



Sachin among 300 named in Pandora Papers, Govt. for probe



In Sri Lanka, Shringla seeks to push Indian projects, connectivity



ICMR's drone-based vaccine delivery takes off in the north-east

Opposition

slams U.P. govt.

The Opposition parties on

Monday accused the Yogi

Adityanath government of

'throttling democracy' by

preventing their leaders

from visiting Lakhimpur

Kheri. Congress general

Vadra, SP president

secretary Priyanka Gandhi

Akhilesh Yadav, BSP leader

Satish Chandra Mishra,

AAP's Sanjay Singh, were

stopped from visiting the

Baghel and Charanjit Singh

Channi were barred from

landing at the Lucknow

BJP's guarded

The BJP did not respond

officially to Lakhimpur

Kheri incident, allowing

of State for Home Ajay

Kumar Mishra to speak

instead. The party's MP

Varun Gandhi called for

letter to Chief Minister.

The RSS-affiliated

in a statement, "We

inquiry and suitable

are guilty." ▶ PAGE 9

restraint and patience, in a

Bharatiya Kisan Sangh said

condemn the incident and

want a fair, independent

punishment to those who

the State unit and Minister

airport. ▶ PAGE 9

response

site. Chhattisgarh and

Punjab CMs Bhupesh

Axar, Dhawan and Hetmyer take DC to the top

page 13

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Govt. announces plan to tackle pollution in winter

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday announced a 10-point action plan to combat pollution during winter when the Capital's air quality reaches hazardous levels every year. Mr. Kejriwal, however, accused the Centre and governments of neighbouring States of not having done anything to stop stubble burning. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 2

No State can deny ₹50,000 ex gratía: SC

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Monday said the State governments should not deny the ex gratia of ₹50,000 each to the families of persons who died of COVID-19 merely on the grounds that their death certificates did not show the virus as the cause of death. The court underscored this point while approving the guidelines proposed by the NDMA for grant of ex gratia.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

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Farmers raise pitch, protest with bodies

Tension eases in Tikonia only after BKU leader convinces them about Govt. action against the accused

A day after four farmers were mowed to death in a violent incident involving vehicles in the convoy of a Union Minister, hundreds of farmers predominantly from the Sikh community gathered at the site of the incident in Tiko-

For several hours, the farmers parked a tractor next to the ground where the incident took place, and kept the bodies of the four farmers on display in freezer caskets. Farmers said they would not move from the site and would not carry out the last rites till their demands of action against Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Kumar Mishra and his son Ashish were met. Religious slogans and chants resonated at the

However, around 1 p.m., the tension was defused after Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait emerged after a meeting with top Uttar Pradesh Government officials, and from a makeshift platform, requested the protesters and the families of the victims to

Mr. Tikait, who started his speech with the slogan, "Veer shahidon ka balidan, yaad karega Hindustan (the country will remember the sacrifice of the brave martyrs)," told the crowd that the Kisan Sangathan had



Escalating tensions: Farmers mourning the death of fellow farmers at Tikonia village in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh, on Monday. • AF

won a "big victory" as the Union Minister's son had been booked for murder and ₹45 lakh compensation promised for each family, along with a Government job, and that a judicial investigation would be conducted.

"The Minister and his son will not be spared... He will lose his ministerial post," Mr. Tikait assured the protesters.

The BKU leader also said that an ultimatum had been issued to the government that if it did not take satisfactory action till the funeral rituals of the dead were completed in 10 to 12 days, a mahapanchayat would be called.

Following his assurances, officials of the district administration arrived at the site and moved the bodies into ambulances to take them to the district hospital for autopsy and the farmers and

their leaders dispersed. An FIR under Sections 302

and 304-A of the Indian Penal Code has been lodged against the Minister's son, who the farmers alleged was in one of the vehicles that ploughed into the waiting farmers, and 10 to 15 unknown persons.

Distraught kin

Among the dead, wrapped in a BKU flag, was the body of Lovepreet Singh, 20, a resident of Chauktha Farm in Lakhimpur Kheri. His mother, Sukhvinder Kaur, was inconsolable, weeping and kissing the glass casket inside which the body lay.

Lovepreet, a farmer like most other Sikhs in the fertile Terai belt of U.P., was the only son of his parents. His brother-in-law Makkan Singh questioned the narrative of Union Minister Mishra that

the vehicle involved in the incident was en route to receive Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya at the helipad of the Maharaja Agrasen ground.

Makkan Singh said the administration had informed the protesters that the Deputy Chief Minister's route had been changed but even then three cars belonging to Mr. Mishra's convoy drove towards the farmers lined up on either side of the road at full speed. "It was a planned murder," Mr. Singh said.

Next to Lovepreet's body lay that of Nachattar Singh, 60. Hearing the news of Nachattar's death, his younger son, Mandeep, 25, an SSB jawan, left his post in Almora for Tikonia. The family is from Dhauraha in Kheri.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8 PRIYANKA SKIPS COVER ▶ PAGE 9

SC lashes out at farmers' groups

'No accountability when stir turns violent'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday lashed out at farmers' organisations for continuing the protests against the Centre's new farm laws, saying when the agitation snowballed into violence as in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri, where eight people were killed, "nobody takes responsibility".

"When such incidents happen, causing deaths, loss to property and damage, nobody takes responsibility," Justice A.M. Khanwilkar observed.

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal described the violence on Sunday as an "unfortunate incident". The top law officer for the government said the court should make it very clear that protests should not continue when the challenge against the farm laws were in the highest court of the country.

'No more unfortunate incidents like this should take place... The protests must stop," Mr. Venugopal, supported by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, submitted.

"But how can there be protests when the matter is sub judice here? Why are there protests when the laws have been kept in abeyance? It is intriguing, there is no Act in place at the moment. The Act is stayed. The Government

...Why are there protests when the laws have been kept in abeyance? It is intriguing there is no Act in place at the moment. The Act is stayed. The govt. has assured it will not give effect to it... So what is this protest for?

has assured it will not give effect to it... So what is this protest for," Justice Khanwilkar, flanked by Justice C.T. Ravikumar on the Bench, asked Kisan Mahapanchayat, a farmers' organisa-

The farmers' body wanted to sit on a 'satyagraha' at the Jantar Mantar.

Justice Khanwilkar said the farm laws were passed by Parliament. "The government is also bound by the laws passed by Parliament... We are on principle here, once you go to court, how can the same party say that matter is before court, nevertheless I will still protest," the judge observed.

The court, in its order, decided to frame legal questions in the issue. The Bench said it would first decide whether the right to protest was an "absolute right".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

NOBEL PRIZE

Unlocking mysteries of senses

U.S. scientists David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian win Nobel Prize for medicine for discoveries on receptors in the skin that respond to heat and pressure

■ Their discoveries have unlocked one of the secrets of nature by explaining the molecular basis for sensing heat, cold and mechanical force, which is fundamental to our ability to feel, interpret and interact with our internal and external environment



Ardem Patapoutian, 54, is credited for finding the cellular mechanism and the underlying gene that translates a mechanical force on our skin into an electric nerve signal



search, conducted independently of each other in the late 1990s and 2000s, is being used to develop treatments for a wide range of diseases and conditions, including

In our daily lives we take these sensations for granted, but how are nerve impulses initiated so that temperature and pressure can be perceived?... This question has been solved by this year's Nobel winners | NOBEL COMMITTEE

REPORT ON PAGE 12

Stalin writes to CMs of 12 States on NEET

'States have primacy in education'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Mustering support for his government's fight against the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday wrote to his counterparts in 12 States, calling for united efforts to restore the primacy of the States in administering the education sector as originally envisaged in the Constitution.

His letter was addressed to the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana and West Bengal. "Our considered position

has always been that the Union government's decision to introduce the NEET goes against the very spirit of federalism and violates the constitutional balance of power by curbing the rights of the State governments to decide on the method of admission to the medical institutions founded, established and run by them," Mr. Stalin said in the letter, a copy of which was circulated to the media. "In this regard, we con-

sider that the State governments need to assert their constitutional right and position in deciding the method of admission to their higher educational institutions," he said.

Govt. moots changes to Forest Conservation Act

Amendment proposed to absolve agencies involved in national security and border infra projects

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ

The Union Government has involved in national security projects and border infrastructure projects from obtaining prior forest clearance from the Centre as part of amendments to the existing Forest Conservation Act (FCA). The FCA, which first came in 1980 and was amended in 1988, requires such permission.

The proposed amendment is part of a larger rationalising of existing forest laws, the go-



1980 by public sector bodies. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

vernment has said. The document is open to public discussion for 15 days after which it could be readied for Cabinet and parliamentary approval. There is also a plan in the document that is now available on the Environment Mi-

nistry's website, to exempt land acquired before 1980 before the FCA came into effect – by public sector bodies such as the Railways. Currently, the document notes, there was "strong resentment" among several Ministries on how the Act was being interpreted over the right of way of railways, highways.

As of today, a landholding agency (Rail, NHAI, PWD, etc.) is required to take approval under the Act and pay stipulated compensatory levies such as Net Present Value (NPV), Compensatory Afforestation (CA), etc. for use of such land which was originally been acquired for nonforest purposes. The Environment Ministry

also proposes adding a clause to make offences under the modified Act punishable with simple imprisonment for a period which may extend to one year and make it cognisable and non-bailable. They also propose provisions for penal compensation to make good for the damage already done.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC seeks model + pact between builder, buyer

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Octect homebuyers from exploitation by builders who delay transfer of possession and often redraft delivery schedules. A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and B.V. Nagarathna issued notice on a petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay on the lack of a "uniform or model" form for agreements.

DETAILS ▶ PAGE 10





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IN BRIEF

Eight children forced into begging rescued

Eight children – who were forced into begging - were rescued from Bhikaji Cama Place, said Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights. "Seven kids were aged between 6 and 17 years and one was 1.5 years old. They were given medical care and COVID testing at the office of SDM Vasant Vihar," a statement read.

Jain inspects ongoing road reconstruction drive

Public Works Department Minister Satyendar Jain conducted a surprise inspection to take stock of the ongoing road reconstruction drive being carried out by the Delhi government on Monday. He told officials to fill all potholes by October 20.

Banks told to integrate services with VAHAN

The Transport Department on Monday issued a circular instructing vehicle loan provider banks, financial institutions and Non-Banking Financial Companies to integrate their services with the VAHAN portal latest by October 31.

AAP govt. announces winter action plan to tackle pollution

Kejriwal appeals to Centre to combat stubble burning, convert vehicles to CNG

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday announced a 10-point action plan to combat pollution during winters when the Capital's air quality reaches hazardous levels every year.

Mr. Kejriwal, however, accused the Centre and governments of neighbouring States of not having done anything to stop stubble burning.

Apart from appealing that stubble burning be combatted, he also demanded that the Centre and States ensure that vehicles coming to Delhi should be converted to CNG and industries operating in the NCR run on PNG.

Measures taken

The AAP government had, since coming to power, started supplying electricity 24x7 which had eliminated the use of generator sets, taken concrete steps against dust pollution and shut down two thermal plants operating in



Workers burn stubble on the banks of the Yamuna on Monday.

the city.

"The Delhi government found a solution to stop stubble burning in the form of bio-decomposer. To prevent stubble burning, the bio-decomposer solution will be sprayed throughout Delhi for free by us. If the governments of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh also use this solution properly, then stubble burning pollution can be eliminated," he said.

"We are putting together a total of 75 teams in Delhi. These teams will inspect different locations of construction sites and dust will be controlled by imposing heavy penalties. To stop the burning of garbage, we have started patrolling, wherein 250 teams will find the same

and charge fines," he said. India's first smog tower, the Chief Minister said, had been set up in Delhi and was

showing successful results which would be monitored for a few more days following which a decision on installing more would be taken. Pollution hotspots were being monitored through green war room round the clock while 50 new environment engineers had also been recruited for it.

'To control vehicular pollution, 64 roads have been identified where traffic jams are frequently experienced and 500 teams have been set up to check PUC certificates. Petrol-driven vehicles of more than 10 years and diesel-driven vehicles of more than 15 years will be scrapped off," he said.

BJP calls it 'lies'

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta alleged that the action plan by the government was a "bundle of lies". A similar plan announced by the government in 2018, Mr. Gupta argued, was yet to have any visible

More machines to sweep city roads clean

Number of sprinklers also increased

NIKHIL M BABU NEW DELHI

The Delhi government and agencies planned to increase the average length of road swept every day by mechanical sweepers and the number of water sprinklers this winter, compared to last year, an official told The Hindu.

Also, as part of the action plan, more teams will be involved in implementing different measures to control air pollution this winter.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday announced that an eco-park is being built to process ewaste, however, the project is yet to be approved and is expected to be completed only by mid-2023, officials

"The country's first ewaste eco-park is being built in Delhi on 20 acres. We are setting this up to curb pollution caused by e-waste," the Chief Minister's office said in

The eco-park is part of a Central government policy and is to be done in other

parts of the country as well.

Increased length

The government plans to increase the average length of road swept per day by mechanical sweepers to 2,200 km this winter compared to 1,895 km last year. For this purpose, the number of mechanical road sweepers (MRS) machines is planned to be increased to 69 from 58 last winter.

Similarly, the number of water sprinklers is to be increased to 372 from 328.

The air pollution in the city spikes during the winter, chiefly due to a combined effect of stubble burning in the neighbouring States and climatic conditions, which lowers wind speed and mixing height and in turn traps pollutants. The use of sprinklers and MRS machines peaks during the winter in the city and falls after February, as per government data. Both these measures are aimed at reducing road dust, which is one of the major local air pollutants in the

BJP ready to kill farmers, alleges AAP

STAFF REPORTER

Aam Aadmi Party leaders on Monday staged a protest at Jantar Mantar, demanding the arrest of people who "murdered farmers", referring to the Lakhimpur Kheri incident in Uttar Pradesh where four farmers died.

"There is an emergencylike situation. No one can talk about anything. You kill someone and no one can even raise their voice. But in a democracy, you have this right... If action is not taken, then the AAP will take this fight for farmers," AAP Delhi in-charge Gopal Rai said.

"The incident in U.P. shows that the BJP is not only unwilling to listen to farmers, but also is ready to kill them...," the AAP leader said. The AAP chief spokesperson said MP Sanjay Singh was detained by the Uttar Pradesh police.

The party demanded that Union Minister Ajay Mishra be immediately sacked from the Cabinet and his son be arrested and sent to jail.

Plumber kills woman over 'smoking'

A 45-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly killing a woman for telling him not to smoke near her shop in Dabri on Sunday, the police

The accused has been identified as Deepak, a plumber. DCP (Dwarka) Shankar Choudhary said

SI no Details

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submission of bids

they received a call around 10 p.m. on Sunday that a woman, Vibha, 30, was lying in a pool of blood near her

Following this, a team rushed to the spot and took her to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital where she was declared brought dead.

"The accused was inebriated at that time. The in-

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Bhikhari Medical College, Hazaribag

cident occurred when he went to the woman's shop and started smoking. She told him not to smoke, at which Deepak took a plumbing tool and slit her throat," an officer said.

> He then fled the spot but was held soon. A case under IPC Section 302 (murder) has been lodged against

Wrestler Sushil Kumar seeks bail in Chhatrasal Stadium murder case

'Police have withheld witnesses' statements to build false case'

STAFF REPORTER

Olympic medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar on Monday moved a Delhi court seek ing bail in the Chhatrasal Stadium murder case.

In his bail application filed by advocate Pradeep Rana, the wrestler stated that he has been falsely implicated and incarcerated in jail since June 2.

Vested interest

Mr. Kumar's lawyer stated that the "demise of a budding wrestler has been sensationalised and the same is being exploited against the present applicant by parties with vested interest"

The application further said that "the police left no stone unturned" to present

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THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

The police have left no stone unturned' to present a 'false and guilty image' of Sushil Kumar and fed false information to the

a "false and guilty image" of Mr. Kumar and fed false information to the media to wrongfully establish a connection between him and renowned gangsters.

"They [police] had even gone to the point of painting a grotesque image of the accused where he was said to be a gangster himself and even questions were raised against his antecedents,"

the application stated. The application alleged

that the investigating agency, "to build a false case", has withheld the statements of witnesses. It also said that the video footage, the police have relied on, has been taken on a phone whose "ownership is a big mystery". Mr. Kumar, along with others had allegedly assaulted former junior national wrestling champion Sagar Dhankar and his friends at the stadium in May over an alleged property dispute. Dhankar later succumbed to the injuries.

The Delhi police had filed Additional Judge Shivaji Anand will

an FIR against the accused. hear the bail application on Tuesday.

Hindu College wears a deserted look on the first day of the DU admission process on Monday.

- SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

DU receives 30,554 applications on Day 1

Second list likely to be out on Oct. 9

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Delhi University received 30,554 applications on the first day of admissions under the first cut-off list to various courses offered by colleges of the university till 7

An admission officer of the university said that of the total applications received, 2,286 applications have been scrutinised and approved by the colleges and 795 students have paid the fees and completed the admission process.

Candidates have time till 11.59 p.m. on October 6 to apply for admissions against the first cut-off list on the university's admission portal. Colleges will complete approvals for admission against the first list by 5 p.m. on October 7 and the last day for payment by candidates is 5 p.m. on October 8. The second list is expected to be released by the univerOf the total applications received, 2,286 applications have been scrutinised and approved by the colleges and 795 students have paid the fees and completed the admission process

sity on October 9.

UNIVERSITY ADMISSION OFFICER

Students who have secured admissions in the first cut-off list have the option to cancel and retake it if they clear the cut-off in any of the subsequent cut-off lists. However, students will be able to make this change only once during the admission process against a particular

The university said that it may declare a minimum of five cut-off lists depending on the number of vacant

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT **Executive Engineer P. W. Division No.1 Nagpur**

INVITATION FOR TENDERS e-mail- div1nagpur.ee@mahapwd.com

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Online tenders in B-1 Form (Percentage Rate) are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No. 1, Nagpur for the following work from P.W.D.

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No	Work	(Rs. lakh)	Tender Form	(Calendar Months)
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2	Cleaning of premises water tank and other misc. work at Commissioner Office and Administrative Building No.1 and 2 at Nagpur for Winter RAC Session- 2021, Nagpur.	17.70	560/-	1 (One Month)
	Providing amenities to Driver camp at Sarpanch Bhavan and Akar Building No.12 and 13 Nagpur for Winter RAC Session-2021, Nagpur.	17.70	560/-	1 (One Month)
4	Repairs to Rajbhavan other building including general repairs and painting for winter RAC Session-2021 at Nagpur.	17.60	560/-	1 (One Month)
5	Repairs to Rajbhavah main building including general repairs and painting for winter RAC Session-2021 at Nagpur.	17.70	560/-	1 (One Month)
6	Repairs to Rajbhavan servant Qtrs. Building including general repairs and painting for winter. RAC Session-2021 at Nagpur.	17.70	560/-	1 (One Month)
7	Supply of soft murum and cleaning of premises for Detention Camp RAC-2021 at Dabha/Police Head Quarter at Police Line Takali, Nagpur.	17.00	560/-	1 (One Month)
	Repairs to water supply sanitary, flooring and painting to Asharay, CID Building, M.T. Section and other offices for RAC Session -2021 at Police Line Takali, Nagpur.	17.00	560/-	1 (One Month)
9	Repairs to water supply sanitary, flooring and painting of Mess Building. NIT Hall & other repairs for RAC Session -2021 at Police Line Takali, Nagpur.	17.00	560/-	1 (One Month)

- Detailed tender notice can be seen on website https://mahapwd.gov.in
- 2. Detailed tender notice can be seen on the Notice Board in the office of the undersigned. 3. Right is reserved to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- 4. In this Tender Notice, Tender downloading, Tender opening etc information available on web site.
- 5. The bidder shall submit the hard copy of tender document (Technical and financial Envelope) in sealed envelope within 3 days from last date of submission at the office of tender opening authority.

Executive Engineer, ROC/2021/2022/2202 P. W. Dn. No.1 Nagpur

Delhi govt. issues show-cause notice to Ganga Ram Hospital City sees 34 fresh COVID-19 infections

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi government sent a show-cause notice to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on complaints of the hospital allegedly not treating people from the EWS cate-

When contacted, a hospital official said, "The allegations in the notice are not true. The authorities are replying to the issues raised and hope the misunderstanding if any should be resolved soon."

ported 34 new cases and zero COVID-19 death in the last 24 hours, said a bulletin released by the Delhi government on Monday.

