

New DGP will be chosen after consulting Sidhu, says Punjab CM Channi



Chinese transgressions testing India, need better synergy: officials



Blast kills several civilians near Kabul mosque: Taliban

Shafali shines on final day as pink ball Test ends in a draw page 13

Mamata wins Bhabanipur

seat with a record margin

Victory speech: West Bengal CM and Trinamool chief Mamata

victory.

October 30.

Behar district.

dal from Gosaba.

Sukanta Majumdar congrat-

ulated Ms. Banerjee on her

chairperson also announced

candidates for bypolls on

four seats in the State where

elections are scheduled on

Mr. Sobhandeb Chatto-

padhyay, who had resigned

from Bhabanipur to allow

the Chief Minister to contest,

will contest from Khardah

seat in North 24 Parganas

and Udayan Guha will con-

test from Dinhata in Cooch

Braj Kishor Goswami from

Sanntipur and Subrata Mon-

Forum IAS

The TMC has nominated

The Trinamool Congress

Banerjee addressing supporters in Kolkata on Sunday. Party

general secretary Abhishek Banerjee is behind her. • PTI

Chief Minister said this time,

she had won in every ward

of the constituency. She

pointed out that about 46%

of the electorate which was

"non-Bengali" had also over-

Ms. Tibrewal secured

26,428 votes. Ms Banerjee

secured 71.9% of all votes

polled in the constituency

while the BJP nominee se-

The Trinamool bagged Jangi-

pur and Samserganj, where

too by elections were held on

September 30, taking its tal-

ly in the West Bengal As-

West Bengal BJP president

sembly to 219.

cured about 22.29 % votes.

TMC tally rises to 219

whelmingly voted for her.







Trinamool chief

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

Tibrewal.

May 2021.

Chattopadhyay

28,790 votes.

polls 58,835 votes

over BJP nominee

West Bengal Chief Minister

Mamata Banerjee won the

byelection in the Bhabani-

pur Assembly constituency

on Sunday by a record mar-

gin of 58,835 votes against

her nearest rival, the Bhara-

tiya Janata Party's Priyanka

The victory makes Ms. Ba-

nerjee a member of the West

Bengal Legislative Assembly

and will allow her to conti-

nue as Chief Minister of West

Bengal. Earlier this year, she

contested from Nandigram

and lost to the BJP's Suvendu

Adhikari by a margin of

1,956 votes. She was unani-

mously elected Chief Minis-

ter by the Trinamool Con-

gress Legislature Party in

Bhabanipur in 2011 and

2016. In May this year, Trina-

mool Congress's Sobhandeb

BJP's Rudranil Ghosh in Bha-

banipur by a margin of

Bhabanipur are relatively

less and about 1.15 lakh votes

were polled this time. This

time we have won by a mar-

gin of over 58,000 votes,"

Highlighting that the mar-

**Prepare For** 

"The numbers of voters at

Ms. Banerjee represented



With the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) two bypolls in Bihar in the mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) allies, the rift between the Congress and the RJD came to the fore for the first time after the

#### Mob vandalises religious place in Madhya Pradesh

A place of worship was damaged and its priest and a devotee were thrashed with sticks allegedly by two dozen masked people on suspicion of conversion at Jawad tehsil in Madhya Pradesh. The attackers left behind a pamphlet claiming the shrine was involved in converting Hindus to Islam. The attack lasted for four hours on

**STATES** ▶ PAGE 4

#### **DU online admissions** to begin today

Delhi University will start admissions to undergraduate courses under the first cut-off list from Monday. Students can apply from 10 a.m. on October 4 till 11.59 p.m. on October 6 on the admission portal.



**EDUCATION PLUS** PAGE 5

# Four farmers killed as car in Minister's convoy runs amok

4 members of Minister's team dead in violence after incident at Lakhimpur Kheri

OMAR RASHID VIJAITA SINGH LUCKNOW/ NEW DELH

Protests against the visit of Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya to Lakhimpur Kheri district on Sunday took a grim turn with farmers' groups alleging that at least four farmers were killed and several injured after they were deliberately run over by a vehicle that was part of the convoy of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and BIP MP Ajay Kumar Mishra. Four persons in the Minister's convoy were killed in violence that followed, Kheri Additional SP Arun Kumar Singh said.

Farmers in Tikonia area of Kheri had gheraoed the helipad at Maharaja Agrasen ground to prevent Mr. Maurya from landing, and the incident allegedly took place as the farmers were dispers-



Seeking answers: Farmers protesting after the incident at Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday. •PTI

ing on the Tikonia-Banbirpur road from the protest

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, the umbrella group representing the protesting farm unions said the one of the victims was shot, and identified the dead as Lovepreet Singh, 20, Nachattar Singh, 60, Daljeet Singh, 35, and Gurwinder Singh, 19. The SKM also alleged that

the car was driven by the Union Minister's son Ashish.

Following the incident, angry farmers set on fire and vandalised vehicles of the BJP leader leading to the death of four persons.

In a late evening statement, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the Lakhimpur Kheri incident was unfortunate.

He added that the govern-

ment would investigate the reasons for the incident, "unmask the elements" involved and take tough action against the guilty.

Official statements from the police and the BJP leaders accused by the farmers for the incident are still awaited.

#### 'He was on the stage'

Union Minister Mishra claimed that his son was not present at the spot where the farmers were killed.

Speaking to The Hindu, Mr. Mishra said, "My son was present on the stage where the function was being held, over 2,000 people were present, there is video evidence also. Had he been there (near the helipad where the killings took place), he would have also been lynched."

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

# 8 held after drug raid on cruise ship

#### Shah Rukh's son was among those arrested

ALOK DESHPANDE

Actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan and two others were arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Sunday following a drug bust on board a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast. Five others were arrested later.

After their arrest, Mr. Khan, Arbaaz Merchant and Munmum Dhamecha were taken for medical tests to Sir J.J. Hospital. They were produced in court, which re-



Arvan Khan, second right, and other accused at the Narcotics Control Bureau office in Mumbai on Sunday. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

custody till Monday.

According to NCB officials, 13 g of cocaine, 5 g of MD, 21 g of charas and 22 ills of MDMA, and ₹1.33 manded them in the NCB lakh in cash were recovered

from the ship. Raids were conducted in the Belapur area of Navi Mumbai for information on suppliers.

Five others – Nupur Sarika, Ismeet Singh, Mohak JaisGomit Chopra – were also detained for questioning following the late Saturday night operation conducted by NCB officials mid-sea on board Cordelia Cruises, which was on its way to Goa.

wal, Vikrant Chhoker and

All eight were booked under Sections 8 (c), 20 (b) and 27, read with 35 of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Section 8 (c), 20 (b) deals with possession, purchase, sale, transport of drugs; Section 27 lays down punishment for consumption of drugs; and Section 35 deals with intention of dealing in drugs.

# Haryana CM's video kicks up row

He is seen urging BJP cadre to take action against farmers

ASHOK KUMAR GURUGRAM

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Sunday courted fresh controversy over his advice to the BJP cadre to take tit-for-tat action against farmers opposing the farm laws and not mind spending a few months in jail.

In an over one-minutelong video that went viral on social media platforms, Mr. Lal, in an interaction with the BJP cadre, is seen advising them to raise groups of 500-700 volunteers armed with lathis in each district of north and west Haryana and retaliate against the farmers.

"Tit-for-tat. Pick up the lathis," chuckled Mr. Lal, amid faint laughter from the

India has most

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

NEW DELHI

line games.

number of gamers

after South Korea

Anand\*, a jovial extroverted

15-year-old in Bengaluru, got

a personal smartphone for

the first time last year when

online classes began. Within

six months, he was on the

phone for more than seven

hours each day, not for class-

es but rather to binge on on-

behaviour changes in their

teenager - insomnia, with-

Worried about the sudden



party's State Kisan Morcha leaders, amid applause.

State Congress chief Kumari Selja slammed the

treme anger and irritability -

his parents took him to the

National Institute of Mental

Health and Neuro Sciences'

(NIMHANS) aptly named

SHUT clinic or the Service

for Healthy Use of Technology. Their son was diagnosed

with gaming addiction, a dis-

order that is quickly growing

as the pandemic spurred an

increased use of Internet

two or three cases a week.

Now, we are seeing about 15

cases, almost all of whom are

adolescents brought in by

their parents," said SHUT

clinic coordinator Manoj

Sharma, a clinical psycholo-

gy professor at NIMHANS.

"We used to get maybe

devices.

Chief Minister for "publicly provoking people against the agitating farmers and endorsing violence".

Farmers seek apology The Samyukt Kisan Morcha demanded that the Chief Mi-

nister step down and tender an apology. "It is clear where officials like Ayush Sinha (who purportedly directed police personnel to "crack the heads" of anybody trying to cross the barricades during a protest by farmers in August) get their impunity from," it said.

Mr. Lal's media adviser in a statement claimed that only a portion of the video was being circulated to create a

### 'No info on 2018 plan to collect OBC data'

Census won't cover castes: RTI reply

VIJAITA SINGH NEW DELHI

The Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) has said that deliberations and file notings regarding the Centre's announcement in 2018 to collect data on Other Backward Classes (OBC) as part of Census 2021 is not available with it.

The RGI, in its response to an RTI query filed by The Hindu, added that data on castes, communities and OBCs, other than the notified Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, are not collected in the Census.

On August 31, 2018, the

cond largest number of gam-

zation categorised gaming

disorder as a mental health

condition in 2018. Last

month, China limited gam-

The World Health Organi-

ers after South Korea.

Ministry of Home Affairs announced that OBC data would be collected for the first time in the next Census. The press release, titled "Union Home Minister reviews preparation for Census 2021", said: "It is also envisaged to collect data on OBC for the first time."

The first phase of 2021 Census, The House listing and Housing Census, to be conducted along with an update of the National Population Register from April 1, 2020, has been postponed due to the pandemic.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

Last week, the Kerala High

Court quashed such a law in

the State, accepting the in-

dustry's stance that, as

games of skill rather than

chance, they should not trig-

ger bans on gambling. Ho-

wever, worried parents, psy-

chiatrists and mental health advocates warn that the dan-

gers go well beyond mone-

dictions cause physical, so-

cial and emotional damage,

"We have seen gaming ad-

tary motivations.

#### Ms. Baneriee told pressper sons outside her residence. gin of victory had surpassed all previous records, the

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

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Bihar bypolls: RJD, Conq. split over candidates

announcing names of party candidates on Sunday for the absence of leaders from the 2020 Assembly election. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 9

Saturday, police said.

NEW DELHI

CITY ▶ PAGE 2





Manohar Lal audience. He also advised the cadre not to worry about securing bail if they decided to retaliate. "If you stay inside [in jail] for a few months, you will learn more than what you learn at these meetings," Mr. Lal told the



Psychiatrists are pushing for awareness programmes and digital fasting. • ізтоскрното

According to the All India Gaming Federation, India's online gaming industry is expected to be worth ₹15,500 crore by 2023. A 2019 survey by the U.S.-

based Limelight Networks found that India had the sefinancial stakes.

Legal move

ers under 18 years to just three hours of online games per week, during specified times, and made the industry responsible for enforcing the restriction.

In India, legal focus has been on recent laws in the southern States seeking to ban online games such as rummy, poker or even fantasy sports which offer prize money or

impairing sleep, appetites, careers and social lives," says Samir Parikh, who heads the mental health department at Fortis Healthcare.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

### Three men open fire outside elderly woman's house

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Three unidentified bikeborne men allegedly opened fire outside the house of a 78-year-old woman in east Delhi's Pandav Nagar, the police said on Sunday.

The incident took place on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday when the elderly woman along with her family members were asleep, the police said. No one was injured in the incident, the police

Three men arrived at the house and one of them who had a gun allegedly fired four rounds in the air following which the trio sped off, a senior police officer said.

Three empty cartridges along with a live cartridge was recovered from the spot. CCTV footage from and around the spot are being being scanned to identify the accused, the officer

DCP (East) Priyanka Kashyap said a case has been registered.

# DU online admissions under first cut-off list to begin today

'Selecting multiple courses and colleges under a particular cut-off not permitted'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Delhi University will start admissions to undergraduate courses under the first cutoff list from Monday. The students can apply from 10 a.m. on October 4 to 11.59 p.m. on October 6 on the admission portal where they had submitted their application forms after the university released its first list on October 1.

Colleges will complete approvals for admissions against the first cut-off by 5 p.m on October 7. The last day for payment by candidates is 5 p.m. on October 8, the university said.

#### No physical visits

Before applying for admissions, the university said that candidates must recheck their marks/percentages and eligibility criteria by referring to the bulletin of information for eligibility while calculating best four/ three and additional riders (if any) as notified by the university.



Students at the Delhi University campus after the first cut-off list was announced. • FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"The candidate is allowed to choose only one programme at a college during the particular cut-off. Selecting multiple programmes and colleges in a particular cut-off is not permitted. No change in the chosen programme and college will be permitted during a particular cut-off," the university said. It added that selection of programme and college can be made only through the candidate's own dashboard on the portal and no physical visit to the colleges/

university during the admis-

sion process is required. Colleges will verify the uploaded documents and based on the eligibility will either accept or reject the candidature. In case of lack of necessary documents, a candidate will be contacted on their registered email id /phone by the respective college so that the same may be provided directly to the college, the university said. Once the candidature is accepted, students will receive a link to submit the fees.

"No application will be left undecided. It will either be approved or rejected [citing reason] by the principal of the college," the university said. It added that in case any candidate is not satisfied with the reason for rejection [as given by the college], a grievance may be registered with the College Grievance Redressal Committee through email available on the website of the respective college.

The uploaded documents will be verified physically by the respective colleges at a later date. If at any stage, it is found that the information given by the candidate is incorrect/fabricated, the admission will be immediately cancelled without giving any prior notice. No fees will be refunded in such cases.

"If, after applying in a cutoff, a candidate cancels his/ her admission, she/he will not be able to apply again in the same cut-off," the univer-

# HC rejects bail plea of woman caught with contraband drug

She was intercepted by NCB officials at Nizamuddin station

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

The Delhi High Court has denied bail to a woman, who was caught with 600 gm of highly addictive drug methamphetamine – also known as meth or crystal meth – at Nizamuddin railway station here saying her "clean and tidy track record" does not absolve her from the offence.

#### **Unaware of content**

Sonia Shamrao Naik Goankar, hailing from Goa who had moved to Mumbai in 2017 for a job in the film industry, claimed that she did not know the contents of the bag given by to her by a Nigerian acquaintance.

"An uneducated person may claim no knowledge of the substance found in his/ her possession and may raise a defense of the substance being planted on them but being a highly educated person, there is greater presumption that carrying large quantities of narcotics is a crime and that it would entail consequenc-



es in law which could be harsh and irrevocable," Justice Subromonium Prasad

As the quantity recovered from Ms. Goankar is commercial quantity, the court dismissed her regular bail

As per the case report, on February 22, 2018, Ms. Goankar was travelling from Delhi to Mumbai by train from Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station when she was intercepted by officials of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on a secret tip.

She was then searched by two lady railway police officers but nothing was found on her body.

The woman officer then

checked her baggage, in which, amongst other things they found a small pouch kept clandestinely. Inside the pouch, they found the crystalline substances in two plastic packets tied together in a linen cloth.

A test of that crystalline substance was done on the spot and it tested positive to be methamphetamine.

Ms. Goankar disclosed that she got the contraband from Moses Henry Onyendu when she was at the house of Nigerians.

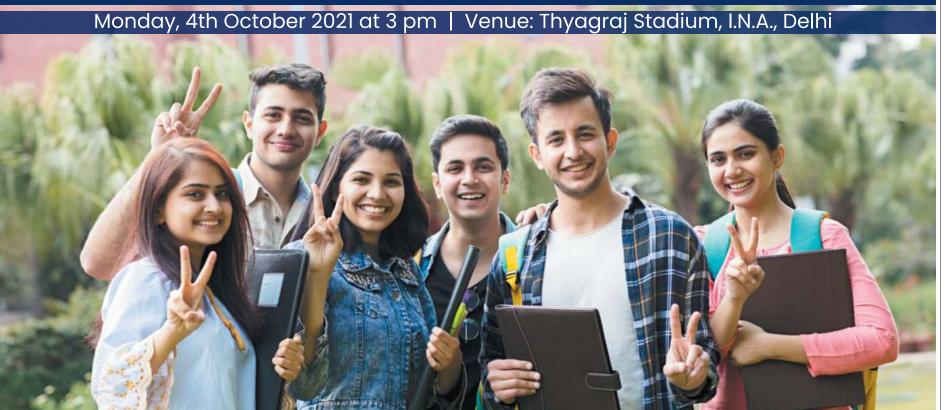
The NCB conducted raids at Charles Ezih and Henry Onyendu houses where large commercial quantities of methamphetamine and cocaine respectively were seized.

The NCB also discovered that these two accused were living illegally in India on fake passports.

Material on record discloses that Ms. Goankar is a part of a network which deals in supply/sale of narcotics, the court said, while dismissing her plea.

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illegally built temple'

We will demolish

Bhishma Pitamah Marg in South Delhi's Defence Colony. The Delhi government made the submission while property. responding to a petition by He stated that taking advantage and shelter of the a man who had sought removal of the encroachment in front of his property at

Defence Colony. It said that the authorities were "conscious of its duty" and has already planned to demolish the illegal encroachment at the said site on October 4.

#### **Necessary assistance**

Advocate Anupam Srivastava, representing the Delhi government and DCP (South), also assured the High Court that the Delhi police will render the necessary assistance to the authorities to carry out the

proposed demolition drive. In view of the statement land.

pandemic, unknown person trespassed and illegally constructed a temple on the footpath in front of his

illegal construction, people gather there and indulge in rowdiness and gambling and suspected drinking of alcohol and consuming illegal substances". The petitioner said that

the illegal structure and the gatherings behind it impedes full property.

The resident stated that several representations made to the authorities who engage in planning, designing, constructing and maintenance of government assets have failed to remove the illegal encroachment on public

### Four sharpshooters of Gogi gang arrested

It comes days after leader was killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Four sharpshooters of the Gogi gang, who had allegedly come to the national capital to kill the leader of their rival gang Tillu Tajpuriya, were arrested by the Delhi Police's Special Cell, officials said on Sunday.

The arrests come days after Jitendra Gogi, the leader of the Gogi gang, was shot dead inside a Rohini courtroom on September 24 by two assailants at the behest of Tajpuriya. The assailants were killed in retaliatory firing by the police.

The police said in view of recent incidents of gang-related violence, a dedicated team of the Special Cell was constituted on the directions of Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana to trace criminals and gangsters as part of an inter-State operation.

Through surveillance, it was learnt on October 1 that the accused would be going to Prahaladpur and Khera village in Delhi to murder some members of their rival gang, said a senior police

The police team spotted the car of the accused and The accused planned to kill gang rival Tajpuriya when he was either being produced in court or being taken to a hospital for medical

SANJEEV KUMAR YADAV

examination

blocked their way, he said. After the accused found themselves surrounded, they opened fire at the police team. However, the police team managed to overpower the accused. Two other members of the Gogi gang, who were in another car, managed to escape.

DCP (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said the arrested accused are members of the Gogi gang and had come to Delhi to murder Tajpuriya, who is the leader of their rival gang and the mastermind of Gogi's murder.

The accused planned to kill Tajpuriya when he was either being produced in court or being taken to a hospital for a medical examination, he said

#### INTERVIEW | A.K. GOSAIN

# Why Delhi roads get flooded every monsoon?

Professor Emeritus of IIT Delhi talks about how a drainage master plan, if implemented, could have offered a lasting solution

NIKHIL M BABU

NEW DELHI During the monsoon, many increased and this also inparts of Delhi, including arterial roads, get waterlogged leading to traffic snarls even the same and it is unable to with an hour's rainfall. The handle the excess water. main reason is the problems related to the city's storm water drains. The city works on a drainage master plan made in 1976 and one such plan prepared by IIT Delhi for the Delhi government in 2018 is yet to be implemented. In an interview with The Hindu, Professor Emeritus of IIT Delhi, A.K. Gosain, whose team prepared the new plan, tells how the story of a new master plan turned out to be one disappointment.

Why does Delhi face urban flooding?

■ In Delhi's case, flooding could be due to two reasons: floods in the Yamuna or local rainfall. In 1978, Delhi had witnessed a flood due to a rise in the Yamuna water level. But the annual urban flooding we see is due to local rainfall. The run-off water (water left after being absorbed by the earth) from the local rainfall is supposed to drain into the Yamuna through storm water drains. But due to a combination of reasons, including sewage flowing in storm water drains, it does not properly drain into the Yamuna and leads to urban flooding. The drains were made decades ago to handle a particular amount of run-off water. Over the years, the paved area has increased due to development. So, if earlier, a particular amount of rainfall generated 50% of run-off water and the rest was absorbed by the earth, now the run-off water is about 90%.

Also, due to climate change, the intensity of rainfall has creases the amount of water. But the drainage system is

Is Delhi's natural topography a reason for urban flooding?

■ West Delhi is at a higher altitude and there is a slope towards the Yamuna and this actually aids water to drain into the Yamuna. If a city's topography is flat, then it will be more prone to urban flooding. So, compared to Kolkata or Patna, Delhi is at an advantage in terms of topography. But the part of the city east of the Yamuna is a low-lying area.

How did IIT Delhi start working on Delhi's drainage master plan?

■ In 2012, I was heading the civil engineering department at IIT Delhi and used to have meetings with the government on different issues. It was during one such meeting that the then secretary of the Irrigation Department of the Delhi government told me that they were trying to get a drainage master plan made for the city. The government had floated tenders and private companies were asking for ₹10-₹11 crore. We said that we could create a simulation model for the whole Delhi. This would be a framework that the government could upgrade and keep using. We submitted a proposal and agreed to do it for ₹80 lakh, which was less than 10% of what the private companies had quoted.

What is the master plan and why is it needed?



A DTC bus stuck on Minto Road following a heavy spell of

■ A master plan is needed to study why flooding is happening even with light rain and come up with a plan to fix it. We used data provided departments ranging from soil type, topography and land use to rainfall and existing storm water drain network to create a mathematical model (a software), which can generate solutions waterlogging for the whole city. We generated four solutions for different drains - adjusting slope of the existing drain, diverting water to existing water bodies, using additional storages, and other development works. These solutions considered the rainfall, slope of the drain, and many other factors and were done with a bigger picture in mind to provide a comprehensive solution to the city, rather than isolated ones. The model is a dynamic one and can be used to even assess the impact even constructing new drains. The model will keep on giving solutions as you change the different parameters. That is the beauty of the model we have created. Rather than giving the work to a contractor without knowing the impact, the government can actually assess

changes.

The master plan was commissioned in 2012, but why did it get delayed?

■ The government was supposed to give us data of the drains and we were told that the data was digitised. But we were shocked when we saw the data. In the name of digitisation of drains, there was only a line showing that a drain was passing through an area. The size, depth, slope etc., which are needed for analysis, were not there. We immediately sought a meeting with the Chief Secretary and said that nothing could be done with this data. He understood the issue and directed 11 departments, under whose jurisdiction the drains fall, to provide us with data of the drains. These departments in turn engaged contractors to give the data.

#### What happened after that?

■ It took more than a year to get the data. But there were problems in that too. We kept on telling them that in many segments the data given to us showed that the drain was going up instead of down. We call them adverse slopes. A drain needs a gra-

dual slope for water to flow through it of its own under gravity. So, an adverse slope means that either the data is wrong or the construction of the drain in that area is problematic. We kept on asking the departments to verify the data; some did it, but majority of them did not verify the data given to us. We even sent 900 students over the course of four-five years to observe the condition of the drains. They had clicked about 2,500 geo-tagged photos of the drains. These photos showed that the drains were full of muck, which went against the government's claim of cleaning them.

#### When did you submit the report?

■ We submitted the draft report in December 2016 and then the departments kept correcting the data and we submitted it again in April 2017, May 2017, November 2017, and the final report was submitted in July 2018. We mentioned in the report also that the data was not verified by the departments. As part of the report, we gave them suggestions to divert water coming to the drains by digging rainwater harvesting pits in parks and diverting water to water bodies. We also told them that we could help them with how to remove silt in drains and verify it. These were things that could be done right away,

#### Was it implemented?

but they didn't do anything.

On August 1, 2018, we gave a presentation to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on the master plan. The CM asked different departments to implement the recommenda-

tions made in the report and we thought that the project was over from our side. But nothing happened after that. A technical expert committee was formed in 2012 to be involved with us from the beginning on the project, but it had never met with us. In 2019, suddenly, it met for the first time and it was decided that the departments should verify at least 10% of the data. Again, the departments were not responding and after a lot of pressure, in 2021, some departments said that of the 10% data, there was 50% error – it took two years for this. Now we are disappointed and feeling very foolish that we decided to help the government. Many people will say that the project didn't work because IIT didn't do its job.

#### Can the master plan be implemented in the current

■ No, the study has to be reworked with validated data. The best way forward will be to identify the perpetually flooded areas and identify drainage networks belonging to those locations. The data of these networks should be verified on priority and the rest can be taken step by step. Since we have provided them the complete modelling framework, the government should close this phase and discuss the way forward as a separate project.

So, is the project over now?

■ No, the project is not concluded. After nine years, we haven't been given even one third of the agreed payment. Two months ago, we had written to the government to end the current project, but there has been no reply.

