the spot, while in between Rafa Silva netted for the Portuguese former European Cup winner.

Eric Garcia was sent off for Barcelona, who have now conceded 11 goals in their last two visits to the Estadio da Luz, the scene of the 8-2 annihilation at the hands of Bayern Munich in the 2020 quarterfinals.

Op. Soccer Balls has given hope

REUTERS
LISBON

Leaving her homeland Afghanistan was painful, says 15-year-old Sarah.

But now safely in Portugal, she hopes to pursue her dream of playing football professionally — and perhaps meeting her idol Cristiano Ronaldo.

Sarah was one of several players from Afghanistan's national

female youth football squad who fled the country in fear after the Taliban seized power in August.

The evacuation process, code-named Operation Soccer Balls, managed to rescue 80 people — female youth team and family members, including babies.

Portugal has granted asylum to the young

footballers after they landed on September 19.

"I'm free," said Sarah, smiling from ear-to-ear. "My dream is to be a good player like Ronaldo — and I want to be a big businesswoman here in Portugal," she said.

Farkhunda Muhtaj, captain of the Afghanistan women's team, flew to Lisbon on Wednesday to surprise the youth team players.



New beginnings: Members of the Afghan female youth football team chatting with Farkhunda Muhtaj, left, captain of the Afghanistan women's national team in Lisbon. **AP**

Indian women's team lands in UAE

To play friendlies as part of preparation for AFC Asian Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

The Indian women's football team arrived in the city on Thursday for its upcoming friendlies in the UAE and Bahrain, which get underway on Saturday.

The friendlies have been planned as part of the team's preparation for the AFC Women's Asian Cup, which is set to take place in India next year.

The Indian team has been camping in Jamsheer with help from the government of Jharkhand.

The 23-member squad, along with the support staff, travelled from Jamsheer to New Delhi, before boarding a flight to Dubai.

The team will play friendlies against the United Arab Emirates (October 2) and Tunisia (October 4), before travelling to Bahrain, where it will face the hosts on October 10 and Chinese Taipei on Oct. 13.

Excited

"The girls are all excited to be getting some match time for our Asian Cup preparation. We have trained hard for the last month in Jamsheer, and now we are ready to test ourselves against some tough oppo-

nents," said head coach Thomas Dennerby.

Captain and centre-back Ashalata Devi thanked the authorities for arranging a camp and international matches amid a pandemic.

"We know the situation is not easy right now, but the way everything has been arranged to help us set up a long term preparation for the Asian Cup is amazing," said Ashalata Devi.

"Right from the camp being organised by the Jharkhand government with top facilities, to matches scheduled against tough opponents, we have received immense support.

"All the girls are extremely thankful for that, and we are all putting in our full effort to be ready for the Asian Cup," she stated.

The squad:
Goalkeepers: Aditi Chauhan, Maibam Linthoingambi Devi, Shreya Hooda. **Defenders:** Dalima Chhibber, Sweetie Devi, Ritu Rani, Ashalata Devi, Ranjana Chanu, Michel Castanha, Manisa Panna, Astam Oraon. **Midfielders:** Sangita Basfore, Indumathi Kathiresan, Sanju, Martina Thokchom. **Forwards:** Dangmei Grace, Anju Tamang, Sandhya Ranganathan, Soumya Guguloti, Manisha Kalyan, Sumati Kumari, Pyari Xaxa, Renu.

Loved watching Sehwaq bat: Stirling

The Ireland batter says he tried to copy the India star

CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

Every budding cricketer has a hero while growing up and it is no different for Ireland batters Paul Stirling, who looked up to Virender Sehwag and Australian Damien Martyn in his formative years.

In a virtual interaction arranged by the International Cricket Council (ICC), Stirling recalled the days when he tried to copy Sehwag.

Pleasing on the eye

"I probably had two batsmen that I loved watching, one was Damien Martyn, he was nice to look up (to), pleasant on the eye, aesthetically pleasing, someone I can never emulate and Virender Sehwag, the other one I watched. (I) loved his play through the off-side (and) tried to copy a lot of his stuff, not very well be it, ...but (I) loved watching those two bat, and used to watch Test cricket at home, which was not really the normal thing to do in Belfast as a 10-year-old," added Stirling, who has played 134 T20s, 3 Tests and 86 T20s.

Like Sehwag, despite the outside criticism, Stirling, who made his T20 debut versus Pakistan in 2009, did not change his technique.

Was it a conscious effort



Big influence: Like Sehwag, he also did not change his technique despite criticism, says Stirling. **FILE PHOTO**

to not change it? "It is something that you learn as you go on, there would be a lot more noise for Sehwag than there will be for me. I just think it doesn't, it shouldn't affect your performance, it only affects your performance, if you actually take it in from outside, it doesn't help in any way." Stirling, who had a "sporting" family and a "cricket ground" which was near his house, recollected how he fell in love with the game.

"Cricket was mainly the one that I probably fell in love with the most from the earliest age from about five (years old)." Stirling also

Bayern followed its victory at the Camp Nou a fortnight ago with a 5-0 home win over Dynamo Kiev, with Robert Lewandowski's first-half brace setting the Bavarians on their way.

All-time third

The Pole, who netted the opener from the penalty spot, now has a career tally of 77 Champions League goals, third in the all-time list behind Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

Serge Gnabry, Leroy Sane and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting added further goals after the break for a rampant Bayern.

The results:

Group E: Benfica 3 (Nunez 3, 79-pen, Rafa Silva 69) bt Barcelona 0; Bayern Munich 5 (Lewandowski 12-pen, 27, Gnabry 68, Sane 74, Choupo-Moting 87) bt Dynamo Kyiv 0.