Meanwhile, the city re-

The total number of deaths stood at 25,088 and cases at 14,39,000.

A total of 34,038 tests were done in a day and that the test positivity rate was 0.10%. Of the total cases, 14,13,514 people have recovered and there are only 398 active cases.

Robber held with huge cache of arms

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 23-vear-old man, involved in several cases of robberies, has been arrested with a huge cache of arms by the Delhi police after an exchange of fire in Dwarka in the early hours of Monday.

DCP (Dwarka) Shankar Choudhary said the accused, identified as Deepak, used to supply weapons to several gangs, including the dreaded Saddam Gauri and Vicky gang, in the Capital. The police said that four highly sophisticated pistols and two countrymade pistols with 104 live rounds were seized from the accused and that he had brought the same from Meerut.

Boy abducted by relatives rescued after four days

The accused wanted to take revenge

STAFF REPORTER

A 14-year-old boy, allegedly abducted by two of his relatives, was rescued by the police in Outer North Delhi's Bhalswa Dairy. The accused relatives wanted to take revenge from the boy's maternal uncle, the police said on

> DCP (Outer North) Brijendra Yadav said that the accused have been identified as Monu, 20, and Ashok, 23.

On October 1, the police received a complaint from the victim's father that his son, a Class VIII student, had gone missing. A kidnapping case was registered and a team was formed to nab the accused. However, no ransom call was made and there $\,$ was no word from the kidnappers, the police said.

On Sunday night, police officers spotted Monu and Ashok with a countrymade pistol and a live round, Mr. Yadav said, adding that the were taken interrogation.

Around the same time, the police received a call from a man stating that a boy was held in captivity at a house. "The caller was a passerby who had heard the boy's cries for help. The locals helped the boy free himself," Mr. Yadav said.

The victim revealed the names of the abductors. "The police realised that the two accused were the same people who were caught earlier," Mr. Yadav said.

Youth beaten to death over theft suspicion

STAFF REPORTER

A 20-year-old youth died after he was allegedly beaten by the public on suspicion of theft in Outer Delhi's Sultanpuri on Monday. The police are awaiting the post-mortem report for legal action.

DCP (Outer) Parvinder Singh said that the deceased has been identified as Vishal Singh. A PCR call was made by

Sumit, 33, a resident of Aman Vihar, stating that a thief was caught after he entered their house. When the police reached the spot, the man was lying unconscious. "He was taken to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital where he was declared dead," an officer said.

DELHI

TUESDAY, OCT. 05 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

THURSDAY, OCT. 07 RISE 06:17 SET 18:01 ► RISE 06:57 SET 18:49

Delhi Weather Delhi City Safdarjang Palam

Delhi Palam Today <mark>35°C</mark> Passing rain or

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

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 35°C Dry westerly winds are expected. Weather will be warm and dry. Night will be

Schools reopen in Maharashtra

Schools reopened across Maharashtra on Monday for students of Class V to XII in rural areas and VIII to XII in urban pockets. CM Uddhav Thackeray said the decision was tough and urged parents to take care of their children's

Cong., BJP face internal strife over | Stalin launches software candidates' selection in Rajasthan to aid in police probes

By-elections for two Assembly seats in the State scheduled for October 30

MOHAMMED IQBAL

Internal rivalries, influence of local leaders and political interference by the dominant communities are some of the factors facing both the ruling Congress and the Opposition BIP during the exercise to select candidates for the upcoming by-elections to two Assembly seats in Rajasthan.

The voting for bypolls in Udaipur district's Vallabhnagar and Pratapgarh district's Dhariawad constituency will be held on October 30. Election was necessitated after the death of Congress MLA from Vallabhnagar Gajendra Singh Shaktawat on January 20 and BJP legislator from Dhariyawad Gautam Lal Meena on May 19. Both of them died of COVID-19

Two-time MLA Mr. Shakta-



Intense deliberations: Rajasthan BJP president Satish Punia, former CM Vasundhara Raje and others. • FILE РНОТО

wat was a loyalist of former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot. At least two of his family members have staked their claim to get the party ticket.

The Congress may nominate Mr. Shaktawat's wife Preeti in an attempt to get sympathy votes at the seat, which has traditionally been the party's stronghold. Ho-Mr. Shaktawat's brother Devendra Shaktawat, who is also a strong claimant, may oppose her candidature and try to mobilise the Congress workers in his own support.

The BJP faces a tough choice in Vallabhnagar, as the proposed move to bring the popular leader and former MLA Randhir Singh Bhindar back to the party fold is being opposed by an influential section. After his victory on the BIP ticket in 2003, Mr. Bhindar had left the party and won the 2013 Assembly election as an independent

Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria, considered the BJP's seniormost leader in the Mewar region, is reportedly against any move to re-induct Mr. Bhindar into the party. Mr. Bhindar had formed an outfit, Janata Sena, while contesting the two previous polls and ensured the defeat of BJP candidates, who had finished third both the times.

In the Dhariawad constituency, the BJP may field either the late Mr. Meena's son Kanhaiya Lal or an influential local leader, Khet Singh Meena, as its candidate. The Congress is considering the names of Zila Pramukh Indira Meena, wife of Pratapgarh MLA Ramlal Meena, and Nagraj Meena, who has contested the Assembly election five times in the

It will help track down accused with data from CCTNS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday launched a face recognition software to aid the police in investigations.

The software will help compare the photos of suspects with a database of over 5.30 lakh photos uploaded in the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).

Sharing of information

The software is expected to help track down accused persons, suspects, missing persons and unidentified corpses with the data sourced from the CCTNS, an official release said.

If an accused person or a suspect is involved in another offence being probed by another police station, the information about him/her would be shared between





New tech: Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin launching the face recognition software in Chennai on Monday.

them.It will also help in checking whether there is a history-sheet behind a person or any warrant has been pending.

The software can be installed in the work stations of police stations as well as in the smartphones of police personnel on the field, the release said.

There is a plan to improve the software to identify faces in CCTV footage. This will help in locating those who the police search for and missing persons at bus, railway or air termini or at the venues of festivals.

Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu, Home Secretary S.K. Prabakar, Director-General of Police C. Sylendra Babu, Additional Director-General of Police Vinit Dev Wankhede (State Crime Records Bureau) and senior officials were present.

Bengal violence: CBI, SIT submit probe reports before High Court

CBI has registered 40 FIRs and filed chargesheets in 7 cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing post-poll violence in West Bengal, submitted their reports to the Calcutta High Court on Monday.

A Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Rajarshi Bharadwaj said that the CBI has registered 40 FIRs so far and filed chargesheets in seven cases. "Status report has also been filed by CBI in a sealed cover. It was opened. Briefly it men-

tions that total 40 FIRs were registered. After investigation chargesheets have been filed in seven cases," the order read. A five-judge Bench of the High Court on August 19 had directed CBI and SIT to investigate the post-poll violence in West Bengal.

'Not consulted'

The High Court, however, pointed out that the SIT has not consulted retired Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court Manjula Chellur who was appointed by the Court to oversee functioning of the

SIT. "Vide order dated September 03, 2021, we had requested Hon'ble Ms. Justice Manjula Chellur, retired Chief Justice of this Court to monitor working of SIT. However, it was not disputed that for the aforesaid purpose she was not taken into confidence," the court said. The Bench also directed to provide security cover to Ms. Chellur considering the seriousness of the matter. The Bench also observed that there are no minutes of meeting of the SIT placed on

Telangana opposes A.P.'s water project plan

Urges river board to stop work on new reservoir as part of HNSS-II

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has raised its concern over the plan of neighbouring Andhra Pradesh to enhance the scope of Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS-lift irrigation project), a surplus water-based project taken up outside the Krishna Basin, by building a new reservoir with irrigation potential of 23,000 acres as part of the HNSS phase-two.

It has addressed a letter to the Krishna River Management Board on Monday requesting the latter to restrain Andhra Pradesh from constructing the new reservoir at Jilledubanda near Dharmavaram in Anantapur district with a storage capacity of 2.41 tmc ft water drawn from Srisailam, in violation of the A.P. Reorganisation

Engineer-in-Chief (General-Irrigation) of Telangana C. Muralidhar wrote to KRMB Chairman M.P. Singh that the Jilledubanda reservoir is one of the new schemes taken up after bifurcation of combined Andhra Pradesh with a cost of ₹47,776 crore in violation of the APRA, without the appraisal of the river board and without the approval of the Apex Council.

The Jilledubanda scheme was given administrative approval with ₹680 crore in September last year and tenders were invited recently with an estimated cost of ₹609.14 crore. Water would be diverted to the new reservoir by constructing a cross regulator on the HNSS main canal at 377.1 km and water diverted from there would be given to the proposed ayacut in Bathalapalli, Mudigubba, Dharmavaram and Tadimarri mandals.

Muralidhar brought to the notice of Mr. Singh that Telangana has already written several letters to the river board highlighting Andhra Pradesh's plans with a plea to stop that State from carrying the works.

University scholar held for 'links with Maoists'

'He encouraged people to join outfit'

STAFF REPORTER HYDERABAD

A Ph.D scholar of the Osmania University, who was the State president of the Telangana Vidyarthi Sangam (TVS), was arrested by the L.B. Nagar police of the Rachakonda Commissionerate for his alleged links with the outlawed CPI (Maoist) party, and for "encouraging" people to join the outfit.

He was arrested in a twoyear-old Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) case.

Kota Srinivas Goud, 38, a resident of Baudhanagar, Warasiguda, hails from Appannapet of Peddapalli

According to L.B. Nagar inspector V. Ashok Reddy, Mr. Goud possessed Maoist literature and was conspiring with persons belonging to the banned Maoist party, besides inciting people to become members.

"As a result, he was involved in the terrorist act as defined under the UA (P) Act of 1967. He also supported terrorist organisations to further their activity by encouraging support for the said banned organisation," the inspector said.



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EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO: 01-CUS OF 2021 DATED: 14-09-2021

In supersession to Employment Notification No; 05-CUS of 2020 dated 28.09.2020, Cluster University Srinagar invites online applications from the eligible candidates for the post of Registrar: General conditions:

- 1. Candidates are required to apply online through University website www.cusrinagar.edu.in
- Detailed advertisement notice shall be available on university website www.cusrinagar.edu.in on 20-09-2021

Important Dates

Date of availability of online application form: 20.09.2021 Last date for submission of online application form: 19.10.2021 Last date for submission of hardcopies of the application form: 20.10.2021

No: CUS/Adm/Adv.Reg/160/4330-36 /2021 Dated: 14 - 09 - 2021

I/C Registrar

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Ghumarwin Distt Bilaspur H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, of from the eligible class of contractor registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in table.

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The bidder are advised to note other detail of tenders from the department ebsite. www.hptenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer Ghumarwin Division HPPWD Ghumarwin

HP / 4440/21-22

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

ED arrests former Unitech promoter's wife and father

DEVESH K PANDEY NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested three persons, including former Unitech group promoter Sanjay Chandra's wife Preeti Chandra and his father Raconnection with a Chandra, in money-laundering probe.

The third accused has been identified as Rajesh Malik. Mr. Ramesh Chandra is the founder of the Unitech Limited. Mr. Sanjay Chandra and his brother Ajay Chandra were earlier arrested by the Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi police in 2017 on the allegation of cheating home buyers.

GOVT. OF ASSAM DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE, ASSAM UZANBAZAR, GUWAHATI

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Notice Inviting Tender

Directorate of Social Welfare, Assam, Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1 invites e-tenders in two bid system affixing Court fee stamp of Rs.8.25 only, for supply of School Bag, Tiffin Box, Water Bottle (Insulated) and ID card Holder with printed card & hanging mechanism to the children of all ICDS Centres (Anganwadi Centres and Mini Anganwadi Centres) in different ICDS Projects of Assam from the Manufacturer/ Authorized Dealer for procurement under ICDS Scheme during the financial year 2021-22. The terms & conditions and details of items to be supplied are described in the Tender Document. mnortant dates of the tender

impo	important dates of the tender.										
SI.	Scheduled	Start date	Start time	End date	End time						
No.											
1.	Tender publishing	04/10/2021	05:00 PM	NA	NA						
2.	Tender download		05:00 PM	30/10/2021	05:00 PM						
3.	Pre-Bid Meeting	No pre-bid meeting will be conducted due to the COVID 19									
		pandemic. Bidders may sent the queries through email at									
		directorsocialy	velfareassam1	@gmail.com	till 08/10/2021. If						
		during tender	period Covid	19 protocol a	llows to hold such						
		meeting in tha	t situation matt	er will be notifie	ed in due course.						
4.	Bid submission	04/10/2021	05:00 PM	30/10/2021	05:00 PM						
5.	Bid opening	01/11/2021	11:00 AM	NA	NA						
					cc: 1 1 1 14						

documents may downloaded official website https://assamtenders.gov.in.

The bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions from the website shall submit their tender online on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand) only for each tender by crossed Demand Draft/ Banker's cheque issued by a Nationalized Bank/ Scheduled Commercial Bank drawn in favour of the Director of Social Welfare, Assam, Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1 and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted online- date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

The bidders shall have to submit the proof of payment of Earnest Money Deposit of Rs. 20.00 lakhs only in the form of crossed Demand Draft/ Bankers Cheque/ Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR)/Bank Guarantee drawn in favour of Director, Social Welfare. Assam from a Nationalized Bank/ Scheduled Corrrnercial Bank and payable at Guwahati.

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The Director of Social Welfare Assam, Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1 reserves the right to change the opening time and date of the tender due to administrative reason by notifying the same on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in. The Directorate of Social Welfare, Assam will not be liable for any delay in submission of tenders and system errors (If any).

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of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 15 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information is received within 15 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. Axis Bank Ltd. will proceed with the mortgage process.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS (Criminal Side Jurisdiction) Crl.M.P.No.12749 of 2019 and Crl.M.P.No.9791 of 2019 in Crl.R.C. SR. No.34005 of 2019 C. Palanisamy

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ennai - 600 034Petitioner/Petitione :-Versus :-

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. Mr.Sidharatha Ray, A-5, Geethanjali Enclave, New Delhi – 110 017

Proposed Respondent
Whereas the Petitioner above
named K.C. Palanisamy filed the
above Criminal Revision Petition gainst the order dated 19.07.2018 passed by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Allikulam, Chennai – 600 003 in Crl.M.P.No.7830 of 2016 in EOW Cr.No.23 of 2005 against the Respondents above named the Kespondents above named. The Hon'ble High Court ordered Paper publication on 23.09.2021 against the 2nd Respondent to appear before High Court of Madras, Chennai - 104 on 20.10.2021 failing

which the matter will be heard in

our absence and set ex-parte.
M/s.Waraon & Sai Ram

Counsel for petitioner

COM. O.S. No. 57/2019

Plaintiff: PEPPERL AND FUCHS (India) P .td, Ground Floor, 546/1, 7th Main, I 60 058 Represented by Kishore Kuma General Manager, Commercia efendants: DYNAMIC ENGINEER:

SUIT SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION DYNAMIC ENGINEERS LIMITED, N 2. MR. SANJAY BHATIA, Director ynamic Engineers Limited, No. D-84 round Floor, Sector-63, G.B. Nagar District

Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201 301.

3. MR. A.K. SEHGAL, Director of Dynamic Engineers Limited, No. D-84, Ground Floor, Sector-63, G.B Nagar District, Noida, Uttar

Pradesh-201 301. Whereas, the above suit is filed by the plaintiff under Order VII Rule 1 read with section 26 of the Code of Civil Procedure for recovery of money of Rs.6,59,211/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Eleven Only) with 15% interest against you. You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you in this case, at 11.00 AM in the forenoon on 30.10.2021. If you fail to so to appear on the 30.10.2021. If you fail to so to appear on th said date as directed by the court, withou iny further notice, the suit will be dealt with neard and decided on merits in you

ssued under my hand and the seal of thi By order of the Court, Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru. Advocate for Plaintiff : A. Devaraja No. 214, 4th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bangalore - 560 002.

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Pawar's praise for Gadkari seen as 'taunt' to Fadnavis

Deputy CM also compares him with Y.B. Chavan

ALOK DESHPANDE

The recent shower of praises by the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leadership on Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari is in stark contrast with the party's sour relations with the BJP's State leadership, especially former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis.

"Many a time, nothing moves for years after the stone laying ceremony of a project. But if that ceremony is at a programme of (Nitin) Gadkari, then changes are visible within two to three days," said NCP chief Sharad Pawar at a programme in Ahmednagar district on October 2 where he was sharing the dais with Mr. Gadkari.

Mr. Pawar's praise did not stop there. He said whenever he visited any part of the country and witnesses good roads, the local officers and elected representatives thanked Mr. Gadkari for it.

The admiration is mutual. Since the formation of the tripartite alliance in the State, Mr. Gadkari has refrained from attacking the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government and has, instead, focused only on making announcements of his departments and holding official meetings.

From the '90s

The bonhomie between the Pawar family and Mr. Gadkari dates back to the '90s when the latter was heading the State unit of the BJP. "It was also because late Gopinath Munde was a bitter critic of Mr. Pawar. The cold war between Mr. Gadkari and Mr. Munde over supremacy in the party is well known. The closeness between Mr. Gadkari and Mr. Pawar has



The admiration between Nitin Gadkari and Sharad Pawar is mutual. • FILE PIC its roots since then," said Abhay Deshpande, political commentator

and senior journalist. However, in the present context when Mr. Gadkari has become a nonplayer in the State unit of the BJP, thanks to Mr. Fadnavis, the NCP leadership singing paeans of the Union Minister is also being seen as a taunt

to Mr. Fadnavis. Mr. Gadkari's influence in State BJP has gone down for the last four years.

NEWS ANALYSIS

This became evident when his loyalist Chandrashekhar Bawankule was denied a ticket in the 2019 Assembly elections. Later, his choice of candidate was not even considered in the run up to the MLC polls in Nagpur graduate constituency.

The NCP leader is not alone in his praise. In the last week of September, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, while sharing the dais with Mr. Gadkari at a programme in Pune, compared the Minister's work with that of late Yashwantrao Chavan (State's first CM) and Sharad Pawar (as Union Minister). "MPs and MLAs of any party can approach him any time if they need help from the Union government," he

Non-cognisable offence registered against Javed Akhtar over RSS jibe

Police clarified FIR was not filed as stated earlier

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Mumbai police have registered a non-cognisable (NC) offence against Bollywood lyricist Javed Akhtar on Monday over his alleged remark against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on a complaint filed by a lawyer, a senior police officer said.

Earlier in the day, a Mumbai police officer and the complainant lawyer had said that an FIR was registered against Mr. Akhtar.

Later in the day, Mulund police station Senior Inspector Avinash Bhise clarified that an NC was registered and not FIR as told by the officer earlier. Complainant Santosh Dubey has made and circulated a video of himself claiming that the police had registered an FIR against Mr. Akhtar (76) based on his complaint. The lawyer had last month sent a legal notice to Mr. Akhtar for allegedly making "false and defamatory" remarks against the RSS in an interview to a news channel and had sought an apology from him.

In the said interview, Mr. Akhtar al-



legedly drew parallels between the Taliban and Hindu extremists.

Mr. Dubey in his notice had claimed that by making such statements, Mr. Akhtar committed an offence under IPC Sections 499 (defamation) and 500 (punishment for defamation). "I had earlier sent a lega notice to Mr. Akhtar and asked him to apologise over his remark, but he fail to do so. Now, an FIR has been registered against him on my complaint," the lawyer had said. Mr. Bhise said, "We have registered an NC (non-cognisable offence) under section 500 (punishment for defamation) of the IPC against Mr. Akhtar. Further investigation is underway."

Will take strict action in attack on church case: Uttarakhand DGP

Police are yet to make any arrest; raids are on

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Strict action will be taken against those who vandalised a church in Haridwar's Roorkee, said Uttarakhand DGP Ashok Kumar on Monday, a day after the incident.

rest in the case.

The police are yet to make an ar-

ing different places in the search of the accused but so far no success has been achieved.

A mob had vandalised the church,

Sources said police teams are raid-

alleging that religious conversions were being carried out there.