Haryana govt. extends

lockdown by fortnight

The Harvana government on

COVID-19-induced lockdown

Sunday extended the

in the State for another

fortnight to continue the

precautionary measures to

contain the pandemic. Chief

Secretary Vijai Vardhan said

place from October 4 to 18.

following standard operating

procedures, the government

and directed the universities

to continue with the online

classes till further orders.

took a U-turn a few hours later

Though the initial orders

allowed the residential

universities to conduct

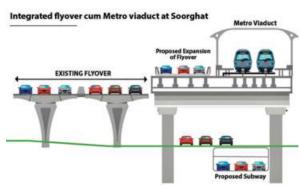
physical classes after

the lockdown would remain in

IN BRIEF

### In a first, DMRC to construct flyover-cum-metro viaduct

It will be on Majlis Park–Maujpur corridor



Work is expected to be completed by the end of 2023. ■DMRC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Sunday said that it is building an integrated flyover-cum-metro viaduct along with a vehicle underpass near Soorghat on the Majlis Park-Maujpur corridor of phase IV in northeast Delhi, in association with the Public Works Department (PWD).

The DMRC said the flyover and vehicle underpass are part of a proposed elevated road along the Yamuna parallel to Ring Road between Wazirabad flyover (Signature Bridge) and Ring Road near DND and it is for the first time in the history of Delhi Metro that such a project is being undertaken.

"Integrated portals will be erected on which a road flyover as well as a Metro viaduct will be placed. While on one side of the portal, the Metro viaduct will be placed, a PWD flyover used for vehicular movement will be constructed on the other side. On these portals, the flyover and the via-

duct will rest and run parallel to each other for a length of (approximately) 450 metres," the DMRC said in a statement. It added that a vehicle underpass will also be constructed below these portals which will cater to movement of vehicles coming from Outer Ring Road.

The work is expected to be completed by the end of

Under phase IV, the DMRC is already building two integrated double decker flyovers on which the Metro viaduct and the flyover will be placed one over the other. However, this particular stretch is unique, since the flyover and the Metro viaduct will be parallel to each other, the DMRC said.

The Majlis Park-Maujpur corridor is 12.098 km long comprising eight stations and is completely elevated. This extension of the Pink Line will complete the ring of the Mailis Park-Shiv Vihar corridor and will be the first ever ring corridor in the country with a length of about 70 km, the DMRC said.

### Delhi records 33 COVID-19 cases, zero death; positivity rate 0.07%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Capital reported 33 cases of COVID-19 and zero death in a day while the positivity rate stood at 0.07%, according to data shared by the Health Department on Sunday.

Delhi has recorded only one death in October so far. Last month, five people had succumbed to the disease.

With the new cases, the novel coronavirus infection tally in the city climbed to lakh patients have reco-

vered from the disease. The death toll stands at 25,088.

According to the health bulletin, authorities conducted 50.631 tests, including 43,365 RT-PCR ones, the +previous day. There are 386 active cases in Delhi, of whom 115 are in home isolation. The number of containment zones stands at 96.

In April and May, Delhi battled a brutal second wave of the pandemic that claimed a number of lives with the issue of oxygen 14,38,966. Of this, over 14.13 shortage at hospitals adding to the woes.

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# + Waste management: Gurugram societies show the way

the impact of proposed

From segregation to recycling to making compost, residents ensure that waste does not end up at landfill

ASHOK KUMAR GURUGRAM

Omaxe Nile, a group housing society with 400-odd flats in Sector 49, Gurugram, generates around one tonne of solid waste, including 350 kg kitchen waste, every day. But unlike many other societies, residents here make sure that all of their waste is recycled and does not end up at Bandhwari landfill on the outskirts.

It all began three years ago when Jagriti Jagat, an interpersonal skills trainer, who had practised waste segregation at her house for over a decade, and her educator friend Mandeep Bakshi, de-

#### Timings DELHI

MO	NDAY,			
	RISE	06:16	SET	18:04
	RISE	03:46	SET	17:04
TU	ESDAY,			
200	RISE	06.16	SET	18.03

RISE 04:49 SET 17:39 WEDNESDAY, OCT. 06 RISE 06:17 SET 18:02 ► RISE 05:52 SET 18:13

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**Delhi Palam Today** 35°C Mainly dry weather with partly cloudy sky likely. day

would remain warm **Delhi Palam Tomorrow 35℃** Passing rain or

thunderstorm may be a chance with light winds at few places. Slight warm and humid day would prevail.

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Workers of a private waste collection agency picking up dry waste from Omaxe Nile society for recycling. ■ ■ASHOK KUMAR

cided to turn this into a campaign, involving all residents of the gated community. The duo is helped by Tarun Lakhwani, a member of the residents' welfare association (RWA).

Besides the usual wet and dry waste, the residents segregate the hazardous and ewaste and hand it over to different agencies for recycling as per the norms. The wet waste is made into a compost.

agencies ap-"Many proached us offering to pay ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 per month in return for collecting our dry waste. But we found that these agencies took out a portion of the waste for recycling and dumped the rest at Bandhwari. So, we refused. The agency now hired for collecting the dry waste, though free of cost, ensures that it is all recycled and reused. What's the point in putting in so much effort, if the waste eventually ends up at the landfill?" Ms. Jagat asks.

Representatives of Ecogreen, the waste collection agency appointed by the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, also approached the society many times, but failed to meet its criteria.

But the journey has not been easy. To being with, the trio, with support from the RWA, conducted training sessions in waste segregation for all domestic helps, went

from door to door to explain the concept to the residents and the need to do it. Regular audits are now conducted to ensure that the directions on waste segregation are strictly adhered to. The society imposes fines ranging from ₹50 to ₹150 per day on those not

#### 'Waste reduction'

falling in line.

Going beyond the routine waste management, the society now focuses on "waste reduction". The residents are not allowed to use the liners (garbage bags) in the dustbins; the gardeners, security guards and the housekeeping staff have been provided jugs and glasses to minimise the use of disposables; and the shops in the society have been directed not to use polythene bags. "Disposables are not allowed at the community functions inside the

society," Ms. Jagat says. Meetings with residents and campaigns involving children are held regularly for constant motivation.

But all this activism comes at a cost, says Ms. Bakshi. "People mock at you. You earn a bad name for constantly nagging them. It is a thankless job, but the passion continues to drive you,"

she says. Ms. Jagat regrets how several group housing societies, the bulk waste generators, surrounding them are com-

pletely indifferent to waste

"Creating awareness and motivation does not work for all. Enforcement by the authorities is all needed. But it is completely missing," Ms. Jagat says. Residents of The Castle,

another group housing society with 40-odd flats in Sector 56, were forced to turn to waste management during the COVID-19-induced lockdown. The waste collection by Ecogreen became erratic during the lockdown and the piling of garbage inside the society led to foul smell and attracted rodents.

#### **Practice turns passion** "We took up segregation of

waste and composting to deal with the problem of growing waste in the society. But now it has become a passion for us. And no one is willing to go back to the earlier method of waste disposal," says Lt. Col. (retd.) Rajan Prabhakar, the force behind the initiative.

Mr. Prabhakar also involved the neighbouring housing society, Mariners Home, to make the project cost effective. "Being an Army man, I look for workable and not theoretical solutions. The simple and cost-effective solutions are sustainable, unlike the complicated methods. Instead of segregating the waste in four ways, we just segregate it as wet and dry," says Mr. Prabhakar.

For less than ₹2,000 per month, the society manages to make compost from the wet waste and hands over the dry waste to an agency for recycling. "We have stopped giving our waste to Ecogreen. It is a monthly saving of ₹1,500 levied by the agency towards collection charges," says Mr. Prabhakar. Into the bargain, the society makes a few hundred bucks by selling the compost and the Though Mr. Prabhakar is

all set to hand over the baton to new RWA by the end of the year, he hopes the new com-

mittee would continue with the waste segregation. "I believe people have adopted waste segregation. It is a cleaner and more responsible way of handling waste. Still, if the new RWA reverts to the old system, they will have to undo a lot of things done over the past one year. It will not be easy," says Mr. Prabhakar. Spread across 37 acres

with 1,500 flats and 37 villas, Orchid Petals, one of the largest group housing societies in the Millennium City, has been successfully practising waste segregation for more than four years now.

#### **Compositing plant**

"We generate around 1.5 tonnes of wet waste daily and have achieved 85% segregation at the source. With increase in waste generation over the years, we upgraded to better technologies for composting and set up our own organic compositing plant. We hand over our dry and hazardous waste to different agencies making sure that nothing lands up at Bandhwari," says Sachin Gupta, a board member of the Orchid Petals Residents Association (OPRA).

Rajiv Asthana, general secretary, OPRA, says the society took up waste segregation out of its concern for the environment, but there were challenges. "Being a big society, it took us almost six months to conduct training for the domestic helps, housekeeping staff, and residents before we could introduce waste segregation. We also incurred an additional monthly cost of around ₹1 lakh on account of hiring nearly half-a-dozen housekeeping staff, and also spent on procuring equipment and machines for composting," Mr. Asthana says.

The efforts of the society in waste management were also lauded by the district authorities at the Republic Day programme last year.

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### Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad meets Stalin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Ghulam Nabi Azad called on Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday.

#### Lauds Stalin's work

"He appreciated the work of the Chief Minister and the achievements attained by him within a short span of time," said DMK MP Kanmozhi, who was present during the meeting.

"Mr. Azad also said that this was the first time he was not able to meet Kalaignar," Ms. Kanimozhi

Mr. Azad, who was here to attend a wedding, also called on Kanimozhi's mother Raiathi Ammal at her Alwarpet residence.

# Mob vandalises religious place in M.P. on suspicion of conversion

Two hurt in attack that lasted for four hours; FIR against 24 unidentified people

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEEMUCH/M.P

A place of worship was damaged using explosives and its priest and a devotee were thrashed with sticks allegedly by two dozen masked people at Jawad tehsil in Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch district, police said on Sunday.

The attackers left behind a pamphlet claiming the shrine was involved in converting Hindus to Islam. The attack lasted for four hours from around 11 p.m. on Saturday to 3 a.m. on Sunday, police said.

The injured devotee, identified as Abdul Rajjak, has been admitted to a hospital while the priest Noor Baba sustained minor injuries, Superintendent of Police Surai Kumar Verma said.

Mr. Noor has lodged a complaint with the police followThe pamphlet might have been dropped to misguide the investigators and give the incident a different turn

SURAJ KUMAR VERMA

ing which an FIR was registered against 24 unidentified people on the charges of rioting, damaging the place of worship etc., under the Indian Penal Code, he said over the phone.

**Explosives used** 

Prima facie, the place of worship was damaged with the use of some explosive substance. When asked about the explosive used, the SP said it would be known after forensic analysis.

This religious place is located in a forested and deserted area under the Ratangarh police station in the Neemuch district, he added. Mr. Verma confirmed the attack lasted for four hours.

Asked about the pamphlet, he said that it might have been dropped to misguide the investigators and give the incident a different turn. Mr. Verma, however, said he was not in a position to say anything about the identity of the accused, adding the investigation was under way.

The SP also said the place of worship sustained just "5% damage" but also admitted that the attack had weakened its pillars.

He denied reports that the attackers were armed with swords and spears but said they were carrying lathis.

Meanwhile, showed the priest of the shrine and a devotee couple narrating the sequence of events. The wounded priest, writhing in pain with one of his legs bandaged, said he was tied, bundled, and bashed by masked men.

The woman says at least 20 to 25 armed and masked people were involved in the incident. In the video clip, the woman shows an injury she claimed to have suffered in the attack. She claims that her husband Abdul Rajjak was held captive and tied.

Meanwhile, members of the Muslim community took out a march against the incident in the Neemuch city. They handed over a memorandum to police officers seeking stern action against the attackers.

# T.P. murder case: Rema demands SC lawyer as new prosecutor

Kerala High Court to consider petitions in the case this week

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With the Kerala High Court considering a batch of petitions in the TP Chandrasekharan murder case this week, a demand by Vadakara legislator K.K.Rema that the Home Department appoint a Supreme Courtbased lawyer to take up the case of her slain husband appears to have put the State government in a real predicament.

Ms. Rema, leader of Revolutionary Marxist Party (RMP), who won with the support of the United Democratic Front (UDF) said that it was up to the government to decide after special public prosecutor C.K. Sreedharan expressed his inability to continue the case citing health reasons. "I have already sent a request to the Home Secretary," she told



The Hindu on Sunday.

Incidentally, advocate K. Gopalakrishna Kurup, who had appeared for the accused is now Advocate General and K.K. Ragesh, who was acquitted in an interim verdict is now private secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The High Court will examine the petitions on the verdict of the Special Additional Sessions Court in January 2014.

Ms. Rema said all the accused by the trial court

should be punished and the killer gang hired by the CPI (M) local leadership deserved capital punishment. The CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front government has been spending crores of rupees by engaging senior lawyers to conduct cases involving that party. "So far, I have not received any response from the government," she said.

The previous Congressled UDF government had subscribed to Ms. Rema's appeal. However the accused had also appealed against the verdict saying that they were innocent and sought acquittal.

The trial court had convicted 12 accused, including three functionaries of the CPI(M). Eleven were sentenced to life imprisonment and another awarded a jail term of three years.

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### Search for tiger T23 continues

Two kumki elephants were brought again from the Elephant Theppakadu Camp for the operation to locate tiger T23 in the Mudumalai Tiger (MTR) on Sunday.

Srinivas and Udayan, which were brought to the "operation area" on special trucks, will help in the attempts to locate the tiger and allow veterinarians a safe platform from which they can dart the animal, officials said.

More logistics support came in from the neighbouring forest divisions in Kerala and Karnataka on Sunday, with the latter also despatching a trained sniffer dog.

Chief Wildlife Warden Shekhar Kumar Niraj, who has been camping at the MTR for the last few days, is at the forefront of the operation, which entered the eighth day. Sources said the tiger

was yet to be sighted or captured in camera traps since Saturday. On Sunday evening, a resident of a village told Forest Department officials that she had heard the animal growl from a nearby abandoned quarry. But the tiger remained undetected.

Bhosale Sachin Thukkaram, Deputy Director of the MTR (core area), said the tiger was not spotted on Sunday, and the search area had been expanded to Masinagudi and Singara.

STAFF REPORTER

At a time when the rural local bodies in nine newly constituted districts are going to the polls, some Chola-era inscriptions bear testimony to the qualifications required for members of the village administrative council.

B. KOLAPPAN

CHENNAL

The inscriptions at Thenneri village in Kancheepuram district also shed light on how farm produce was taxed. "I had a chance to visit the temples and read the inscriptions when I was campaigning for the local bodies elections in the district," said Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu, who also holds the portfolio of Archaeology.

The inscriptions of Uthiramerur in Kancheepuram district that dwells upon 'Kudavolai' - a system to elect members to annual committee ('variyam'), garden committee, tank committee and other committees for 30 wards – are well-known. But



Chola inscriptions on civic officials' eligibility

From a temple at Thenneri, they talk about criteria for village panel members

Thennarasu at Thenneri village in Kancheepuram district.

very little is known about the Thenneri inscriptions laying down qualifications for candidates to village administrative committees ('perumkuri sabai'). The village is located between Walajah and Sunkuvarchathiram.

Kanthaleeswarar The temple and the Abathsaheswarar temple are on the banks of the 3.80-km-long Thenneri. They were constructed by Sembian Mahadevi, the grandmother of Chola King Rajaraja, in memory of her son Uthama Chola. The inscriptions are on the walls of the Kanthaleeswarar temple, Mr. Thennarasu said. The temple which offers

picturesque scenes are under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

S. Sridharan, former Deputy Superintending Archaeologist of the Archaeology Department, said that according to the inscriptions, candidates should

own land and should not have any case pending against them. "He should be highly educated and should have maintained his accounts in a transparent man-

Mr. Thennarasu said the rulers were considerate while taxing agricultural produce. "For areca nuts, only 50% tax would be collected for the first 10 years after cultivation. Farmers would pay full tax only after the trees started yielding fruits. Similarly, 50% tax was imposed on banana crops until the yield," he said, citing the inscriptions.

The lake bears testimony to Thenneri's ancientness. Perumpanattrupadai, a Sangam-era literary work, refers to the king who created the lake as 'Thondaiman Ilanthiraiyan'. The copper plates of the Pallava period found at Kaasakudi refer to the lake as 'Thiraiyan Eri'. Over centuries, it has become Thenneri, Mr. Sridharan said.

# ₹445 cr. given to discoms to prevent jumbo deaths

STAFF REPORTER

BHUBANESWAR The Odisha government has provided ₹445.75 crore to distribution companies to increase the ground clearance of electrical networks and replace bare conductors in elephant corridors and movement areas.

The overhaul is aimed at preventing elephant deaths due to electrocution. According to the Energy department, 79,000 interposing poles have been erected and more than 2,300 circuit bare conductors replaced by covered ones.

In a recent meeting with Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, the companies and the Forest Department have been asked to interact regularly to achieve zero casualty of elephants.

Mr. Mohapatra also directed officials to involve the local community in elephant protection and come up with a scheme of rewarding the villagers, who would give information about illegal hooking for poaching wild animals.

He laid emphasis on remaining extremely vigilant during the harvest season and undertaking regular joint patrolling to prevent illegal hooking in elephant corridors and movement

According to the Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO), 862 elephants have lost their lives between April 2010 August 2021.

"Inadequate patrolling and breakdown of supervision and monitoring by senior officers has made it easy for the poachers to wipe out Odisha's magnificent elephants," said Biswajit Mohanty, chief of the WSO.

### MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI No.EE/HQ/3947/ Maint dtd 01/10/2021 e-Tender Notice

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Name of Organization	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai
Subject	e-Tender for Non Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of LAN systems, Telephone Systems, High Tension / Low Tension Electric installations and their related electrical systems, at Municipal Head Offices, Old and Annex buildings for two years.
Cost of Tender	Rs. 9,450.00 (Rs. 9,000/- + 5% GST)
Cost of e-Tender (Estimated Cost)	Rs. 1,26,25,591.00
Bid Security Deposit/ EMD	Rs. 1,26,500.00
Date of issue and sale of tender	04.10.2021 11:00 am
Last date & time for sale of tender & Receipt of Bid Security Deposit	11.10.2021 15:00 pm
Submission of Packet A, B & Packet C (Online)	11.10.2021 16:00 pm
Pre-Bid Meeting	Nil
Opening of Packet A	11.10.2021 17:00 pm
Opening of Packet B	11.10.2021 17:05 pm
Opening of Packet C	14.10.2021 15:00 pm
Address for communication	Office of Executive Engineer (HQ), Municipal Head Office, Old Building, Ground Floor, Mahapalika Marg, Mumbai 400 001.
Venue for opening of bid	On line in Executive Engineer (HQ)'s office.
Submission of Packet A, B & Packet C (Online)  Pre-Bid Meeting  Opening of Packet A  Opening of Packet B  Opening of Packet C  Address for communication	Nil  11.10.2021 17:00 pm  11.10.2021 17:05 pm  14.10.2021 15:00 pm  Office of Executive Engineer (HQ) Municipal Head Office, Old Building Ground Floor, Mahapalika Marg, Mumba 400 001.  On line in Executive Engineer (HQ)

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PRO/1219/ADV/2021/2022 Avoid self medication

**Executive Engineer (H.Q.)** 

### Wild monkey takes away towel containing ₹1 lakh from autorickshaw in M.P.

Owner manages to collect ₹56,000

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHOPAL

A wild monkey snatched a towel, in which ₹1 lakh cash was wrapped, from an autorickshaw that was stuck in a traffic jam on a narrow road in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place in Katav Ghat on the afternoon of September 30 when the owner of the cash was travelling in an autorickshaw along with two others, Majholi police station in-charge Sachin Singh said.

Stuck in taffic jam

"When the three came out of the vehicle to peer ahead and find out what was causing the traffic jam, a monkey took away a towel in which ₹1 lakh cash was wrapped. It shook the towel after climbing up a tree, spreading currency notes all around. The owner managed to collect ₹56,000, while the rest got lost," he The monkey shook the towel after climbing up a tree, spreading currency notes all around

Majholi police station in-charge

explained.

He said it was not known who took the rest of the money, adding that no case was registered in connection with the incident as monkeys were involved.

No CCTVs in area

There are no CCTV cameras in the area either to ascertain facts for a probe, the official added. He said the people often feed monkeys in the area and many of the animals even enter vehicles.

Singrampur police station in-charge Dharmendra Upadhyay said complainant Mohammad Ali, a resident of Katangi, had come there but was directed to Majholi police station.



**BJP shortlists candidates** for Karnataka bypolls

BENGALURU The BJP core committee, which met on Sunday in the presence of Arun Singh (in picture), in charge of party affairs in Karnataka, shortlisted candidates for the bypolls to Hangal and Sindgi constituencies, scheduled on October 30. While former MLA Ramesh Bhusanur has emerged as a front runner for Sindgi, Revathi Udasi, daughter-in-law of C.M. Udasi, whose death had necessitated the bypoll, is preferred for Hangal, sources

#### Police grill ex-director of Telugu Akademi

HYDERABAD The former director of Telugu Akademi, Somi Reddy, and two others were questioned by the Central Crime Station police at Hyderabad in Telangana on Sunday in connection with alleged financial fraud in the Akademi's fixed deposits. Apart from Mr. Reddy, the Akademi's accounts officer, Ramesh; an employee Rafeeq; and a few others were also grilled by the investigators for over three hours. Sources said Mr. Reddy told the police that he was not aware of the

#### **Prisoner escapes** from A.P. hospital

An inmate of the Kadapa Central Prison gave the police the slip from the SVIMS Super Speciality Hospital in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, on Sunday. V. Ramachandrappa of Guddampalli village in Anantapur district was lodged in prison following his conviction in his wife's murder case. He was shifted to the hospital on September 6 after he fell ill. The police have launched a manhunt to

# Congress's bid to woo women voters

Party launches initiative called 'Na Nayaki' in Karnataka in the run-up to the 2023 Assembly election

NISTULA HEBBAR NEW DELHI

The Congress in Karnataka is making a serious bid to woo women voters in the run-up to the 2023 Assembly election, launching a programme called 'Na Nayaki' (I'm a leader) in all the constituencies of the State.

According to State Congress sources, the programme would run training workshops for women who had fought local body polls on the Congress symbol and even for those who had not. "All women who have fought local body polls, even if they have lost and whether they have fought on the party symbol or not, will be reached out to under this programme. There are 22 geographical clusters where the workshops will take place, covering roughly 10



At the forefront: Congress workers at a padayatra in Mangaluru on Saturday. • H.S. MANJUNATH

Assembly seats each [Karna-Assembly has 224 seats]. After the training workshop, each person attending will be asked to connect to 10 more women in their areas," said a source.

Suggestions made by women during the workshops may also be included in the Karnataka Congress's manifesto. "One suggestion that was made, and which will be included, is that the mother's name also be included in the Aadhaar card registration along with that of the father," said the source. followers, and that is the logic behind this programme,"

Speaking to The Hindu, Karnataka Congress presi-

dent D.K. Shivakumar said this was an important part of the preparations for the party going into the Assembly poll. "Rajiv Gandhi had said that a leader was one who created leaders and not just

he said. Currently in the pilot

stage, it would be fully rolled out soon.

For a long time, the women's vote had been considered an undefined category dominated by the choices made by the men of the family. But this category had come into its own in recent vears, as witnessed during the Tamil Nadu elections in 2016, Bihar in 2020 and so on. In Bihar, consistently higher percentage of voting in the last few polls was termed as one of the main causes for Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's wins, a politician who has assiduously courted the women's vote for many years. For the Congress in Karnataka, where the party had a robust organisational framework, the road to the Vidhan Soudha was being seen as going through the women's vote.

### NGRI proposes landslip, flood warning system

Decision follows Chamoli rockslide flood

V. GEETANATH HYDERABAD

The Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research - National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI) has launched an 'Environmental Seismology' group to develop a 'Landslide and Flood Early Warning System' for the Himalayan region based on real-time monitoring with dense seismological networks, coupled with satellite data, numerical modelling and geomorphic ana-

"This would enable a crucial warning several hours prior, which will save human lives and property," said Director V.M. Tiwari. The need for such an early warning system was necessitated following February's rockslide flood disaster in



Nature's furv: Rescue teams at one of the plants after the flash floods at Chamoli district in February. ■ v.v. krishnan

Chamoli (Uttarakhand), where a steep glacier on the Nandadevi peak in Garhwal Himalaya got detached, causing a major avalanche and inducing flash floods in the Rishi Ganga and Alaknanda rivers. It killed several persons downstream and caused damage to two power plants.

# Karnataka order on travellers from Kerala challenged in SC

MLA says mandatory RT-PCR test is a 'miscarriage of justice'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A Kerala legislator has appealed to the Supreme Court challenging the validity of a Karnataka government order restricting the free movement of persons from neighbouring Kerala.

Karnataka had mandated that persons from Kerala travelling into the State should possess a negative RT-PCR certificate. The test should have been done within 72 hours of travel, irrespective of having taken at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination, A.K.M. Ashraf, an Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) MLA, said.

He submitted that Karna-



taka's July 31 regulation had led to even persons with two doses of the vaccine being required to take the RT-PCR test within 72 hours before entering the State.