Group F: Manchester United 2 (Telles 60, Ronaldo 90+5) bt Villarreal 1 (Alcacer 53).

Group G: Red Bull Salzburg 2 (Adeyemi 35-pen, 53-pen) bt Lille 1 (Yilmaz 62); Wolfsburg 1 (Steffen 48) drew with Sevilla 1 (Rakitic 87-pen).

Group H: Juventus 1 (Chiesa 46) bt Chelsea 0.

Koeman under pressure to save his job

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BARCELONA

Ronald Koeman needs his Barcelona side to win big when it visits Atlético Madrid to have a shot at saving his job.

That is, if he makes it to Saturday.

Two embarrassing losses to start the Champions League have left the Dutch coach under extreme pressure before a trip to the capital to face the Spanish league's titleholder.

Losing 3-0 to Bayern Munich, a European juggernaut, two weeks ago was humbling. But to follow that up with another 3-0 loss at Benfica — a team it had not lost to since 1961 — on Wednesday may be too much for the club's leadership to take.

At odds

Club president Joan Laporta and Koeman have been at odds since Laporta returned to run the club last March. Laporta went as far as to look for another coach in the off-season before finally settling on keeping Koeman for the second year of his contract.

Laporta and Koeman



Koeman. **AFP**

have shared the need to convince Barcelona's fans to lower expectations since the club was saddled with over a billion euros in debt and unable to pay Lionel Messi's wages. But the team has hit new lows that even with the exit of the almighty Messi are difficult to take.

A sixth-place standing in the Spanish league has almost become respectable for the former champion compared to its dismal showing in the Champions League.

Koeman's tactics against Benfica, however, were also questionable. Instead of replacing Gerard Pique with another defender when he picked up an early yellow card, Koeman shifted Frenkie de Jong into his backline.

Sunil Chhetri goes down memory lane

Picks the victorious 2015 SAFF Championship campaign as his favourite

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MALE

Indian football talisman Sunil Chhetri says he shared the best rapport with former captain Bhaichung Bhutia and striker Jeje Lalpekhlua on the field, thanks to their playing "combination" and "understanding".

The 37-year-old Chhetri is set to appear in his fifth SAFF Championship and before its kick off, he took a walk down the memory lane and picked his favourites from the tournament during a chat with the AIFF.

Asked with whom he has shared the best relationship on and off the field, Chhetri said, "As I have played with so many players, it has kept changing. But I am quite fortunate with whom I have enjoyed my relationship on and off the field. If I stick purely to the pitch, I will pick Bhaichung da (Bhutia) and Jeje (Lalpekhlua), and it has more to do with my combination and understanding with them.

"But if it's a mix, and the



Best buddies: Sunil Chhetri has had some of his best moments with Bhaichung Bhutia and Jeje Lalpekhlua. **FILE PHOTOS**

proximity which we share then it has to be Eugeneson Lyngdoh. Despite him playing for a very short time, I am extremely fond of him, and we are very close. But then I am close to everyone."

When asked which has been his favourite SAFF Championship so far, he picked the 2015 edition.

"I will pick the one which

we won in Kerala in the 2015-16 edition. The rivalry that we had with Afghanistan in the final, and the build-up to it was simply majestic.

"Jeje's goal in the final against Afghanistan in 2015-16 in Thiruvananthapuram will always be my favourite. It was an extremely tough match, and we were 0-1 down despite having some

good chances. The goal was extremely significant, and the manner the superstar flicked it in was sublime.

"Most importantly, it came at the right moment. If we hadn't scored then, maybe we would have panicked and the result could have been different. We eventually went on to win 2-1."

Four Indian women make air pistol final

Five marksmen make the grade in air rifle competition

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU
LIMA

Rhythm Sangwan qualified for women's air pistol final, with a second best score of 577, in the junior shooting World Championship here.

Olympian Manu Bhaker (574), Esha Singh (572) and Shikha Narwal (571) also made the grade in the third, fifth and seventh places respectively, from a field of 49 shooters.

The Indian shooters were in much better command in the men's event, as Naveen (584), Sarabjot Singh (584), Vijayveer Sidhu (581) and Shiva Narwal (580) made the finals in a field of 50 shooters.

In men's air rifle, five Indians Rudranksh Patil (630.2), Dhanush Srikanth (629.6), Paarth Makhija (629.2), Rajpreet Singh (628.1) and Yash Vardhan (626.6) made the finals, behind William Shaner (630.7) of the US.

More finalists

In women's air rifle, Mehuli Ghosh (630.9) qualified in third place behind France's Oceanne Muller

Five men in title round

In men's air rifle, five Indians Rudranksh Patil (630.2), Dhanush Srikanth (629.6), Paarth Makhija (629.2), Rajpreet Singh (628.1) and Yash Vardhan (626.6) made the finals

(632.6) and Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Mary Carolyn Tucker (632.1) of the US. While Ramita (629.8) and Nisha Kanwar (629.1) also made the finals, Zeena Khitta (627.3) and Atmika Gupta (626.3) missed out.

In women's skeet, Ganemat Sekhon (67) and Raiza Dhillon (66) were in the third and fourth spots after three of the five rounds of qualification.

USA's Alishia Fayth Layne led with 71 and was followed by Sara Bongini (69) of Italy.

Fingers crossed

Areeba Khan (64), Muffaddal Deesawala (61) and Sanjana Sood (61) were also in the fray, hoping to revive their chances in the last two rounds.

Two more rounds of qualification in the shotgun event will be followed by the final for the top six.