Mr. Kumar said incidents of assault and vandalism are "not acceptable" under any circumstances. "We have instructed officers to take strict action against those involved in the act," he said. Mr. Kumar said adequate number of police personnel have been deployed in the church and surrounding areas.

Meanwhile, the Uttarakhand government issued a notification empowering the DMs of all 13 districts to use the National Security Act for three months from October to December in view of the possibility of incidents of violence in the State.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

V.BALU (83), Retired Daffedar Security Dept, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 04-10-2021. Address: Plot No: 7, F/4, Srinivasa Apartments, Karthikeyapuram 1st Cross Street Madipakkam, Chennai-600091. Mobile No: 9600062984

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Managing Director, I/s.Cheran Holdings Private M/s.K.C.P. Associate Holdings

The State, Rep. The Superintendent of Police, Economic Offence Wing-II,

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PM:A Dharamvir Maggo son of Sh. Brij Lal
Maggo, resident of T-50, Windsor Court
DLF, Phgase-4, Gurugram
B, Randip Singh son of Shri. Ashutosh
Narayan Singh, resident of L.L.G.-III,
Labumum, Block-A, Sushant Lok-I, Sector28, Gungraen

C.Snri Vijay Tehlani son of Shri Maghan Dass, resident of D-12, Sector-47, Noida-201301-UP.

D.Ram Parkash Miglani son of Shri Charan Das Miglani, resident of H. No. 760, Sector-11, Panipat, Haryana E. Sudhir Punia son of Sh Sadanand Punia, resident of D-134, Florance Marvel Sushant Lok, Phase-3, Gunugram F.Sh. Prakhakar Kumar Singh, Accountant G.Sh. Abhimanyu Kumar, Office Assistant H.Sh. Ramesh Baltra son of Shri Rajeev Dayal, resident of Batra Nursing Home, Old DC Road, Sonipat-Haryana.

1.Sh. Satish Arora son of Shri Kanwar Bhan, resident of House No. 861, Sector-4, Gurugram. Gurugram. J.Sh. Manoj Sharma son of Sh. Mittar Sain Sharma, resident of 8103, DLF, Phase-IV,

Gurugram.
K.Sh. M.S. Punia, Advocate & Notary
Public, District Courts, Gurugram.
Issued through order dated 27.07.2021
passed by Special Secretary, Government
of Haryana, Cooperation Department,
Haryana.
(Sano) Kumar)
Secretory The Ram Shanti CGHS Ltd.

THE HINDU DELHI
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021



HOW WILL DELHI'S STREETS BECOME LIKE THOSE OF EUROPE?

International workshop to make Delhi's streets like London and New York

Transforming Delhi's Streets

A workshop on transforming Delhi's streets is being organized by the Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi, in which city makers, transport planners, and experts from London, New York City, Seoul, and Bogota will share their experiences in road design and transformation.

Chief Guest

Shri Manish Sisodia

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Guest of Honour

Shri Satyendar Jain

Hon'ble PWD Minister

5th October, 2021 at 3 PM

"We are going to redesign and redevelop the roads of Delhi like the roads of European countries so that Delhi can be made more beautiful and orderly"

- Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi

Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi, Govt of NCT of Delhi



ÇM YK



Needless escalation

Violence in Lakhimpur Kheri will increase trust deficit between farmers and Government

The deaths of eight people, four of whom were mowed down by a vehicle that was part of the convoy of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and BJP MP Ajay Kumar Mishra, in Lakhimpur Kheri in north-central Uttar Pradesh, marks an escalation of violence in a movement that has tried to remain peaceful. While the agitators and the BJP have traded charges on who is responsible, the incident has also worsened chances of a rapprochement between the farmers protesting against farm laws introduced last year and the Union government. There has been little headway since January this year, when the Government agreed to a few demands and also promised to keep the farm laws in abeyance, and after the Supreme Court stayed their implementation. But the distrust between the unions representing the agitators and the Government has remained high, with the farmers refusing to budge from their maximalist position seeking a repeal of the three laws passed last year - the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act.

The farmers are also willing to continue the protest indefinitely, with its intensity increasing after the harvest season even as their methods have come to the unfavourable notice of Supreme Court judges. A Court-appointed committee to facilitate dialogue with the farmers submitted its report on the laws in March but it is yet to be made public. The experience of the economic reforms since 1991 has shown that rushing them through without political consensus – even if they have merits – by ignoring crucial stakeholders creates severe discontent. Farming in much of India has largely been dependent upon State subsidies, procurement and support pricing – and any sudden change in these inputs may jolt the sector, which has been prone to crises in the last few decades, even if the Government claims that liberalising the farm sector will enhance agricultural incomes. It is true that the protesting farmer unions are concentrated in Punjab, Haryana and western U.P., where the involvement of the State in agricultural procurement, awareness of minimum support prices and the presence of *mandis* is more robust. But it is also true that institutional redress mechanisms to take into account farmers' concerns have not been put in place. After all, the laws were passed without sufficient deliberation through parliamentary committees and public hearings even as the Bills were rushed, by voice votes, in the Upper House of Parliament. This, no doubt, is the reason for the lingering trust deficit. The U.P. government must impartially investigate the incident in Lakhimpur Kheri but it is also imperative for the BJP-led Union government to restore mechanisms of procedural democracy to bridge the trust deficit. Restarting talks with the unions will be a good beginning.

Mamata's march

The West Bengal Chief Minister has reinforced her image as a leader willing to take on the BJP

The victory of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the Bhabanipur by-poll in West Bengal has come as no surprise but the margin of the victory and the little resistance put up by the Opposition parties including the Bharatiya Janata Party have come as a shot in the arm for the ruling Trinamool Congress. Ms Banerjee's record winning margin of 58,832 votes is more than twice the margin of victory secured by the TMC candidate at the same constituency, located in the heart of Kolkata, five months ago in the State's Assembly polls. The ruling party won all the three seats that went to the polls on September 30 in the State. In Jangipur, the margin of victory for the TMC candidate was over 92,000 votes and at Samserganj, the Trinamool Congress nominee won by over 26,000 votes. In two out of three seats, the BJP was the main opposition to the TMC but in Samserganj, the Congress nominee secured about 70,000 votes, pushing the BJP to the third position. Though Ms. Banerjee could not win the Nandigram seat in the Assembly election early this year, her decision to contest that seat considerably boosted her party. With her election as an MLA just in time to meet the six month deadline, Ms. Banerjee has capped her party's impressive victory in May.

The outcomes also reinforce her positioning as a leader who has the gumption to confront the BJP that had left no stone unturned in its attempt to unseat her. The BJP stands further tamed after the by-poll outcomes. It put up a political greenhorn, Priyanka Tibrewal, to contest against the charismatic and popular Ms. Banerjee. The West Bengal BJP, which found it difficult to get the right candidates to contest against TMC nominees in the Assembly polls, continues to grapple with the same challenge five months later. The BJP central leadership stayed away from the campaign unlike earlier this year. The State leaders of the party were no match to the Trinamool Congress, in strategy or popularity. The State unit of the BJP was hoping that the Election Commission of India (ECI) may not announce the polls within the six-month deadline that the Chief Minister had to meet. Apparently taken by surprise, they spent time challenging the ECI decision in the courts rather than campaigning on the ground. The TMC government's focus on cash transfer and other welfare schemes continues to draw the support of the electorate, while the issues of violence and corruption raised by the BJP did not strike a chord with them. The results also point to the continuing resistance to the BJP's polarising tactics in West Bengal, and the party's difficulty in tailoring a politics that is suitable for the region.

An alphabet soup New Delhi needs to sift through

India needs to reconsider the plethora of alliances it is in and rationalise them after a reality check



The current ruckus over AU-KUS – the trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, which was announced on September 15, 2021 - has revealed the hazards of group diplomacy, which Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had anticipated when President Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh proposed a regional organisation for South Asia.

The SAARC years

Apart from its reservations about the reference to security in the draft charter for SAARC, or the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, India was in a dilemma – that not joining the forum would look as though India was against regional cooperation. And if it joined, it faced the possibility of its neighbours ganging up and using the SAARC institutions to pressure India on various regional issues. One other concern was that the proposer of such a group would be suspected of aspiring to the leadership of a region.

On balance, India joined the Association with a number of conditionalities such as the exclusion of bilateral issues, decision-making by voting, and holding of meetings without all members being present. But despite the imperative for cooperation in vital fields. SAARC became an arena for India bashing, particularly by Pakistan. It was bilateral diplomacy in the guise of multilateralism and it became moribund as India did not attend the last summit. SAARC became a liability as it was clear that the region was not mature enough to have a regional instrumentality.

Today, the world has a whole spectrum of groups - from the European Union at one end to the

African Union at the other - with varying shades of cooperation. Groups with acronyms such as North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and numerical groups from a notional G-2 to a real G-77 which has more than a 100 members, exist.

Many of them do not have regional, ideological or thematic homogeneity to lend them a reason for forming a group. The time, the money and the energy spent on convening not only summits but also a whole paraphernalia of ministerial, official and expert level meetings do not seem justified. Bureaucracies, with United Nations salaries and perks, grow around these bodies, developing vested interests to perpetuate them. Such groups which do not have "sunset" clauses continue even after they diminish in importance

Searching for an agenda

Finding the agenda for these organisations and groups is another difficult exercise. The growing agenda of the United Nations includes everything from peace on earth to celestial bodies and even UFOs. When India decided to remain in the Commonwealth even as an independent country, the nature of the affinity to the British Crown changed and its agenda expanded beyond the concerns of the former British colonies. The only way it could survive, after Zimbabwe became independent and apartheid disappeared in South Africa, was by duplicating the agenda of the United Nations and repeating pronouncements of member-states made in other organisations. The role of the Commonwealth was reviewed, but the members reached the conclusion that it had continuing relevance.

The rationale of some of the other new groups was unclear even when they were formed. A Goldman Sachs economist found similarities among fast growing economies such as China, Russia, India and Brazil and recommend-



ed massive western investments in these countries. The countries concerned formed an intergovernmental group called BRIC and later BRICS, with South Africa added as a representative of the African continent. At that time, it was feared that, with the presence of China and Russia in it, it would be construed as an anti-American group. As expected. China quickly assumed the leadership of BRICS and tried to seek changes in the international economic system by establishing a bank, with the possibility of credit for its members. The result of this development was undermining the relevance of another, less ambitious, group of India, Brazil and South Africa (IB-SA), which had several common interests. As candidates for permanent membership of the Security Council, they had specific ideas on UN reform and on South-South cooperation.

On Afghanistan

The recent BRICS summit had Afghanistan on its agenda and the diverse group was able to reach a conclusion only with different caveats. Russia and China were more sympathetic to the Taliban than the others. At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, delegations found some common elements of concern with dramatically different approaches. The SCO started off as a friendly group of China and some of the former Republics of the Soviet Union, but with the addition of India, Pakistan and Iran, it became a diverse group and it could not reach agreement. Pakistan naturally

kistan Prime Minister Imran Khan could not gloat over the unshackling of the Taliban in the face of a looming humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan. Whether the Chinese presence in these summits and the meetings between Wang Yi and S. Jaishankar (the Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister and India's External Affairs Minister, respectively) made any difference to the standoff in Ladakh is yet to be seen. But we know that frequent meetings with the leaders of China do not necessarily mean a meeting of minds as Beijing's trajectory of thoughts and actions are highly unpredictable. Those who saw China's President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in conversation in Mamallapuram (near Chennai), at the second informal summit between India and China, in October 2019, would never have thought that they would ever be in an armed conflict.

sounded triumphant, but even Pa-

India and other groupings

India has also had experience of taking initiatives to encourage groups without the participation of Pakistan, knowing well that Pakistan's presence is a sure recipe for trouble. One of them is the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), an international organisation of seven South Asian and Southeast Asian nations which are dependent on the Bay of Bengal: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand. The group remained dormant for many years till it was revived a few years ago as an alternative to SAARC. Though it has an ambitious agenda for sectoral cooperation, it has not gained much momentum.

Another group which India has championed is the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The organisation was first established as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative in Mauritius in March 1995 and formally launched on March 6-7 1997 (then known as the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation). It also drags on without any significant progress.

On the other hand, the two active groups, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), have eluded us even though we have major stakes in them. We campaigned actively for membership of these two bodies, but gave up when we made no headway. In the process of working with the U.S. on a bouquet of groups such as Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), NSG, the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group, we ended up with membership of Wassenaar and the Australia Group, in which we were not interested.

The Quad and AUKUS

The Quad had a chequered history of India flirting with it for years till the Chinese threat became real in 2020, but New Delhi's reluctance to call a spade a spade has driven the U.S. to new alliances such as a second Quad and then AUKUS as the U.S. wanted to fortify itself with allies against China. But the reaction of France to AUKUS has raised the issue of loyalty among allies even though AUKUS has made it clear that it was meant only to enable the U.S. to transfer nuclear propelled submarine technology to Australia.

The proliferation of alliances and groups will be a matter of close scrutiny by many countries in the light of the new trend initiated by the U.S. Collective bargaining is the strength of group diplomacy but it cannot be effective without commitment to a common cause. It stands to reason that India should also reconsider the plethora of groups we are in and rationalise them after a reality check.

T.P. Sreenivasan is a former Ambassador of India to several multilateral bodies, and International Centre,

Taproots to help restore India's fading green cover

In forest restoration, the participation of local communities and adequate financing and incentives are essential



MOHAN CHANDRA PARGAIEN

overing nearly 30% land surface of the earth, forests around the globe provide a wide variety of ecosystem services and support countless and diverse species. They also stabilise the climate, sequester carbon and regulate the water regime. The State of the World's Forests report 2020, says that since 1990, around 420 million hectares of forest have been lost through deforestation, conversion and land degradation. Nearly 178 million hectares have decreased globally due to deforestation (1990-2020). India lost 4.69 MHA of its forests for various land uses between 1951 to 1995.

Despite various international conventions and national policies in place to improve green cover, there is a decline in global forest cover. This is the prime reason for forest restoration activities including tree planting to become increasingly popular and declaring 2021-2030 as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for improving environmental conditions and

enhancing human communities. Restoration in laymen's terms is bringing back the degraded or deforested landscape to its original state by various interventions to enable them to deliver all the benefits. Building and maintaining activities help to improve ecological functions, productivity and create resilient forests with multifarious capabilities. India's varied edaphic, climatic and topographic conditions are spread over 10 biogeographical regions and four biodiversity hotspots, sheltering 8% of the world's known flora and fau-

However, dependence on forests by nearly 18% of the global human population has put immense pressure on ecosystems; in India, this has resulted in the degradation of 41% of its forests. To combat this, India joined the Bonn Challenge with a pledge to restore 21 MHA of degraded and deforested land which was later revised to 26 MHA to be restored by 2030. The first-ever country progress report under the Bonn Challenge submitted by India by bringing 9.8 million hectares since 2011 under restoration is an achievement. However, continued degradation and deforestation need to be tackled effectively to achieve the remaining target of restoration by addressing various challenges.

Key challenges Local ecology with a research base: forest restoration and tree planting are leading strategies to fight global warming by way of carbon sequestration. However, planting without considering the local ecology can result in more damage. Similarly, planting a forest in the wrong places such as savannah grasslands could be disastrous for local biodiversity. Luckily recent research has shown that naturally regenerated forests tend to have more secure carbon storage. Being less tech-sensitive, costeffective and conserving more biodiversity, natural forest restoration is becoming more widely accepted. However, it is fundamental to consider the local ecolo-



gy before implementing any restoration efforts to retain their biodiversity and ecosystem func-

Restoration, being a scientific activity, needs research support for its success. Whether one goes for active restoration which includes planting or passive restoration with more focus on halting environmental stressors or adopting an intermediate approach of aided natural regeneration, it needs critical examination before putting restoration interventions into practice.

Situation in India

Nearly 5.03% of Indian forests are under protection area (PA) management needing specific restoration strategies. The remaining areas witness a range of disturbances including grazing, encroachment, fire, and climate change impacts that need areaspecific considerations. Further, much of the research done so far on restoration is not fully compatible with India's diverse ecological habitats hence warranting due consideration of local factors. So, the relevance of local research duly considering ecological aspects, local disturbances and forest-dependent communities is vital to formulate guidelines for locally suitable interventions and to meet India's global commitment. Though India's increasing eco-

nomic growth is helping to eliminate poverty, there is continued degradation and a growing scarcity of natural resources. The intricate link between poverty and ennignlighted by India at the first UN global conference on the human environment in Stockholm. Out of its 21.9% population living under the poverty line, nearly 275 million people including local tribals depend on the forest for subsistence.

Fundamental to the strategy

Further, encroachment of nearly 1.48 MHA of forest and grazing in nearly 75% of forest area is also linked to the livelihood of local communities. Linked with the degradation of forests, this dependency, along with various socialpolitical and economic factors, complicates the issue manifold. The participation of local communities with finances for incentives and rewards is essential to redress this complex riddle.

There have been remarkable initiatives to involve local people in the protection and development of forests by forming joint forest management committees (JFMC). More than 1,18,213 JFMCs involving around 20 million people manage over 25 MHA of forest area.

However, a review of their functionality and performance is essential to make them more dynamic and effective to scale up their involvement.

Therefore, negotiations with a wide range of stakeholders including these committees for resolving conflicts and fulfilling restoration objectives are a must and a challenging feat to reach a suitable trade-off.

Adequate financing is one of the major concerns for the success of any interventions including restoration. The active approach of restoration which includes tree plantvironmental degradation was first ing and the involvement of communities seeks incentives and rewards and make the whole affair quite cost-intensive. The contribution of corporates in restoration efforts so far has been limited to 2% of the total achievement. Hence, alternate ways of financing such as involving corporates and dovetailing restoration activities with ongoing land-based programmes of various departments can help to

make it easy for operation. Apart from these specific challenges, the common barriers to restoration as identified globally also need critical review before placing the required methodologies and area-specific strategies in place. The involvement of multiple stakeholders in forest restoration is bound to cause a conflict of interests among different stakeholders; along with low priority and insufficient funding, it becomes even more challenging.

Active engagement of stakeholders including non-governmental organisations, awareness and capacity building of stakeholders with enabling policy interventions and finance can help a lot to achieve the remaining 16 MHA restoration objectives for India. The need of the hour is an inclusive approach encompassing these concerns with the required where-

Mohan Chandra Pargaien is a senior IFS officer in Hyderabad, Telangana. The views expressed are personal

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.

No common ground

It is quite distressing that the deadlock between the Union Government and the protesting farmers is nowhere near any sort of resolution; matters seem to be worsening every day (Page 1, "Four farmers killed as car in Minister's convoy runs amok", October 4). No amount of compensation will bring back the lives lost and animosities could only rise

Unfortunately, the silence of the judiciary is also quite

The political class has collectively failed the nation as it only pursues vote bank politics. The loss of man hours due to the prolonged agitations does not seem to concern governments. While farmers' leaders are also expected to act with responsibility in handling the agitation, the Government cannot

abdicate its responsibility in settling the issue amicably. It is too late already. BRIJ B. GOYAL, Ludhiana, Punjab

The narcotics trail The Narcotics Control Bureau may have

uncovered another case of drug peddling and consumption, but this may not have the desired results unless it is able to strike at the source from where the narcotic products come.

They are grown in farms, produced in labs or sourced from outside the country. The activities of the rich and the famous may make headlines (Page 1, "8 held after drug raid on cruise ship", October 4), but one also expects stringent action in other cases such

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

heroin seizure", October 4). KAIZAD B. IRANI,

■ The ship raid and the Mundra port seizure only show the unchecked flow of narcotics into the hands of

as Mundra (Inside pages,

"DRI pursuing leads on

those who want it. The NCB should track the sources and suppliers. Leaders, teachers and parents have a key role to play in curbing India's growing drug menace. M. PRADYU,

A front-page (October 2, 2021, some editions) standalone picture caption had an erroneous reference to World Senior Citizen's Day. It was actually International Day of Older Persons, observed annually on October 1 to address the issues and challenges that elderly people face (https://bit.ly/3otQw31).World Senior Citizen's Day is celebrated on August 21.