Mr. Ashraf, represented by advocate Haris Beeran, moved the apex court after the Kerala High Court re-

fused to intervene on September 28. He had also sought an ex parte stay of the High Court order. He said, "Grave miscarriage of justice has been caused to him and to other similarly placed persons, who have to commute daily or for essential medical or other needs to Dakshin Kannada district in the State of Karnataka from Kerala and/or Maharashtra, on account of erroneous dismissal of the writ petition by the High Court."

The petition said the residents of Manjeshwaram constituency were dependent on Dakshina Kannada districts/Mangaluru city for their basic needs.

# Nair Service Society won't cooperate with socio-economic survey

#### Sample survey termed farcical

K.S. SUDHI

The proposed socio-economic survey among forward communities in Kerala is heading for a crisis with the Nair Service Society (NSS) denouncing it as a farce exercise and deciding against cooperating with it.

The organisation will boycott the October 7 meeting convened by the Kerala State Commission for Economically Backward Classes among Forward Communities in this regard.

The commission had decided to hold a sample survey among the five most economically backward families in each of the 19,000 wards of the local bodies in the State, thus covering at least one lakh persons.

G. Sukumaran Nair, NSS general secretary, feared that the sample survey would not reflect the social realities. A comprehensive survey covering all the forward caste families was needed. The data generated by the survey was of significance. Hence, the survey should be done in a scientific manner, he said.

"One need not rush with the sample survey as much time has already been lost. Let it be done in a proper and elaborate manner after the pandemic," he said.

At the same time, the Jacobite Syrian Church and the Kerala Brahmana Sabha have decided to cooperate with the survey.

The Church, which is currently conducting an internal survey among its community members, would share the data with the government, said Peter K. Elias, secretary of the Jacobite Syrian Church. Welcoming the sample

survey, Karimpuzha Raman, president, Kerala Brahmana Sabha, said the outcome of the sample survey should help the government go in for an elaborate survey like the Census. The data would serve as an eye-opener to the government, he said.

Commission sources termed the NSS suggestion impractical as a detailed survey would require much resources and time to com-

### Conversion claims spark tension

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Tension prevailed outside the Chickballapur town police station in Karnataka after two religious groups confronted each other over allegations of conversion. The police had to use mild force to disperse the crowd.

A right-wing organisation had asked the police to act against a missionary group from a minority community, claiming that it had been conducting tailoring classes. They said the missionary group was practising conversion. The right-wing group lodged a complaint with the police. "An FIR has been registered against five persons," said a police officer.

+ THE HINDU

# EDUCATION PLUS



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# ARCHANA SUBRAMANIAN Currently, there are over billion

young people between the ages of 10 and 24 globally, of which an estimated 20% this demographic group presents a unique opportunity to bring about dynamic and sustainable change in the coun-

socio-economic landscape. In 2018, as part of the UN Youth Policy 2030, UNICEF launched the global Generation Unlimited (Gen-U) movement to meet the urgent needs of young people and to expand learning, skill development, employment and engagement opportunities. The India chapter of Generation Unlimited - YuWaah was launched in 2019. "By

lives in India. Engaging with build pathways to aspirational socio-economic opportunities for 100 million young people; facilitate 200 million young people to gain relevant skills for productive lives and the future of work; and partner with 300 million young people as change-makers and create spaces for developing their leadership," says Dhuwarakha Sriram, Chief of Generation Unlimited (YuWaah), Youth Development and Partnerships at UNICEF India.

2030, YuWaah aims to

**Towards empowerment** YuWaah's mission is to enable all young people – wherever



YuWaah aims to prepare young people transition from education and learning to productive work and active citizenship

"We achieve this by partnering with young people themselves; facilitating diverse, equal-footing and multi-stakeholder platforms for listening to and amplifying young people's voices, perspectives and priorities ...'



they may be – to realise their full potential. "We achieve this by partnering with young people themselves; facilitating diverse, equal-footing and multi-stakeholder platforms for listening to and amplifying young people's voices, perspectives and priorities; optimising investments towards at-scale learning, skilling, leadership and employment opportunities; and enabling all young people's access to the same, especially those stemming from most marginalised communities," adds Sriram. During the second wave of

vices, vaccine registration, COVID-19 appropriate behaviours and myth-busting to safeguard themselves, their families and their communities. A series of innovative channels such as WhatsApp/ Facebook-based chatbot, Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS), Community Ra-Capacity Building sessions and Interactive Knowledge Hub were used to support young people's participation and leadership in the pandemic, YuWaah saw this movement. Each young an opportunity to mobilise person was encouraged to enthe youth in a pan-India roll 10 more and pledge to movement called the #Young take action to protect them-Warrior. Young people were selves, their families and their

engaged in a series of easy

and real-life tasks, including

promoting access to verified

information and essential ser-

communities against CO-VID-19, collectively impacting 50+ million people across the country. This led to 2.83 million specific and measurable

Leveraging the successes, learnings and large partnership network created during the Young Warrior movement, an ambitious and expanded second phase, Young-WarriorNXT

conceptualised in August 2021. "It aims to deploy largescale learning and skilling solutions for youth whose education has been disrupted. It will address the missing link of employability and life skills and use multiple channels so that no youth gets left behind

in acquiring 21st century skills," explains Sriram. This initiative will offer a range of opportunities like local demand-based skilling with job matching through quality internships and apprenticeships and promote entrepreneurship.

#YoungWarriorNXT aims to empower 10 million young people with essential life and employability skills that shall enable them to pursue successful lives and careers and focuses on transforming Young Warriors into Young Leaders by equipping them with essential life skills (decision making, problem-solving, self-awareness, communication); employability skills (Technical and Vocational Education and Training), and mental health and well-being skills (stress management, self-care, self-awareness). To be #YoungWarriorNXT

WhatsApp: Type YWNXT and send to +91 96504 14141 Facebook: Go to UReport India Facebook Page, Type

YWNXT and hit send Visit www.yuwaah.org/ youngwarrior for more information

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### Locked in a stalemate

India, China need to restore normalcy along the border before cooperation on other issues

n the coming week, military commanders from India and China are expected to hold the 13th round of Lalks to continue the effort to find a way out of the LAC crisis. Sharp exchanges between Beijing and New Delhi have served as a reminder that relations are undoubtedly at their lowest since 1988. On September 24, the Chinese Foreign Ministry, while responding to a question about new border management protocols, laid the blame for last year's border crisis entirely on India's doorstep, saying India's "illegal trespass" caused the dispute. The Foreign Ministry repeated this charge in even stronger language, describing, on September 29, India's actions last year as a "forward policy", implicitly invoking the 1962 war. New Delhi in turn reminded Beijing that it was its "provocative behaviour", and amassing of troops in April 2020 following annual military exercises, that led to the flashpoints. The envoys of both countries have also made statements, at a virtual dialogue, that suggest a gulf in the state of relations. The Chinese envoy to India, Sun Weidong, called on both countries to "place the border issue in an appropriate position" and said "it is not the whole story of bilateral relations". His Indian counterpart, Vikram Misri, said the Chinese side was "shifting goalposts" in how both countries have, for three decades, managed the border areas peacefully. This, he said, was predicated on "a well-understood distinction" between managing the border areas and resolving the boundary question.

It is clear that this understanding, along with the four border agreements, has now broken down on account of China's actions last year to unilaterally re-draw the LAC in Ladakh in the Western Sector. This week's military commanders talks will take up disputes in Hot Springs, while disputes in Demchok and Depsang remain unresolved. Since the crisis last year, both sides have set up buffer zones in Galwan Valley and on the north bank of Pangong Lake, and have disengaged on the south bank and in Gogra. This temporary arrangement has helped prevent the recurrence of clashes, but with past agreements in disarray, a longer term understanding to keep the peace still eludes both sides. Recent incidents in Uttarakhand, and a continued military build-up in the Eastern Sector, underline the pressing need for reaching one. Mr. Misri suggested a way out of this stalemate, saying "it cannot be that only one side's concerns are of relevance..." and acknowledging that "safeguarding territorial integrity and national security holds equal value for both sides." He maintained both sides still had the space to cooperate on issues including tackling the pandemic, concerns about terrorism in the region and the situation in Afghanistan. Doing so will certainly build trust. Finding that space, however, will hinge on first restoring normalcy along the border.

### Tentative recovery

Current quarter holds the key to determining the durability of economic recovery

wo separate sets of macro-economic data, one from the Government on output at eight core industries in August, and the other, IHS Markit's survey-based Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the manufacturing sector from September, collectively point to a recovery in industrial activity. The provisional figures based on the Index of Eight Core Industries spanning coal to fertilizers show overall output grew 11.6% year-on-year in August, helped substantially by expansions in electricity and steel production of 15.3% and 5.1%, respectively. With weights of almost 20% and 18% in the index, respectively, the two industries were also among the only three sectors that posted monthon-month expansions from July, with natural gas being the third. Electricity output was likely buoyed by the lull in monsoon activity in August, as well as an uptick in broader industrial power consumption. And improved Government spending on infrastructure projects ought to have undergirded demand for steel. Refinery products, the largest constituent of the index, recorded 9.1% growth over August 2020 with the gradual easing of the pandemic-related restrictions. However, an almost 9% slump in diesel consumption from the preceding month saw the sector post a 5.5% sequential contraction. Reports on fuel consumption trends from September point to a significant slowdown last month, a less-than-encouraging sign especially when one considers the renewed uptrend in the pump prices of automobile fuels. Also, with rains in September exceeding the long-period average for the month by a sizeable margin, power demand too was hit last month.

The more contemporary September PMI data show factory orders and output expanded faster than in the preceding month, with the PMI reading of 53.7 outpacing August's 52.3. Manufacturers reported favourable market conditions and improvements in sales volumes, with makers of consumer goods leading the pack. While some of the increase in orders at manufacturing companies is clearly linked to improved demand for Indian products in the international markets, a trend reflected in the more than 21% jump in merchandise exports last month, a substantial part is tied to an inventory build-up in view of the festival season. IHS Markit's survey of manufacturing firms, however, also reveals a lack of fresh hiring for the second straight month as well as price pressures from high fuel and transport costs. With the formal manufacturing industry seemingly wary of adding more employees, and the MSME sector still struggling to recover from the CO-VID-19 hit, the lack of employment and reduced household incomes are bound to constrain consumer spending. The current quarter holds the key to determining how durable the recovery could turn out to be.

# Reimagining food systems with lessons from India

With an alarming escalation in global hunger unfolding, reaching the goal of an equitable livelihood is a necessity



**BISHOW PARAJULI &** 

The first and historic United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) 2021 which was held in September this year, concluded after an intense 'bottomup' process conceived in 2019 by UN Secretary-General António Guterres to find solutions and 'catalyse momentum' to transform the way the world produces, consumes, and thinks about food and

help address rising hunger. In terms of larger goals, the food system transformation is considered essential in achieving the sustainable development agenda 2030. This makes strong sense as 11 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) out of 17 are directly related to the food system.

The summit involved several activities before the run-up to the meeting of the Head of States on September 23. While the dialogues on the five tracks identified have been under way for the past 18 months, the world has seen the fragility and vulnerability of food systems, highlighted by the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that is projected to double the global hunger figure.

Why the Food Systems Summit and what is the expectation from its outcome? Global food systems – the networks that are needed to produce and transform food, and ensure it reaches consumers, or the paths that food travels from production to plate – are in a state of crisis in many countries affecting the poor and the vulnerable. The flaws in food systems affect us all, but most of all they are affecting 811 million people in the world who go to bed hungry each night.

The summit created a mechanism for serious debates involving UN member states, civil society, non-governmental organisations, academics, researchers, individuals, and the private sector,

which is to evolve transformative themes and ideas for reimagining food systems to enhance satisfaction of all stakeholders including future generations. The debate and response focused on five identified action tracks namely: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all; Shift to sustainable consumption patterns; Boost naturepositive production: Advance equitable livelihoods, and Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress.

The summit provided a historic opportunity to empower all people to leverage the power of food systems to drive our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and get us back on track to achieve all 17 SDGs by 2030.

The Statement of Action emerging from the summit offers a concise set of ambitious, high-level principles and areas for action to support the global call to "Build back better" after the COVID-19 pandemic.

India constituted an inter-departmental group under the Chairmanship of one of us, with representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Rural Development, and others. Delhi-based U.N. agencies namely the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) were also actively involved in the dialogue process. The group conducted nationdialogues stakeholders of agri-food systems to explore national pathways towards creating sustainable and equitable food systems in India. Several individuals and civil society organisations contributed ideas to the portal which was created for this purpose.

Helping the developing world There are lessons from India's tryst with food insecurity. Several themes that have emerged in the discussions and dialogues leading up to the summit find resonance with India's past and ongoing journey towards creating and improving food and livelihood security.



food shortage to surplus food producer offers several interesting lessons for other developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America in the area of land reforms, public investments, institutional infrastructure, new regulatory systems, public support, and intervention in agri markets and prices and agri research and ex-

The period between 1991 to 2015, saw the diversification of agriculture beyond field crops and brought greater focus on the horticulture, dairy, animal husbandry, and fishery sectors. The learnings encompassed elements of nutritional health, food safety and standards, sustainability, deployment of space technology, and the like.

#### Safety nets, challenges

One of India's greatest contributions to equity in food is its National Food Security Act 2013 that anchors the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Mid-Day meals (MDM), and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Today, India's food safety nets collectively reach over a billion people.

Food safety nets and inclusion are linked with public procurement and buffer stock policy. This was visible during the global food crises 2008-2012 and more recently during the COVID-19 pandemic fallout, whereby vulnerable and marginalised families in India continued to be buffered against the food crisis by its robust TPDS and buffer stock of food grains.

A look at the challenges and the way forward towards 2050. Climate change and unsustainable use of land and water resources The long journey from chronic are the most formidable challenges food systems face today. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report has set the alarm bells ringing, highlighting the urgency to act now.

Dietary diversity, nutrition, and related health outcomes are another area of concern as a focus on rice and wheat has created nutritional challenges of its own. India has taken a bold decision to fortify rice supplied through the Public Distribution System with iron. Agricultural research institutes are about to release varieties of many crops having much higher nutrition as a long-term solution undernutrition malnutrition.

#### **Surplus and low nutrition**

It is ironic that despite being a net exporter and food surplus country at the aggregate level, India has a 50% higher prevalence of undernutrition compared to the world average. But the proportion of the undernourished population declined from 21.6% during 2004-06 to 15.4% during 2018-20. The high prevalence of undernutrition in the country does not seem to be due to food shortage or the low availability of food. The Government of India and States are seriously concerned about this paradoxical situation of being food surplus and at the same time, having 15% of the population undernourished. They are trying to address other possible reasons for low nutrition through several nutritional interventions. As announced recently, the supply of fortified rice in PDS and Poshan Abhiyan are the two steps among many to address the challenge of undernutrition and malnutrition.

Reducing food wastage or loss of food is a mammoth challenge and is linked to the efficiency of the food supply chain. Food wastage in India exceeds ₹1-lakh crore.

Why the world must eliminate hunger is the next point. An alarming escalation in global hunger is unfolding, with the 'dramatic worsening' of world hunger in 2020, much of it likely related to the fallout of COVID-19. While the pandemic's impact has yet to be fully mapped, 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' report, estimates that around a tenth of the global population was undernourished last year.

It is important to reiterate that hunger and food insecurity are key drivers of conflict and instability across the world. 'Food is peace', is a catchphrase often used to highlight how hunger and conflict feed on each other. The Nobel Peace Prize 2020 conferred on the United Nations WFP highlighted the importance of addressing hunger to prevent conflicts and create stability. The citation communiqué articulated this well by quoting the line: "Until the day we have a medical vaccine, food is the best vaccine against chaos."

#### For equity, sustainability

We are on the cusp of a transformation to make the world free of hunger by 2030 and deliver promises for SDGs, with strong cooperation and partnership between governments, citizens, civil society organisations, and the private sector. We must collaborate to invest, innovate, and create lasting solutions in sustainable agriculture contribution to equitable livelihood, food security, and nutrition. India has so much to offer from its successes, and learning also, to prepare itself for the next 20 to 30 years. This surely requires reimagining the food system towards the goal of balancing growth and sustainability, mitigating climate change, ensuring healthy, safe, quality, and affordable food, maintaining biodiversity, improving resilience, and offering an attractive income and work environment to smallholders and youth. Achieving the goal of "Advancing equitable livelihood" requires that the food systems transformation is anchored around small- and medium-scale production, family farmers, indigenous peoples, women, and workers in food value chains.

Bishow Parajuli is United Nations World Food Programme India Representative and Country Director. Ramesh Chand is Member, NITI Aayog and India's Convenor of the National Dialogue on Food Systems

# A 'Maharaja' price to pay for an aviation homecoming +

The Tatas could face turbulence in the event of the business conglomerate emerging successful in the bid for Air India



A. RANGANATHAN

ver the last few days, there has been much speculation over who will win the privatisation bid for Air India. Under the plan, the Government of India is to sell its 100% stake each, in Air India and Air India Express, and a 50% shareholding in the joint venture, AI-SATS (between Air India and Singapore Airport Terminal Services). Though the Government of India has clarified that "media reports indicating approval of financial bids by the Government... are incorrect", there are signs that the winning bid will be that of the Tatas.

It could be a difficult merger When the Tatas, with their joint venture with Singapore Airlines, launched an airline in 2015 under the brand name Vistara, it marked the culmination of a long battle, overcoming obstacles placed in their path by all other airlines including Air India. While the group has still to wade out of the red in this aviation venture, they have now been cornered to take over Air India and Air India Express, in spite of the anti-national barb being bandied about.

The other venture of the Tatas. Air Asia India, is also weighing them down. We have witnessed how Air India and Indian Airlines, which were in the black before their ill-conceived formal merger in 2007, plunged into a bottomless pit draining tax-payers' funds. In the eventuality of the Tatas winning the Air India bid, merging the

four airlines (Air India, Air India Express, Vistara and Air Asia India) will require large doses of the magic potion of Getafix of Asterix

Many speed bumps

Vistara has just begun spreading its wings on long haul routes and also set service standards in general, with a Singapore touch. Under a Tata-owned Air India, will it concede that path to Air India or will there be a duplication of routes? Can people forget the multiple duplication of routes, offices, staff, etc. on international routes of the merged entity? If, as rumoured, staff are to be retained for a period of a year or so, with certain categories who cannot be given the golden handshake, being rehabilitated in other Tata ventures, it is going to demotivate existing efficient staff.

Why did the Air India-Indian Airlines merger fail? The umbilical cord that each of these airlines had with Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan (the headquarters of the Ministry of Civil Aviation) was never cut. The kickback culture, with inflated costs, ensured that the venture only sank deeper into debt. What the Tatas would be getting now is a hydra-headed monster – the Air India-Indian Airlines entity and Air India Express . All of them work on the Peter Principle, with multiple types of aircraft. If one digs deep, the aircraft lease charges will be found to be several notches higher than what a professional outfit

would have negotiated. Vistara, a very professionally managed organisation, is now going to be buffeted by indisciplined, inefficient and corrupt personnel and the shockwaves are, without doubt, going to hurt. Have the Tatas foreseen the damage it can cause to their culture? Will the Ta-



tas run the multi-airline system independent of interference by the Ministry of Civil Aviation? Only time will tell.

The Tatas may have the finances to bear the brunt of a forced buy. But do they have the means to bring in a safety and training culture of the highest standards that J.R.D. Tata, Air India's founder, envisaged? Air India's training standards are known to be entwined in fudged records, and on substandard simulators that lack mandatory equipment for want of spares. Trainers have been promoted not for their professional standards or competence but for their proximity to the powers-that-be. Documents have been fudged to show safety compliance, with the authority, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), turning a blind eye. Dangerous waivers and dispensations have been granted by the DGCA as they all come under a single umbrella, the Ministry

of Civil Aviation! At a time when the aviation scene worldwide is in the doldrums, the Tatas would need to fork out an estimated ₹24,000 crore for just the airline business and the share in the SATS venture. A ₹40,000 crore-plus or more of Air India's debt goes into a special purpose vehicle that will monetise Air India's assets such as property and land banks. Air India's training centres are also located in those land banks. So, does the deal include these, or are these hidden costs as someone else may bid higher for those and the Tatas may training centres that the current Vistara and Air India group use will be grossly inadequate for use by the new combine.

Staff issues, lax safety culture One of the major problems that Air India has is its Delhi-centric operations and staff approach. For the Tatas to bring in efficiency, many staff would need to be relocated to various parts of the country for optimum use of manpower. In this, the Tatas could face huge resistance, backed by the political clout of the deadwood in Air India. The manpower absorption issue is going to hurt the new venture in a big way. If Vistara is to be merged with Air India, the dilution in standards is going to hurt the Tatas and result in a huge motivation problem for those who helped build

Vistara and Air Asia India Another major issue is the safety culture. Except for an incident in 2019 – a case of low fuel and an emergency landing in Lucknow (the report was covered up by the DGCA), Vistara has generally had a clean record. What the Tatas could be getting now is an 'airline combo' with abysmal safety standards and culture. Air India Express can be called an 'accident/incident-a month-prone' entity. Its failures have resulted in nearly 180 lives being lost. In addition there are cases of several close shaves at various airports and severe damage to aircraft on record. Air India too has had its share of accidents and serious incidents, fostered by the low safety culture of the DGCA. All this is going to fall into the lap of the Tatas. In the event of Tatas

winning the bid, any such safety

incident will be referred to as a Tata airline accident/incident. Do the Tatas want such a tag? They end up forking out a huge sum for need to crack the whip and correct the use of these banks of land? The this aberration and culture, which is not going to be popular in Delhi.

Maintenance is another major issue with Air India. The culture of hidden snags and verbal reporting has to end. A mindset has to emerge that every passenger life is precious and a flight cannot be cleared unless an aircraft is 100% safe. This is going to be the most difficult task for the Tatas.

#### The flight path

Finally, Air India and Vistara will be the only two full service carriers in India and need to focus on yield rather than load factor. They need to take lessons on how British Airways handled the invasion of the load factor mindset propagated by Laker Airways. They need to focus on service, safety and high training standards. They need to axe the non-performers in Air India. They must desist from filling up the airline board with cadre from the Indian Administrative Service as they have proved to be the most disastrous minds for aviation in India. The collapse of so many airlines in India and the huge debt Air India is saddled with is a living example of this.

The novel coronavirus pandemic has hit several airlines worldwide. Many have been downsized. And Tatas could be acquiring a white elephant! It could be 2025 when aviation regains its glory after COVID-19. Are the Tatas prepared for the long wait?

Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan is a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser, with over 20,000 hours of flying. He is also a former member of the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC)

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.

#### The Mahatma

I often wonder what the response of the Mahatma would have been to our many problems: farmers' suicides, unplanned growth of our cities, widespread corruption. and even the failure to deal with mass poverty. Gandhiji would

have certainly highlighted the unending pursuit of material comforts as a basic cause. He would have certainly used his moral force to implement reforms. He would have persuaded both the Central and State governments to revamp government

administration. He would have also been the first to put into practice what he was preaching. NARENDRA M. APTE,

■ It is unfortunate that the legacy of the Mahatma service to humanity and

non-violence – is fast vanishing in today's politics and society. His picture is framed on the walls of every government office and in cabins, but his ethical values are missing. Narcissistic political parties have forgotten how he maintained democracy even within a

At the border China's deployment of its troops in large numbers

large party such as the

Congress. The bureaucracy

has still to propagate his

desire of equality for all.

CHIRAG DAHIYA,

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

across Eastern Ladakh is disheartening, Any confrontation at this time is bound to worsen India-China ties. Good sense must prevail to avert a confrontation. M. RISHIDEV,

THE HINDU DELHI MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021

# Understanding the Taliban for what it is

While it is undeniable that the Taliban subscribe to an ideology, they are also playing cynical politics



A realistic assessment of the circumstances in which it has to operate should have induced the Taliban regime in Afghanistan to follow a moderate course. Instead, it has sent out unmistakable signs of a preference for extremism. A peculiar state of mind is almost certainly in play, but to ascribe the dissonance solely to this factor would be a mistake.

#### The Taliban's obduracy

Afghanistan desperately needs financial assistance from the international community. This is not only because of the looming food crisis, which could push lakhs of people to the brink of starvation within weeks. Donors will probably provide food aid in time. But the government has no money to pay salaries or get the machinery moving.

Before the U.S. shut shop in mid-August, it is estimated to have taken care of 80% of public expenditure in Afghanistan. Several billion dollars worth of Afghan government funds have now been frozen by the U.S. Federal Reserve. Other donor countries and the International Monetary Fund have also cut off the flow of finance. Russia, Iran and the Central Asian republics cannot pick up the slack; China believes in loans, not grants; and Pakistan is a near basket case. The only source of revenue that the authorities in Kabul can hope to tap is customs payments and a good part of those could be siphoned off by the militias that control border

Western countries are not likely to recognise the Taliban regime as the legitimate government – a necessary condition for the loosening of purse strings – unless it fulfils three conditions: Kabul will have to ensure that terrorist groups do not find sanctuary in Afghanistan; the rights of women and minorities must be protected; and the government must be inclusive. But judging by the first steps they took after taking over, the Taliban seem untroubled by these



demonstration outside a school in Kabul on September 30, 2021. • AFP

non-compliance. In forming a cabinet, the Taliban defiantly signalled that they were inclined to lead their country back to the despotism they had imposed during their earlier stint in power. Hardline Pakhtoons control most ministries, other ethnicities have only token representation, and women have been excluded. Indications about how this lot would rule soon followed. The Education Ministry ordered male teachers and students back to secondary school but made no mention of women educators or girl students. Working women were told they must stay at home until proper systems are in place to ensure their safety. There is no longer a Women's Ministry; the Taliban have brought back the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice. They have banned protests that do not have their approval.

Minor concessions on the demand for inclusiveness of non-Pakhtoons are not likely to satisfy the world or the other ethnic groups in Afghanistan. Ministry formation has added another hindrance to the flow of funds. Many in the cabinet figure in the UN's sanctions list and the U.S.'s terrorism list. The U.S. may even impose sanctions on other countries who provide aid to this Cabinet.

Given these apparently insurmountable hurdles, why have the Taliban displayed such obduracy? A sensible course would have been to show compliance, obtain recognition in order to establish diplomatic ties and get the funds flowing. Revivdemands or the consequences of al of the hardline could have been

postponed until the regime's position as a legitimate entity had been secured. Other governments would have found the rupturing of ties more difficult than withholding recognition from the outset.

#### A hotchpotch of militias

The general belief is that the Taliban are fanatically devoted to a pre-modern world view. This narrative is designed to embed in the world's consciousness the idea that the young Talibs form the core of this enterprise and are such strong believers in whatever they have been taught that they will turn against their political leaders if there is any deviation from the world view and policies they espouse. The story goes that any compromise by the elders or nominal superiors will drive these young Talibs to join the Islamic State-Khorasan Province (IS-KP).

It is time to call this bluff. Young Talibs, whether drawn from the villages or the refugee camps, are probably all true Muslims and most might have some respect for their mullahs. But they are not as unexposed to the world as the generation preceding them. According to reports, they have had no inhibitions in posing for photographs or listening to music, activities frowned upon by the strictly conservative. The earlier generation of Talibs might have respected Osama bin Laden for sacrificing a life of luxury to join the jihad. But that did not motivate them to join al Qaeda even though bin Laden made an oath of allegiance to their revered leader, Mullah Omar. After all, there

were no Afghans among the 19 militants associated with 9/11. If that was the case in the heyday of jihadism, there seems to be little reason to think that these young men will now drift towards the IS-KP. Are the extremists who have cornered the plum posts in the cabinet likely to make common cause with the IS-KP if they are thwarted from implementing their policies? They do subscribe to an ideology that is a mix of Pakhtoonwali (the old tribal code) and a paternalistic interpretation of the Shariah. Devotion to the cause did not prevent them from diverting aid meant for refugees to investments in the Gulf and luxury housing in Quetta. They are certainly conservative and ruthless. But their proclamation of intent to establish a system based on their own interpretation of selected Islamic texts appears nothing more than cynical politics.

Overall, the impression sought to be created is that the Taliban movement is an extremist-controlled monolith and unstoppable. Actually, the Taliban are a hotchpotch of militias, which are constantly repositioning themselves in relation to one another. Designations such as Defence Minister have little meaning when the army no longer exists, and Mullah Yaqoob has full control only over the men raised from his locality. Other militias co-opted to serve with his men could drift away over time. Sirajuddin Haqqani, who has gained possession of the intelligence dossiers in his Interior Ministry, and who has the power to appoint governors, might be the only real winner here. Resistance to his appointment might have been a factor that led Inter-Services Intelligence chief Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed to intervene directly in Afghan's ministry formation. Haqqani's ascendancy certainly advances Pakistan's agenda. But the road ahead is fraught in Afghanistan where fault lines run every which way. Pakistan knows that it faces a tough task inside the territory of its western neighbour. Meanwhile, it seems intent on garnering what benefits it can. In prompting its protégés to be intransigent, Pakistan can present itself before the world as the only entity capable of controlling the crazies.

Kesaya Menon is a senior journalist whose other articles can be read on

# NS2, a win-win proposition?

A consensus on the Nord Stream 2 could benefit Germany, Russia and Ukraine, but many hurdles remain



KRISHNAN SRINIVASAN

While the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline, the Iran-India undersea pipeline, and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline remain pipe dreams, the Nord Stream 2 (NS2) running from Russia to Germany across the Baltic Sea is now complete despite controversy. NS2's manufacture began in 2016 and construction in 2018. The 1,224 km, \$11-billion underwater link is the shortest, most economical and environment-friendly route to double Russia's gas export to Germany. The pipeline offers stability to the strategically important energy trade because Russia's dependence on the European Union and vice-versa are increased and this should promote realism.

#### **Ukraine's concerns**

Energy is never removed from politics. Russian authorities say NS2 can transport 55 billion cubic meters of gas each year, cover the needs of about 26 million households, and restock storage inventories, but both Germany and Russia are subject to conditions arising from a compromise between the U.S. and Germany, and EU regulations.

European gas prices have broken records this year, edging close to an unprecedented \$1,000 per thousand cubic meters which places many industries and food supply chains under stress. This is due to lack of viable alternatives to gas, low storage levels because of a severe winter and the post-CO-VID-19 economic surge. Ukraine offered extra transit capacity for Russian gas to Europe at 15 million cubic meters per day for October but Russia booked only 4.3% of this, citing domestic demand. Some European politicians accuse Russia of pressure to expedite the start of NS2, but the project needs European certification, which could take up to four more months. Germany has yet to issue an operating licence, blandly stating that it would rule on this next January.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is accused, mainly by Poland and Ukraine, of weakening the EU's political unity and strategic coherence by giving Russia greater leverage through NS2. Ukraine's leadership is unhappy as it believes the pipeline is a Russian geopolitical weapon aimed at depriving Ukraine of political traction and crucial revenue. These concerns have been largely disregarded by the EU, which has refused to yield

to the demands of a third party. What Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has secured are assurances from the U.S. that it will impose more sanctions if Russia abuses the advantages of its new pipeline and Germany's undertakings to help Ukraine develop its energy sector and exert pressure on Moscow to keep its gas transiting through Ukraine even after the current contract ends in 2024. Russian President Vladimir Putin has made it clear that this is acceptable but would depend on purchase contracts from European customers.

Behind the argument of protecting Western interests against Russia, the Ukraine case is that if Russia cuts its transportation of gas through Ukraine, Kiev would lose billions of dollars in transit fees, and fears that Russia could reduce energy supplies by cutting those needed for Ukraine's own consumption. Ukraine has not diversified its economic fundamentals, whose viability is dependent on Russia moving fossil fuels through its territory. But the loss of cheap money gained through transit fees could in the long run benefit its economy.

The completion of NS2 suggests that no third party can affect the project's outcome. Any flagrant violation of the commercial rationale of NS2 by Russia would enable Ukraine to invoke the assurances it has been given; it is accordingly in Moscow's interest to proceed in a manner that avoids friction.

#### **Assistance to Ukraine**

To enable a consensus on NS2, Germany has promised assistance to Ukraine for development of hydrogen energy, but such commitments are less robust in their detail; Berlin seems to offer a modest €206 million as seed money to attract a potential corporate investment envisaged to be €1 billion. President Zelensky considers this proposal inadequate, and his Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has been forthright saying, "This country has learnt a number of bitter lessons that Western promises are possibly unfulfilled. We do not believe in promises."

Despite the lack of certitudes in Germany's financial promise, there is reason to take it seriously. The German elections could result in a coalition including the Greens, in which case the Greens might drop their opposition to NS2 in return for more substantial compensation for Ukraine. Since the hydrogen option is environmentally friendly, this presents scope for accommodating the requirements of German coalition politics and support for the Ukrainian budget and turning NS2 into a win-win proposition. It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good.

Krishnan Srinivasan is a former foreign secretary

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Moon Rover not for sale

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 4, 1971

The Lunar Roving Vehicle (LRV) left on the

moon by the Apollo-15 astronauts has not yet

been announced for sale, an official of the

National Aeronautics and Space Administra-

tion (NASA) informed a prospective buyer.

The \$8 millions (Rs. 6 crores) - Lunar Rover

"is still in the United States Government in-

ventory and has not yet been declared sur-

plus equipment," Apollo Spacecraft Manag-

er, Mr. James McDivitt, wrote to Mr. Don

Lloyd, a security man in the Boeing Compa-

ny, who had offered NASA \$100 (Rs. 750) for

the buggy in last August. The Boeing Compa-

ny had designed the Moon Rover. "My bid

was as where is," Mr. Lloyd said yesterday

adding "may be if the Russians get there, I

could sell it to them." Mr. Lloyd said alth-

ough his offer was made in fun, he would

have gone through with the deal if NASA

were willing. Mr. McDivitt replied that the

vehicle, even if sold, would be hard to phys-

ically acquire since it was still on the moon.

However, "you will certainly be contacted if

The Ma Frindu.

### Peace at the heart of education

Education can impart the skills and values needed to prevent potential conflicts

On October 2 every year, everyone gathers to celebrate the ideals of peace by marking the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi and the International Day of Non-Violence. The day presents an opportunity to explore the causes of violence and reassert a commitment to building a culture of dialogue through education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced new forces of division globally. Levels of hate speech and fear of the 'other' have grown, as people have assigned blame for the virus. Forms of structural violence - the economic, racial and gendered forms of injustice built into social systems - have been exacerbated as marginalised groups, including displaced persons and racialised groups, have been disproportionately affected. Around the world, the consequential surge in inequality is driving instability and tension, fuelling potential social unrest.

In order to rebuild in solidarity, we must understand the root causes of human animosity and make peace with one another. We must think about the structures, attitudes and skills that create and sustain peace.

In 'Pathways for peace', a flagship 2018 report by the World Bank and the United Nations, it was shown that many of the world's conflicts arise from exclusion and feelings of injustice. The question therefore is: how can ignorance and fear of the unknown be overcome through understanding and dialogue?

#### A policy to strengthen equity

For UNESCO, education is a significant part of the answer because it can impart the skills and values necessary to recognise and prevent potential conflicts and promote tolerance. As the educator Maria Montessori put it: "Preventing war is the work of politicians, establishing peace is the work of educationists".

Education for peace has a rich history in India. The philosophies of various religions, cultures and of Gandhi have non-violence, syncretism and tolerance at their core.

The National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020 also presents a unique opportunity to contribute to strengthening equity, justice and social cohesion. The policy has a broad focus on value-based and experiential education, including promoting critical thinking, cultural exchanges, teaching in regional languages, and a commitment to education for all.

This landmark document also advocates for reforms in curricula and pedagogy. As schools reopen, we believe that peace education can be even more integrated within national curricula and the broader learning environment to promote non-violence, conflict resolution and compassion. Equipping children from a young age with the skills to respect the dignity of others is key to building resilient and peaceful societies. Teachers and educators also need to be equipped with skills to promote peace through experiential and interactive methods. Intercultural competencies, like empathy and critical thinking, are best learned through intercultural exchanges and scenariobased learning and not rote learning.

#### A way forward

Global best practices, promoted through UNESCO, can offer a way forward. Our organisation's approaches to global citizenship, education and intercultural dialogue reinforce the idea that peaceful societies are those that embrace diversity and difference. UNESCO's work to promote media and information literacy and sports for peace equips youth with skills to eradicate harmful stereotypes and stand up against injustice.

Focusing on inclusion, UNESCO highlights the need to recognise and improve opportunities for disadvantaged groups, like women and girls and persons with disabilities. UNES-CO also promotes schools as safe and non-violent spaces

One year into the NEP 2020 and almost two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to assess priorities in education. Beyond discussions around innovation, technology and smart future schools, we need to understand the potential of education systems and schools in building peaceful societies. In times of crisis, education has the ability to provide hope and confidence.

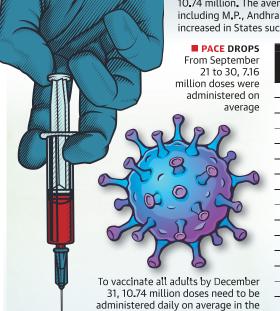
Eric Falt is the Director and Representative of the UNESCO New Delhi cluster office

#### DATA POINT

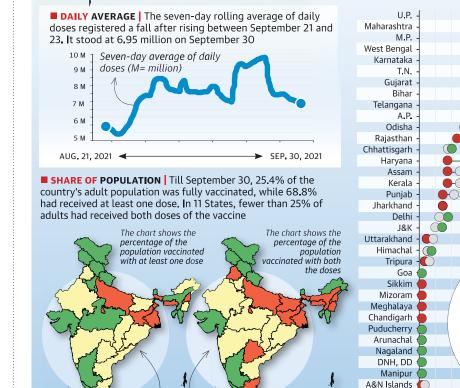
% WHO GOT ONE DOSE

60-80%

Vaccination pace drops | The average During the 10-day period, 7.16 million doses were administered on average daily in India compared to the 8.8 million doses administered daily between September 11 and 20. The daily rate of doses required to innoculate all adults by 2021 increased to 10.74 million. The average daily doses administered decreased in several major States, including M.P., Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Bihar, However, they increased in States such as Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. By The Hindu Data Team **■ PACE DROPS** Phases From September 21 to 30, 7.16 million doses were



	,	Dec. 31 (mn)
Phase 4 pace (May 1 - May 10)	1.8	590.9
Phase 4 pace (May 11- May 20)	1.9	625.1
Phase 4 pace (May 21- May 30)	2.1	672.7
Phase 4 pace (June 1 - June 10)	3	861.9
Phase 4 pace (June 11 - June 20)	3.4	942.1
Phase 5 pace (June 21 - June 30)	5.6	1,365.8
Phase 5 pace (July 1 - July 10)	4	1,081.3
Phase 5 pace (July 11 - July 20)	3.9	1,065.6
Phase 5 pace (July 21 - July 31)	5	1,237.2
Phase 5 pace (Aug 1 - Aug 10)	4.9	1,118.2
Phase 5 pace (Aug 11 - Aug 20)	5.7	1,139.9
Phase 5 pace (Aug 21 - Aug 31)	6.2	1,419.2
Phase 5 pace (Sep 1 - Sep 10)	7.6	1,589.4
Phase 5 pace (Sep 11 - Sep 20)	8.8	1,724.9
Phase 5 pace (Sep 21 - Sep 30)	7.16	1,556.08
Target pace (Oct 1 - Dec 31)	10.74	1889.41



% WHO GOT BOTH DOSES

# The chart shows the avg. daily doses administered between September 11 and 20 (P1 O) and September 21 and 30 (P2) in all States/UTs. An increase in the average daily doses in P2 compared to P1 is indicated by (●) and

**STATE OF PLAY** 

a decrease in

shown by

0.6 Avg. doses in millon

Ladakh

Lakshadweep

it is ever for sale to an individual," he wrote. A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 4, 1921

#### Picketting at Chittagong

Calcutta, October 2: In persuance of the resolution adopted by the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee picketting has commenced in muffasil districts, specially in Eastern Bengal. At Chittagong the wife of Mr. J.M. Sen Gupta, a European lady, dressed in khadar cloth with a large number of Congress voluntters has been going about markets requesting shopkeepers and customers not to touch foreign cloth. Last evening she was served with the following order issued by Mr. F.W. Strong, District Magistrate of Chittagong: "Whereas it has been brought to my notice by a police report dated the 1st October 1921 that you Mrs. Sen Gupta, wife of Mr. J.M. Sen Gupta of Rahamatgunj Police Station Kotwali, District Chittagong have in company with other non-co-operators been obstructing public in the town of Chittagong from selling, purchasing or wearing foreign cloths and have further more been obstructing traffic by collecting crowds in streets in pursuance of the above objects and whereas such conduct on your part is likely to cause obstruction... or injury to persons lawfully employed and so cause a disturbance of public tranquility and whereas speedy remedy is in my opinion necessary. I hereby direct you under Section 144 Cr. P.C. to abstain from all such acts as above described for a space of two months from the date of this."

#### FROM PAGE ONE

### Four farmers killed in U.P. as car runs amok

Mr. Mishra alleged that antisocial elements from Nanpara village threw rocks at a vehicle going to receive Mr. Maurya, the chief guest at a function in the Minister's ancestral village

"Stones came flying at the vehicle when it was on the way to receive the chief guest, the driver lost balance... and some could have died in that accident. My driver and three BIP workers who were in the vehicle were chased and attacked with rocks, sticks and swords... they were lynched," Mr. Mishra said.

The unions, however, denied there was any stone throwing by the farmers. Mr. Mishra said it was a lie.

Denying the Minister's allegations, Jai Kisan Andolan founder Yogendra Yadav said, "There was no provocation whatsoever by the farmers. There was no stone throwing. This is completely

The SKM said around 10 farmers, including SKM leader Tajinder Singh Virk, were seriously injured in the incident.

In a virtual press conference in the evening, the SKM outlined three immediate demands. "One, Ajay Kumar Mishra should be immediately removed from the Council of Ministers. Two, an FIR under Section 302 should be registered immediately against his son and the other goons he brought with him. Three, the case should be investigated by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court," said Krantikari Kisan Union leader Darshan

The SKM has also called on farmers across the country to protest peacefully in front of district magistrates offices between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. tomorrow.

(With inputs from Priscilla Jebaraj and Anuj Kumar

### 'No info on 2018 plan to collect OBC data'

The RGI, which works under the administrative control of the MHA, conducts the decennial Census exer-

In response to the RTI application on the deliberations that took place in the RGI's office before the announcement in 2018 to collect data on OBCs, the office replied: "The information sought in the RTI application is not available with the undersigned."

The reply added: "It may be informed that the Office of the RGI in MHA is conducting decennial population Census since 1951 in which it collects and pu-

cio-demographic profiles of the people of India including those of the notified Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) of all States and Union Territories. The data on the castes/ communities/OBCs, other than the notified SCs and STs are not collected in Census." It said the last Census was conducted in 2011. The Centre filed an affida-

blishes data on various so-

vit in the Supreme Court on September 23 where it ruled out conducting a Socio-Economic Caste Census, stating that caste census was unfeasible, "administratively

### Eight persons held after drug raid on cruise ship

Agency sources said a fort-night ago they got a tip-off detained," said NCB chief about a party to be organised by a private litestyle and fashion channel on the cruise to which many VIPs were invited. Following this, 22 NCB officials boarded the ship as guests. Over 1,800 guests were believed to be on board the ship and the NCB officials are also likely to call the organiser of the party for questioning, the sources said.

"The whole case will have different layers and this is just the first layer. In coming

#### **CEO clarifies**

Meanwhile, Jurgen Bailom, CEO and president, Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt. Ltd., said, "I wish to express that Cordelia Cruises is in no way, directly or indirectly, connected to this incident. Cordelia Cruises had chartered its ship for a private event to a Delhi-based event management company.."

(With inputs from Raina Assainar)

### Gaming disorder on the rise during pandemic

NIMHANS' Dr. Sharma and fellow researchers published a case study in the Industrial Psychiatry Journal last year, illustrating the "pathways of migration from gaming to gambling". "Individuals who played more social casino games (online games where you do not either bet or win or lose real money) and won occasionally, usually developed

a craving and urge for bet-

ting real money," said the

Psychiatrists recommend that as a bare minimum, statutory warnings and mandatory breaks should be enforced to prevent binge gaming. Media literacy in schools and digital fasting among families are also important steps, Dr. Sharma

(\*Name changed to protect privacy)

### Bodies of four climbers reach Joshimath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA GOPESHWAR/UTTARKASHI

The bodies of four Navy mountaineers, who went missing after getting caught in an avalanche near the summit of Mount Trishul in Uttarakhand, were brought to Joshimath from Chamoli district on Sunday.

Officials said the mortal native places post-mortem.

The bodies of Lt. Cdr. Raj-

Tiwari, Lt. Cdr. Anant Kukreti and MCPO Hariom have been kept at the Army camp in Joshimath, the Army said.

One of the mountaineers and the porter are still missing. A search is under way to find them.

According to the officials, search and rescue operations could not be carried out on Friday due to bad weather. The four bodies were spotted by the rescue team on Saturday and retrieved on Sunday.

# DRI pursuing leads on heroin seizure

Agency investigating identities of masterminds behind international drug trafficking syndicate

DEVESH K. PANDEY NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) is pursuing further leads in connection with the seizure of 3,000 kg of heroin at the port at Mundra in Gujarat last month to determine the identities of the masterminds behind the international drug trafficking syndicate.

Ten of the accused, including six Afghan nationals and an Uzbek woman, have been arrested by the agency so far in the case. Two of the Afghan nationals were picked up from Shimla a few days ago.

Investigations have so far indicated that the contraband was packed in Afghanistan and sent through a Kandahar-based



Under the scanner: Containers stacked at the Mundra port, where 3,000 kg of heroin was seized recently. • REUTERS

named Hassan Hussain Ltd. The consignment was declared as talc stones to be exported to Aashi Trading

Company in Vijayawada, via the Bandar Abbas port, in

"Usually, such consign-

er transportation. The agency has questioned the accused persons to identify the ultimate intended recipients of the drugs.

said.

'There has been a spurt in the use of maritime routes by syndicates, mostly involving Pakistan-based elements, for

ments are transported from

Afghanistan to the Bandar

Abbas port by land route. In

this case, we are trying to

gather information on the

exact route taken, and the

modus operandi used, to

smuggle the contraband. At

the port, conduits are roped

in by the drug traffickers to

get necessary documents for

cargo shipping," an official

It is suspected that the

consignment was meant to

be brought to Delhi for furth-

smuggling huge quantities of heroin in the region. Large seizures are being made by the drug law enforcement agencies in India and Sri Lanka," the official said. On September 10, the Sri

Lanka Navy had intercepted a foreign fishing vessel carrying over 170 kg of heroin in international waters. Nine Pakistani nationals aboard the boat were held. The operation was carried

out on the basis of information gathered following the seizure of about 290 kg of heroin on August 30, and then of 336 kg of heroin on September 4. Seven Pakistani nationals

were earlier arrested by the Sri Lankan agencies and a "mother" ship was im-

### Two held for cow slaughter in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Two men allegedly involved in cow slaughter were arrested after a brief encounter in north Delhi's Civil Lines area, the police said on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, a trap was laid near the Hindu Rao Hospital here on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, and both the accused were arrested, they said.

One of the accused, Mohammad Javed, 29, was involved in cow slaughter cases and had also attacked the police earlier, while his co-accused, Mohammad Shamim, 30, is a contractual employee in a government department, they said.

### NIA searches premises of cross-LoC traders

Probe into transfer of funds from Pak.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday carried out multiple searches on the residences of several traders associated with the cross-Line of Control (LoC) trade in Poonch district of the Pir Panjal valley.

A NIA spokesman said teams of the agency, with the assistance of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Central Reserve Police Force and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, searched nine locations.

"The searches were conducted on the premises of the suspected LoC traders in relation to a case filed in 2016," the spokesman said.

The NIA said it seized documents, digital devices and other incriminating materials. "Further investigation in the case continues," it said.

The case was registered on December 09, 2016 under Section 17 of the UA(P) Act, 1967 after the reports of misuse of the cross-LoC trade routes by militants and their supporters. "Investigation into the case has revealed that some of the traders having excess imports were channelising the surplus profit generated to terror organisations while others are suspected to have links or connections with proscribed terrorist organisations," the NIA spokesman

However, no arrests were made on Sunday.

The NIA says the current case is of large-scale transfer of funds from Pakistan to India through the import of California almonds and other items via the trade facilitation centres at Salamabad, Uri, in Baramulla and Chakkan-Da-Bag, in Poonch.

### Getting ready



Meticulous work: An artist giving finishing touches to Durga idols in Bhopal on Sunday for Navratri. • A.M. FARUQUI

### Probe on into J&K temple vandalism

The Jammu and Kashmir police have started a probe into an incident of desecration and vandalism of a temple in south Kashmir's Anantnag on October 2.

"A senior police officer is looking into the incident," an official told *The Hindu*. The police have lodged

an FIR into the act of vandalism under Section 295, 427 of the Indian Penal Code.

A picture of the Mata Bargah Shakha Temple, located near the sun temple at Martand in Anantnag, went viral online on October 2. It showed a portion of the temple damaged from inside by unknown miscreants.

The incident evoked protests from Kashmiri Pandits. Several migrant Pandits living in the Jagti Township of Jammu also protested against the incident and described it as "an act of cowardice".

Jammu and Kashmir's regional political parties have also condemned the incident.

"Pained and disturbed by reports of malicious damage and vandalism at the Mata temple in Mattan. Need of the hour is to reassure our Pandit brethren. Request SSP Anantnag & DC Anantnag to look into the matter immediately," Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti said in a tweet.

Conference National vice-president Omar Abdullah termed the act as

"unacceptable". "I strongly condemn this vandalism and urge the administration, especially the police, to identify the culprits so they can be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," Mr. Abdullah

# Rethink quarantine norms for British visitors, say exporters

It could hit handicraft industry as U.K. is the largest buyer

VIKAS DHOOT

Even as the 10-day quarantine norm for British nationals kicks in on Monday, a leading export promotion body has urged the government for a rethink as it could curtail the entry of U.K. buyers and hit new orders just when business is returning to some normalcy.

The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, signalling that the mandatory quarantine for visiting British nationals could hurt efforts to attain the government's record \$400 billion target for exports this year.

The U.K. is the largest export market for India's handicraft exports, which stood at ₹25,680 crore in 2020-21, recording a growth even in the COVID-19 pandemic hityear, as per EPCH data. This does not include handmade carpets, where India accounts for 40% of total world exports. Carpet exports in 2020-21 were almost \$1.5 billion.