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THE HINDU DELHI TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021

The dystopic reality of a Hindutva state

The Yogi Adityanath administration is untrammelled by constitutional morality



In a recent taunt against Muslims, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath railed against "people who say abba jaan", falsely claiming that earlier governments provided them alone with subsidised rations while depriving others of the same. He wears his hatred of Muslims, his bigotry, intolerance of dissent, and impatience with constitutional niceties as badges of honour. The State he helms has veered dangerously far from the inclusive, free and egalitarian guarantees of the Constitution. He also raged about alleged "shameless" sympathisers of the Taliban in India. The irony – surely unintended – is that his administration mirrors some of the religious intolerance and encouragement of violence that are hallmarks of the Taliban.

Priorities of the administration

Years before he became Chief Minister. Mr. Aditvanath founded a hardline Hindu youth militia, the Hindu Yuva Vahini. There is in his administration a blurring of the lines between militant Hindutva groups and the U.P. police as vigilantes are appointed "police mitr" or friends of the police. This endows them with social authority and legitimacy and enables the police to function officially with vigilante groups. This works in both directions: vigilantes devoted to cow protection and preventing 'love jihad' believe they enjoy impunity for their violent attacks and the police are routinely deluged with toxic anti-Muslim propaganda.

Cow slaughter, or allegedly trading in beef, has been elevated to high treason against the nation. The U.P. government has frequently used the National Security Act (NSA) for 'cow slaughter': out of 139 people jailed under the NSA in 2020, 76 were charged with cow slaughter. Even if their engagement in the beef trade is proved, it is hard to understand how this attracts a law empowering the government to detain those who threaten the security of the country.

The U.P. police proudly reported

to the media its peerless "achievement" over three years, of 6,476 "encounters" or extra-judicial shootouts against alleged criminals, mostly maiming them for life. The majority were petty criminals if not innocents; and many were charged with the crime of 'cow slaughter'.

Another major 'crime' high on the priorities of the U.P. administration is inter-faith marriages between Muslim men and Hindu women, alleged to be 'love jihad'. Mr. Adityanath directed senior police officials to investigate these alliances, and in November 2020, the cabinet passed an ordinance against what it described as an "unlawful conversion from one religion to another". The Assembly later passed a Bill prohibiting conversion by misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement, fraud or marriage. But loose terms enable loose interpretation, allowing the police and vigilante groups to threaten and target Muslim men who are in consensual relationships with Hindu women. Within just a month of the ordinance, 86 people were booked in 16 cases involving allegations of conversion for love or marriage of Hindu women to Muslim men. But there have been no attempts to criminalise Hindu men who marry Muslim women; this does not fit the narrative of 'love jihad'.

The U.P. administration does not hide its hostility to its Muslim citizens "people who say abba jaan". In recent months in the run-up to the State elections early next year, the temperatures of campaigns - official and social - targeting Muslim citizens, and indeed sundry subalterns and dissenters, have risen dangerously. Muslim families "voluntarily" agreed to give up their homes in the



periphery of the Gorakhnath Temple ostensibly to help enhance its security. Incidentally, the head priest of the temple is the Chief Minister of the State. The next month, the anti-terror squad of the State claimed to have busted a conversion racket in which more than 1,000 people had been forced to convert to Islam. This was shrilly reported by television channels and Hindi newspapers. But many people who were contacted by independent journalists affirmed that they had converted to Islam voluntarily. The sale of meat and liquor has been completely banned in Mathura. Lynching has risen, mostly with the tacit protection of the pol-

It is not just Muslims who are threatened by the strong arm of the U.P. state. People who speak of or report uncomfortable truths, who peacefully protest, Dalits, and survivors of sexual violence face the ire of such power. But in times of calamity, like the COVID-19 tragedy, all citizens are left abandoned by the hubris of an uncaring state.

Smelling conspiracies

The shameful rape of impoverished and Dalit girls is not new in U.P., but the open exertions of the police to terrorise the victims and protect the socially and politically influential rapists stand out. Unnao and Hathras have become part of the disgraceful lexicon of state indifference to sexual crimes against disadvantaged castes. In Unnao, it took the threat of the rape survivor to immolate herself outside the Chief Minister's home for the police to act against the BJP MLA she charged with her rape, but the police thrashed in custody her father, who died. And in Hathras, after a teenaged Dalit girl was gang-raped, allegedly by 'upper-caste' men, and died, police investigations seemed geared to prove she was not raped, and her body was hastily cremated at night. The administration alleged an "international conspiracy" to defame the government and provoke caste-riots and arrested under antiterror laws a journalist who had travelled from Kerala to report the case.

Speaking, writing or organising people against state actions has also become dangerous in U.P. The mostly peaceful protesters against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act were slammed in U.P. with 10,900 FIRs. Twenty-two people were killed in police firings, 41 minors were arrested, 500 notices were slapped for recovery from those alleged to have damaged public property, and hoardings displaying photographs of activists and civil society members accused of instigating violence and damaging public property were put up. My colleagues and I visited several towns at that time and found that the police had ransacked and looted like rioters hundreds of homes of Muslims, and their places of worship.

Infamously, as reports emerged during the second COVID-19 wave in the State of lack of oxygen, testing and hospital beds, the Chief Minister once again saw only a sinister conspiracy to defame his government, and threatened to detain under the NSA and seize the properties of those who "spread rumours" of shortages on health provisioning. He even angrily dismissed the stories about floating bodies in the Ganga, claiming that it is customary for certain communities to throw corpses of their loved ones into rivers. He refused to postpone the U.P. panchayat elections, and at least 1,600 teachers who were on poll duty died because of exposure to the virus. Once again, their grieving families were offered no regret, only angry denials.

There are ominous signs that this model of Hindutva machismo is being emulated by Chief Ministers of other States such as Assam, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. Meanwhile, U.P. has evolved into the dystopic reality of a Hindutva state, untrammelled by constitutional morality.

Harsh Mander is a Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow and peace and human rights worker,

Cities are taking climate action

Climate resilience plans in Indian cities focus on isolated risks rather than preparing for multiple, intersecting risks



CHANDNI SINGH & MYTHILI MADHAVAN

On September 23, Maharashtra's Environment Minister, Aaditya Thackeray, announced that 43 cities across the State will join the UN-backed 'Race to Zero' global campaign, which aims to create jobs while meeting goals of climate change and sustainable development. This is laudable and timely - Maharashtra has repeatedly been identified as a State that experiences multiple risks (floods, drought, sea-level rise to name a few) and reports abysmally inadequate policy action on climate-resilient development.

Are cities doing enough?

Indian cities have often been singled out for not doing enough on climate change. To examine this, we assessed climate action in 53 Indian cities with a population of over one million and found, promisingly, that approximately half these cities report climate plans, i.e., they have a climate resilience plan or set of projects in place. Of these, 18 cities have moved beyond intention to implementation. These numbers highlight an encouraging first step, signalling that recurrent experiences of floods, water scarcity, cyclones and storm surges are filtering up into urban development policy.

However, a lot of interventions are being implemented through sectoral projects focusing on particular, isolated risks. For example, most cities report targeted projects to deal with heat waves and water scarcity, followed by inland flooding, extreme rainfall, and growing disease incidence. Coastal flooding, sea-level rise, and cyclones are discussed less often despite India's long coastline and highly vulnerable coastal cities and infrastructure. This focus tends to overlook how multiple risks converge and reinforce each other - for example, seasonal cycles of flooding and water scarcity in Chennai.

Importantly, solutions exist and many of them can simultaneously meet climate action and sustainable development goals. Front-runners in this space have been cities such as Ahmedabad, which has had a Heat Action Plan (HAP) since 2010, its success evident from reduced heat mortality. The HAP involves key government departments, NGOs, researchers and citizens and focuses on high-risk social groups like wage labourers, low-income groups, women and the elderly. Combining infrastructural interven-

tions (for example, painting roofs white) and behavioural aspects (building public awareness on managing heat), the model has now been scaled up to 17 cities across the country.

Nature-based solutions such as mangrove restoration in coastal Tamil Nadu and urban wetland management in Bengaluru have demonstrated how restoring ecosystem health can sustain human systems as well. For example, urban parks provide cooling benefits and wetlands regulate urban floods.

Bottlenecks and ways forward

Many have identified how inadequate finances and political will at city scales constrain developing sustainable Indian cities. However, what is less discussed is inadequate institutional capacity in existing government departments to reorient ways of working. This would entail moving away from looking at risks in isolation and planning for multiple, intersecting risks. This would mean transforming the ways our cities operate and expand. Undertaking long-term planning needs resilience planners in every line department as well as communication channels across departments to enable vertical and horizontal knowledge sharing.

Another key aspect inherent in transforming cities is focusing on changing behaviours and lifestyles. This is tougher and less understood because the norms we adhere to, the values we cherish, and the systems we are familiar with tend to stymie change. One emerging example of slow but steady behavioural change is bottom-up sustainable practices such as urban farming where citizens are interpreting sustainability at a local and personal scale. This can mean growing one's own food on terraces and simultaneously enhancing local biodiversity; composting organic waste and reducing landfill pressure; sharing farm produce with a neighbour, bringing communities closer and creating awareness about food growing.

India is becoming increasingly urban. Its cities or city-like villages are sites where the twin challenges of climate change and inclusive development will be won or lost. Pledges like Maharashtra's are a welcome addition to ongoing climate plans. It remains to be seen how they translate into action. While gloom and doom dominate climate reportage, a range of solutions with co-benefits for climate action and development exists. How to leverage these solutions and equip our city planners and citizens to implement them is what we should focus on.

Chandni Singh is a senior researcher and faculty member at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Bengaluru; Mythili Madhavan is a research associate at IIHS

Science over smog towers

Proven solutions rooted in science, not unproven technological fixes, will reduce air pollution

TANUSHREE GANGULY & MIHIR SHAH the existing data gaps. Simultaneous-

Two new smog towers have been recently inaugurated in Delhi. Bengaluru and Chandigarh also installed smog towers this year. Mumbai's clean air plan indicates a financial requirement of ₹25 crore for installing air filtration units at major traffic intersections in the city. While these efforts indicate that governments are taking cognisance of air pollution, the deployments are often driven by symbolism rather than science. For example, the Delhi government claims that the newly installed smog tower in Connaught Place could reduce air pollution levels by 80%. But there is no scientific evidence of smog towers or any other outdoor air filtration units improving air quality in cities. The smog tower installed in China's Xi'an and another one installed in Beijing did not prove to be effective and were not scaled up.

Smog towers create an illusion of progress towards clean air while diverting crores of public money away from proven solutions. Moreover, they misdirect policymakers and citizens by deflecting attention from areas that call for urgent action. Therefore, governments looking at investing in outdoor filtration systems should defer their deployment plans.

Further, the data on the effectiveness of the newly installed smog towers should be made available publicly for independent evaluation. Until there is scientific consensus on their effectiveness, every new tower installed is just a violation of taxpayers' money and citizens' trust.

What we can do

Meanwhile, governments must ramp up investments in proven solutions to reduce air pollution. First, policymakers should expand air pollution monitoring in areas with limited or no air quality monitoring and strengthen forecasting capacity across cities. Of the 132 cities in the country that currently don't meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 75 do not have a single real-time monitoring station. For areas with no monitoring infrastructure, alternatives like low-cost air quality monitors in combination with satellite observations should be explored to plug

ly, cities should strengthen their air quality forecasting systems by collaborating with scientific institutions that are transparent about their approach and findings. These forecasts should be used in rolling out preventive measures such as travel restrictions, pausing commercial activities or encouraging working from home, on anticipated high pollution days.

Second, city-level emission inventories must be updated periodically. Until last year, over 75% of our city clean air plans did not contain vital information on emissions from different polluting sources. These data are critical to identify key sources of air pollution and design effective clean air plans as per the local context. While several academic institutions carry out emission inventory and source apportionment studies, these studies should not become a one-time exercise.

Third, targeted efforts must be made to improve air quality for urban slum dwellers who have no access to clean cooking energy. In a recent study, we found that nearly half the urban slum households in six States still rely on biomass and other polluting fuels for their cooking needs. Also, household emissions increase during winter, especially when fuel requirement for non-cooking tasks like space heating increases. This increases exposure to indoor air pollution and poses health risks. Hence, policymakers must focus on providing LPG connections to these households along with ensuring sustained usage of LPG as the primary

Finally, and most importantly, cities should strengthen their enforcement capacity by investing in people and systems that can keep a roundthe-clock watch on both egregious and episodic polluters. India is witnessing a rising democratic demand for clean air. But this cannot be met by unproven technological fixes. Instead, we must vigorously pursue solutions that are rooted in science to bring back blue skies.

Tanushree Ganguly is Programme Lead and Mihir Shah is Strategic Communications Lead at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water

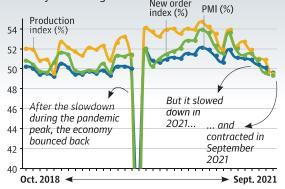
DATA POINT

Power crisis in China

Despite China having relatively fewer COVID-19 has slowed down in 2021. Moreover, the pace of contraction quickened over the last two months. The major reason for this downturn seems to be the incessant power cuts and blackouts that have significantly impacted the output of manufacturing demand and supply. As economies opened up, the demand for finished goods surged, pushing China's factories to produce more. This increased the demand for electricity, which China was not able to meet. Also, as coal prices surged, thermal power plants in China could not operate sustainably and reduced their supply. Moreover, due to tight emission norms following a resolve to reduce greenhouse gases, mining output has been restricted and factories have been asked to scale back to achieve targets. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Jasmin Nihalani

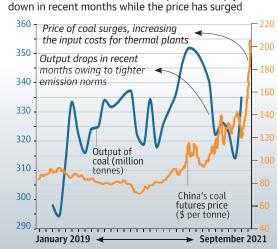
1. Downturn

The graph shows the manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) of China. A PMI that is above 50% shows that the manufacturing economy is expanding; if it is less than 50%, it shows that the manufacturing economy is shrinking



3. Steep decline

The graph shows China's coal futures price (\$ per tonnes) on the right axis and the output of coal from China's mines (in million tonnes). The output has sharply come



Tighter green norms

Electricity generation

February March

10

The graph shows the sector-wise consumption of coal in China. Consumption by the industry sector reduced from 2014 due to China's aggresive push to reduce emissions

In the dark: People eat breakfast by flashlight in Shenyang,

The graph shows the y-o-y change in consumption and generation of electricity in China in 2021. In August

consumption of electricity is depicted in terawatt-hour

Electricity consumption (including residential)

Gap widens

July August

2021, the gap between the growth in generation and consumption widened considerably. The demand and

Liaoning Province in China as power cuts were imposed to

neet official conservation goals. • AP

2. Demand vs supply



The Man Dindu. FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 5, 1971

Two-rupee fake notes case

Coimbatore, Oct. 4: In the "Pogalur two-rupee counterfeit notes case", all except one of the 20 accused were convicted and sentenced to-day to varying terms of rigorous imprisonment ranging from three to seven years on charges of criminal conspiracy and printing of counterfeit notes. The sentences are to run concurrently. Mr. V. Sethusolayar, Sub-Judge, Coimbatore, who delivered the judgment, held that the charges against M. Ramiah Chettiar, accused 17, had not been proved beyond reasonable doubt and acquitted him. The prosecution case was that between December 1965 and March 1969, the accused T. Arunmuga Gownder and 19 others belonging to Tamil Nadu and Kerala entered into a criminal conspiracy and printed two-rupee currency notes to the value of Rs. 838,400 in a ginning factory belonging to the first accused in Pogalur near Mettupalayam.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 5, 1921

Dacoit's escape

Tinnevelly, October 4: The following are the details furnished by an eye-witness of the escape from police custody of Jambulinga Nadar and his associates. Shortly after 3 P.M. on Sunday while Jambulinga and his friends were taken to Manjeri for a Magisterial enquiry escorted by three constables the party made a halt at Moontudappu for taking refreshments. Jambulingam sought the permission of the escort for the release of one hand from his handcuffs which request was granted. Secure in the feeling that they had the key of the handcuffs in their possession the constables left the bandy temporarily for a drink. The prisoners held a hurried conference and quick as thought decided to make a bold bid for liberty. Jambuligam possessing himself of a carbine and a round of ammunition left the bandy and made a rush at a Mahomedan constable who stood nearest to him and felled him to the ground. The disposal of the other two men and freeing his comrades was the work of an instant. The constables who were simply flabbergasted flew for their lives and the escaped prisoners marched triumphantly away. When my informant saw them Jambuligam was shouldering a gun while his associates had their handcuffs on and were not in the least perturbed. The escape of Jambuligam is the one topic discussed everywhere and though he is a terror his daring and coolness command admiration.

FROM PAGE ONE

Farmers raise pitch, protest with bodies

With the rest of his family, Mandeep sat in silent grief, as his mother was being consoled by relatives. Mandeep, too, blamed the administration and repeated the allegation made by the local people that the police had saved Ashish. "What was the police doing there? Why could they not secure the area," he asked.

Anger against the Union Minister has been simmering ever since his speech on September 25 when he asked the protesting farmers to "mend themselves" or else he would not take "more than two minutes" in clashes to do it himself if they faced him. He had also reminded the people of his record before he was elected a public representative.

The Sikh community. which has been at the forefront of the farm protest in Terai, where they own and farm large tracts of land in Kheri and Pilibhit and adjoining districts, perceived it as threat.

Vijay Dhull, Superintendent of Police (SP), Kheri, said the bodies of the four persons who died in clashes after the vehicles ran over the farmers had been sent for post-mortem and now those of the farmers would

The officer, however, said he was not sure how the other four persons were killed, amid allegations that some were lynched by the angry farmers after the cars ran amok. "Some say they were beaten up, some say the cars they were in overturned. Only a post-mortem examination will tell," he said. Asked if they were lynched, Mr. Dhull said there were multiple versions and it was not yet clear.

At the site, two vehicles belonging to the convoy of the Union Minister were set on fire and on Monday they were sites of intrigue for all

Eyewitnesses in Tikonia said the three vehicles raced towards them and mowed down the farmers without a warning. The farmers said they had earlier shown black flags to a block pramukh and the Union Minister's brother-in-law. They also claimed that they had allowed several other cars to pass through before the incident.

Sher Singh, a farmer, alleged that Ashish had tried to flee after the vehicle he was in overturned. Mr. Singh also alleged that the Union Minister's son shot dead one of the farmers who tried to catch him as he tried to escape the crowd. After this, he fired several shots in the air to keep the farmers away before police rescued him, alleged Mr.

Not at site: Ashish

However, Ashish has denied the allegations and told a news agency that he had been at an ancestral event at his village in Banveerpur from 9 a.m. till the end of the programme. "I was not at the incident site," he said.

Farmers, however, claimed they saw him in a vehicle brandishing a pistol. "He had come to the site deliberately to show his might, and scare the farmer," said Harpal Singh, another farmer.

Gurjant Singh, another local, alleged that the police helped Ashish escape from the site.

Among the eight who died was Raman Kashyap, a local journalist who was covering the protests. How he died remained unresolved, especially for his family.

His father, Ram Dulare, while returning after his cremation, said he suspected his son died after being crushed by the cars. "The farmers did not run the car over anyone. Whoever drove it must be from the BIP or someone close to the Union Minister's son," he said. Mr. Dulare submitted a police complaint naming both sides, but said he was sure that it was a car that took his son's life and that he was not lynched.

"Gadi se hi mera beta mara hain. Ab chahe kiski gadi ho," he said, describing the wounds on his son's body, which included a head injury. Mr. Dulare wanted a government job for his daughter-in-law and lakh compensation.

farmers of strangling the ci-

ty with their protest against

been strangulating the en-

tire city and blocked high-

ways... Now you want to en-

ter the city and protest

here?" Justice Khanwilkar

had lashed out at the farm-

Justice Khanwilkar had

even asked the farmers

whether they had taken the

permission of the citizens

who live near their protest

sites on the national high-

ways and public roads.

"Have you taken permission

of the citizens living nearby?

There is a right to protest,

court," he said.

"On one hand you have

agricultural laws.

ers' body.

Supreme Court lashes out at farmers' groups

The court said it would decide whether farmers' bodies could resort to protests on a subject – the legality of three farm laws – which was already sub judice. "First, we will decide these legal questions and then we will examine your question [whether permission can be granted to sit on 'satyagraha' at the Jantar Mantar]," Justice Khanwilkar told the Kisan Mahapanchayat.

The Supreme Court fixed the case for final hearing on the two legal questions on October 21. It ordered the transfer of a case filed by Kisan Mahapanchayat in Rajasthan High Court on the same issue to itself.