"We would like to draw your attention towards the recent policy decision... being implemented in response to the similar measure being applied on Indian nationals arriving in Britain," EPCH Chairman R.K. Malhotra said in a communique to the PM, seeking a carve-out from the new norms for business visitors.

The decision could adversely impact the Council's biannual flagship programme to attract overseas buyers and secure new orders, the Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair, scheduled to take place from October 28 to 31, Mr. Malhotra indicated.

Over 1,500 overseas buyers are expected to at-

tend the first such physical exhibition since the pandemic's onset, which would also see orders being placed for the Christmas gifting sea-

"In order to achieve the Government of India's target of \$400 billion of merchandise exports this year, it is important that the physical activities for business exhibitions and buyer-seller meets are organised so as to encourage in-person visit to these events and business is transacted," the EPCH Chairman noted.

"Keeping in view the same, it is requested that the mandatory quarantine may kindly be exempted for British nationals who are travelling to India on a business visa specifically to source from Indian exhibitions," he concluded, pinning exporters' hopes on "a positive consideration".

# Telangana's borrowings nearly ₹21K cr. by Aug.-end

M. RAJEEV

The State government's borrowings are close to ₹21,000 crore in the first five months of the current financial year.

According to the monthly key indicators for August available with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, borrowings and liabilities of the State up to August reached ₹20,941.84 crore. This is ₹5,958 crore higher than the borrowings of ₹14,983 crore reported till

The borrowings are much higher than the figures projected in the tentative calendar released by the RBI for the first two quarters. The State indicated that it would raise open market borrowings of ₹14,000 crore -₹8,000 crore in the first quarter and another ₹6,000 crore in the second quarter.

The State raised around ₹12,000 crore between April and June and over ₹8,000 crore from July to September this

through State development loans and auction of securities. The government kept provision in the budget for raising ₹45,509 through borrowings during the current fiscal and the amount raised is in line with the projection made in the budget. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Minister K.T. Rama Rao have however, asserted that the debts obtained for spending on capital assets should not be seen as liability but as investment for the future.

Meanwhile, the State's revenues continued their impressive growth during the month with tax revenue pegged at ₹9,000 crore. The cumulative tax revenue till August was ₹37,591 crore against ₹28,591 crore of the previous month. Revenue through GST reached ₹12,461 crore against the ₹35,520 crore projected for the year and collection of sales tax was reported at ₹10,590 crore against the projected ₹26,500 crore.

# First-ever retreat ceremony at Suchetgarh

Now, the tourism potential of the location will be fully tapped, says Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha

PEERZADA ASHIQ

With the ceasefire between India and Pakistan holding for eight months, the first-ever retreat ceremony at the Octroi Post on the International Border (IB) in Jammu's Suchetgarh is a major push to promote border tourism in Iammu and Kashmir.

"Our great nation believes in peaceful coexistence. Our security forces are vigilantly protecting the territorial integrity of the nation and effectively countering the nefarious conspiracies of the neighbouring country," J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj



Celebrations galore: Children holding the Tricolour during the Retreat Ceremony at Octroi Post on Saturday. • PTI

Sinha said, while inaugurating the ceremony on

The function was attend- lines of Amritsar's Wagah

ed by hundreds of tourists and locals. "The ceremony on the

gacy and valour of the Border Security Force, India's first line of defence," Mr. Sinha said.

border reflects the great le-

**Tourism potential** 

He said that with the beginning of the retreat ceremony, the long-pending demand of the people of Suchetgarh had been fulfilled.

"Now, the tourism potential of Suchetgarh will be fully tapped, giving a fillip to the economic development of the area," said the Lt.

Governor. He said the Jammu and Kashmir government was

making untiring efforts for inclusive growth and development of the Union Territory and transforming the lives of the people. Meanwhile, Peoples De-

mocratic Party president

Mehbooba Mufti welcomed the decision to start the re-Suchetgarh. "Will certainly give a fillip

to tourism and hope it's taken further by using it as a trade and travel route between Suchetgarh and Sialkot. Such CBMs improve cross-border ties and benefit both sides economically too," Ms. Mufti said.

remains will be sent to their after a

nikant Yadav, Lt. Cdr. Yogesh

### BJP fields ex-Sena MLA for bypoll

STAFF REPORTER

Former Shiv Sena MLA Subhash Sabne will be the BJP candidate for the byelection to the Deglur-Biloli Assembly seat in Nanded

The byelection was necessitated by the death of sitting Congress MLA Raosaheb Antapurkar.

"I congratulate Subhash Sabne over the candidature. We are certain that people will vote for him and the BJP will repeat the Pandharpur-Mangalvedha byelection result where we defeated the Maha Vikas Aghadi candidate," Chandrakant Patil, Maharashtra State BJP chief, said.

Antapurkar had defeated Mr. Sabne in the 2019 Assembly election. "I have nothing against Uddhavji. But Ashok Chavan of the Congress is working like a dictator. He is sidelining Shiv Sena and NCP leaders in the constituency. He is trying to finish off the Sena in Nanded district and I cannot let this happen," Mr. Sabne said.

He claimed that the Sena had helped the Congress survive in the State.

# BJD retains Pipili Assembly seat in Odisha by over 20,000 votes

BJP comes second in byelection with 42% votes, Congress candidate loses deposit

SATYASUNDAR BARIK BHUBANESWAR

The ruling Biju Janata Dal candidate Rudra Pratap Maharathy won the Pipili byelection in Odisha on Sunday, defeating Ashrit Pattnayak of the BJP by 20,916 votes in a straight fight.

Mr. Maharathy polled 96,972 votes and Mr. Pattnayak 76,056 votes.

The byelection was necessitated by the death of BJD MLA Pradip Maharathy from COVID-19 in October 2020. The BJD fielded his son in the seat, which Pradip Maharathy had won seven times.

The BJD candidate secured 53.6% of the votes, leaving behind the BJP candidate at 42.04%. The constituency recorded the highest ever voter turnout of 78.24%.

Congress candidate Bishwokeshan Harichandan Mohapatra fared miserably by managing to poll just 4,261 (2.36%) votes and losing the deposit. None of the rest of the seven candidates got 1% of the votes polled.

The outcome will have no bearing on the BJD govern-



Victory lap: BJD workers celebrating in Bhubaneswar on Sunday. •PTI

ment as it enjoys a massive strength of 113 in the 147member Assembly.

The victory comes ahead of the crucial panchayat and civic body elections, which are likely to take place early next year.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who has been hailed as the key factor in the success, did not campaign for Mr. leaders of the BJD," Mr. Pat-Maharathy. On the other naik said. BJD workers began hand, senior BJP Minister celebrations even as the and Union Education Miniscounting was under way. ter Dharmendra Pradhan

Many Congress workers staged a demonstration in front of the party office here demanding the resignation of Pradesh Congress Committee president Niranjan

# RJD, Congress split over candidates for Bihar bypolls

Congress had staked claim to the Kusheshwar Asthan seat

AMARNATH TEWARY

With the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) announcing names of party candidates on Sunday for the two byelections in Bihar in the absence of leaders from the mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) allies, the rift between the Congress and the RJD came to the fore for the first time after the 2020 Assembly election. The Congress had earlier announced that it would contest from the seat of Kusheshwar Asthan, which had been assigned to it in 2020.

The bypolls are scheduled to be held on October 30.

RJD State president Jagda nand Singh on Sunday announced the names of longtime party workers Ganesh Bharti and Arun Kumar Shah for the Kusheswar Asthan and Tarapur seats respectively. However, no leader from the Congress or any other alliance partners of mahagathbandhan were present during Mr. Singh's announcement.

"I'm not aware whether our top party leadership was

Change of plan: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav addressing an event in Patna on Sunday. • PTI

consulted on the issue of candidates," said senior State Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Akhilesh Singh. State party spokesperson Asit Nath Tiwari told presspersons, "The RJD has announced names of its own party candidates but Congress party, I think, has not been consulted over the issue. Let's wait for some time and all will be clear".

RID leader and party spokespersons Mrityunjay Tiwari, however, said, "Top leadership of both the parties must have consulted each other and only after that names of two candidates have been announced

for the by-poll. These two candidates are from RJD but they have got the support of mahagathbandhan?

Recently, former Communist Party of India (CPI) leader from Bihar Kanhaiya Kumar joined the Congress and the buzz in political circles of the State has been that the move might have not gone down well with the mahagathbandhan allies.

Mr. Kumar had lost the 2019 Lok Sabha election from the Begusarai seat to the BJP's Giriraj Singh. State Congress leaders had said that with the entry of Mr. Kumar, the party would be "strengthened" in Bihar.

# Meghalaya Congress averts crisis for now

Sangma, Pala decide to work together

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

The Congress in Meghalaya appears to have averted a crisis ahead of the byelections to three Assembly seats.

Former Chief Minister and Congress Legislature Party leader Mukul M. Sangma and Lok Sabha member Vincent H. Pala had reportedly been avoiding each other since the latter was appointed the State party president a month ago.

Dr. Sangma's statement that the party leadership did not consult him on the appointment had triggered speculation of a rift within the Meghalaya Congress. The murmurs grew louder when he met Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in Kolkata less than a fortnight ago.

But on Saturday, the two leaders came together for the election meeting and decided to work together for the candidates to be nominated by the central leadership. The byelections to the Mawphlang, Mawryngkneng and Rajabala seats will be held on October 30. The central leadership on Sunday nam- ed Kennedy C. Khyriem, Highlander Kharmalki and Hashina Yasmin

for the three seats. "We are fielding the best candidates. People in the State have seen the performance of the government. Our base in each and every area is much better than that of the other parties," Mr. Pala said, adding that Dr. Sangma's strategic inputs would be of value to the party.

# Oppn. demands Mishra's resignation

Judicial probe should be conducted in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, they say

New DGP after consulting Sidhu: Channi

Panel set up to improve coordination between government and PCC, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Opposition parties across the political spectrum on Sunday slammed the ruling BJP and demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident at Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh where protesting farmers were allegedly crushed by a vehicle in which the son of the Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra Teni was travelling.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Punjab Chief Minister Cha-

ranjit Singh Channi on Sun-

day said a new Director-Gen-

eral of Police (DGP) would be

appointed soon in consulta-

tion with the Pradesh Con-

gress Committee (PCC) chief

Navjot Singh Sidhu and oth-

er Ministers.

The parties demanded the Mondal as the candidates resignation of Mr. Mishra even as several top leaders planned to visit the area on Monday for a ground assessment of the situation. Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Deepender Hooda reached Lucknow on Sunday evening. They are

scheduled to visit Lakhimpur Kheri. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi could also visit the area, while Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is expected to reach Lakhimpur Kheri on Monday.

held rallies for his party can-

pili for their huge support to

Mr. Maharathy. I also con-

gratulate all workers and

"I thank the people of Pi-

'Register murder case'

The Congress also demanded that the Uttar Pradesh administration register a case of murder against Mr. Mishra's son and all those who were responsible for the inci-

"Managed to have a short conversation with Tejinder Singh Virkji, who was grievously injured in the incident in which BJP people crushed protesting farmers. In view of the serious nature of his injuries, the Uttar Pradesh government should provide him the best possible treatment. And the Chief Minister should immediately resign," former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav tweeted. The Samajwadi Party said Mr. Yadav would also visit the area.

**Hate for farmers** 

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) announced that a local-level delegation would be there while a visit by Rashtriya Lok Dal's Jayant Chaudhary is also expected.

Those who remain silent even after seeing this inhuman massacre are already dead. But we will not let this sacrifice go in vain - 'Long live Kisan Satyagraha', Mr. Gandhi tweeted using the hashtag 'Farmers Protest'.

"How much does BJP hate the farmers of the country? Don't they have the right to live? If they raise their voice, they will be shot or crushed under a car. Enough. This is a country of farmers not the fiefdom of BJP's brutal ideology. Farmers agitation will be strengthened further and their voice will be louder," Ms. Vadra tweeted.

"The incident in which several farmers, who were protesting against the three farm laws, were crushed by a vehicle that belonged to the son of a Union Minister is unfortunate. This displays the dictatorial and cruel face of the BIP," BSP supremo Mayawati tweeted, adding, "The Supreme Court should take suo motu notice of the incident."

### Manipur CM rules out leadership change

He was summoned to Delhi recently

IBOYAIMA LAITHANGBAM IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has ruled out any change in leadership in the State ahead of the March 2022 Assembly election.

The BJP's central leadership had on October 1 summoned him, Minister T. Biswajit and State party president A. Sharda to New Delhi.

Mr. Singh told a local news channel that they were summoned for chalking out the election strategy.

The summoning had set tongues wagging as most of Manipur's tribal MLAs have been camping in Delhi. They are said to be unhappy that the Autonomous District Council Bill, 2021, recommended by the Hill Areas Committee - a statutory body – was not tabled during the monsoon session

of the Assembly. The All Tribal Students' Union, Manipur, had boycotted the 'Go to hills' programme that Mr. Singh had launched for the development of the hills on a par with the Imphal Valley. The tribes inhabit the hills while the valley is dominated by the non-tribals.

The Chief Minister said he was not surprised by the N. Biren Singh speculation about a change + in leadership. "People have been talking about a change

of guard during the fourand-a-half years of my tenure," he told the channel.

While Mr. Singh's supporters say the 'Go to hills' programme is pragmatic, some tribal groups have sniffed in it a ploy to usurp tribal land.

Several tribal organisations have also been miffed by the kidnapping and murder of Athuan Abonmei, a social activist who belonged to the Zeliangrong tribe, on September 22. The police have arrested two suspects in connection with the murder. Former Minister Okram Joy, demanding a probe by the National Investigation Agency into the case, had said the Chief Minister should step down for the sake of a transparent and speedy probe.

### Tej Pratap says Lalu being held captive in Delhi

His brother Tejashwi dismisses claim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

RJD president Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav has caused a flutter with the claim that his father was being held "captive" and prevented from returning to Bihar despite having been released from jail.

Mr. Tej Pratap made the comment on Saturday when he said the captors of his father, who is convalescing in Delhi since his release from Ranchi jail a few months ago, were "four or five people" he did not wish

The BJP latched on to Mr. Tej Pratap's utterances, insisting that he was hinting at Tejashwi, his younger brother and the heir apparent to Mr. Lalu Prasad.

Mr. Teiashwi, however, dismissed the contention with disdain on Sunday.

The RJD leader asserted that "to say Lalu is bandhak (in captivity) simply does not go with his personality. He is a man who has served as the Chief Minister of Bihar and the country's Railway Minister. He was the one who had got L.K. Advani arrested".



Charanjit Singh Channi

His comments came hours after Mr. Sidhu tweet-Mr. Sidhu sprang a surprise ed that DGP Iqbal Preet by resigning as the PCC chief to protest against these appointments. Speaking to reporters on

Singh Sahota and Advocate-General (AG) Amar Preet Singh Deol must be replaced as their appointments are the sidelines of a governlike "rubbing salt on the ment programme to anwounds of the victims of the nounce debt waiver for farm sacrilege issue". The tweet labourers and landless farmcomes just days after the ers, the Chief Minister said, Chief Minister reached out to as mandated by law, the him for a compromise after State government had alrea-

dy forwarded the names of all senior police officers with 30 years of experience to the Centre. It was awaiting the Centre's clearance to a panel of three names from which the new DGP would be appointed, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office said. The name would be finalised after consultation with Mr. Sidhu, all the Minis-

ters and the MLAs, it added. Mr. Channi also told presspersons that a coordination committee had been constituted for better coordination between the government and the PCC.

Earlier, Mr. Sidhu tweeted that not replacing the DGP and the Advocate-General would leave the Congress with "no face". "Demand for

Justice in Sacrilege cases and for arrest of main culprits behind the drug trade brought our Govt in 2017 & Due to his failure, People removed the last CM. Now, AG/DG appointments rub salt on wounds of victims, they must be replaced or we will have No face.

In an attempt to placate him, the Channi government appointed R.S. Bains as Special Public Prosecutor to handle all the sacrilege-related cases. However, Mr. Sidhu, whose status as the PCC chief is still not clear as he has not formally withdrawn his resignation, seems to have hardened his stance a day after tweeting that he would stand by the Gandhis, "post or no post".

# Gandhinagar municipal elections held

More than 50% turnout registered; PM's 99-year-old mother casts vote

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

More than 50% voting was registered in the municipal elections in Gujarat's capital Gandhinagar on Sunday

The voting for the civic elections was held to elect 44 municipal councillors for 11 wards, each having four councillors, including two women members.

Provisional figures from the State Election Commission indicated a turnout of around 52%, with a total of 2.8 lakh registered

voters eligible to cast their votes. Heeraben, the 99-year-old mother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also cast vote along with her family. For the first time in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother casting her vote on Sunday. • VIJAY SONEJI

Gujarat, the civic body elections saw a tripartite contest with the entry of the Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP) in the fray. The fight has traditionally been between the BJP and the Congress.

Leaders of all the three parties expressed confidence in securing victory after the voting was com-During the day-long voting, a

few incidents of alleged irregularities in the voting process were reported, including one bogus voting incident, and one incident in which people were reportedly prevented from exercising their franchise. Voting was also held for the

Bhanvad, Okha and Thara municipalities, and by-elections for a few seats in the Ahmedabad and Junagadh municipal corporations.



मुहरबंद निविदाएं निम्नलिखित वस्तु(ओं)/सेवाओं की प्राप्ति के लिए पात्र और योग्य निविदाकर्ताओं से आमंत्रित किये जाते

ह : Sealed tenders are invited from eligible and qualified tenderers for the following Items :							
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना /Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)							
क्र.स./	माल/सेवाएँ का संक्षिप्त विवरण	निविदा सं	मात्रा	निविदाओं की प्राप्ति के लिए तारीख और बंद करने का समय/			
SI. No.	Brief Description of Goods / Services.	Tender no.	Quantity	Closing date and time for receipt of tenders			
1.	Maplitho with Hotmelt Adhesive 50 CM width	6000016817	1,20,000 Kgs	15-10-2021 At 10:45 AM (IST)			
')	Wood free white coated un-watermarked coated with PVA Adhesive paper in reel	6000016640 (Development Tender)	17000 Kgs.				
	Upgradation of Vinsak Variable Data Printing Machine Model: LVPI 330	6000016624	1 Job	05-11-2021 At 10:45 AM (IST)			
4	Maplitho with Hotmelt Adhesive 50 CM width	6000016697	4,50,000 Kgs.				
5.	Foil cutter for die punching machine	6000016791	85 Nos	09-11-2021			
6.	Offline VDP Ink – UV Black	6000016787	320 Ltr	At 10:45 AM (IST)			

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M (TO) & CPSO(For Chief General Manager)

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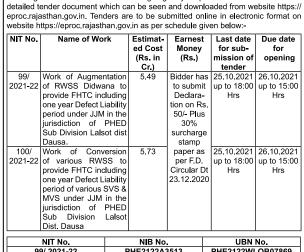
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/ respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, www.centralcoalfields.in) CIL e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure gov.in in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in."

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(e-NIT No. 99-100/2021-22) Online tenders are, hereby, invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan for the

following works from the bidder meeting eligibility as per criteria mentioned in the

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# Chinese transgressions are testing India, say officials

Need felt for better operational synergy between the Army and the ITBP

DINAKAR PERI

The transgression by Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers at Barahoti in Uttarakhand in August is part of a pattern of large-size patrols by China to assert their claim while also testing India across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), say Defence Ministry officials.

In this regard, there is a need for better operational synergy between the Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), to avoid any surprises as in Galwan, which is presently severely lacking, Army and Defence officials said. The Army is set to raise the issue with the government, it has been learnt.

Chinese transgression in the middle sector is not new but there is an increase in the number of PLA troops coming in. It is a pattern, two officials said. In the August incident, PLA troops came in from multiple locations within the Barahoti bowl, one of them said, adding that the last transgression in Barahoti was around the same time last year, but this time it was on a much higher scale. This area is one of the mutually agreed disputed areas on the

#### **Pre-emptive move**

Over 100 PLA troops, along with a large number of horses, came in about 4 km to 5 km inside the Barahoti ridgeline, across the Tun Jun La, which is the LAC in the area, and returned after a few hours, at least two officials confirmed. There are some makeshift wooden bridges constructed for Indian patrols to cross, they said. Against the backdrop of the development, the China Study Group met on Friday to discuss the development, it has been learnt.

"One of the reasons for the increased number of troops in the Chinese patrols is to prevent any surprise, or avoid being overwhelmed by



Pulling back: China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers and tanks during the military disengagement along the LAC at the India-China border in Ladakh. • FILE РНОТО

Indian troops in case there is a flare-up, as the Indian Army and the ITBP are located all along and close to the LAC. In contrast, the PLA's base from the LAC in the Barahoti area is 30 km on their side and they will take time to respond," another official

This is especially so after the violent clash at Galwan last year which saw the first combat fatalities on the LAC in decades, the official said, while also noting that India's infrastructure has vastly improved over the years.

The Army is co-located with the ITBP at Rimkhim about 8 km from the LAC, but the responsibility of policing and patrols is with the ITBP, the officials noted. In many other places along the LAC too, patrolling duty and tasking is with the ITBP while the Army has bases all along,

they said.

Though the Army and the ITBP are co-located in many places, various pre-functions like rehearsing and area domination are presently not there, one of the officials said, stating that this causes delays in reacting to any contingency. "At such places, there is need for a joint mechanism. These operational linkages should be there,"

Chinese transgression in the middle sector is not new but there is an increase in the number of PLA troops coming in. It is a pattern DEFENCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL

The issue of giving operational control of the ITBP to the Army has been a matter of contention between the Defence and Home Ministries for a long time. The ITBP was raised in the aftermath of the 1962 war with China. It primarily guards the 3,488 km-long LAC and is under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Stating that all operational requirements of the ITBP are decided by the Army, a Home Ministry official, however, said the force maintains an independent chain of command and reports to the MHA. "They (the ITBP) act as parallel eyes and ears on the LAC," the official said.

As per data given by the Defence Ministry in 2019, there were 326 transgressions along the LAC by the PLA in 2018, 426 transgres-

sions in 2017, and 273 transgressions in 2016. A third Defence official said the number of transgressions in 2019 was close to 600.

The majority of the transgressions in the last five years are in the western sector. while there is an increasing trend of transgressions in the eastern and middle sectors, the official noted.

#### **Equipment build-up**

As reported by The Hindu last week, the PLA has set up surveillance equipment and cameras opposite Kio Dhura pass in the middle sector. Yellow-coloured balloonshaped surveillance equipment is co-located with a windmill and solar panel at the site, according to intelligence inputs.

On Saturday, during a visit to forward areas in eastern Ladakh, Army Chief General Manoj Naravane stated that China had deployed troops all across eastern Ladakh and the northern front, right up to India's Eastern Command in the forward areas.

(with inputs from Vijaita

### Petrol, diesel prices raised vet again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Petrol and diesel prices were hiked again on Sunday to send rates soaring to new record highs across the country but top government officials insisted oil companies have not passed on the entire increase warranted from international oil and gas rising to three-year highs.

Petrol price for the third straight day hiked by 25 paise a litre and diesel by 30 paise, according to a price notification of stateowned fuel retailers.

This sent petrol price in Delhi to its highest ever level of ₹102.39 a litre and to ₹108.43 in Mumbai.

Diesel rates too touched a record high of ₹90.77 in Delhi and ₹98.48 in Mumbai.

Petroleum Secretary Tarun Kapoor said oil companies are taking their own decision on aligning retail rates with the cost but they are ensuring extreme volatility is avoided.

### Zydus wants ₹1,900 for its vaccine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

With talks under way between the Central government and Zydus Cadila over the pricing of the COVID-19 vaccine ZyCov-D, the pharma company is learnt to have proposed ₹1,900 for its three-dose jab that can be given to those above 12 years of age.

However, the government is negotiating for a reduction in price and a final decision on it is likely to be taken this week, sources in the know of the developments said.

The government had on Thursday said the indigenously developed, world's first DNA-based needlefree COVID-19 vaccine by Zydus Cadila will be introduced in the nationwide anti-coronavirus vaccination drive shortly.

"The company has proposed the price inclusive of taxes. Negotiations are on. The company has been asked to reconsider all the aspects regarding the cost of the vaccine. A final decision is likely to be taken this week," a source said.

Another source said the ZyCoV-D has to be differently priced from Covaxin and Covishield as, apart from being a three-dose vaccine, there is a needlefree jet injector used for administering the vaccine that costs ₹30,000.

That jet injector can be used for administering around 20,000 doses. The vaccine is to be given on days zero, 28 and 56.

# SC to hear plea on oxygen shortage

Petition seeks high-level inquiry into lack of oxygen during second COVID wave

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a high-level inquiry by a commission into the alleged nonsupply and non-availability of medical oxygen for CO-VID-19 patients during the second wave of the pandemic from March to May this

The petition, which is scheduled to be taken up for hearing on Monday by a Bench of justices D.Y. Chandrachud and B. V. Nagarathna, has alleged that nonavailability of medical oxygen during the second wave of the pandemic had resulted in the death of several patients.

The plea, filed by a Delhi resident, has also urged the top court to direct a courtmonitored inquiry by the CBI or any other investigating agency in the matter relating to non-availability of medical oxygen in the months of March to May this

It has sought a high-level

inquiry by a commission headed by a retired judge of the top court or a retired Chief Justice of any High Court in the matter.

**Identify negligence** It said that the inquiry would identify negligence on the part of officials, if any. The plea arrayed the

Centre and others, including

the National Disaster Man-

agement Authority and Health Departments of several States, as respondents. "This court through its various judgements has logically extended the interpretation of the right to life to include the right to health," the plea read.