The Bench asked the Centre to file a consolidated counter-affidavit.

On October 1, the Supreme Court had accused

but there is a right to use public roads and free movement... There is no point in continuing to protest once you have come to the

Govt. moots changes to Forest Act Act, 1927, that deals with the

The document also proposes removing zoos, safaris, Forest Training infrastructures from the definition of "non-forestry" activities. The current definition restricts the way money collected as part of compensatory cess can be spent towards forest conservation

Previous attempts to amend acts linked to forest laws have been controversial. There was a plan to amend the Indian Forest

purposes.

rights of forest dwellers, in an attempt to address contemporary challenges to the country's forests. The draft law had been sent to key forest officers in the States for soliciting comments and

It drew flak from activists as well as tribal welfare organisations. The government withdrew the draft and has said that a newer updated version was on the anvil.

'Hold Sri Lanka provincial polls'

Foreign Secretary urges Colombo to fully implement the 13th Amendment

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

India has urged Sri Lanka to hold elections to its provincial councils without further delay, according to the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) whose delegation met visiting Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Mon-

Also India does not appreciate any "third party presence" in the Tamil-majority north and east, where New Delhi had "invested heavily", the Foreign Secretary told the TNA, which is the largest grouping representing Tamils of the north and east in the 225-member Parliament, with 10 MPs.

"Foreign Secretary Shringla told us that he has conveyed to the Sri Lankan leadership that provincial polls be held immediately, along with the full implementation of the 13th Amendment," TNA spokesperson and Jaffna legislator M.A. Sumanthiran, who was part of the delegation led by veteran Tamil leader R. Sampanthan, told The Hindu.

'The government had raised some legal challenges in holding the elections, but I pointed out to the Foreign Secretary that even the Attorney-General had cleared the holding of polls with a simple amendment," Mr. Su-



All ears: The Tamil National Alliance delegation with Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

manthiran, a senior constitutional lawyer, said.

"The Foreign Secretary reiterated India's continued support for the full implementation of the 13th Amendment and going beyond it to achieve meaningful devolution," the Tamil MP said, referring to the only constitutional guarantee thus far on a measure of power devolution to the provinces. Key members within the Rajapaksa government had sought the repeal of the Amendment, and the abolition of the provincial council

The five-year terms of the provincial councils - born out of the Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987 as a step to devolve political power to all the provinces – last expired in 2018 and 2019, during the time of the former Maithripala Sirisena-Ranil Wickremesinghe government. Despite the then oppositional Rajapaksa camp demanding that the polls be held to the nine provinces, the Sirisena administration, amended the Provincial Councils Elections Act in 2017, postponed holding the elections, as it grew increasingly unpopular amid internal rifts.

"On Mr. Shringla's concerns about any third-party presence in the north and east, we told him that we do not want our country to become a Chinese colony. We said that since the north and east have historic, cultural and linguistic ties with India, we do not want any other force to change that," Mr. Sumanthiran said.

Earlier this year, the TNA had opposed a Chinese energy project in Delft island off Jaffna peninsula, citing "security threats" to the Tamil people and India. New Delhi, too, voiced concern and offered an alternative grant to Colombo to pursue the project.

Malaiyaha Tamils

Mr. Shringla also met prominent leaders representing the Malaiyaha (hill country) Tamils, including the Tamil Progressive Alliance (TPA). in Opposition, and the Ceylon Workers' Congress part of the Rajapaksa govern-

In his delegation's meeting, TPA Leader and MP Mano Ganesan underscored the importance of the 16th Amendment, along with the 13th Amendment, that ensured language rights to Tamils. "We urged India to give equal importance to both while raising our concerns with the government," Mr. Ganesan told *The Hindu*. The TPA flagged proposed

electoral reforms that they fear would reduce the political representation of the Malaiyaha Tamils (some of whom identify as Indian-origin Tamils). "We also sought greater support of the Indian government to the plantation Tamil community that has been neglected for generations, through suitable socio-economic projects,"

Shringla pushes projects, connectivity in Sri Lanka

Both nations attempting to reset ties

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

India on Monday underscored the need for early conclusion of bilateral projects in Sri Lanka, and the enhancement of connectivity by air and sea between the neighbouring countries, which are seeking to reset ties amid a strain in ties. Visiting Sri Lanka on a

four-day visit beginning Oc-

tober 2, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Monday held talks with Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa, Foreign Minister G.L. Peiris and Foreign Secretary Admiral Jayanath Colombage (retd.), discussing key bilateral issues, while focusing on recovery from the pandemic through enhanced cooperation in tourism and development partnership, according to tweets from the Indian High Commission in Colombo.

In his remarks at the Temple Trees, the official residence of the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Mr. Shringla said: "With the easing of the situation in Sri Lanka, it may be opportune for us to work on connectivity initiatives like the Jaffna to Chennai flight, ferry services between Karaikal and Kanke-

santhurai, and Dhanushkodi and Talaimanar and the Buddhist corridor with the new international airport at Kushinagar," referring to halted, or delayed projects awaiting a push for revival or completion.

A media release issued by the Sri Lankan Prime Minister's office following his meeting with Mr. Shringla said India was looking forward to receiving the first pilgrims' flight from Sri Lanka to Kushinagar airport in Uttar Pradesh – a popular destination for Buddhist pilgrims - that was now upgraded to an international

During his virtual bilateral summit with Mr. Mahinda last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a \$15 million grant for the promotion of Buddhist ties, aimed at deepening "people-to-people linkages" between the two countries. "Prime Minister Rajapaksa appreciated Prime Minister Modi's initiative to promote Buddhist ties Secretary Shringla said it was a priority area of Prime Minister Modi," the release said.

The visiting Foreign Secretary also virtually launched a few Indiabacked projects from Co-

Govt. promises probe into Pandora Papers

Stating that only a few Indians were named, Ministry says multi-agency group will track disclosures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Union Government has promised an investigation into the revelations in the Pandora Papers, and assured appropriate action in such cases as per law, the Finance Ministry said in a statement on Monday evening. Stating that only "a few In-

dians" had been named in the papers so far, the Ministry said investigations in cases of the Pandora Papers leaks appearing in the media would be monitored through a multi-agency group. Anil Ambani, Vinod Ada-

ni, Jackie Shroff, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Niira Radia, Sachin Tendulkar and Satish Sharma were among the 300 Indians mentioned in the list so far.

"The government will also proactively engage with foreign jurisdictions for obtaining information in res-

pect of relevant taxpayers and entities," the Ministry said, adding that India was part of an Inter-Governmental Group that ensured "collaboration and experience sharing to effectively address tax risks associated with such leaks".

'Keep a tab'

The multi-agency group headed by the Central Board of Direct Taxes Chairman. with representatives from the Enforcement Directorate, the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Reserve Bank of India, would keep a tab of the phased disclosures from the Pandora Papers indicated by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) website, the Ministry said.

The ICIJ website suggests that information will be released in phases and structured data connected to the



Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw refuted any financial misdoings.

Pandora Papers investigation will be released only in the days to come on its Offshore Leaks Database.

"It may be noted that following earlier similar such leaks in the form of ICII, HSBC, Panama Papers and Paradise Papers, the government has already enacted the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, with an aim to curb black money, or undisclosed foreign assets and income by imposing suitable tax and penalty on such income," the Ministry pointed Undisclosed credits of ap-

proximately ₹20,352 crore had been detected in the investigations carried out in the Panama and Paradise Papers by September 15. Rights group Oxfam India

called for immediate action by authorities and abolishing tax havens following the expose of the Pandora Pap-

"Tax havens cost governments around the world \$427 billion each year. Developing countries are being hardest hit, proportionately. Corporations and the wealthiest individuals that use tax havens are outcompeting those who don't. Tax havens also help crime and corruption to flourish," Oxfam India CEO Amitabh Behar said. Abolishing tax havens

could go a long way towards ensuring that governments actually had the access to tax revenue they need to fund quality public expenditure, he added. Many of the persons

whose names figure on the list had rejected financial misdoings. Among others, Ms. Mazumdar-Shaw, Biocon chief, on Monday said her husband's offshore trust was bonafide and legitimate.

"Media stories reporting on Pandora Papers wrongly implicate my husband's offshore trust, which is a bonafide, legitimate trust and is managed by Independent Trustees. No Indian resident holds "the key" to the trust as alleged in these stories." Ms. Mazumdar-Shaw said in a tweet

(With inputs from PTI)

'Survey on water supply in 500 cities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A survey on household water supply and the condition of waterbodies in 500 cities will be carried out in 2022, officials of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said.

As a part of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Transformation -(AMRUT) 2.0, which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 1, water balance plans would be created for all cities. The survey – Pey Jal Survekshan – would be carried out in 500 cities with a population of above I lakh each, which were co vered under the first iteration of AMRUT, said D. Thara, Joint Secretary in the Ministry and AMRUT Mission Director. The survey would be started "next year", she said on Monday.

SC may not hear poll bond case on Friday

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed doubts about hearing, before the Dasara holidays, a pending challenge against the government's electoral bond scheme and amendments to the Finance Act of 2017, which allows for "unlimited donations from individuals and foreign companies to political parties without any record of the sources of funding".

Making an urgent oral mentioning before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, advocate Prashant Bhushan said the petition had been listed for Friday. However, the CJI voiced reservations about hearing it then, as it was the last day before the court closed for Dasara.

SC dismisses petition on cancellation of NEET-UG

Examination was held on Sept. 12

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a petition filed by several aspirants seeking the cancellation of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-UG 2021 examination held on September 12 due to alleged leak malpractices.

"What sort of writ petition have you filed? Lakhs of people have taken the exam. When one person comes to you, you will file a petition like this. You want us to cancel the exam? Over seven lakh students have attended it... Do you want to make them suffer?" Justice L. Nageswara Rao asked advocate Ninad Dogra, the lawyer for the petitioners.

'Open to complaints'

Mr. Dogra submitted that the court had itself stated that it was open to receiving complaints, even if it was injustice done to just one candidate.

He argued that multiple first information reports (FIRs) had been filed alleging cheating and other malpractices in the exam. Answers were leaked on WhatsApp.

The Bench, also comprising Justice B.R. Gavai, refused to budge, adding that it would not intervene in an exam where 7.5 lakh students had appeared.

Dismissing the petition, the court threatened to impose ₹5 lakh in costs. "You know that the court will not cancel the exam in which 7.5 lakh people have taken the exam. This exam was conducted nationally and not locally," Justice Rao addressed Mr. Dogra.

The petitioners sought a stay of the declaration of the NEET results during pendency, fresh exams and a direction to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and the Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh police chiefs to file probe reports in the case in a week.

They had urged the court to direct the CBI and the police chiefs of both States to file fact-finding reports on the alleged malpractices in NEET-UG 2021.

The petitioners had asked the Supreme Court to direct the government, the National Testing Agency and the National Medical Commission to enhance the standard of security protocols. This would include biometric verification of candidates and use of jammers. The petition said this would help the exams to be conducted in a fair and transparent manner.

Court extends NCB custody of Aryan, others till Oct. 7

Defence counsel says nothing was recovered from him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A magistrate court in Mumbai on Monday extended the Narcotics Control Bureau's custody of actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha till October 7.

The court also sent five others arrested in the alleged drug racket busted on a cruise to NCB custody till October 7. Mr. Khan, 23, Mr. Merchant, 26 and Ms. Dhamecha, 39, were arrested on October 3 and produced in court.

The Additional Solicitor-General appearing for the NCB argued that the Central agency had seized 13 grams of cocaine, five grams of MD (mephedrone), 21 grams of

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh on Monday released

two new policies of the De-

fence Research and Deve-

(DRDO) – Directed Research

Policy (DRP) and Records

NEW DELHI

lopment

Rajnath releases two

new DRDO policies

Organisation



In the spotlight: Aryan Khan escorted by officials inside a vehicle in Mumbai. • AP

charas, 22 pills of MDMA (ecstasy) and ₹1,33,000 in cash at the International Cruise Terminal, Mumbai.

He said the investigation revealed connections of the accused with the suppliers. He sought their custody till October 11. However, advo-

Management Policy 2021.

The Defence Minister was

at an event to give away

DRDO Young Scientists

awards for the year 2019.

Sixteen DRDO scientists, un-

der the age of 35, were

awarded for their outstand-

ing contribution.

cate Satish Maneshinde, representing Mr. Khan, said nothing was recovered from him and whatever recovery was made was from the ship. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate R.M. Nir-

lekar said, "I am of the view that the investigation is of prime importance. Considering this aspect, presence of the accused with NCB is necessary." He then extended their NCB custody till October 7. The other arrested accused - Nupur Sarika, Ismeet Singh, Mohak Jaswal, Vikrant Chhoker and Gomit Chopra - were also produced in court. Counsels for all these accused said the allegations were vague. The court remanded them to NCB custody till October 7.

Ms. Anusha Sri is a 4 years old boy hailing from a poor family. She is suffering from B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and needs Rs. 8,00,000/- for the Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre. Kindly help her to have a new life. Donations sent by Ch / D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch / be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch D.D. / NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank

Nungambakkam Branch, A/CNo: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018 favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G I

Tavouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80'G II (Please do not mention patient name on the Cheque).

All Correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No. 13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324 / 7338978027. Email ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org **WWS**

Tensions break out at Lakhimpur Kheri as U.P. blocks leaders

Priyanka, Akhilesh, Charanjit Singh Channi among those stopped from going to the spot; Bhupesh Baghel asks if one requires a passport or visa to visit the State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties on Monday closed ranks in accusing the Yogi Adityanath Government in Uttar Pradesh of "throttling democracy" by preventing their leaders from visiting Lakhimpur Kheri, where eight people including four farmers were killed during a protest on Sunday.

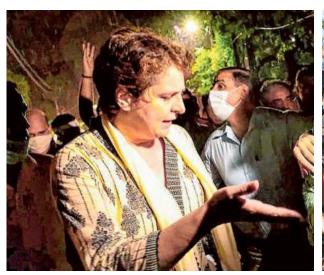
Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Satish Chandra Mishra and Sanjay Singh of the Aam Admi Party (AAP) were among those leaders who were not allowed to go to the trouble spot, citing the imposition of Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code that prohibits a large gathering of

Chhattisgarh and Punjab Chief Ministers Bhupesh Baghel and Charanjit Singh Channi and the latter's deputy Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa were also barred from landing at the Lucknow airport as the U.P. Government denied them permission to visit the State.

The State Government's move prompted Mr. Baghel to ask, "Does one require a passport or visa to visit Uttar Pradesh? Have the rights of all residents been taken away in Uttar Pradesh?" He also asked why he was not allowed to land in Lucknow since Section 144 was imposed in Lakhimpur Kheri.

The SP president was stopped just outside his Lucknow residence in the morning and the BSP's Mr. Mishra was placed under house arrest late on Sunday

But it was the arrest of Ms. Vadra that witnessed dramatic scenes. The Congress general secretary in charge



Raging protest: Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at Lakhimpur Kheri on Monday; and Youth Congress activists staging a protest in front of Uttar Pradesh Bhavan in New Delhi. • PTI

of U.P., accompanied by her colleague and Rajya Sabha member Deepender Hooda, started for Lakhimpur Kheri on Sunday night after arriving in Lucknow.

being briefly stopped outside Lucknow, the Congress leaders reportedly took a different route to avoid heavy police deployment along the main route but were finally stopped at Sitapur, about an hour's

drive to the violence-hit region of Tikonia in Lakhimpur Kheri district. Policemen were deployed at all entry points of the district to stop the entry of people.

Ms. Vadra's video of argu-

ing with the police officials went viral as they took her to a government guest house after detaining her and Mr.

"What happened [in Lakhimpur] shows that the government is trying to crush and finish off the farmers," Ms. Vadra said in a video posted on twitter handle.

In Lucknow, Mr. Yadav sat on a dharna, along with party workers, after being denied permission to travel.

BSP chief Mayawati too reiterated her party's demand for a judicial inquiry.

"The BJP and Modi Government have no business not to allow political parties to reach victims of the barbarism inflicted on farmers yesterday [Sunday]. Strongly condemn this draconian throttling of democracy," CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury tweeted.

"The voice of the farmers cannot be silenced now. Blood of the bread-winners of the country was spilled on the streets. This cannot go unanswered. The Government will have to repeal the farm laws," CPI general secretary D. Raja said

IN BRIEF

'Dismiss Union Minister' BHUBANESWAR

Social activist and Jai Kisan Andolan founder Yogendra Yadav on Mondav demanded immediate dismissal of Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra from the Union Cabinet and a probe by Supreme Court-monitored Special Investigation Team into Sunday's violence in Lakhimpur district of Uttar Pradesh. "We have seen how the ruling party has resorted to violence, terrified by the farmer stir in Lakhimpur where son of MoS of Home ran over farmers," he said.

'Killing Raj,' says Mamata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday targeted the BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh over the death of farmers during a protest, saying it was "Killing Raj" not "Ram Rajya" in that State. The Trinamool Congress chairperson also attacked the BJP government at the Centre alleging that what was going in the country was not democracy but autocracy. "They call it Ram Rajya. What kind of Rajya it is? It is 'Killing Raj'," Ms. Banerjee told presspersons after visiting a gurdwara at Bhabanipur in her constituency.

A video that went viral

A short video of Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra fiercely arguing with Uttar Pradesh police officials, moments after she was detained at Sitapur while on her way to Lakhimpur Kheri early on Monday, has not only gone viral but has become a rallying point for party colleagues. The angry avatar of Ms. Vadra has led party colleagues and social media users to compare her to grandmother Indira Gandhi's arrest 44 years ago to this day. In the video, she is seen questioning the police

officials under what authority

they were trying to push her into a police vehicle.

Tender No

54/PT-105(21-22)/6000016718

The Chief General Manager

INDIA GOVERNMENT MINT

ALIPORE, KOLKATA - 700 053 (W.B.)

(A Unit of SPMCIL, Wholly owned by Govt. of India) Tel.: (033) 2401-4938, Fax: (033) 2401-0553,

e-mail : calmint@spmcil.com | CIN : U22213DL2006GOI144763

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

For all other details including last date for submission of tender

Any amendment or extension shall be notified on Website only.

Response to violence reflects BJP's dilemma

Growing discomfort over a long stir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BJP MP Varun Gandhi on Monday called for restraint and patience in dealing with protesting farmers a day after eight people died in violence in Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh.

In a letter to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Mr. Gandhi said a murder case under Section 302 of the IPC should be lodged against those involved in the death of farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri and a CBI inquiry instituted. The MP for Pilibhit also demanded a compensation of ₹1 crore each for the families of

Mr. Gandhi, who has written earlier too on the various issues affecting farmsaid. "Agitating farmer-brothers are our own citizens," and urged the Government to deal with them with great restraint and patience.

"In any case, we should treat our farmers with sensitivity and only in Gandhian and democratic ways within the ambit of the law," he

Not law and order issue In a similar vein, former BJP ideologue K.N. Govinda-

charya too counselled that the Uttar Pradesh Government should not treat the issue and the events in Lakhimpur Kheri as just a "law and order" problem but acknowledge the scope and complication of the issue of a long-running movement by farmers' groups and look for a solution that can satis-

The attempt of leaders of various political parties to reach Lakhmipur Kheri and the local administration's

VIJAITA SINGH

NEW DELHI

Priyanka skips CRPF

cover on way to Kheri

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

blindsided her security detail on Sunday

night, giving them the slip on at least three

occasions before she was detained by the

The Congress general secretary was

stopped when she was on her way to Lak-

himpur Kheri where four farmers were

among eight persons killed in a protest on

Ms. Vadra has been accorded Z-plus se-

curity cover by the Central Reserve Police

Force (CRPF) in November 2019 after the Centre removed the Special Protection

A senior Government official said Ms.

Vadra, who reached Lucknow from Delhi

on Sunday evening, told the CRPF person-

nel that she would leave for Lakhimpur

Kheriat 8 a.m. on Monday. "Instead, with-

out informing the team, she started for

Kheri at night. She changed cars thrice

and the CRPF team lost her on all the oc-

Uttar Pradesh police at Sitapur.

Group security cover.



Yogi Adityanath

actions in actively preventing them from reaching there also displayed the dilemma within the BJP res-

ponse to the situation. The party did not respond officially to the events in Lakhimpur Kheri, allowing the State unit and Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra to speak

However, the RSS-affiliated Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) did put out a statement that reflected some of the concerns within the RSS's ideological universe. The BKS statement said those who were involved in the incident "were not farmers, they were from various political parties, and deployed ways of Leftist parties in this situation."

"We condemn the incident and want a fair, independent inquiry and suitable punishment to those who are guilty," said the statement. All of this points to the fact that the long duration of the protests against the three farm laws (11 months) is not something that is desired by the BJP. Sources in the party said incidents like what had happened in Lakhimpur Kheri would not have been possible if the protests had not been allowed to linger and cross State borders.

Unions demand SC probe

Farmers stage protest in various parts of the country

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Farm unions protested in various parts of the country on Monday demanding a Supreme Court investigation into the deaths of farmers allegedly run over by vehicles in a Union Minister's convoy in Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh the previous after-

At the same time, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha platform of the protesting unions responded to the comments made in the court on Monday, defending its right to protest against the farm reform laws even while the issue is in the court.

Protests began overnight, with candlelight vigils and highways being jammed at several locations such as Ambala, Kurukshetra, Chandigarh and Puranpur, accord-



A candlelight vigil in Ahmedabad on Monday.

ing to the SKM. Farmers also poured into Tikunia, the town where the bodies of the

Later in the day, farm un-

dead farmers were kept.

ions and political workers protested in front of the offices of District Collectors in a number of States, submitting copies of a memorandum addressed to President Ram Nath Kovind to district officials with the demand that Minister of State for

Home Affairs Ajay Kumar Mishra be immediately dismissed from his post and a case filed against him for inciting violence and spread-

ing communal hatred. They also urged that Mr. Mishra's son and others associated with the attack not only be booked under Section 302 (murder) but also arrested immediately, calling for the case to be handled by a Special Investigation Team under the supervision of the Supreme

In Delhi, an agitation was held in front of Uttar Pradesh Bhavan by the youth and women's wings of the Congress, as well as farm unions and workers affiliated to Leftist parties. Protesters were detained by the police and then released in the evening.

SC notice to 43 groups on right to move freely

Noida resident has filed the petition

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday asked 43 farmers' organisations and leaders listed by the Haryana Government to respond to a petition filed by a Noida resident who claims her right to free movement on public roads has been choked by their protests to repeal three controversial farm

A Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M.M. Sundresh issued notice to 43 individuals and entities, including farmers' leaders such as Rakesh Tikait, Yogendra Yadav, Darshan Pal, and Gurnam Singh.

The Haryana and Uttar Pradesh Governments had earlier told the court that farmers' leaders and organi-

sations, on protest now for nearly a year, did not respond to invites for talks by the authorities. The State Governments had turned to

the court for help. The court, in the previous hearing, asked Haryana to file an application identifying farmers' entities involved in the protest to make them parties in the case. The State filed an application naming 43 entities and individuals, and urged the court to make them res-

"Let notice be issued by the court to them so they do not have an excuse not to come," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for Haryana, submitted.

pondents in the case.

While issuing notice, the court scheduled a hearing on October 20.

Item

Months (Express)

Hiring of Security Services from DGR

Empanelled Agency for Security Coverage at Old Mint Complex, Kolkata for 12



GUJARAT METRO RAIL CORPORATION (GMRC) LIMITED (SPV of Govt. of India and Govt. of Guiarat)

Sector 10/A. Gandhinagar: 382010. Guiarat. India (CIN): U60200GJ2010SGC059407

TENDER NOTIFICATION No.: GMRC/S&T/PHASE-1/IBS-1/2021 Date: 05-10-2021

E-Tenders are invited from reputed and experienced Agencies for the following tender: Tender Name

render Name	render ree
Licensing of Space for In-building Solutions (IBS) for Providing Shared Mobile (Cellular) Coverage (2G/3G/4G) in Tunnels Section and Underground Stations of: Kankaria East, Kalupur Railway Station, Ghee Kanta and Shahpur of East-West Corridor of Gujarat Metro Rail Phase-I Network.	INR 25,000/-
Interested bidders are requested to visit bitme. Harrage	

or press notification or other proclamation.

e-mail id : se_sicbam@yahoo.com

Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur-760004

03 (Three) Nos.

Identification

ACE,RBB,(BEID)-22/2021-22

ACE,RBB,(BEID)-23/2021-22

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA MAIL ID: - sepwdsbp@reditfmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE: SAMBALPUR

e - Procurement

BID IDENTIFICATION No CCENC(R AND B) /10/ 2021-22

No.2643 Dtd.29.09.2021

5. Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids : From 16.10.2021 to 17.00 Hours of 03.11.2021

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the websit

The Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor o

Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction o Building works as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.

3. Amount put to Tender: Rs.415.83 to Rs.667.85 Lakhs

Berhampur, Ganjam ACE,RBB,(BEID)-24/2021-22

No of works = 04 (Four) (Building Works).

4. Class of contractor: "A" Class, "Special" Class and "Super" Class

6. Date of opening of Technical Bid: 05.11.2021 at 11.00 Hours.

Date of opening of the Technical Bid: 29.10.2021 at 11.30 A.M

Interested bidders are requested to visit https://gmrc.nprocure.com for eligibility criteria, applying/ downloading the tender document. Las date and time for Bid Submissions is 15:00 Hrs on 03-11-2021. Any alterations in Eligibility Criteria cum Qualification Requirements and terms of the Tender Document, or any amendment to the Tender Document, etc, will be uploaded on https://gmrc.nprocure.com and GMRC's Website www.gujaratmetrorail.com without any obligation

Bid Amount

524.30

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Mail ID :- sepwdsbp@rediffmail.com

Sd/- Managing Director, GMRC, Gandhinagar

OIPR-32411/11/0008/2122

OIPR-34035/11/0010/2122

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI "TENDER-CUM-AUCTION NOTICE"

Jeevan Bhima Nagar Post Office, Bengaluru - 560 075 & Flat No.307, Opal Apartment, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka State for Residential / Commercial purposes on lease basis for a period of one (01) year and it is extendable for further two (02) years subject to satisfaction and discretion of the Executive Officer, TTD. The details of Duplex House / Opal Apartment

SI. No.	Details of the Property	Extent & Boundaries (SFT)					
(1)	(2)	(3)					
(1)	D.No.P-177, 8th Main, 10th Cross, Sector X, Jeevanbhima Nagar, HAL III Stage, OPP. to Jeevan Bhima Nagar Post Office, Bengaluru -560 075.	Plinth area of 893.00 Sft of RCC Building, East by: House No.P-178, Sector-X, West by: House No.P-176 Sector-X, North by: House No.P- 128 Sector-X, South by: Road.					
(2)	Flat No.307, D.No.49, Raj Opal Apartments, 3rd Floor, 5th Phase, 24th Main,J.P.Nagar, Bangalore-500078.	Measuring an extent of 1300 Sft. with reserve Car parking facility No.307 at basement floor.					
TI	T d	alouded from the TTD Official Malesta					

e., www.tirumala.org (2) Obtained at TTD Information Centre, Bengalore from the date o Auction Notice up to one day before conducting of Tender-cur uction i.e., on 20-10-2021 & 21-10-2021 respectively during office hours on working days. The Auction will be conducted at D.No.P-177, 8th Main, 10th Cross, Sector X, Jeev hima Nagar, HAL III stage, Opp. to Jeevan Bhima Nagar Post Office, Bengaluru - 560 078 and Flat No. 307, Opal Apartment, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore - 560 078, Karnataka State. The cost of Tender-cum-Auction schedules can be obtained by any of the above modes by

nitting a Demand Draft for Rs. 560/- (Rupees five hundred and sixty only) (towards cost of ender-cum-Auction Schedule+GST@ 12% i.e., Rs.500/-+ Rs.60/-). The cost of tender schedule is not refundable. Submission of tender documents receive

fter the due date and time will be rejected. The Executive Officer, TTD, Tirupati, reserves al ights to cancel or to postpone the tender at any stage without assigning any reaso

Roc.No.PR4/13935/Adv.No.184/PR0/2021/Dated:04-10-2021 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI

Residential / Commercial purposes on licence basis for a period of One (01) Year and it is extendable for further two (02) years subject to satisfaction and discretic of Executive Officer, TTD.

No.	Details of the Property	(Sft.)	Date, Time and Place
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
(1)	'B' Block 2nd Floor No.208 (03) Bedded Flat. Raga Apartments, Panrutti 'B' Village, Sri Perumbudur Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Tamilnadu.	953 Sq.Ft.	19-10-2021 at 11.00 a.m. in the premises of the said apartment.
(2)	'B' Block 4th Floor No. 408 (03) Bedded Flat. Raga Apartments, Panrutti 'B' Village, Sri Perumbudur Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Tamilnadu.	953 Sq.Ft.	19-10-2021 at 11.00 a.m. in the premises of the said apartment.
(3)	'C' Block 4th Floor No. 407 (02) Bedded Flat. Raga Apartments, Panrutti 'B' Village, Sri Perumbudur Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Tamilnadu.	911 Sq.Ft.	19-10-2021 at 11.00 a.m. in the premises of the said apartment.
(4)	'D' Block 4th Floor No. 403 (02) Bedded Flat. Raga Apartments, Panruti 'B' Village, Sri Perumbudur Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Tamilnadu.	903 Sq.Ft.	19-10-2021 at 11.00 a.m. in the premises of the said apartment.

Website i.e., www.tirumala.org or (2) Obtained at TTD Information Centre Kancheepuram from the date of publication of Tender-cum-Auction Notice up to one day before conducting of Tender-cum-Auction i.e., on 18-10-2021 during

nodes by submitting a demand Draft for Rs. 560/- (Rupees five hundred and sixty only) (towards cost of Tender-cum-Auction Schedule+GST @ 12% i.e., Rs.500/

ocuments received after the due date and time will be rejected. The Executive Officer, TTD, Tirupati, reserves all rights to cancel or to postpo

Roc.No.PR4/13935/Adv.No.185/PR0/2021/Dated:04-10-2021 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract) Engaging third party for equipment | 12.10.2021 | 04.11.2021 Biomedical maintenance in the State of 11.00 am. 05.00 p.m DIALYSIS CONSUMABLES, Reagen BIALTSIS CONSUMABLES, Reagent Rental Contract-Fully Automated Immuno Hematology Analyser, CGM Machine, Bar Code Reader And Printer, Digital Dental X-Ray Unit (Pediatric), HAND HELD COLOR DOPPLER, Homogenizer, Intra Osseous Gun, Lab Blender, Microwave Oven, Vacuum/ Pressure Pump, Oven With Windows An Vacuum Machine With Accessories -Type II, Electrosurgical System (Dental), Transport Ventilator, Trauma Accessories, Sample Homogeniser Trauma Accessories, Sample Fromogeniser 5L, Radio Frequency Ablation System, Endotracheal Cuff Pressure Monitor, Generator 250 KVA, Mobile Cath Lab, Cervical And Lumbar Traction, Semi Automated Immuno Hematology Analyzer, CAD-CAM 5 Axis Dry Dental Milling Unit, Portable Echocardiography Type C, Hematology Analyses Part Tyne B, Electro 1.10.202 Portable Echocardiography Type C, Hematology Analyser3 Part Type B, Electrosurgical Unit With Vessel Sealing Elsevto Surgical Unit With Vessel Sealing System For General Surgery Urology And Gynecology, Blood Bank Refrigerator 600L, Gel Card Centrifuge, High Accuracy Centrifuge, Electronic Micropipette Type B, Vacuum Extractor, Sterilizer Various Types, Wireless Data Logging System For Temperature Monitoring, Crude Fibre Analyzer, Auto Refractometer, Ventilator CPAP, Oxygen Cylinder (B) With Trolley, OT Table (Ophthalmic) With Chair, Surgeon's 05.00 p.m Table (Ophthalmic) With Chair, Surgeon's Chair Motorized, Pacemaker Temporary (Single Chamber), Neonatal Cooler, SICS Set, Hospital Furniture, RO Plant 2000 LPH, RO Plant 3000 LPH, Laser Unit Dental, Centrifuge With Mojonier Flask, X-Ray machines Various Types, CT Scanner 128 slice, Automated Blood culture System 11.00 am. | 05.00 p.m Mobile Digital Radiography with Sales, backup.

State Public Sector undertakings and MSMEs registered in the State or registered outside the state satisfying the policy of Government of India are exempted from remittance of tender document cost and EMD subject to the submission of valid documents, provided all the offered products are manufactured by them. Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.tenders.kerala.govin. Quotation documents and all other information related to quotation and bidding process can be downloaded from the website: www.kmscl.kerala.govin.

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority) Mobile Digital Radiography with battery

casions," the official said. None of the CRPF personnel in her 8. Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in proximate security ring was present when (G.C.Ray) she was detained by the police at Sitapur, Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur. around 45 km from Kheri.

Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/-

Type of Work

Procurement

2. Total No. of Works

Additional Chief

ngineer, Rushikulya

e - Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB- 12 / 2021-22 Cement Concrete Lining / Flood Control works 4. Period of Completion: 14 (Fourteen) to 17 (Seventeen) Calendar months Availability & Bid On-line Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website "www.tendersodisha.gov.in" Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur



Village, Sri Perumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Tamilnadu State for

No.	Details of the Property	(Sft.)	Date, Time and Place
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
(1)	'B' Block 2nd Floor No.208 (03) Bedded Flat. Raga Apartments, Panrutti 'B' Village, Sri Perumbudur Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Tamilnadu.		19-10-2021 at 11.00 a.m. in the premises of the said apartment.
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The cost of Tender-cum-Auction schedules can be obtained by any of the above

The cost of tender schedule is not refundable. Submission of tender

 $the \, tender \, at \, any \, stage \, without \, assigning \, any \, reason.$



into drugs seizure

Rajasthan Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Monday demanded a probe headed by a sitting Supreme Court judge in the seizure of drugs worth ₹21.000 crore at the Mundra port alleging that the BJP government in Gujarat was trying to suppress the issue. "This is an anti-national activity of infecting the youth with poison," said Mr. Pilot.

Tougher penalty likely for animal cruelty

The Union Government is planning to introduce a higher penalty and jail term for persons perpetrating cruelty against animals and a draft Bill to amend the existing law is likely to come up in the next Parliament session. "We are ready with the draft amendment Bill. We are in the process of getting the Cabinet approval." Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Poultry Minister Parshottam

Pappu Yadav gets bail in 32-year-old kidnap case

Rupala said on Monday. PTI

Former MP from Madhepura and president of the Jan Adhikar Party (JAP) Rajesh Ranjan, alias Pappu Yadav, got bail on Monday in a 32-year-old kidnapping case. Mr. Yadav has been in iail since May 11, 2021. Additional District Judge of Madhepura Civil Court Nishikant Thakur granted bail to Mr. Yadav for lack of evidence in the kidnapping case registered against him in 1989 at the Murliganj police station in Madhepura district.

Navy to host its largest exercise in February

India is set to host its largest naval exercise early next year for which 46 countries have been invited, a senior Defence official said. "Exercise Milan is being planned for February 2022 and invitations have been sent to 46 countries. Several of them have already confirmed their participation," the official said. The exercise will see the participation of all Quad countries. Milan has so far been held at Port Blair but is now being shifted to Visakhapatnam, which offers more space and facilities.

Former bureaucrat Shakti Sinha passes away

NEW DELHI Shakti Sinha, former bureaucrat and an academician who had served as the Private Secretary to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vaipavee, passed away on Monday. He was 64. Sinha, a 1979-batch IAS officer, was also former Director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML). He had worked closely with Vajpayee between 1996 and 1999, and had written a memoir titled Vajpayee: The Years That Changed India. PTI

No State can deny ₹50,000 ex gratia: SC

Claims should be settled within 30 days of submission of documents, say guidelines

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday said the State Governments should not deny the ex gratia of ₹50,000 each to the families of persons who died of COVID-19 merely on the grounds that their death certificates did not show the virus as the cause of death.

A Bench led by Justice M.R. Shah underscored this point while approving the guidelines proposed by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Disaster Management Act for grant of ex gratia to the kin of people who died of COVID-19.

SDRF funds

The guidelines, part of an affidavit filed by the Home Ministry, has tasked the States with providing the relief from their States Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The District Disaster Manage-



Hard blow: During the second wave of COVID in April 2021, families faced long waits for cremation. • FILE РНОТО

ment Authorities would make the disbursements. Claims would be settled within 30 days of submission of documents. The disbursement would be made via Aadhaar-linked direct bank

District-level committees

The court said such a move would help resolve cases in which families claim ex gratia but do not have medical records of COVID treatment to show.

The committees would have to record the reasons for rejecting claims.

The payment would continue for future COVID deaths until further notification. The guidelines have said families of those who committed suicide within 30 days of a COVID-positive diagnosis would be also be eligible for ex gratia.

'Issue guidelines'

The court directed the NDMA and the Ministry of Health to issue the guidelines to have them implemented by the States.

On June 30, the court, in a judgment based on a petition filed by advocate Gaurav Bansal, ordered the NDMA to frame uniform guidelines for payment of ex gratia. The Government has fortified itself against the likelihood of future criticism about disbursing ₹50,000 and not more by saying "it is not possible to ascertain the total financial burden emanating from the ex gratia assistance. Financial prudence mands that we plan in a manner that assistance can be provided to a large number of people, should the number of deaths rise".

The NDMA guidelines had noted that States had already been incurring large expenditure from the SDRF on various aspects of COVID-19 prevention, management and response.

The Centre too had, from the national budget, announced several measures to curb the spread of the virus, including the vaccination drive and providing for the welfare and support of those

70% of adult population has got first dose: Centre

5.67 cr. doses available with States, UTs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Seventy per cent of India's adult population has been administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Monday, as the total doses given across the country crossed 91 crore.

According to officials, 25% of the adult population had got both doses of the vaccine.

"Strong Nation, Rapid Vaccination: India has administered the first dose of #COVID19 vaccine on 70% of the population... Under PM @NarendraModiji, India is achieving new landmarks in the fight against the pandemic. Keep it up India, let us fight Corona," the Minister said in a tweet.

The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country under the na-

tionwide anti-coronavirus inoculation drive crossed 91 crore on Monday.

More than 5.67 crore (5,67,37,905) balance and unutilised vaccine doses were still available with the States and Union Territo-

Monthly doses up

According to government data, the average daily doses administered in a month increased from 19.69 lakh in May to 39.89 lakh in June, then further to 43.41 lakh in July and to 59.19 lakh in August. The average daily vaccination in September has been 79.08 lakh per day.

The vaccination exercise as a tool to protect the most population vulnerable groups in the country from COVID-19 continues to be regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level, the Ministry said.

SC adjourns hearing of West Bengal's suit

No representation from the Centre

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday adjourned the hearing of a suit filed by West Bengal alleging that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was probing several cases and registering first information reports (FIRs) without taking prior consent from the State

A Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and B.R. Gavai had to reschedule the case to October 22, post the Dasara holidays, on finding that there was no representation in the court from the Centre's side.

Government.

"There will be no more adjournments... There is no

appearance for the Union of India today," Justice Rao noted.

The West Bengal government, in its original civil suit under Article 131 of the Constitution, had referred to the provisions of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, and said that the Central agency had been proceeding with investigations and filing FIRs without getting the nod from the State government as mandated under the statute.

The CBI has lodged multiple FIRs in cases of post-poll violence in West Bengal.

The Supreme Court had early September.

Drone-based vaccine delivery model launched

Technology may prove a game changer in addressing challenges in health care: Health Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

would deal with grievances

regarding certification of

death and issue amended

The court said these com-

mittees should be able to ac-

cess hospital medical re-

cords directly to ascertain

documents.

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the ICMR's drone response and outreach in the north-east (i-Drone) here on Monday. The delivery model is aimed at ensuring that life-saving vaccines reach everyone.