'Therefore, it is the fundamental duty of the State to care for the health of the public at large," the petitioner

The plea said medical oxygen is an essential and critical life-saving drug and its shortage had resulted in several untimely deaths in the



Fresh lease of life: The Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre has been set up in a nearly 150-year-old bungalow following an elaborate restoration. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### British-era bungalow is home to Brahmaputra heritage centre \_

Vice-President calls for campaign to rejuvenate rivers

RAHUL KARMAKAR GUWAHATI

A British-era bungalow on a hillock that used to be the 17th century military office of the Ahom rulers has been converted into a heritage centre depicting life along the Brahmaputra.

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday inaugurated the Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre on Guwahati's Barphukanar Tila, meaning Barphukan's Hillock. A Scottishtype wooden bungalow standing since 1850 was renovated and converted into

the heritage centre. Barpukhan was a post equivalent to Governor General created by Ahom king Pratap Simha or Susengpha (1603-1641). The hillock by the Brahmaputra, mentioned in ancient scriptures

3

as Mandrachal, was from where Ahom General Lachit Barpukhan launched the Battle of Saraighat in March 1671 to inflict the most crushing defeat on the Mughals.

Saraighat is regarded as the "greatest naval battle ever fought in a river".

Captain Archibald Bogle, posted as the Assistant Commissioner and Collector of Kamrup district in the 1850s, had the bungalow built. Post-Independence, it continued to be the Deputy Commissioner's Bungalow until

**Significance of rivers** 

"Standing as a grand tribute to the majestic river and capturing its significance to the region, the Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre has been set up in a nearly 150year-old bungalow after an

elaborate restoration," Mr. Naidu said.

He called for a national campaign for rejuvenating Indian rivers and the inclusion of lessons on water conservation in the school curricula.

The centre has on display the history of the Battle of Saraighat, the heritage of Assamese war boats, an amphitheatre, an exhibition space, a cafeteria and two viewing decks.

The other attractions include a collection of traditional fishing equipment, photographs and artefacts related to the history of Guwahati and river transport, installations depicting the textile designs, ethnic motifs and indigenous musical instruments of communities inhabiting the banks of the Brahmaputra.

# Shringla visits Trincomalee oil tank farm

The gesture comes amid domestic trade unions seeking more control

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Sunday visited the Second World War-era oil storage facility in the strategically important port district of Trincomalee on Sri Lanka's east coast, which has been a key bilateral economic partnership link for decades.

The Trincomalee harbour, one of the deepest natural harbours in the world, was developed by the British during the War.

Since 2003, the Lanka IOC, the Sri Lankan subsidiary of India's oil major Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), has the leasing rights to 99 tanks at the facility for a period of 35 years for an annual payment of \$100,000.

According to the Indian



Strategic move: Harsh Vardhan Shringla at the Oil Tank Farms at Trincomalee in Sri Lanka on Sunday. ■PTI

High Commission, the LIOC briefed Mr. Shringla about the developments undertaken at the tank farm "and the possibilities for further strengthening India and Sri Lanka energy partnership to enhance Sri Lanka's energy security".

His visit to the site as-

sumes significance as oil sector trade unions in Sri Lanka have demanded that tanks be brought under the control of the state fuel entity Ceylon Petroleum Corpora-

As per the agreement, the IOC was also given a onethird share of the Sri Lankan

SCAN TO PLAY

government entity, Petroeum Storage Limited. However, the CPC trade unions had been pressing for

the takeover of the tanks.

**CPC's demands** 

Initially, the CPC wanted to develop 25 of the tanks by investing \$25-30 million.

The CPC maintains that it will allow them to strengthen their oil storage and distribution in the north and eastern provinces while allowing stock maintenance to suffice 2-3 months.

Mr. Shringla arrived in Sri Lanka on Saturday on a fourday visit during which he will meet the top leadership, including President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the Prime Minister, and review the bilateral ties between India and the island nation.

**SUDOKU** 

8

# THEROSSWORD+ 13368 Type your answers in our online grids: (a) https://argo.page.link/iinTn

14 Representative formulating apt policy to curb corruption (12)

Display keystrokes of genius.

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

18 Give elopers cabin at the back perhaps for staying the night (8,4)

21 Group gets a superb hotel in Southeast Asian city (5,4)

23 Love meat rolls with bit of aubergine in American city (5) 24 Revolutionary died in racial unrest (7)

25 Well-known female left men enthralled in love (7)

26 Fiend in cloak assassinating prince and King of England (6) 27 Mule transporting finest old heat-resistant material (8)

1 Steps up, pleading to bar plastic (6)

2 One providing protection in love affair involving queen (6)

**3** Terrible threat occupying revolting room in unsafe structure (5,4)

4 Be unsure in party after consuming cheap new drug earlier (4,3,3,4) **6** Gas from volcano, gradually rising (5)

7 Treat with care (8)

8 Shout to restrain couple extracting maiden's large bag (8) 9 What a bisexual might do to benefit from either outcome? (4,2,4,4)

15 Secreting this, perhaps more hope to enthral women ultimately (9) 16 Having constant pressure, I howl and bend over, start to introspect

17 Intimidated in alley outside base by head of Mafia (6,2)

19 Highly seasoned stew in retreat contains a bit of garlic (6) 20 Turning most nauseous after consuming dope and drink (6)



#### Solution to puzzle 13367 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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#### **FAITH**

### Bondage and moksha

The Lord's Supremacy or Swatantra is beyond all scrutiny and none can ask Him to explain why He punishes or graces a particular jivatma or why He grants moksha. As far as the jivatma is concerned, the cause of bondage is papa. But Vedanta Desika says that whatever stands in the way of moksha is papa and this includes both punya and papa karma, pointed out Asuri Sri Madhavachariar in a discourse. Both are after all binding chains. If papa is an iron chain, punya is a golden chain since the effects of both will have to be enjoyed. Either way, we will have to be born again and again. There never seems to be an end for this.

But there is hope for the jivatma in the Lord's promise in the Charama Sloka. One can even give up the upasanas that are difficult to follow and merely surrender to Him. He promises the jivatma who seeks His help in surrender to absolve him of all sins and thereby free him from eternal bondage. Only the Lord whose uniqueness is His Absolute Swatantra can make such a promise and also keep it up. Owing to His Supremacy, He is the sole granter of Moksha. Earlier He makes known to Arjuna His Omniscience, Sarvajnatva, when He tells him that He knows about all the countless births taken by the countless jivatmas while the jivatma is ignorant about these matters. He also speaks of the Jiva's need to be aware of the immortal nature of the soul and understand that the sarira is destructible. The jiva should also learn to differentiate between the chetana, the achetana and Ishwara Tatva. This knowledge will reveal many truths about our worldly existence. For instance, we will come to know that our priority should be moksha rather than worldly enjoyments. His swatantra or absolute independence is the cause for both bondage and moksha.

10 Fish in ceremony on a counter (7)

ACROSS 1 Defends corrupt dynasts pocketing billion (6,2) **5** Poetic boy and princess enthralled by half-moon (6)

**11** Spare naughty langur stealing bananas at centre (7) 12 Roar when Australian cricketer loses wicket for fifty (5)

13 Raunchy dance, extremely outrageous, causing furore (3,3,3)

22 Start to apprehend drunkard snorting cocaine in English town (5)

# 'Pandora Papers' expose top world leaders

Documents uncover offshore assets of heads of state, govt.; key members of Imran's inner circle named

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

More than a dozen heads of state and government, including the King of Jordan and the Czech Prime Minister, have hidden millions in offshore tax havens, according to an investigation published on Sunday by the ICIJ media consortium.

The so-called "Pandora Papers" investigation - involving some 600 journalists from media including The Washington Post, the BBC and The Guardian - is based on the leak of some 11.9 million documents from 14 financial services companies around the world.

Some 35 current and former leaders are featured in the documents analysed by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) - facing allegations ranging from corruption to money laundering and global tax avoidance.

Over 700 Pakistanis, including some Ministers and key members of Prime Minis-



"Pandora Papers" are based on the leak of 11.9 mn documents from 14 financial services companies. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

ter Imran Khan's inner circle, were among the individuals whose names were linked with the "Pandora Papers".

According to the documents, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin, Minister for Water Resources Moonis Elahi, Senator Faisal Vawda, the family of Minister for Industries and Production Khusro Bakhtiar, among others, had links with offshore compa-

nies, Geo News reported. Some retired army officials, businessmen - including Axact's CEO Shoaib Sheikh – and media company owners, have also been named in the leaks.

According to the report, leaked documents revealed that "key members" of Prime Minister Khan's inner circle, including Cabinet Ministers, their families and major financial backers "have secretly owned an array of companies and trusts holding millions of dollars of

dors and others. More than two-thirds of

The documents notably

expose how King Abdullah II

created a network of off-

shore companies and tax havens to amass a \$100 million

property empire from Mali-

bu, California to Washington

King Abdullah saying all the

properties were bought with

personal wealth, and that it

was common practice for

high profile individuals to

purchase properties via off-

shore companies for privacy

The documents also show

Czech Prime Minister Andrej

Babis - facing an election la-

ter this week - failed to de-

clare an offshore investment

company used to purchase a

chateau worth \$22 million in

In total, the ICIJ found

links between almost 1,000

companies in offshore ha-

vens and 336 high-level polit-

icians and public officials, in-

cluding country leaders,

Cabinet Ministers, Ambassa-

and security reasons.

the south of France.

The BBC cited lawyers for

and London.

the companies were set up in the British Virgin Islands.

In most countries, the ICIJ stresses, it is not illegal to have assets offshore or to use shell companies to do business across national borders.

But such revelations are no less of an embarrassment for leaders who may have campaigned publicly against corruption, or advocated austerity measures at home.

The "Pandora Papers" are the latest in a series of mass ICIJ leaks of financial documents that started with Lux-Leaks in 2014, and was followed by the Panama Papers, the Paradise Papers and FinCen.

The documents behind the latest investigation are drawn from financial services companies in countries, including the British Virgin Islands, Panama, Belize, Cyprus, the United Arab Emi-Singapore rates. Switzerland.

The Panama Papers were based on the data of a Panama-based law firm called

# Record air intrusion by China for second straight day: Taiwan

Around 39 aircraft entered the ADIZ in two waves

ANANTH KRISHNAN

A day after China sent a record 38 aircraft towards Taiwan, the Defence Ministry in Taiwan said Beijing had broken its record of air intrusions for a second straight

As many as 39 aircraft in two waves on Saturday entered the Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ), the Defence Ministry said in two statements on Sunday, marking an unprecedented stepping up of what Taiwan has called aerial aggression by Beijing.

Taiwan Premier Su Tsengchang hit out at China for the air deployments, saying they were facts of "military aggression" and "damaging regional peace".

The 39 aircraft on Saturday, mostly J-16s and Su-30s, followed 38 on Friday, also comprising J-16s, Su-30s, and two nuclear capable H-6

The air intrusions coincided with China's National Day, marked on Friday, and head of Taiwan's National Day on October 10.

The deployments were seen in Taipei as "a demonstration to Taiwan and United States of the PLA's joint combat capabilities and its ability to quickly assemble assets from different units", the official CNA news agency reported, quoting Chieh Chung, a research fellow at the Taiwan think tank Association of Strategic Foresight, as saying the four waves of incursions, over two days, had "occurred both at night and during the day, in a show of the PLA's capabilities to deploy mili-



**Show of force:** Two Chinese Su-30 jets taking off from an unspecified location for patrolling the South China Sea. •AP

tary assets to Taiwan at any Beijing has often used

these intrusions into the ADIZ as signalling, the latest coming on China's National Day. Another intrusion on September 23 coincided with Taiwan saying it had submitted an application to join the 11-nation CPTPP (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) trade deal, days after China said it had formally applied to join the Pacific pact. Beijing previously also dispatched fighters to coincide with visits of U.S. diplomats

to Taiwan. China's Foreign Ministry had not commented on the air intrusions at the time of writing. Last month, it strongly hit out at Taiwan's application to join the CPTPP. "There is only one China in the world," spokesperson Zhao Lijian said, "and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory."

The Communist Party run Global Times quoted military expert Song Zhongping as saying "the increasing scale of exercises is normal and routine since the PLA needs more deployment to deter armed forces on the island and foreign interference from other nations." The deployments, the newspaper said, were also related to "recent movements of US aircraft carriers" with both the USS Ronald Reagan and USS Carl Vinson sailing in waters near Taiwan recently.

**U.S.** raises concerns

Commenting on Saturday's record air intrusions, U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price said the U.S. "is very concerned by the People's Republic of China's provocative military activity near Taiwan, which is destabilising, risks miscalculations, and undermines regional peace and stability."

"We urge Beijing to cease its military, diplomatic, and economic pressure and coercion against Taiwan," he said, adding the U.S. had "an abiding interest in peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait" and would "continue to assist Taiwan in maintaining a sufficient self-defence capability".

# N. Korea threatens UN body after emergency meet

It slams UNSC for 'double standard' as it doesn't take issue with missile tests by the U.S., its allies

hidden wealth".

ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea has warned the **UN Security Council against** criticising the isolated country's missile programme, in a statement on Sunday that included unspecified threats against the international body.

During an emergency closed-door meeting of the top UN body on Friday, France circulated a proposed statement that expresses concern over North Korea's missile launches and calls on it to fully implement council resolutions that ban its ballistic missile firings.

On Sunday, Jo Chol Su, a senior North Korean Foreign Ministry official, warned the UNSC it "had better think what consequences it will bring in the future in case it tries to encroach upon the sovereignty" of North Korea.

Mr. Jo also accused the UN body of a "double-dealing

standard" because it doesn't equally take issue with similar weapons tests by the U.S. and its allies, according to the statement circulated by state media.

#### Six-month break

After a six-month hiatus, North Korea resumed missile tests in September, launching newly developed missiles, including nuclear-capable weapons that place South Korea and Japan within their striking distances.

The country still offered conditional talks with South Korea, in what some experts call an attempt to pressure Seoul to persuade Washington to relax crippling economic sanctions on it.

Under multiple UN Security Council resolutions, North Korea is banned from engaging in any ballistic missile activities as the country aims to mount nuclear weapons on its ballistic missiles.

North Korea has argued its nuclear programme is meant to cope with U.S. military threats, though Washington has said it has no hostile intent toward Pyongyang.

Despite its recent launches, North Korea maintains a 2018 self-imposed moratorium on a long-range missile directly threatening the American homeland, a sign that it still wants to keep alive chances for future diplomacy with the U.S.



**Duterte says daughter is** running for President

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte's daughter Sara Duterte-Carpio will run foi President in the 2022 election and his aide Christopher "Bong" Goto will be her running mate, ABS-CBN news reported on Saturday. President Duterte reportedly announced on Saturday that he was retiring from politics. REUTERS

#### Iran urges U.S. to unfreeze \$10 bn assets

Iran's Foreign Minister has called on the U.S. to unlock \$10 billion of Tehran's frozen assets to clear the way for a return to a nuclear deal with major powers. If the Americans have "true intentions, let them release some of our assets, for example \$10 billion frozen in foreign banks," Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said in an

# Five killed in Kabul mosque blast

The explosion took place after the Taliban regime staged a rally outside the capital

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At least five civilians were killed in a bomb blast outside a Kabul mosque Sunday, a Taliban official said. It was the deadliest attack in the Afghan capital since U.S. forces left at the end of August.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on Islamic State extremists who have stepped up attacks on the Taliban in recent weeks, particularly in an IS stronghold in eastern Afghanistan.

An apparent roadside bomb went off at the gate of the sprawling Id Gah Mosque in Kabul at a time when a memorial service was being held for the mother of chief Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. Five people were killed, said Qari Saeed Khosti, the spokesman of the Interior Ministry.

Three suspects were arrested after the explosion in Kabul, said Bilal Karimi, a Taliban spokesman. He said



A Taliban fighter outside the hospital where the victims of the blast were brought in Kabul on Sunday. • AFP

Taliban fighters were not

The area around the mosque was cordoned off by the Taliban, who maintained a heavy security presence. Later in the afternoon, the site was cleaned. The only signs of the blast was slight damage to the ornamental arch by the entrance gate.

The blast, which could be heard across the centre of the capital, came shortly after the new Taliban "interim government" staged a rally just outside the capital, from which they were driven out in 2001 in a U.S.-led operation launched after the 9/11

Sunday's pro-Taliban rally in Kohdaman township in the hilly outskirts of Kabul was attended by 1,500 men and boys.

"This is the day we waited for," said Khalil Haqqani, the new minister for refugees who in 2011 was labelled a terrorist by the U.S. with a \$5 million bounty on his head. He is a prominent leader of the Haqqani militant network founded by his brother Jalaluddin.

"We have achieved our goal, but it requires protection," he told the gathering, with his rifle leaning against the lectern. "My advice to the world is that they leave Afghanistan to Afghanistan."

IS militants have stepped up attacks against the Taliban since their mid-August takeover, signaling a widening conflict between them.

IS maintains a strong presence in the eastern province of Nangarhar, where it has claimed responsibility for several killings in the provincial capital of Jalalabad.

Attacks in Kabul have so far been rare, but in recent weeks IS has shown signs it is expanding its footprint beyond the east and closer toward the capital.

On Friday, Taliban fighters raided an IS hideout just north of Kabul in Parwan province. The raid came after an IS roadside bomb wounded four Taliban fight-

### French probe finds church paedophiles

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Some 3,000 paedophiles have operated inside the French Catholic Church since 1950, the head of an independent commission investigating the scandal told AFP days ahead of the release of its report.

The commission's research uncovered between 2,900 and 3,200 paedophile priests or other members of the church, said Jean-Marc Sauve, adding that it was "a minimum estimate". The report is due to be released on Tuesday after two and a half years of research based on church, court and police archives, as well as interviews with witnesses.

The commission was set up in 2018 by the Bishops' Conference of France (CEF).

The report is expected to be closely studied at the Vatican, where the issue was raised by the Pope in

Michaellyn Martinez, a

woman in her seventies with

closely cropped hair, said

she got pregnant at the age of

19, several years before the

landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade

case, when the Supreme

Court guaranteed the right

to an abortion up until a fe-

tus is viable outside the

having a daughter and get-

ting married only to divorce

two years later. "It changed

my whole life – not having

access to birth control and

abortion," she said. "I don't

want us to go back to the

time when I was a young

Ms. Martinez ended up

womb.



Seeking their due: Women voters at a polling station in Doha, Qatar, on Saturday. ■ REUTERS

### In Qatar polls, women fail to break through

Their hope now rests on Emir's quota

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Women voters voiced disappointment on Sunday after none were elected in Oatar's first legislative polls with all eyes on whether the Emir will use his powers to appoint 15 lawmakers to boost representation.

Thirty men were elected to Qatar's Shura Council at Saturday's polls despite more than two dozen women standing for the body which is seen as a nod to democracy rather than a fullfledged parliament.

"The (emir's) quota is the lifeline to ensure women's representation in the next Assembly," said defeated candidate Aisha Jassim al-Kuwari, who ran in a constituency alongside four other women against 14 male contenders.

"We hope to appoint four to five women because the presence of women is very important. Some of the female candidates were disappointed, of course, because they presented strong programmes – but we should not forget that some female voters chose men and this is the will of the people."

It is not known when the Emir's appointments will be announced or when the Council will meet.

"I'm not happy because all of them (winners) are men - some of them are old. To be honest, I was surprised. It's not fair," said voter Shamma who declined to give her full name. "We are really sad."

Dania Thafer, director of the Gulf International Forum, tweeted "I foresee a strong likelihood of women being appointed by the

Of the 284 hopefuls who went into the race for the 30 available council seats, just 28 were women although the final proportion after a number of eleventh-hour candidate withdrawals has not been published.

#### **Equal opportunities**

As well as counting no women amongst their number, the 30 victorious candidates were older men mostly from prominent families, many of whom had backgrounds in business or government.

"You lost the battle of victory, but you won the war of participation!" popular Qatari author Ebtesam al-Saad wrote on Twitter.

"We still hesitate to accept women... voters still feel that their communication with men is more free and flexible than their dealings with women."

If, as expected by many analysts, the Emir does directly appoint women to improve the gender balance it would follow what happened in Bahrain's election. Official sources had said this was a likely outcome in the event no women succeeded at the ballot box in Qatar.

The Gulf Center for Human Rights said that Qatar's election laws would "need to be fully amended" to give women candidates a chance at future polls.

A ND-NDE

### Police still clueless about Satnam's killers: family

Police say they will be nabbed soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The family of Sardar Satnam Singh has said that the police are still clueless about the assailants who managed to escape after killing the well-known Sikh 'hakeem' in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar.

Satnam Singh, 45, who practised Unani medicine, was at his clinic on Thursday when some unidentified gunmen barged into his cabin and opened fire, killing him on the spot, the police

The Islamic State's Afghanistan affiliate, dubbed Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K), claimed responsibility for his killing.

Manmohan Singh, brother of Satnam Singh, said that

the police have not yet found any clue to the killing of his brother.

"We have no enmity with anyone nor we had any issue with any person," he said. "We are five brothers and sisters and belong to the Teerah area of Khyber tribal district Khyber."

However, the Peshawar police have claimed that they are close to nabbing the killers. The case is being investigated in scientific lines to trace the culprits, a senior police official said. They will soon be in the jail," the official said.

On Saturday, an official said that the Interior Ministry has sought a report from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government into the killing of Singh.



Wearing pink hats and Tshirts and shouting "Hands off my body," tens of thousands of women took to the streets across the U.S. on Saturday in protests aimed at countering a conservative drive to restrict access to abortions.

In Washington, about 10,000 protesters rallied in a square near the White House under sunny skies before marching to the U.S. Supreme Court, which will have the final say on the contentious issue.

The protesters held signs that read "Mind your uterus" and "Make abortion legal," with several women - and men - dressed like late Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, America's



Thousands march for U.S. abortion rights

protesters taking part in the march in New York. • REUTERS

iconic women's rights crusader, who died last year. The perennial fight over

the procedure in America has become even more intense since a Texas law went into effect on September 1 banning almost all abortions, unleashing a fierce counterattack in the courts

Two days before the Su-

preme Court is due to reconvene, the rallies took place in

and Congress, but with few public demonstrations until

woman." more than 600 cities, according to organisers, who said that hundreds of thousands of people gathered

At the Supreme Court, the marchers were met by counter-protests. Riot police kept the two groups apart.

#### **ASK US**

N. SREE KANTH

Q. I am a State government employee earning ₹60,000 per month and haven't opted for any tax saving scheme (except those made compulsory by government such as NPS; am also not interested in other tax-saving schemes). My wife is also an employee of a State government PSU earning ₹80,000 a month.

She hasn't opted for tax-saving schemes either. We are interested in buying an independent house (within ₹80 lakhs). But the problem regards taking a home loan; my wife will not be getting HRA which will be ₹20,000 per month as we are living in rented house.

Is it better to take home loan only on my salary; and, by saving some money on my wife's income repay some amount yearly, or is it better to take home loan jointly? My wife can save tax by taking home loan but she will lose more by not getting HRA. Also, we are not really interested in insurance or mutual fund schemes. Kindly advise.

IMRAN AHMED S

**A.** By applying for a home loan as joint owner-cum-applicant, you can each claim a deduction up to ₹3.5 lakh from your total income. Up to ₹1.5 lakh by way of principal repayment and up to ₹2 lakh by way of interest repayment. HRA exemption cannot be claimed by your wife.

Q. I am having a Senior Citizens Savings Scheme deposit with the post office. Annual interest from the deposit is less than ₹50.000. So Form 15H need not be submitted. But post office staff insist on submitting the form; otherwise, the system will deduct tax, they say. Kindly advise on the matter.

A. TDS is not required to be deducted by banks, co-operative societies and post office if the interest payable to such senior citizens is less than ₹50,000 in one assessment year. Irrespective of submitting Form 15H or not, TDS deduction does not apply. You may raise a complaint with the respective authority in the Post Office regarding this issue.

Q. I worked in Saudi Arabia for 8 years and came back in November 2021 after resigning from the company. I was in Saudi Arabia continuously for 227 days in the financial year 2020-2021. I am have NRE and NRO accounts with a bank for transactions. I am hoping, if the situation becomes conducive I would get another job in the Gulf. I have some NRE fixed deposits.

My enquiry is: how long will the NRE status be available for me in 2021-22? How long can I keep the NRE account and the deposits as NRE deposits?

I wrote to my tax consultants who advised me to approach the bank. The bank has not given any proper reply.

[Should I have withdrawn] all the amount in NRE fixed deposit before this March ended? Will it get be taxed if I withdraw in 2021-22? If NRE status continues in 2021-22, I feel there should not be a problem. I request you to suggest what can be done.

NARVE NAGENDRABHAT JAGADEESHA

A. For the FY2020-21, you will be treated as a Non-Resident. Interest from NRE accounts/FD will be non-taxable in India as long as you are Non-Resident (NR) or Resident but Not Ordinarily a Resident (RNOR). For FY 2020-21, the interest from NRE account/FD will be non-taxable in India. Further, Interest from NRE account/FD will be non-taxable in India if you are a Resident in the successive financial years for up to 3

Q. I am a 53-year-old CISF employee. Is GPF (general provident fund) contribution up to ₹5 lakh per annum by employees of paramilitary force such as CISF and CRPF exempted from tax deduction? Please also suggest better alternative investment or savings options that inflation proof and tax-efficient.