"This is for the first time that a 'Make in India' drone has been used in South Asia to transport COVID vaccine over an aerial distance of 15 km in 12-15 minutes from the Bishnupur district hospital to Loktak lake, Karang island in Manipur for administration at the primary health centre. The actual road distance between these locations is 26 km. Today, 10 beneficiaries will receive the



Zooming in: The unmanned aerial vehicle used to make vaccine deliveries on Monday.

first dose and eight will receive the second dose at the primary health centre," said the Minister. "India is home to geo-

graphical diversities and

drones can be used to deliver essentials to the last mile. We can use drones in delivering important life-saving medicines, collecting blood samples. This technology

situations. It may prove a game changer in addressing the challenges in health care delivery, particularly health supplies, in difficult areas."

can also be used in critical

Tough terrain

Launching the initiative which would facilitate vaccine delivery to tough and hard-to-reach terrains, the Health Minister said incorporating such technologies into the national programmes would help deliver other vaccines and medical supplies too as quickly as possible.

delivery model would serve remote areas and hard to reach terrains. Currently, the drone-based delivery project has been

granted permission for implementation in Manipur and Nagaland, as well as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The ICMR conducted an

initial study in collaboration

with the IIT Kanpur to test the capacity of the drones to carry and transfer vaccines safely.

The study was conducted in Manipur, Nagaland and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

These studies provided promising results on the basis of which the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and other regulatory authorities have granted permisthe visual line of sight.

Court seeks model builder-buyer pact

Plea flags delays in delivery schedules, transfer of possession in real estate sector

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on October 4 stepped in to protect homebuyers from exploitation by builders who delay transfer of possession and often redraft delivery schedules.

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and B.V. Nagarathna issued notice on a petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay on the lack of a "uniform or model" form for agreements entered into among builders, agents and buyers.

Justice Chandrachud said Mr. Upadhyay, in his petition, had brought to the fore



a "very serious issue". Hardearned savings of ordinary citizens who aspired to have their own homes were invested, but many families became penniless waiting for a roof over their heads that the builders had promised them.

The petition said the Real

(RERA) Act of 2016 had hardly been implemented.

"Frame a model builderbuyer agreement and model agent-buyer agreement to infuse transparency, ensure fair play, reduce frauds and deliberate delays, restrain builders/promoters/agents from indulging into arbitrary, unfair and restrictive trade practices and to protect the rights and interests of customers in the spirit of the RERA Act of 2016," the petition said.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, for Mr. Upadhyay, and senior advocates Menaka Guruswamy and Anupam

SCAN TO PLAY

Estate Regulatory Authority Lal Das drew the court's attention to Section 41 and 42 of the RERA. The first provision mandated the establishment of a Central Advisory Council. The second Section said the Council would ensure the implementation of the Act, drive major policy changes, assure that consumer interests were not thwarted by builders and promoters and craft the faster growth of the real estate sector.

Mr. Upadhyay said the builders, who had caused losses to buyers due to inordinate delays in completion of projects, should be asked to pay compensation.

USA education loan festival attracts 3,000 applications

STAFF REPORTER

WeMakeScholars and The Hindu launched the 'USA Education Loan Festival 2022' for aspirants planning to study in the USA, and following the huge response to the event, more than 3,000 applications have been received so far.

The USA Education Loan Festival, which began on October 2, is scheduled to go on till October 17 and has more than 10 public banks and private lenders taking

Students participating in this event will be offered several benefits which include



being eligible for both secured (with collateral) and unsecured (non-collateral) loans, lowest interest rates in India from 7.6% or at least 0.5% less than the usual rate of the bank or non-banking financial companies, and up to 50% discount on the pro-

loans. They will also benefit from faster processing of education loans - the timeline for sanction of non-collateral and collateral loans are four or five and 15 to 18 working days, respectively, a release said.

As part of the loan festival, a YouTube Live event is being conducted on October 9 via the WeMakeScholars Channel. A detailed guestion-and-answer session will be held at the end of the event. Those interested can contact or WhatsApp the WeMakeScholars team at +91 9393344424, or can register at bit.ly/StudyUSA2022

TH CROSSWORD+ 13369

16 One who tries to speak, interrupting seer stupidly (7)

17 Stopgap director leaves impression by reversing mess (7)

Feeling down in lockdown?

Get across to our Crossword site.

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

19 Turned round to meet fine Greek character in lustrous silk fabric (7) **21** Europeans perhaps avoid noisy bars (4)

22 Helps to restrain Republican fool by beginning to telecast hard facts

25 Mask enables millions perhaps to tackle onset of Covid-19 (9)

26 Separated and cut crust of pudding easily (5) 27 What artist adding a slightly different colour will do to outshine?

DOWN

2 Greed is a sin involving endless deceit (7)

3 Espy trio slyly stealing gold in vault (10)

4 More refined diamonds acquired by neighbour on vacation (5)

5 Growing old, mixing up sentences (9) 6 Piece of meat in upma? Revolting (4)

7 Steamy union in farm yard (7)

8 Wants tapes after scene is shot (11)

10 Shamefaced English maiden, restrained after consuming dope (11) 13 What romantic lover might appreciate in a person who lends money

15 Famous painter's class in fresh term (9) **18** Ornithologist in a mountain provides shelter for a bird (7)

20 Scrambled eggs at first followed by fish in retro joint (7) 23 One overwhelmed by split runs out in strain (5)

24 Race created by H.G. Wells in tale, loitering (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13368 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

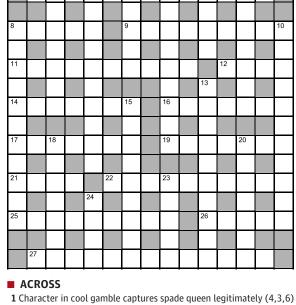
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FAITH

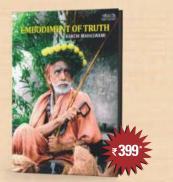
Greatness of the Vedas

In his Thirumandiram, Thirumoolar talks of the greatness of the Vedas, said R. Narayanan in a discourse. Thirumoolar says some talk of righteous things, not mentioned in the Vedas. But, according to Thirumoolar, there are no dharmas that are not spoken of in the Vedas. Good scholars shun debates, which do not refer to the Vedas, says Thirumoolar. The Supreme Brahman is shown by the Vedas. There are some who study the Vedas, but their focus is on the Karma Kanda portion, which deals with rituals. They learn the relevant mantras required for rituals, but ignore the Jnana Kanda. The Jnana Kanda shows us the Supreme One, who is the embodiment of jnana. He who does not study the Jnana Kanda section, but merely recites mantras, will never realise the nature of Brahman. His external appearance may suggest a life of piety and learning, but it will not take him close to Brahman. One should meditate on Lord Siva, and think beyond the world of cit (sentient) and acit (non sentient). One should immerse oneself in Siva bhakti. There are those who worship the devas seeking boons of various kinds. Sel-

dom do they praise Siva. This is due to their karma. Thirumoolar says the Vedas have six angas. These are -Siksa (phonetics); Vyakarana (grammar); Nirukta (etymology); Kalpa (rules regarding rituals); Chandas (prosody); Jyotisha (astronomy and astrology). Some study all these aspects of the Vedas well, and yet do not reap the benefits of such study, because they fail to worship Siva, says Thirumoolar. Literature, music and dance impart good qualities to people. But some people use their skills in the fine arts to make money. Similarly, some who study the Vedas use their knowledge to earn money. The purpose of Vedic study is the realisation of Siva, says Thirumoolar.



- 8 Criticise about suppressing current civil rights organisation in US (5) **9** Arrange restorative containing dash of gin (9)
- 11 Starts to cut rope using scissors in a pattern of intersecting lines
- 12 Wound primarily covered for bit of time gets protective crust (4) **14** Lieutenant protected by fine shield (7)



PRICE CHANGE

9.25 ... 23.75

... 10.85

...628.40 7695.05....172.30

-28.20 -28.70

.. 1.25

. 86.85

-36.00

13.55

-2.80

21.35

13.60

.. 6.90

. 13.30

.-57.00

.. 13.05

26.30

. 27.80

... 744.20...

779.00

3825.95

17806.20.

. 681.40

435.85

3892.90 957.50

189.95

5220.70

5042.70

2745.90

1641.15

1278.65

2725.20

1585.75

726.65

2855.55

505.70

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TT BUY TT SELL

74.11 74.43

...11.55

11.49

ndicative direct rates in rupees a unit

Tata Motors unveils

Tata Motors on Monday

sub-compact SUV Punch

unveiled Tata Punch, its first

sub-compact SUV, and the

latest addition to the 'New

Forever' range of cars and

announced on October 20.

2021. Bookings are open at

for the Punch for ₹21,000.

Byju's raises ₹2,200 cr.

from Oxshott, others

Edtech start-up Byju's has

funding round that values

research firm Tofler. Stock

Oxshott Venture Fund and

Icra raises outlook for

power demand growth

energy demand growth

from 6% to 8-8.5%

Rating agency Icra revised its

outlook for 2021-22 upwards

Girishkumar Kadam, senior

demand growth outlook for

FY22 is revised upwards to

8-8.5%, supported by low

base effect in FY21 and

faster-than-expected

Housing demand has

with 92% year-on-year

July-September period

prices and very low

said on Monday. PTI

across eight major cities,

mortgage rates, property

mainly on the back of stable

consultant Knight Frank India

NEW DELHI

recovery in demand post

COVID second wave." PTI

'Housing sales in 8 cities

exceed pre-COVID levels'

breached pre-COVID levels

growth in sales during the

VP, Icra, said, "electricity

XN Exponent Holdings were

the firm at \$18 billion,

venture funds such as

among the investors.

raised ₹2,200 crore in a new

according to data released by

market investor and advisory

firms Edelweiss and IIFL, and

more than 1,000 showrooms

SUVs. The price will be

MARKET WATCH

Adani Ports

Asian Paints

Axis Bank

Bajaj Auto

Bajaj Finance

Britannia Ind

Dr Reddys Lab

Eicher Motors

Grasim Ind HCL Tech....

HDFC Bank

HDFC Life

ICICI Bank.

Kotak Bank

Maruti Suzuki

Nestle India Ltd.

PowerGrid Corp

Reliance Ind

State Bank

Sun Pharma.

Products Ltd.

Tech Mahindra

UltraTech Cement

Tata Steel

US Dollar

British Pound

Chinese Yuan

Singapore Dollar

Malaysian Ringitt

M&M

ONGC

ndusInd Banl

Hero MotoCorp

Coal India Divis Lab

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The journey of an Inimitable Sage traced through lens and letters



Compliance lapses led to



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•	•	 _	•	■ .	_

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India needs to double its infrastructure spending and the private sector must step up and partner with the government, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said on Monday, adding that the ministry was actively working on the Gati Shakti vision outlined by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Seth said that work was apace on operationalising the ₹111 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline supplemented by the National Monetisation Plan that aims to raise ₹6 lakh crore. The two programmes,



Miles to go: Doubling current infrastructure spending of 5%-6% of GDP is an imperative, says Seth. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

and job opportunities'.

"That is one area we are particularly working on... with other ministries and States - how do we implement on the ground these two major plans with the overall vision of Gati Shakti," Mr. Seth said at a meeting hosted by FICCI.

Asserting that the heightened pace of reforms during the last 18 months was aimed at spurring a bounceback in the economy, Mr. Seth said: "Now, we are really on the path of very fast recovery".

Urging industry to partner on ideas for further reforms, particularly in infrastructure development, he said doubling the current infrastructure spending of 5%-6% of GDP was an imperative that could only be met through public private partnerships.

Credit concerns

Although the government had taken up 'strong' banking sector reforms and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code had vielded about ₹2.4 lakh crore of recoveries on bad loans, Mr. Seth expressed concern about tepid credit offtake trends.

"In the past 18 months, due to lack of private demand and investment demand, the credit offtake has been rather moderate. That's an area that needs work," the Secretary added.

'Lacking in maturity'

pliance-related issues have been the main cause for companies to fail to live up to the expectations of their investors... Most often, big scandals have come out for want of mature com-

the first 53 years may have had



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Most big scandals and corporate failures in India in recent years happened for 'want of matured compliance', Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday, adding that the go-

vernment was committed to

making compliance norms

simpler for businesses.

Addressing the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) on their 53rd foundation day, Ms. Sitharaman urged them to recommend ways to simplify compliance requirements.

"In the last few years, compliance," she said.

"The greater simplicity we can bring into the system, the finer things would work... We are trying to remove the archaic laws, bring in only amendments that can further simplify the system and reduce penal provisions." Suggesting that the emergence of greater opportunities for corporate India had occurred mostly unpresent government, she said: "Your



Nirmala Sitharaman

an India that was probably struggling to have a fair, open, free marketplace where companies can function freely and openly work towards wealth creation."

Though India embarked on economic reforms in 1991, the Minister said, a lot was left to be done. "What was envisaged in 1991 itself hadn't happened, for very many reasons, the pace at which the opening up had to happen, the pace at which companies had to be liberated from the licence quota raj, hadn't happened.

"That actually is rapidly opening up the doors for companies... more in the last 7-8 years," she said.

Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan acknowledged that while the Centre had been easing the compliance burden on firms, there was room for further relaxation. He requested the ICSI to

help identify redundant and cumbersome norms that could be done away with.

Need to double infra spending: Seth

DEA Secretary calls for private sector partnership; asserts economy on 'very fast' recovery path

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Short-term power prices are

likely to remain elevated in

the near term on account of

a continued increase in im-

ported coal prices, accord-

ing to ratings agency Ind-Ra.

of the increased power gen-

eration would continue to

be met through coal-based

plants, although coal output

is not increasing to the de-

sired level. This is reflected

in low inventory stocks at

power plants, and there-

It noted that a large part

NEW DELHI



with the Gati Shakti vision so that there could be 'seamless movement of goods, services

fore, a part of the increased

energy demand will have to

be met through imported

In light of the expected

high imported coal prices,

the short-term power prices

in India are likely to remain

power demand post the se-

cond wave of COVID-19,

coupled with lower-than-

adequate domestic coal out-

put, led to a reduction in

coal inventory levels at va-

rious power plants, it said.

The speedy recovery in

coal, Ind-Ra said.

elevated, it stated.

Power cost to stay high as

imported coal prices soar'

Local coal output has not risen: Ind-Ra

Net oil importer India left with few options as price surges

Country imports 85% of crude needs, 50% of its natural gas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

As the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer, India is running out of options as the relentless surge in international oil prices make it imperative to pass them on to consumers, officials said Monday.

India imports 85% of its crude oil needs and about half of its natural gas requirement. While the crude

as petrol and diesel, gas is used as CNG in automobiles and fuel in factories.

"International crude oil prices continue to remain high, providing no respite to major oil importers such as India. (International benchmark) Brent oil future was quoting over \$79 per barrel today. A month ago it was less than \$72," a top government official involved in the decision making said.

This has squeezed mar-

gins and forced passing on the rise to consumers in the form of a hike in petrol and diesel prices. "With no respite from surging international prices, OMCs have started to increase the retail selling price of petrol and diesel," the official said.

"Unless international prices relent, oil companies will have no option but to continue passing on the increase to consumers," another official said.

RBI removes ... 17.75..... 17.84 Srei Infra, SEFL boards

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Γhe Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has superseded the boards of Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd. (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Ltd. (SEFL) owing to governance concerns and defaults in meeting payment obligations.

"The Reserve Bank on Monday superseded the board of directors of SIFL and SEFL, owing to governance concerns and defaults by the companies in meeting various payment obligations," the RBI said.

Rajneesh Sharma, former chief general manager, Bank of Baroda, has been appointed as the administrator of the two companies. The Reserve Bank also intends to shortly initiate the IBC process.

'Second wave impacts infrastructure finance'

Credit remained sluggish in Q1: Icra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Total infrastructure credit by banks and NBFC-Infrastructure Finance Companies (NBFC-IFCs) remained sluggish in the first quarter of the current fiscal due to the disruptions caused by the second wave of the CO-VID-19 pandemic, Icra Ratings said in a report.

However, with the government's focus on infrastructure, the demand for infrastructure credit is likely to improve over the medium term, it said.

"Given the disruption caused by the second wave of the pandemic, total infrastructure credit (banks and NBFC-IFCs) remained sluggish in Q1 FY2022, with infrastructure-focused loan books remaining flat on



quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) basis for both NBFC-IFCs as well as banks," Icra said in the report.

The total infrastructure credit by banks and NBFC-IFCs is estimated at ₹24.7 lakh crore as on March 31, registering a sluggish growth of 10%, it said, adding given the disruption caused by the second wave of the pandemic, it has remained stable as on June 30.

General public is hereby informed that three boys Namely (1) Vishnu S/o Laxman Prasad R/o Balaji Gali, Gandhi Nagar, PS Shuklaganj, Distt, Unnao UP

(2) Vaiju Paswan S/o Laxmi Paswan R/o Dekha, PS-Sakri, Distt- Madhubani, Bihar (3) Prince S/o Viiav Kumar R/o Vill. Rajpur, Post Gauri, PS Lauli, Fathepur, UP have been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Pahargani, Delhi since 25.09.2021. In this regard, a case FIR No. 384/21, dated. 25.09.2021 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Paharganj, Delhi. The description of the missing boys are as under

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

(1) Vishnu, Age: 13 Years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: White Colour T-Shirt & Black Colour Pant. (2) Vaiju Paswan, Age: 16 Years Height: 5'2" Complexion: Shallow Built: Thin, Wearing: White Colour T-Shirt and black Colour Pant. (3) Prince, Age: 14 Years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue colour Shirt and Pant. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing boys but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing boys then please inform at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in, providing clue about the person.

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639

DP/1017/CD/2021

Paharganj Delhi PH.011-8750042525, 8750012525

Face: Round, was wearing Hospital Clothes. He was admitted in Safdariung Hospital vide MLC No 1643/21 on 16.09.2021. During the treatment doctor declared him dead on 21.09.2021. In this regard a DD

General public is hereby informed

that an unidentified dead body of

male Age: 45 years, Complexion:

Wheatish, Height: 5'6", Built: Thin,

No. 41A, dated 21.09.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi.

His dead body has been preserved in Safdarjung Hospital Mortuary. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

DP/1566/N/2021

Sd/- SHO

P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi Ph.: 011-23815444, 23810633

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one male namely Unknown S/o Unknown. R/o about 35 years, Height 5'5", Complexion Black, Round Face, Medium Built, Wearing Blue Light & Red T-Shirt, Light Blue Pant was found dead at Platform No.2, Near Foot Over Bridge, Old

Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi on 29.09.2021. In this regard a DD No. 11-A dated 29.09.2021 U/s 174 Cr.Pc has been lodged at PS Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. The Dead Body has been preserved at GTB Hospital Mortuary for 24 hours for Identification & PM.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased male may kindly inform to the undersigned at

the address or telephone nos. given below.

PS Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi DP/304/RLY/2021 Ph. 011-22145601/02, 8750871314, 9013353290

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



General public is hereby informed that one boy namely Vishal Verma, S/o Shri Amarnath Verma, R/o 76, Shiva Khand Vishwakarma Nagar, Delhi. Age 18 years 6 months, 5'6", Complexion Shallow, Long Face, Medium Built, Wearing White colour T-shirt, blue colour pajama and plastic chappal in feet has been missing since 12.09.2021 from his house. Sincere efforts

have been made by local police to trace out this person, but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 153-A dated 17.09.2021 has been lodged at PS Vivek Vihar, Delhi

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in Email: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-23011334 Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218 DP/583/SHD/2021

SHO PS: Vivek Vihar, Delhi Ph. 011-22146040, 22150370

Fashion category growth trebled in H1: Snapdeal

'Zoom call clothing boosts offtake'

MINI TEJASWI

Growth in the fashion category for men and women more than trebled in the first six months of 2021, mainly driven by 'Zoom fashion' mostly comprising waist-up garments such as T-shirts and tops, said ecommerce firm Snapdeal. Sales grew significantly as

replenished their wardrobe to meet work-from-home clothing requirements between January and June, officials of the e-tailer said.

Children's apparel spike Snapdeal also reported an almost sixfold surge in sales of children's apparel in January-July over the year-earlier period.

It also witnessed an in-



crease in demand in the home category, which grew by 70% in the 18 months since March 2020.

Commenting on its latest scale-up of logistics, delivery and fulfilment infrastructure, a Snapdeal spokesperson said, "We have set up 130 logistics hubs across India this year, taking our network to the entire country including J&K and the North Eastern region".

U.S. factory orders rose solidly in Aug.