SHREE KRISHNA

A. General Provident Fund contributions are allowed as deduction under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The limit of the deduction is subject to the limits prescribed in Section 80CCE of ₹1.5 lakh per annum. GPF deductions can be claimed by all government employees for whom GPF is being deducted by the employing government body/authority.

A resident individual has the following the popular options to invest in order to save tax under Section 80C up to ₹1,50,000 per annum and an additional ₹50,000 under Section 80CCD(1B) -

- 1. Life Insurance for self and dependents 2. Equity Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS)
- 3. Tax Saving Fixed Deposits
- 4. National Pension Scheme (80CCD(1B)) 5. Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs)
- 6. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana 7. National Savings Certificate

It is to be noted that each investment option aforementioned has various riders and restrictions in terms of applicability, minimum investment, lock-in period, treatment of maturity, treatment of accruals, among others, and must be carefully gone through while considering investing in any of

(N. Sree Kanth is a partner, GSS Associates,



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

# Shielding investments from INFLATION RISK

Investing sensibly, and regularly, is the best way to beat the impact of inflation



GAURAV MASHRUWALA

Sakina, a college-going teenager, had saved ₹15,000 from her pocket money and the gifts she had received for her birthday. She was keen on purchasing the latest mobile handset. However, her mother asked her to refrain from doing so and to open a fixed deposit instead. "After a year, the value of your fixed deposit will be about ₹16,000.

From that, you will be able to purchase the handset of your choice and also a branded shirt," her

mother

ad-

vised her. Sakina, too, agreed. After a year, she drew ₹16,000 from the FD, but the handset similar to the one she had wanted was now priced ₹17,250. Sakina was dejected. She had delayed her purchase assuming she would be able to get higher refrom turns

the

deposit. Many individuals who opt for an early volunretire-

fixed

bies, but if the expected time horizon to survive on interest is long, one should consult a professional before seeking

> ments yield returns that are less than the rate of inflation. Like Sakina, we end up receiving more than what we had initially invested, but the purchasing power of that amount, along with the returns it generates, is less than the rate of inflation. This is inflation risk.

to end a career.

#### Non-transparent risk

ment, struggle later. Their

thought process is that they

would be able to survive on

interest earned, and pursue

their hobbies. There is noth-

ing wrong in pursuing hob-

Oftentimes, our invest-

Inflation risk is not transparent. We cannot see or verify the impact of inflation on our investment. Just because we cannot see the impact, it does not mean that it doesn't exist. Also, inflation as a risk exists in the overall system.

Therefore, inflation is a 'systematic' risk. We have learnt about 'systematic', 'unsystematic risk' and 'transparent', 'non-transparent' risks in these columns.

Anything that exists in the system cannot be avoided. If we go out in the open during an extremely hot summer day, we are bound to get exposed to the sun's rays, pollution, heat, and the like.

Some of it may have harmful effects on our body and health. This also does not

mean we should not step out. That is also not a practical solution.

A sensible person will plan the day in a manner wherein exposure to heat and pollution is minimised. He or she may complete the work outdoors earlier in the day. Similarly, a part of the outing could be planned in the evening and work, unless urgent, could be deferred. Similarly,

If funds are needed for a particular financial goal in the near future, choose investment in debt. If your goals are a long time away, do not go for debt-based investments as you may lose out to inflation

we can spread our investments across various asset classes such as equity, gold and debt. While all of these will be impacted by inflation, the impact on inflation will be different on different forms of investment.

#### **Optimum way**

Focus on financial goals. If funds are needed for a particular financial goal which is likely to occur in the near future, choose investment in debt. Some of the examples of debt-based investments are fixed deposits, various

post office savings schemes and bonds and debentures.

Consult your financial advisor if the options confuse you. Debt mutual funds may also be an option that must be considered. However, if your financial goals are a long time away, do not go for debtbased investments as you

may lose out to inflation. Each one of us is different, hence there is no 'one size fits all' solution.

#### **Invest regularly**

Discipline and consistency is the key to success in all walks of life, including investment.

Consider options such as recurring deposits and systematic investment plans (SIPs). When we invest in recurring deposits or SIPs, we are investing a fixed amount regularly.

During the year, the rate of inflation keeps changing. Sometimes it is high and sometimes, low. By investing regularly, we are ensuring there is diversification across different time periods. Inflation is a 'systematic' risk. To reduce the impact of such risk, the best strategy is to diversify across time.

Avoiding investments all together due to the fear of risk is the biggest risk. Always invest and keep doing it regularly; but before investing, consider your financial goals and arrive at an optimum solution.

(The author is a financial planner and author of Yogic

#### COVER NOTE: HEALTH INSURANCE

# Rethink on group policies

Chances are that when the cover ends, you will be too old to get a policy

K. NITYA KALYANI

The last couple of decades changed our experience with banks. The dreaded bank visits went from queue drudgery, to staffers pursuing you to purchase investments. specifically, insurance.

Banks in India, which were going through an era of significant margin erosion for various reasons, found fee-based business, namely selling financial investments for a commission, an important revenue stream. Bancassurance tie-ups,

where banks acted as agents of insurance companies presented a win-win-win, if you will. Insurers found a single conduit to a mass market base; bankers discovered a lucrative activity without venturing out from their own customer base; and insureds and prospective insureds found themselves much sought after with insurance policies of various sizes and shapes. A bank can sell you an individual policy, or sign you up in a group policy.

Group policies are typically for health insurance. A bank signs you up for a group policy only if you are already an account holder.

This is a pre-requisite of the insurance regulations, that a group policy can be given only to a pre-existing group, account holders of a bank, credit card holders of an issuer, members of a club, students of an institution, employees of a company and so on, and not to a group formed for the ex-

Banks have offered such policies for quite some time now and they are attractive for many reasons.

press purpose of get-

ting insurance.

They are easy to buy, with the bank aiding you with all the paperwork. There are no options to agonise over, it's a one-size-fits-all cover, and this is fine when you are looking to buy a health policy. It's certainly better than going uncovered!

Buying, renewal and premium payment are all streamlined and there is an element of support when it comes to claims. The real icing on the cake is that you pay significantly less for the same coverage than you would if you bought an independent policy.

The disadvantages are that it's a set menu. You can pick and choose only to a limited extent, and you don't have riders, or wide options for increasing coverage. At a certain level, all processes other cover independently. When they do, sticker shock at the premium paralyses rates them inactivity. And sudden-

> ly, the cover comes to an end and mainsureds are too old to get health insurance easily on their own. I have come

across this story

repeatedly and so here goes my advice. Try not to get into such group policies and certainly don't rely on them as the

sole safety net. Even with health insurance from employers, it is prudent to start an independent cover at a reasonably young age so that you are not left high and dry when you

want to change jobs or retire.

This is only more so with

Last and least: Do not rely on

as the sole safety net. ■ GETTY

are handled very imperso-

nally, and these days, just by

current trend. Banks are

merging, they are regroup-

ing on their basic business

and certainly on their fee-

based activities. So, group

insurances are willy-nilly be-

you to an individual cover

but, what I hear from the in-

sureds is that their 'warning'

that the group cover is com-

ing to an end does not sound

alarming enough, or the in-

sureds do not act fast

enough to migrate or seek

Banks do offer to migrate

ing disbanded.

All this brings us to the

group insurance policies

IMAGES/ISTOCK

e-mail.

group insurance policies as the banking industry in India is changing rapidly. If at all, use these policies

as a backup or plan B if, for some reason, you cannot buy a health policy in time.

But certainly, get your plan A in place before you hit that critical age when health insurance backs away when it sees you coming!

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

TECH TRAIL: PRECIOUS METALS

# Gold, silver lose sheen

B. KRISHNAKUMAR

Precious metals lost their sheen and closed on a weak note at the end of September. The strengthening of the U.S. dollar, on expectations the U.S. Federal Reserve could soon begin winding down its economic support measures, played a key role in denting sentiment towards precious As a result, Comex gold fell 3.36%

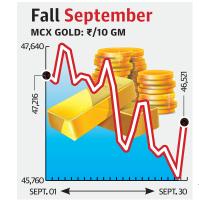
to settle at \$1,757 an ounce at the end of September. Comex silver, too, closed on a weak note. The white metal dropped 8.2% to close at \$22.05 an ounce. In the domestic market, MCX gold  $\,$ 

futures dropped 1.58% to close at ₹46,521 per 10 gm. MCX silver futures witnessed a steeper cut of 5.9% to settle at ₹59,617 per kg at the end of September. The sharp fall in price in Septem-

ber has confirmed the short-term weak trend in Comex gold. The recovery witnessed in the earlier months comes across as a pull-back within an overall downtrend. The short-term outlook for Comex gold is negative. The price is

likely to fall to the immediate target range of \$1,660-1,670. A move below \$1,670 would lend further weakness and could push the price lower to the next target of \$1,610-1,625. Unless Comex gold moves above \$1,840, there would be a strong case for a fall to \$1,660 and lower.

Comex silver price has fallen sharply which has pushed the price way below its short-term moving average. The price could snap back towards the short-term moving average. While this short-term support is a possibility, the overall trend remains weak. The price is likely to resume its downtrend on the com-



pletion of the anticipated pull-back rally. Until Comex silver moves above \$25, there would be a case for a fall to the \$19.75-20 zone.

MCX gold is still confined within the broad range of ₹43,500-49,000. The near-term trend depends on the direction of the breakout from this range. Above ₹49,000, gold price could head to the short-term target of ₹51,300-51,500. On the other hand, a close below ₹43,500 would be a sign of weakness and could push the price to ₹41,800-42,000.

As anticipated last month, MCX silver ruled weak, and the price almost dropped to the then mentioned target price of ₹57,500-58,000 range.

The short-term outlook for silver remains weak and a slide to ₹54,500-55,000 appears likely. This view would be invalidated if the price rises past ₹63,900.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. The views and opinion featured in this column is based on the analysis of short-term price movement in gold and silver futures at Comex and the Multi Commodity Exchange of India.)

Premium (₹)

8.861

8.064

7,616

11,806

12,213

11,074

8,578

9,820

12,241

4,947

10.916

8,733

9,579

10,777

11,337

12.684

A ND-NDE

Plan names

Option 1 - Maxima Restore Super

Option 2 - Early Cover

Option 3 - Super care

Option 4 - OPD Cover

Individual Health Guard

Arogya Premiei

Lifeline suprem

Medicare

Basic

Elite

Supremo

Complete Healthcare Priviledge

Edelweiss Health Insurance Gold

Health QuBE Basic

Health QuBE SuperSave Health QuBE Comprehensive Edelweiss Health Insurance- Gold (Health 241 Add-on)

Individual Mediclaim Policy

### Life insurance term plan premium 30 Years Sum Insured - \$1 crore Cover up to - 70 Years

Insurance company	Plan name	Maximum cover up to (Years)	Annual premiun ₹
LIC OF INDIA	Tech Term^	80	14,122
Aditya Birla Capital	Life Shield Plan	85	12,998
Aegon Life	iTerm Insurance Plan	100	9,114
Bajaj Allianz	Smart Protect Goal	85	10911
Bharti AXA	Premier Protect Plan	75	11092**
Canara HSBC OBC	iSelect Star Term Plan	99	11,605
HDFC Life	Click2Protect Plus	85	12,601
ICICI Prudential	iProtect Smart	99	15628
India First Life	e-Term Plan	80	8,260
Kotak Life Insurance	Kotak e-Term Plan	75	9,558
Max Life insurance	Smart Term Plan	85	11800***
PNB Met Life	Mera Term Plan Plus	99	12,272
Reliance Nippon Life	Digi Term	80	11,012
SBI Life	eShield	80	15,070
TATA AIA Life	Maha Raksha Supreme	100	12,980

^Maximum policy term is 40 years   **Bharti AXA coverage upto 65 years for age 30 years
***Max Life offers additional 5% discount for first year

		Healt	h insurance premium						
Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium (₹)	Insurer name	Key features				
	Day Care Treatments	NCB Super Premium	9,092		Hospital Room Eligibility				
	Family Floater option	Care	8,265	Digit Healthcare Plus	Day Care Treatments				
Care Health	Health Checkups	Care with unlimited recharge	8,885		Family Floater Option				
		Care plus	11,755						
	Pre and Post Hospitalisation				Hospital Room Eligibility				
	Coverage	NCB Super Premium with UAR	9,712	Bajaj Allianz General	Wellness Benefits				
	Day Care Treatments	Health ReAssure	9,590		Family Floater Option				
Max Bupa Health	Hospitalization at Home	Health Pulse Enhanced	10,696	CDI CI I	Pre and Post Hospitalisation				
max Bapa ricaten	Family Floater option	Health Companion	9,862	SBI General Insurance	Coverage Day Care Treatments				
	Alternate Medicine	Go Active	11,747		Hospitalization at Home				
	Family Floater option	Medi Classic	9,661		Day Care Treatments				
Star Health	Restoration of cover	Star Comprehensive	11,476	Royal Sundaram General	Hospitalization at Home				
Star Fredter	Wellness Benefits	Young Star Gold Plan	8,389		Hospital Room Eligibility				
	Trettiness Berreitts	Young Star Silver Plan	7,133		Alternate Medicine				
					Pre and Post Hospitalisation				
		Activ assure Diamond	7,919	TATA AIG	Coverage				
	Day Care Treatments	Activ Health Platinum Enhanced	9,074		Day Care Treatments				
Aditya Birla Health	Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Enhance ( Diabetes )	17,912		Hospitalization at Home				
	Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Enhance ( Asthma )	13,170		Hospitalization at Home				
	Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Enhance ( Hypertens		Universal Sompo General					
		Activ Health Platinum Essential	7,474		Alternate Medicine				
	Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Essential ( Diabetes )	15,072		Hospitalization at Home				
	Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Enhance ( Asthma )	11,240	Raheja QBE	Restoration of Cover				
	Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Enhance ( Hypertens			Hospital Room Eligibility				
Kotak General	Hospital Room Eligibility	Kotak Health Care-Premium (incl optional pack 1)	8,738		Day Care Treatments				
	Pre and Post Hospitalisation	(met optional poet 2)		Edelweiss General	Hospitalization at Home				
	Coverage			Edetweiss delierat	Hospital Room Eligibility				
	Day Care Treatments				Alternate Medicine				
	Day Care Treatments	Flexi Health	7,807		Day Care Treatments				
Chola MS General	Hospital Room Eligibility			Liberty General	Hospitalization at Home				
	Hospitalization at Home				Hospital Room Eligibility				
	Alternate Medicine				Pre and Post Hospitalisation				
Data as on September 30	2021	For a 30-year-old male, non-sm	oker for sum insured	Oriental Insurance	Coverage				
			living in a metro city		Day Care Treatments				
Source: LIC of India, www	r.policybazaar.com				Hospitalization at Home				

# India takes bragging rights from drawn Day-Night Test

Both teams go in for declarations in order to squeeze out a result from the rain-hit encounter

#### INDIA IN AUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CARRARA

India Women put up a highly commendable performance, dominating Australia for the better part of its maiden Day-Night Test, which ended in a draw primarily due to inclement weather on the first two

#### Collapse

Resuming at 143 for three, Ellyse Perry (68 not out) and Ashleigh Gardner (51) went on to share an 89-run stand before the Indian pacers triggered a batting collapse, reducing Australia to 241 for nine from 208 for four.

What followed was an interesting declaration by Meg Lanning at the stroke of

India, 377 in the first innings, played 35 overs in the second before declaring af-



ter tea to set Australia an improbable 272-run target in ust 32 overs.

Shafali Verma made a fine 52 off 91 balls while Punam Raut remained unbeaten on

41 off 62 balls. The target was virtually out of reach for Australia which lost Alyssa Healy and Beth Mooney cheaply. Australia was 36 for

teams shook hands to settle for a draw. As per rules of multi-format series, both teams gained for two points. The series score stands at

More than 80 overs were

lost due to weather over the first two days, making a draw the most likely outcome of the four-day match. India could have declared

#### **SCOREBOARD**

INDIA - IST INNINGS 377 for eight decl. in 145 overs

**AUSTRALIA - 1ST INNINGS** Alyssa Healy c Taniya b Jhulan 29 (66b, 3x4), Beth Mooney b Jhulan 4 (16b), Meg Lanning ĺbw b Pooja 38 (78b, 7x4), Ellyse Perry (not out) 68 (203b, 9x4), Tahlia McGrath c Smriti b Pooja 28 (68b, 4x4), Ashleigh Gardner c Mithali b Deepti 51 (86b, 6x4), Annabel Sutherland c Taniya b Meghna 3 (20b), Sophie Molineux lbw b Meghna 2 (14b), Georgia Wareham c Taniva b Pooia 2 (11b). Darcie Brown lbw b Deepti 8 (18b, 2x4), Stella Campbell (not out) 0 (1b); Extras (lb-6, w-1, nb-1): 8; Total (for nine wkts. decl. in 96.4

**FALL OF WICKETS** 1-14 (Mooney, 6.4 overs), 2-63 (Healy, 22.4), 3-80 (Lanning,

overs): 241.

at tea with a 242-run lead and 41 overs to bowl, but didn't want to leave anything to chance and took the

safety-first approach. India came into the game 32.1), 4-119 (McGrath, 49.4), 5-208 (Gardner, 78.3), 6-216 (Sutherland, 83.5), 7-220 (Molineux, 87.5), 8-223 (Wareham, 90.5), 9-240 (Brown,

#### INDIA BOWLING

Jhulan 22-7-33-2, Meghna 19-2-21.4-6-49-3, Pooja Rajeshwari 18-1-63-0, Deepti 16-6-36-2.

#### **INDIA – 2ND INNINGS**

Shafali Verma lbw b Wareham 52 (91b, 6x4), Smriti Mandhana o Gardner b Molineux 31 (48b, 6x4), Yastika Bhatia b Gardner 3 (12b), Punam Raut (not out) 41 (62b, 6x4), Deepti Sharma (not out) 3 (9b); Extras (b-5): 5; Total (for three wkts. decl. in 37 overs): 135.

**FALL OF WICKETS** 1-70 (Smriti, 17.5), 2-74 (Yastika, 20.3), 3-122 (Shafali, 33.2). **AUSTRALIA BOWLING** 

with only two practice sessions with the pink ball, but outplayed the Australians in all departments of the first Test between the two sides Perry 5-1-14-0, Brown 4-0-15-0, Campbell 4-1-19-0, McGrath 2-0-6-0. Sutherland 2-0-10-0 Molineux 7-0-23-1, Gardner 10-1-31-1, Wareham 3-0-12-1.

#### AUSTRALIA – 2ND INNINGS (Target: 272)

Healy b Jhulan 6 (5b, 1x4), Mooney c Rajeshwari b Pooja 11 (28b, 1x4), Lanning (not out) 17 (43b, 2x4), Perry (not out) 1 (14b); Extras (lb-1): 1; Total (for two wkts. in 15 overs): 36

#### **FALL OF WICKETS**

1-8 (Healy, 2.3), 2-28 (Mooney, 9.5).

### **INDIA BOWLING**

Jhulan 6-2-8-1, Meghna 2-0-12-0, Pooja 5-1-13-1, Rajeshwari

#### Player-of-the-Match: Smriti.

One-off Test drawn. Next match: First T20I: Oct. 7,

Metricon Stadium, Carrara, 2.10

Smriti played well, her hundred was fabulous. All our seamers bowled well

**Innings** scan

Next assignment

Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST

SRH: Oct. 6 vs RCB

KKR: Oct. 7 vs RR

Top of the

K.L. RAHUL (PBKS)

Matches: 12 | Runs: 528

HS: 91 n.o. | SR: 129.09

**HARSHAL PATEL (RCB)** 

BB: 5/27 | Econ: 8.41

Matches: 12 | Wickets: 26

AFTER THE KKR-SRH MATCH ON OCT 3

charts

Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

# Royal Challengers book playoffs berth

Punjab team's hopes now depends on its final match and results elsewhere

#### IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

Royal Challengers Banga-lore sealed a playoff berth following a six-run win over Punjab Kings at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

After Glenn Maxwell (57, 33b, 3x4, 4x6) powered RCB to 164, PBKS fell short despite the best efforts of Mayank Agarwal (57, 42b, 6x4, 2x6) and K.L. Rahul (39, 35b, 1x4, 2x6), with Yuzvendra Chahal impressing for RCB yet again (4-0-29-3).

PBKS' playoff hopes now depend on its final match against Chennai Super Kings and results elsewhere.

For a while, PBKS seemed on course in the chase. Mayank and Rahul collected 49 runs from the PowerPlay, and in the 10th over, Mayank started to take flight, hitting Chahal for two boundaries, before sending Shahbaz Ahmed soaring in to the stands.

#### Double blow

But Shahbaz broke the 91run partnership by having Rahul caught at short thirdman. Chahal's double blow in the 16th over decisively turned the match in RCB's favour, with Mayank caught at short third-man and Sarfaraz Khan bowled for a golden duck.

Harshal Patel and George Garton then bolted the door with a few tight overs.

Earlier, RCB's total owed much to the 40-ball, 73-run fourth-wicket partnership between Maxwell and A.B. de Villiers (23, 18b, 1x4,

Virat Kohli (25, 24b) and Devdutt Padikkal (40, 38b, 4x4, 2x6) scored 55 in the PowerPlay, but were lucky



he powered RCB to a winning total. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Innings scan							
RCB		PBKS					
54	Dots	43					
10	Fours	10					
10	Sixes	7					
55/0	PP	49/0					

as Rahul missed stumping Kohli and dropped Padikkal in one Ravi Bishnoi over.

8.19 **RR** 7.90

The leggie was also unlucky when the third umpire did not give Padikkal out caught behind despite 'ultra edge' showing a clear spike when the ball passed the glove.

Moises Henriques' introduction changed matters as he bowled four outstanding overs for 12 runs and accounted for Kohli, Padikkal

**Next assignment** 

RCB: Oct. 6 vs SRH Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST PBKS: Oct. 7 vs CSK Dubai, 3.30 p.m. IST

and surprise No. 3 Dan Christian.

However, the genius of Maxwell soon took over. He hit Harpreet Brar and Bishnoi for four sixes in the arc between deep square-leg and long-on and buttressed his swashbuckling form with a superb switch-hit boundary in front of square.

He got to his 50 off just 29

The expected end-overs flourish didn't arrive as Maxwell and de Villiers departed within seven balls of each other. But it didn't matter

give a psychological edge go-

While Capitals come into

the match on the back of a

win against defending cham-

pion Mumbai Indians, Super

Kings were outplayed by Ra-

The Chennai side rested

It will be interesting to see

if CSK decides to field a full-

strength side for the high-

jasthan Royals on Saturday.

Deepak Chahar and Dwayne

Bravo and missed their ser-

vices dealy.

profile clash.

ing into the next stage.

#### **SCOREBOARD**

#### **ROYAL CHALLENGERS**

Virat Kohli b Henriques 25 (24b. 2x4. 1x6). Devdutt Padikkal c Rahul b Henriques 40 (38b. 4x4. 2x6). Dan Christian c Sarfaraz b Henriques O (1b), Glenn Maxwell c Sarfaraz b Shami 57 (33b, 3x4, 4x6), AB de Villiers run out 23 (18b, 1x4, 2x6), Shahbaz Ahmed b Shami 8 (4b, 1x6), K.S. Bharat (not out) O (Ob), George Garton b Shami O (1b), Harshal Patel (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-5, w-5): 10; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 164.

#### **FALL OF WICKETS**

1-68 (Kohli, 9.4 overs), 2-68 9.5), (Padikkal, 11.4), 4-146 (de Villiers, 18.2), 5-157 (Maxwell, 19.2), 6-163 (Shahbaz, 19.4), 7-163 (Garton, 19.5).

**PUNJAB KINGS BOWLING** Markram 1-0-5-0, Shami 4-0-39-3, Arshdeep 3-0-42-0, Bishnoi 4-0-35-0, Harpreet 4-0-26-0, Henriques

#### **PUNJAB KINGS**

K.L. Rahul c Harshal b Shahbaz 39 (35b, 1x4, 2x6), Mayank Agarwal c Sirai b Chahal 57 (42b, 6x4, 2x6), Nicholas Pooran c Padikkal b Chahal 3 (7b), Aiden Markram c Christian b Garton 20 (14b, 2x4 1x6). Sarfaraz Khan b Chahal O (1b). Shahrukh Khan run out 16 (11b, 1x4, 1x6), Moises Henriques (not out) 12 (9b, 1x6), Harpreet Brar (not out) 3 (2b); Extras (lb-2, w-5, nb-1): 8; Total (for six wkts. in 20

#### **FALL OF WICKETS**

1-91 (Rahul, 10.5), 2-99 (Pooran, 12.5), 3-114 (Mayank, 15.2), 4-121 (Sarfaraz, 15.5), 5-127 (Markram, 16.5), 6-146 (Shahrukh, 19.1).

#### **RCB BOWLING** Siraj 4-0-33-0, Garton 4-0-

27-1, Shahbaz 3-0-29-1, Harshal 4-0-27-0. Chahal 4-0-29-3, Christian 1-0-11-0.

Toss: RCB; MoM: Maxwell.

RCB won by six runs.

# Bowlers, Gill script crucial win for KKR

Seamers strike and spinners choke SRH before the opener leads the chase

SPORTS BUREAU

 $Sunrisers \ Hyderabad's \ season \ of \ misery \ continued$ as it slipped to a six-wicket defeat against Kolkata Knight Riders - its 10th loss - in Dubai on Sunday.

With KKR's Net Run Rate third-best among eight teams, it can reach the playoffs if it beats Rajasthan Royals. Mumbai Indians has to win its remaining games by big margins to qualify. KKR's 116-run chase got off

to a quiet start. Shubman Gill's first scoring shot was a sweetly timed drive down the ground for four. Next ball, the opener nearly got caught at short-cover but Priyam Garg couldn't get his fingers underneath the ball. Gill then welcomed debutant Umran Malik into the attack with a boundary. Malik cranked up good pace, clockthe fastest ball (151.03kph) by an Indian in

this edition. Venkatesh Iyer was caught for eight off Jason Holder after adding 23 for the opening wicket. Rashid Khan was introduced into the attack in the seventh over and removed Rahul Tripathi.

KKR crawled to 51 for two after 11 overs when Gill, who was going at less than run a ball, broke the shackles. He hit Holder for two fours in the 12th over before smashing two successive boundaries off Malik in the 13th. Gill brought up his fifty with a four to deep midwicket. By the time he fell for 57, SRH's fate was sealed.

Earlier, Hyderabad got off to the worst possible start after winning the toss. Wriddhiman Saha was given out lbw in the first over. The batter didn't review but replays showed the ball was missing



Oozing class: Gill stroked 10 fours in his 51-ball 57.

the stumps.

It was soon 16 for two when Roy hit straight to midon. At the other end, Kane Williamson was playing a different game altogether. He took apart Shivam Mavi in the final over of the Power-

Play, hitting four fours. A scorching drive through cover stood out. But the Kiwi's stay was cut short when Shakib Al Hasan, playing his first game of the second leg, caught him short of the crease with a direct hit.

On a slow deck, SRH's inexperienced middle-order struggled against the KKR spinners as only six boundaries were scored after the PowerPlay.

The KKR spin trio of Shakib, Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy went for a combined 58 in 12 overs.

#### **SCOREBOARD**

#### **SUNRISERS HYDERABAD**

Jason Roy c Southee b Mavi 10 (13b, 2x4), Wriddhiman Saha lbw b Southee O (1b), Kane Williamson run out 26 (21b. 4x4). Privam Garg c Tripathi b Varun 21 (31b. 1x6). Abhishek Sharma st. Karthik b Shakib 6 (10b), Abdul Samad c Gill b Southee 25 (18b, 3x6), Jason Holder c Venkatesh b Varun 2 (9b), Rashio Khan c Venkatesh b Mavi 8 (6b, 1x4), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 7 (7b), Siddarth Kaul (not

#### nb-1): 3; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 115 **FALL OF WICKETS**

out) 7 (5b, 1x4); Extras (lb-2,

1-1 (Saha, 0.2 ov), 2-16 (Roy, 3.4), 3-38 (Williamson, 6.5), 4-51 (Abhishek, 10.1), 5-70 (Garg, 14.2), 6-80 (Holder, 16.1), 7-95 (Samad, 17.2), 8-103 (Rashid,

**KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING** Southee 4-0-26-2, Mavi 4-029-2, Varun 4-0-26-2, Shakit

4-0-20-1, Narine 4-0-12-0.

#### **KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS** Shubman Gill c Holder b Kaul 57

(51b, 10x4), Venkatesh Iyer c Williamson b Holder 8 (14b), Rahul Tripathi c Abhishek b Rashid 7 (6h. 1x4). Nitish Rana c Saha b Holder 25 (33b. 3x4). Dinesh Karthik (not out) 18 (12b, 3x4), Eoin Morgan (not out) 2 (2b); Extras (w-2): 2; Total (for four wkts. in 19.4 overs): 119.

**FALL OF WICKETS** 1-23 (Venkatesh, 4.4), 2-38 (Tripathi, 6.4), 3-93 (Gill, 16.3), 4-106 (Rana, 17.6).

**SUNRISERS BOWLING** Bhuvneshwar 4-0-20-0, Holder 4-0-32-2, Umran 4-0-27-0, Rashid 4-0-23-1, Kaul 3.4-0-17-1.

Toss: SRH: MoM: Gill. Knight Riders won by six wickets with two balls to spare.

### CSK, DC to decide first among equals

table on better Net Run Rate,

Capitals will be the favou-

rites going into the match.

They have won their last

three encounters and boast

a potent pace line-up that

can trouble the Super Kings

Capitals, who finished

runner-up last year, will look

to maintain that advantage

considering that these teams

could end up occupying the

top two positions in the ta-

SPORTS BUREAU

Taving sealed their playoff Derths, Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals will battle it out at the Dubai International Stadium on Monday for a place in the top two.

the standout performers in the league with 18 points each from 12 games. Finishing in the top two af-

The two teams have been

fords a team a second chance in the playoffs.

While CSK is ahead on the

**Points Table** 



HEAD-TO-HEAD Played: 24 DC 9 | CSK 15 In 2021 Played 1 | DC 1 | CSK 0 STAR SPORTS 1 & SS SELECT 1 (SD & HD) ble and meet in the first Qualifier. A win here could

Team	M	w	L	PTS	NRR
Chennai Super Kings (Q)	12	9	3	18	0.829
Delhi Capitals (Q)	12	9	3	18	0.551
Royal Challengers (Q)	12	8	4	16	-0.157
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	7	12	0.294
Punjab Kings	13	5	8	10	-0.241
Rajasthan Royals	12	5	7	10	-0.337
Mumbai Indians	12	5	7	10	-0.453
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	12	2	10	4	-0.475
fter the KKR-SRH match on O	ct. 3	Q: 0	QUALIFI	ED; E: E	LIMINATED

# Two Indian pairs move into last four

Sharath loses in singles quarterfinals

#### **ASIAN TT**

SPORTS BUREAU

Sharath Kamal-G. Sathiyan and Harmeet Desai-Manav Thakkar stormed into the men's doubles semifinals of the Asian table tennis championships here on Sunday, assuring India of two more bronze medals.

In women's singles, Ayhika Mukherjee, Sutirtha Mukherjee, Archana Kamath and Sreeja Akula lost in the round of 32. Sutirtha and Ayhika had lost in the doubles quarterfinals to the Japanese duo of Miyu Nagasaki and Minami Ando.

Sharath Kamal lost to Lee Sangsu of Korea 8-11, 8-11, 9-11 in the men's singles quar-

With Sharath's loss, the hika 11-4, 11-5, 4-11, 7-11, 11-8.

# Indian interest in men's sin-

gles came to an end. Other results: Men: (round of 16): Sharath Kamal bt Abdul-

> 11-8, 12-10, 11-6; Kazuhiro Yoshimura (Jpn) bt G. Sathiyan 11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 11-9. Men: Doubles (quarterfinals): Harmeet Desai & Manay Thakkar bt Noshad Alamiyan & Nima Alamian (IRI) 12-10, 11-5,

11-6; Sharath Kamal & G. Sathi-

yan bt Chew Zhe Yu & Clarence

& Beh Kun Ting (SGP) 11-9,

wahhab Mohammed (Qat)

Women (round-of-32): Saki Shibata (Jpn) bt Ayhika Mukherjee 11-6, 11-5, 11-3; Doo Hoi Kem (HKG) bt Sreeja Akula 11-8, 12-10, 11-4; Minami Ando (Jpn) bt Sutirtha Mukherjee 9-11, 11-6, 11-7,11-7; Yubin Shin (Kor) bt Archana Kamath 11-3. 14-12. 11-8: Doubles (quarterfinals): Miyu Nagasaki & Minami Ando (Jpn) bt Sutirtha & Ay-

# City fights back to hold Liverpool

### **EURO LEAGUES**

REUTERS

Manchester City came from behind twice to earn a 2-2 draw with Liverpool in a breathless and pulsating Premier League encounter at Anfield on Sunday.

Sadio Mane had put Liverpool ahead before Phil Foden equalised only for Mohamed Salah to restore the home side's advantage with a wonderful solo goal.

But Kevin De Bruyne's 81st-minute equaliser ensured the teams shared points and left Liverpool in second place on 15 points, one behind leader Chelsea.

#### Real, Bayern shocked

In LaLiga, Real Madrid lost 1-2 to Espanyol on Sunday, a day after Atletico Madrid had defeated Barcelona 2-0. Bayern Munich suffered a

shock 1-2 defeat to Eintracht

bt Empoli O. LaLiga: Espanyol 2 (de Tomas



Man of the hour: De Bruyne's strike in the 81st minute saved the day for Guardiola's side. • AP

Frankfurt in the Bundesliga. (Benzema 71). Important results:

Premier League: Crystal Palace 2 (Olise 61, Schlupp 72) drew with Leicester 2 (Iheanacho 31, Vardy 37); Tottenham 2 (Hojbjerg 27, Targett 71-og) bt Aston Villa 1 (Watkins 67); Liverpool 2 (Mane 59, Salah 76) drew with Manchester City 2 (Foden 69,

De Bruvne 81). Serie A: Fiorentina 1 (Martinez Quarta 28) lost to Napoli 2 (Lozano 39, Rrahmani 50); Roma 2 (Pellegrini 42, Mkhitaryan 48)

17, Vidal 60) bt Real Madrid 1

Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 1 (Goretzka 29) lost to Eintracht

Frankfurt 2 (Hinteregger 32, Kostic 83) Ligue 1: Rennes 2 (Laborde 45,

Tait 46) bt PSG 0. Saturday: Premier League: Brighton O drew with Arsenal

Serie A: Torino O lost to Juventus 1 (Locatelli 86); Sassuolo 1 (Berardi 22-pen) lost to Inter Milan 2 (Dzeko 58, Martinez

LaLiga: Atletico Madrid 2 (Lemar 23, Suarez 44) bt Barcelona O.

A ND-NDE

#### TV PICKS

SAFF Championships: India vs Bangladesh, Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.15 p.m. IPL 2021: Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

#### IN BRIEF



#### Arjun Erigaisi finishes second

PLOVDIV (BULGARIA) Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi scored seven points from nine rounds to finish second in the junior U-21 Round Table Open chess championship which concluded here on Sunday. The 18-year old Indian, who tied with Russian GM Alexey Sarana on seven points, lost the top prize due to an inferior tie-break score. PTI

#### Vanshika triumphs

Vanshika Choudhary beat Renee Singh 6-2, 6-0 to clinch the title in the ₹100,000 AITA women's tennis tournament at the Joygaon Academy. Kashish Bhatia and Ishwari Matere won the doubles title with a hard earned 12-10 triumph in the super tie-break against top seeds Ayushi Singh and Medhavi Singh The results: Singles (final):

Vanshika Choudhary bt Renee Singh 6-2, 6-0.; Semifinals: Vanshika Choudhary bt Shefali Arora 6-1, 6-0: Renee Singh bt Kristi Boro 6-3, 6-1; Doubles:

Kashish Bhatia & Ishwari Matere bt Ayushi Singh & Medhavi Singh 6-4, 5-7, [12-10].

#### **Siddhant loses** doubles final

CANCUN (MEXICO) Siddhant Banthia, in partnership with Austin Ansari of the USA, was beaten by the third seeds Wishaya Trongcharoenchaikul of Thailand and Seita Watanabe of Japan 6-4, 6-1 in the doubles final of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament here.

Earlier result: Semifinals: Austin Ansari & Siddhant Banthia bt Luis Britto & Fernando Yamacita (Bra) 6-2, 3-6, [10-7].

#### Delhi beats TN

Delhi defeated Tamil Nadu by 42 runs in an Flite-B fourth round match of the BCCI-women's u-19 cricket tournament in Nagpur on Sunday. Due to rain, the match was curtailed to 20 overs per side.

The scores: Delhi 132/7 in 20 overs (Riya Kondal 27, Tanisha Singh 29, Riya Shokeen 33) bt TN 90/7 in 20 overs (M. S. Aishwarya 34).

#### Arihan, Artharv shine

NEW DELHI Arihan Sharma (142) and Atharv Dhyani (6/12) were the stars of Ashish Nehra Academy's resounding 312-run victory over St. Lawrence Academy in the 4th Skillz youth (under-16) tournament.

The scores: Ashish Nehra Academy 350/5 in 40 over (Arihan Sharma 142, Ronit Bery 72, Goal Krishna 58, Shaan 3/45) bt St. Lawrence Academy 38 in 11 overs (Atharv Dhyani 6/12, Vibhor Pandey 3/21).

### Ravinder in bronze playoff

### WRESTLING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ravinder pulled off a sensational come-from-behind 'victory by fall' against Bulgaria's Georgi Valentinov Vangelov after trailing by a 0-8 margin in the wrestling World Championship repechage round to enter the 61kg bronze play-off here on Sunday.

The results: 61kg (repechage): Ravinder bt Georgi Valentinov Vangelov (Bul). Pre-quarterfinals: 57kg: Pankaj Malik lost to Suleyman Atli (Tur); 65kg: Rohit lost to Zagir Shakhiev (Rus); 92kg: Pruthviraj Patil lost to Osman Nurmagomedov (Aze).

# Indian teams claim four golds

Win three silver medals also; go to the top of the medals tally

#### SHOOTING

Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh beat teammates Shikha Narwal and Naveen 16-12 to clinch the mixed air pistol gold in the junior World Championship here. The trio of Manu, Rhythm Sangwan, and Shikha beat Belarus 16-12 to win the women's team

India claimed the air pistol men's team gold through Sarabjot Singh, Naveen and Shiva Narwal by edging Belarus 16-14.

#### **Great show**

In the men's air rifle team gold contest, Dhanush Srikanth, Rajpreet Singh and Paarth Makhija outplayed a strong USA 16-6.

There was no denying the mixed air rifle gold to the Tokyo Olympics silver and gold-Mary



Top shots: Manu Bhaker, second from right, and Sarabjot Singh, right, beat teammates Shikha Narwal and Naveen to take the mixed air pistol gold. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and two bronze medals. USA

with two gold and two silver

less slipped to second place.

The results: Men: Air pistol

team: 1. India (Sarabjot Singh,

Naveen, Shiva Narwal) 16 (578)

1748; 2. Belarus (Abdul-Aziz

Kurdzi, Ivan Kazak, Uladzislau

Dzemesh) 14 (576) 1719; 3. USA

16 (560) 1694. Air rifle team: 1.

India (Dhanush Srikanth, Raj-

preet Singh, Paarth Makhija) 16

(624.5) 1886.9; 2. USA (William

Tucker and William Shaner, even though Atmika Gupta and Rajpreet Singh fought hard before losing 17-15.

Atmika also won the team silver along in partnership with Nisha Kanwar and Zeena Khitta in the women's air rifle final against Hungary.

With four gold and three silvers on the day, Indian jumped to the top of the ta■ Indian jumped to the top of the table with six gold, six silver and two bronze

John Blanton) 6 (622.5) 1874.2; 3. Spain 16 (618.1) 1870.9. Women: Air pistol team: 1. In-

dia (Rhythm Sangwan, Manu Bhaker, Shikha Narwal) 16 (569) 1722; 2. Belarus (Aliaksandra Piatrova, Zoya Dasko, Alina Nestsiarovich) 12 (568) 1674; 3. Ukraine 16 (566) 1695.

Air rifle team: 1. Hungary (Eszter Meszaros, Eszter Denes, Lea Horvath) 16 (623.0 (1876.9); 2. India (Nisha Kanwar, Zeena Khitta, Atmika Gupta) 14 (622.4) 1882.7; 3. France 16 (621.4) 1865.4

Mixed: Air pistol: 1. India (Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh) 16 (386) 583; 2. India-2 (Shikha Narwal, Naveen) 12 (385) 580; 3. Romania 17 (382) 571.

Air rifle: 1. USA (Mary Carolynn Tucker, William Shaner) 17 (419.9) 625.7; 2. India-2 (Atmika Gupta, Rajpreet Singh) 15 (418.5) 626.8; 3. Italy 16 (416.2)

# India begins against Bangladesh

All the games will be tough, says skipper Chhetri

#### SAFF CHAMPIONSHIPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Title favourite India begins its SAFF football Championships campaign against Bangladesh on Monday, knowing fully well that it is just "a little bit superior" than its opponent despite the domination in the regional tournament.

India has won the tournament seven times out of 12 editions, but by the admission of captain Sunil Chhetri, every match will be like a "war to fight".

#### Difficult side

"Bangladesh are very difficult side. In the two matches we played against Bangladesh in the last few months, it has been very tough,' Chhetri said.

"All the games in the tournament will be tough. Despite a little bit of superiority, every game will be like a war to fight. We have to fight to

the last minute. We cannot earlier in the AFC Cup.

Giving it all: Chhetri doesn't want to lose any game for the

play 90%." Head coach Igor Stimac has not minced words in de-

Bengaluru FC footballers, who had played in Maldives

Chhetri said he doesn't want to lose any game for the country. "When you are young you play for a lot of things. I've played over 100 games for India, I don't have another 100 and I want to make the most of all the games I have left. I want to win if I am playing for my

#### claring that India is the favourite to win, saying "we

country. - AIFF MEDIA

will justify ourselves". Stimac made no secret that he will be making the most out of the ATKMB and

# No stopping Muddappa

Takes the honours in two categories

#### **DRAG RACING**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bengaluru's Hemanth Muddappa (Mantra Racing) completed a double in the second round of the MMSC FMSCI National Motorcycle drag racing championship, which concluded at the MMRT, here on Sunday.

Muddappa, the reigning National champion, topped Super above-1051cc category astride a Suzuki Hayabusa which attained a top speed of 231kmph, as he overcame fellow-Bengalureans Hafizullah Khan and Vignesh Purushotham.

Later, Muddappa won in the Super Sport 851-1050cc category riding a BMW S1000, ahead of arch-rival Mohd. Riyaz of Hyderabad Bengaluru's Sugan Prasad.

The results (all 4-Stroke): Above 1051cc (Super Sport): 1.

Hemanth Muddappa (Mantra Racing, Bengaluru) 08.061; 2. Hafizullah Khan (Bengaluru) am (Bengaluru) 08.409. 851-1050cc (Super Sport): 1.



On the podium: The 851-1050cc Super Sport winner Hemanth Muddappa with Mohd. Riyaz, left, and Sugan Prasad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hemanth Muddappa (07.914); 2. Mohd. Riyaz (Hyderabad) 08.058; 3. Sugan Prasad (Bengaluru) 08.421.

361-550cc (Super Sport Indian): 1. Aiyaz Rem (Bengaluru) 12.368; 2. Yogeshwaran (Speed D Annish Samson (Speed Up Racing, Bengaluru) 12.658.

226-360cc (Super Sport Indian): 1. Bharath Rai (Chennai) 12.427: 2. Mohammed Shakir (Chennai) 12.655; 3. Yogeshwa-

ran (Chennai) 13.014. Up to 165cc (Super Sport Indian): 1. S. Madhan Kumar nan (Chennai) 13.990; 3. S.

# Bedia sparkles in FC Goa's triumph

His brilliant finish in 105th minute proves decisive

#### **DURAND CUP**

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA

Edu Bedia produced a spectacular finish curling home a free-kick midway in the extra-time as FC Goa beat home favourite Mohammedan Sporting to win its maiden Durand Cup title, at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Sunday.

The two teams were locked goalless at end of regulation time before the Spanish playmaker came up with

a brilliant finish in 105th minute to decide the title.

The match generally remained placid as the local favourite, Sporting, failed to find the right combination that could effectively challenge the defensive orientation of FC Goa.

The Goa side looked more proactive in its approach and breached the Sporting box on a few occasions.

The Gaurs opened up the Sporting defence in the 40th minute as Devendra Murgaokar and Sanson Pereira combined on the left flank to re-

lease Romario Jesuraj on top of the box.

The midfielder replied with a wayward attempt spoiling a good chance for Goa to gain the lead. Soggy turf

The heavy underfoot conditions also contributed in slowing up the game as the teams struggled to cope with the sogginess of the turf.

The action continued to languish mostly in the centre of the park after the change of ends with neither team showing the eagerness to

press for attacks.

Goa looked more organised but that did not translate into a goal as Sporting packed its defence with more men.

Edu Bedia finally brought an end to the listless exchanges. Serbian midfielder Nikola Stojanovic had a chence to equalise in the 118th minute but his fine attempt was saved by the Goa goalkeeper Naveen Kumar.

The result: Mohammedan Sporting O lost to FC Goa 1 (Edu Bedia



Heady feeling: FC Goa players are a joyous lot after the memorable triumph. • PTI

# Chance for youngsters to showcase their talent

### **TENNIS**

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

It will be a good opportunity for the young Indian players, travelling from across the country, to compete in the National sub-junior tennis championship at the DLTA Complex from Monday.

With the DCM Shriram group, which has been conducting the Fenesta National

LONDON MARATHON

Kenya's Joyciline Jepkosgei

won the women's London

Marathon on Sunday as

Ethiopia's Sisay Lemma tri-

umphed in the men's race

in the first full-scale staging

of the event since the coro-

Brigid Kosgei, aiming to

navirus pandemic.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

championship for many years, opting to stick to the men's and women's events only this time, the national federation decided to ensure the continuity by having the junior events spread over a fortnight.

The under-16 and 14 events for boys and girls will be staged this week, and will be followed by the National junior championship featuring the under-18 events next

Jepkosgei and Lemma run to glory

We did it! Kenya's Joyciline Jepkosgei and Thiopia's Sisay Lemma celebrate their success. • REUTERS

become the first woman to

win three consecutive Lon-

don Marathon titles since

Germany's Katrin Doerre in

Jepkosgei won in a per-

Ethiopia's Degitu Azime-

raw finished second in

2:17.58 and compatriot Ash-

ete Bekere was third in

sonal-best time of 2hr

1994, came fourth.

17min 43sec.

2:18.18.

First full-scale staging of the event since the pandemic

The Fenesta National championship for men and women is scheduled to be held from October 25.

Lakshmi Prabha, Suhitha Maruri, Ruma Gaikaiwari and Madhurima Sawant are the top four seeds in the under-16 girls' event which has a bye in the first round for the 16 seeded players in a draw of 64.

Dkash Prasad, Rushil Khosla, Vansh Nndal and Arunava Majumder are the

Lemma failed to finish

the Olympic marathon in

Japan in August but

bounced back to win in the

chumba finished the run-

ner-up for the second year

running in 2:04.28 and Eth-

iopia's Mosinet Geremew

came third with a time of

The London Marathon

Kenya's Vincent Kip-

British capital in 2:04.01.

top four players in the under-16 boys' event.

Riya Sachdeva, Samiksha Dabas, Thaniya Sarai and Saumrita Verma are the top four seeds in the under-14 girls' event. Rethin Pranav is the top seed in the under-14 boys' event, and is followed by Kriish Tyagi, Tejas Ahuja and Samprit Sharma.

The organisers will be following strict COVID protocols to ensure the safety for all the participants.

returned to normality for

the first time since 2019 af-

ter being held without ama-

teur runners or spectators

last year due to COVID-19

the event to be moved from

April to October in 2020,

with a small number of

elite runners completing

laps around St James's

The pandemic forced

restrictions

### Indian women's football team faces Tunisia

Aim is to earn a victory: Dennerby

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

An easy win over lowerranked United Arab Emirates marking its first victory of the year, an upbeat Indian women's football team takes on Tunisia in another international friendly match

here on Monday. Manisha Kalyan, Pyari Xaxa, Sweety Devi and Anju Tamang scored for India on Saturday in the team's first overseas friendly since Thomas Dennerby took charge.

The friendly match was a part of preparations for the AFC Asian Cup, which will be hosted by India in January-February.

The win against 100th ranked UAE was India's first

of the year. The Blue Tigress

have been winless in the five

previous matches this year,

though all of them were against higher ranked European sides.

"It was definitely a good start for the girls. "That kind of a win helps

to get some useful self-confidence into the players," said Dennerby after his first international game with the Indian team.

Monday's opponents are ranked 77th in the FIFA charts while India is at the 57th spot.

Looking ahead to the game, Dennerby feels that though it will be a tougher challenge for the girls, the aim remains to earn a

"I guess it is going to be a bit tougher against Tunisia, but we always try to win, and that is just what we will try to do," said Dennerby.

### I-League Qualifiers from today

SPORTS REPORTER

BENGALURI

The 2021 I-League Qualifiers will kick off at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Monday with the Group-A match between Rajasthan United Football Club and Ryntih Sports and Cultural

Club. Local club FC Bengaluru United and Madan Maharaj FC are the other teams in Group-A with ARA FC, Corbett FC, Delhi Football Club, Kenkre FC and Kerala United FC in Group-B. The top two teams from each group will move into the

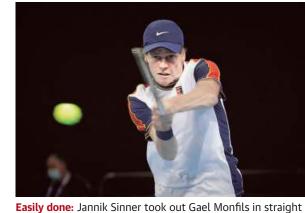
semifinal league phase. Hyderya Sports Kashmir FC, the fifth team in Group-A, was withdrawn last week after its mandatory bank guarantee's authenticity was called into

### Jannik Sinner defends his crown

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Italy's Jannik Sinner swept past Frenchman Gael Monfils to successfully defend his Sofia title on Sunday. The top seed won 6-3, 6-4 to claim his fourth career title as he sights a spot in the season-ending ATP finale in November. He will move into 10th place in the race for the eight-man Turin field.

Sinner now has three titles in 2021 after success in the Great Ocean Road Open and Washington.



sets. • AP