REUTERS WASHINGTON New orders for U.S.-made

goods accelerated 1.2% in August, pointing to sustained strength in manufacturing even as economic growth appeared to have slowed in the third quarter because of shortages of raw materials and labour. Manufacturing, which

accounts for 12% of the

economy, is being driven by still-strong demand for goods. Businesses are rebuilding inventories, which were depleted in the first half, underpinning activity at factories. An Institute for Supply Management survey last week noted that "companies and suppliers continue to deal with an unprecedented number of hurdles to meet increasing demand."

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 40-45 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5 feet 6 inch, Complexion: Wheatish, ID Mark: Tattoo of Binnni Harsh Kumar Chal on Right Hand, **Injury** Mark: Injury on Head, Wearing: Blue t-shirt, Grey Pant. was found dead under KM No. 5/5 Upline Safdurjung Hospital on 30.09.2021 at 08:52AM.

In this regard a DD No. 6A, dated 30.09.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, New Delhi.

The Dead Body has been kept preserved at Subzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours for identification. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information

about this dead person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this dead person may kindly inform to the following.

P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, **New Delhi** Ph.: 011-24356743, 8750871311 DP/306/RLY/2021



U.S. will start trade talks with China: Tai

Trade representative says she will push Beijing to adhere to Phase 1 trade deal

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON DO

The U.S. will begin trade discussions with China while pushing Beijing to adhere to the terms of the Trump administration's 'Phase I' trade deal, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Katherine Tai said on Monday.

Speaking at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washington DC-based think tank, Ms. Tai said that in talks with Beijing, the U.S. would discuss China's "performance" under the Trump-era trade

"First, we will discuss with China, its performance under the Phase I agreement," Ms. Tai said, referring to a deal that came into effect in early 2020. The agreement involved China committing to purchase goods from certain U.S. sectors (agricultural, manufacturing, energy, etc.) and addressing U.S. issues with its practices around intellectual property in return for the U.S. freezing or cutting tariffs imposed earlier in what had been an escalating trade warlike situation between the two countries.

Mr. Biden has repeatedly been critical of Mr. Trump's trade actions towards China. However, senior administration officials told reporters on a Sunday afternoon briefing call that while Mr. Biden was critical of the Phase I deal, it had helped some U.S. industries, and would be continued where it worked.

"For example, there is real-world evidence that some businesses covered by the phase one trade deal have done better. President Biden is going to continue doing things that work..." an official said.

China fell short of its com-



Starting over: Katherine Tai said the U.S. would discuss China's 'performance' under the Trump-era trade deal. • FILE РНОТО

mitted purchases in 2020 by 40% and will fall short by 30% in 2021 according to Chad Bown of the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Next, the U.S. is expected to begin a 'targeted tariff exclusion process' and keep open the option of expanding this process to cover other goods in the future, Ms. Tai said.

She said Beijing had "doubled down" on its statecentred economic practices and that China's "lack of adherence to global trading norms" had undercut the prosperity of the U.S. and its allies. The third aspect of the trade policy she outlined would involve raising these concerns with China.

of the strategy would involve working with allies to shape the rules for "fair trade" and to "facilitate a race to the top for market economies and democracies."

'When it comes to our relationship with China, what's best for American workers, is growing the American economy to create more opportunity with better wages, here in the United States," Ms. Tai said.

"As the United States Trade Representative, I intend to deliver on President Biden's vision for a worker centred trade policy in the U.S.-China trade dynamic," she said emphasising a theme of the Biden agenda.

Asked in a question and answer session if the U.S. would consider launching a (another) probe into China's trading practices - commonly referred to as a '301' after the statute that underlies it, Ms. Tai suggested it was an option.

U.S. duo win Nobel for work on temperature and touch

They studied how heat and cold initiated nerve impulses

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

U.S. scientists David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian on Monday won the Nobel Medicine Prize for discoveries on receptors for temperature and touch.

"The groundbreaking discoveries... by this year's Nobel Prize laureates have allowed us to understand how heat, cold and mechanical force can initiate the nerve impulses that allow us to perceive and adapt to the world," the Nobel jury said. The pair's research is be-

ing used to develop treatments for a wide range of diseases and conditions, including chronic pain.

Mr. Julius, who in 2019 won the \$3-million Breakthrough Prize in life sciences, said he was stunned to receive the call from the Nobel committee early on Monday. "One never really expects that to happen... I thought it was a prank," he told Swedish Radio.

'Essential for survival'

The Nobel Foundation meanwhile posted a picture of Mr. Patapoutian next to his son Luca after hearing the happy news. "Our ability to sense heat, cold and touch is essential for survival," the Nobel Committee explained, "and underpins our interaction with the world around us."

"In our daily lives we take these sensations for granted, but how are nerve impulses initiated so that temperature and pressure can be perceived? This question has been solved by this year's Nobel Prize laureates."

Mr. Julius, 65, was recog-

nised for his research using capsaicin - a compound from chili peppers that induces a burning sensation to identify which nerve sensors in the skin respond to

He told Scientific American in 2019 that he got the idea to study chili peppers after a visit to the grocery store. "I was looking at these shelves and shelves of basically chili peppers and extracts (hot sauce) and thinking, 'This is such an important and such a fun problem to look at. I've really got to get serious about this'," he said. Mr. Patapoutian's discovery was identifying the class of nerve sensors that respond to touch.

They will share the Nobel Prize cheque for 10 million kronor Swedish million).

Kabul IS cell destroyed, say Taliban

The move comes after an attack on a mosque in Afghan capital that killed five

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Taliban said on Monday they had destroyed an Islamic State cell in the Afghan capital, hours after a suspected IS attack on a mosque killed five persons.

After overrunning Kabul seven weeks ago, the hardliners have set up an interim Afghan government, but still face attacks from the regional branch of the Islamic

The Taliban's chief spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said fighters carried out the operation in the north of Kabul on Sunday evening.

"As a result of the operation, which was very decisive and successful, the IS centre was completely des-+ troyed and all the IS mem-



Blood trail: A Taliban fighter walking past the the Eid Gah mosque where the blast happened. • AFP

bers in it were killed," Mujahid said on Twitter.

Witnesses and AFP journalists heard blasts and gunfire in the capital at the time of the raid, and images posted to social media showed a large explosion and a fire at the scene.

Kabul resident and government employee Abdul Rahaman said that a "large number" of Taliban special forces attacked at least three houses in his neighbour-

"The fighting continued for several hours," he said, adding the sound of weapons kept him awake all

The operation took place within hours of a deadly attack targeting a prayer ceremony at the Eid Gah mosque in memory of Taliban spokesman Mujahid's mother, who died last week.

A government cultural commission official said that five persons died and 11 were wounded, adding the casualties included both civilians and Taliban members.

"We have also arrested three persons in connection with the blast," he said.

On Monday, Mujahid told AFP that an investigation was still ongoing but "initial information suggests that Daesh-linked groups may have carried out the attack".

China sends 52 jets towards Taiwan

The aircraft included J-16s and H-6 bombers

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China on Monday sent 52 PLA Air Force aircraft towards Taiwan in the latest show of aerial force, marking a third record aerial intrusion in the past four days.

Taiwan's Ministry of Defence said the aircraft included 34 J-16s and 12 nuclear capable H-6 bombers, and said it had responded by issuing radio warnings and deploying air defence systems to monitor the activity.

Monday's entry of the PLA aircraft into the Air Defence Identification Zone followed a record 38 aircraft sent on Friday, when China marked its National Day, and 39 aircraft on Saturday in two sep-



number of aircraft on previous two days. • FILE РНОТО

arate waves. Taiwan officials have hit out at the aerial intrusions into the ADIZ as acts of "military aggression" and "damaging regional peace".

National Day

The intrusions have coincided with China's National Day, marked on October 1, and come ahead of Taiwan's National Day on October 10.

The aerial deployments

were seen in Taiwan as "a demonstration to Taiwan and the U.S. of the PLA's joint combat capabilities and its ability to quickly assemble assets from different units", the official CNA news agency reported from Taipei on Sunday.

Beijing has in the past timed intrusions into the ADIZ as a form of signalling. Prior to the National Day in-

trusions, another 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.

Last month, Beijing strongly hit out at Taiwan's application to join the CPTPP. "There is only one China in the world," spokesperson Zhao Lijian said. 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."

Fumio Kishida elected as new PM of Japan

His predecessor had lasted only a year

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan's parliament on Monday elected Fumio Kishida, a former moderate turned hawk, as Prime Minister. He'll face an economy battered by the pandemic, security threats from China and North Korea and leadership of a political party whose popularity is sagging ahead of a fast-approaching crucial national election.

With his party and its coalition partner holding a majority in both houses, Mr. Kishida won by a comfortable margin against Yukio Edano, head of the largest opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan.



Fumio Kishida

He replaces Yoshihide Suga, who resigned after only one year in office as his support plunged over his government's handling of the pandemic and insistence on holding the Tokyo Olympics as the virus spread.

MOTORSPORTS

Indian driver Arjun Maini

displayed impressive pace at

the Hockenheim race circuit

before an error spoilt his

weekend in the DTM Cham-

had one of his most produc-

tive weekends at the penulti-

mate round of the DTM

Championship with the In-

dian firmly establishing him-

He finished eighth overall

self at the front of the field.

during the second race.

The Mercedes-AMG driver

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

HOCKENHEIM (GERMANY)

pionship, here.

Leaders seek to limit 'Pandora' damage

Documents reveal that they have used offshore tax havens to stash assets

Governments moved on Monday to limit the fallout from a release of millions of documents detailing how leaders have used offshore tax havens to stash assets worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Some 35 current and former leaders are featured in roughly 11.9 million documents leaked from financial services companies across the world. The documents, known as the "Pandora Papers," were obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative **Journalists** (ICIJ).

Russian leader Vladimir Putin is not named but he is

Driving error costs Maini podium

Misjudges his braking and careens into fellow driver



Unfurling secrets: Some 35 current and former leaders are featured in roughly 11.9 million documents. • AFP

linked via associates to secret assets in Monaco, particularly a waterfront home acquired by a Russian woman reported to have had a child with him.

"This is just a set of largely unsubstantiated claims," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "We didn't see anything on hidden wealth within Mr. Putin's inner

Jordan was also keen to play down the revelations, which exposed how King Abdullah II created a network of offshore companies

and tax havens to amass a \$100 million property empire from California to London. The country's royal court said the properties were funded with the King's personal wealth and were used for official and private visits.

Family and associates of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyevare alleged to have been secretly involved in property deals in Britain worth hundreds of millions.

And the documents also show how Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis failed to declare an offshore investment company used to purchase a chateau worth \$22 million in the south of

Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram hit by outage

This follows leaks by FB whistleblower

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SAN FRANCISCO

Facebook and its Instagram and WhatsApp platforms were hit by a massive outage on Monday, impacting potentially tens of millions of users as the social media giant faces fallout over its efon teens misinformation.

Tracker 'Downdetector' was showing outages in heavily populated areas like Washington and Paris, with problems being reported from around 2115 IST. "We're aware that some people are having trouble accessing our apps and products," Facebook spokesman Andy Stone said on Twitter.

Users trying to access Facebook in affected areas were greeted with the message: "Something went wrong. We're working on it and we'll get it fixed as soon as we can."

The outage comes a day after a whistleblower went on U.S. television to reveal her identity after she leaked a trove of documents to authorities alleging the company knew its products were fueling hate and harming children's mental health.

Consequently, the social media platform has come under sharp criticism from U.S. lawmakers

SPORT

Santosh and Nagarajan reign

SPORTS REPORTER

Santosh Kumar and codriver Nagarajan took top honours in the premier INRRC class in the first round of the JK Tyre FMSCI Indian national regularity run championship (South Zone), the first event of Utsav de Hampi, at Hampi. Vinay Kumar and Ravi

Kumar claimed the INRRC title in the second round. Aparna Pathak and La-

litha Gowda won the Ladies Class, as well as the corporate class in the first round Provisional results (win-

ners): Round 2: INRRC: Vinay Kumar & Ravi Kumar. Open: Vinay Kumar & Ravi

Kumar. Round 1: INRRC: Santhosh

Kumar & Nagarajan



strong first free practice ses-



during the weekend's second race. • AFP

of the standings for the first time this year. Maini failed to capitalise

sion that left him at the top

on his strong pace with the usually composed Mercedes driver, making a rare driving error as the field made its way towards the circuit's hairpin on the first lap. He misjudged his braking and careened into the fellow Mercedes driver Lucas Auer, with the ensuing impact ending his race prematurely.

The mistake also earned

Maini a five-place grid penal-

Rajasthan United beats Ryntih SC

I-LEAGUE QUALIFIERS PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajasthan United FC defeated Ryntih SC 3-2 in the opening match of the I-League Qualifiers at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

Rajasthan United was 3-0 up till just before the 80th minute, after which Ryntih SC came back with two goals to mount a tough fight towards the dying minutes of the game.

The result: Rajasthan United 3 (Dilli Ram Sanyasi 11, Sukhiit Singh 45+1. Aman Thapa 68) bt Ryntih 2 (Banpynkhrawnam Nongkhlaw 79, Sheen Stevenson 82).

Nischal misses out behind Yana Chuchmarova

SHOOTING SPORTS BUREAU

Nischal shot 619.8 and missed a medal by 0.2 point in the women's 50m rifle prone event in the junior World shooting championship here.

In the non-Olympic event, which does not have a final, Anna Janssen of Germany won with a score of 623.3, one point ahead of Olympic silver medallist Mary Carolynn Tucker of the US. Sheileen Waiber of Austria pipped Nischal to the bronze with 620.0.

In the mixed skeet team event, Raiza Dhillon and Ayush Rudraraju shot 130 and placed seventh. The top

four teams made the final. In women's sports pistol, Manu Bhaker shot 293 to be placed second, one point

Niveditha Nair followed close with 291.

sion stage

The top eight will qualify for the final after the rapid

of Ukraine, after the preci-

fire section. The results: Men: 50m rifle prone: 1. So-

ma Hammerl (Hun) 623.4, 2. Jiri Privratsky (Cze) 622.9, 3. Max Braun (Ger) 621.5; 7. Pankaj Mukheja 619.0; 14. Surya PratapSingh 615.4; 18 Nitish Kumar 611.0.

Women: 50m rifle prone: 1. Anna Janssen (Ger) 623.3, 2. Mary Carolynn Tucker (USA) 622.3, 3. Sheileen Waiber (Aut) 620.0; 4. Nischal 619.8; 21. Ashi Chouksey 614.0; 29. Ayushi Podder 611.8.

Mixed skeet team: 1. Italy 31 (144), 2. Romania 29 (138), 3. Greece 29 (134); 7. India-2 (Raiza Dhillon, Ayush Rudraraju) 130; 10. India (Areeba Khan, Abhay Singh Sekhon) 126.

Rohit reaches bronze play-off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rohit pulled off a technical superiority win over Turkey's Selahattin Kilicsallayan to progress to the 65kg bronze medal play-off at the wrestling World Championship here on

The results: Women: 62kg: Pre-quarterfinals: Lais Nunes De Oliveira (Bra) bt Sangeeta Phogat 6-4. 55kg: Quarterfinals: Pinki

Monday.

bt Aisha Ualishan (Kaz) by Men: 97kg: Qualification

round: Minwon Seo (Kor) bt Satywart Kadian by VPO1; 70kg: Qualification round: Zurabi Iakobishvili (Geo) bt Sushil 5-1. 65kg: Repechage: Rohit bt Selahattin Kilicsallayan (Tur) by VSU1.

A ND-NDE

Capitals pip Super Kings in tense finish

After Axar and Ashwin combine to restrict the Chennai side to 136, Hetmyer guides the team home

IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

disciplined bowling ef-Afort, led by spinners Axar Patel (2/18) and R. Ashwin (1/20), and vital knocks by Shikhar Dhawan (39) and Shimron Hetmeyer (28 not out) helped Delhi Capitals edge out Chennai Super Kings by three wickets in a pulsating IPL clash in Dubai on Monday.

Electing to field, Capitals' spinners, along with Kagiso Rabada (4-0-21-0), helped restrict CSK to 136 for five. Ambati Rayudu waged a lone battle, his unbeaten 55 (43b, 5x4, 2x6) taking the side to a decent total.

DC started strongly, scoring 48 in the first five overs, but made heavy weather of a modest chase after its batters kept throwing their wickets away and allowed CSK to remain in the hunt till the end.

Dhawan anchored the chase with a measured approach. He started explosively, smashing Deepak Chahar for 21 runs (two sixes and two fours) in one over before holding fort at one end even as wickets kept falling at the other.

Shardul Thakur (2/13) was the star performer for the Chennai side, his accurate back-of-a-length bowling proving difficult for the DC batters to score off.

With 28 needed off the last three overs, Hetmeyer hit two crucial boundaries off Dwavne Bravo in the 18th over. He was lucky with the second one as substitute fielder K. Gowtham dropped a simple chance at long-on when he was on 12. In the end, the West Indian's unbeaten 28 helped DC seal a place in the top two.

Earlier, CSK made a promising start as Ruturaj Gaikwad and Faf du Plessis struck





Delhi's architects: Axar spun a web around the Super Kings batters before Hetmyer got into the act. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

a series of boundaries. However, the South African perished when he hit an armball from Axar straight to mid-wicket. The in-form Ruturaj soon followed, mistiming a pull off Anrich Nortje.

Axar and Ashwin bowled tight lines, reaping the benefits whenever the batters decided to take them on.

From 62 for four in the ninth over, M.S. Dhoni and Rayudu forged a 70-run stand for the fifth wicket but struggled to score boundaries. In fact, the skipper (18, 27b) could not find the fence

Rayudu began slowly but switched gears towards the end, hitting sixes off Nortje and Avesh Khan to give the innings some momentum. However, it was not enough.

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Ruturaj Gaikwad c Ashwin b Nortje 13 (13b, 2x4), Faf du Plessis c Shreyas b Axar 10 (8b, 2x4), Robin Uthappa c & b Ashwin 19 *(19b, 1x4)*, Moeen Ali c Shreyas b Axar 5 (8b), Ambati Rayudu (not out) 55 (43b, 5x4, 2x6), M.S. Dhoni c Pant b Avesh 18 (27b), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 1 (2b); Extras (lb-5, w-10): 15; Total (for five wkts. in 20

FALL OF WICKETS 1-28 (du Plessis, 2.4 overs), 2-39 (Ruturaj, 4.4), 3-59 (Moeen, 7.4), 4-62 (Uthappa, 8.3), 5-132

CAPITALS BOWLING Nortje 4-0-37-1, Avesh 4-0-35-1, Axar 4-0-18-2, Rabada 4-0-21-0, Ashwin 4-0-20-1.

DELHI CAPITALS

Deepak Chahar 18 (12b, 3x4), Shikhar Dhawan c Moeen b Shardul 39 (35b, 3x4, 2x6), Shreyas Iyer c Ruturaj b Hazlewood 2 (7b), Rishabh Pant c Moeen b Jadeja 15 (12b, 1x4, 1x6), Ripal Patel c Deepak Chahar b Jadeja 18 (20b, 2x4), R. Ashwin b Shardul 2 (3b) Shimron Hetmyer (not out) 28 (18b, 2x4, 1x6), Axar Patel c Moeen b Bravo 5 (10b), Kagiso Rabada (not out) 4 (1b, 1x4); Extras (lb-1, w-7): 8; Total (for

FALL OF WICKETS 1-24 (Shaw, 2.3), 2-51 (Shreyas, 5.5), 3-71 (Pant, 8.5), 4-93 (Ripal, 12.5), 5-98 (Ashwin, 14.1), 6-99 (Dhawan, 14.6), 7-135 (Axar, 19.3).

seven wkts. in 19.4 overs): 139.

SUPER KINGS BOWLING Deepak Chahar 3-0-34-1, Hazlewood 4-0-27-1, Jadeja 4-

Moeen 3-0-16-0, Shardul 4-0-13-2, Bravo 1.4-0-20-1

Toss: DC; MoM: Axar. Capitals won by three wickets with two balls to spare.

Innings scan											
CSK DC											
46	Dots	53									
10	Fours	12									
2	Sixes	4									
48/2	PP	51/2									
6.80	RR	7.06									

Next assignment CSK: Oct. 7 vs PBKS,

Dubai, 3.30 p.m. IST DC: Oct. 8 vs RCB,

It is crunch time for MI and Royals

Must-win game for both as battle hots up for playoffs spot

SPORTS BUREAU

It is nail-biting times at the IPL for most teams. Two of them, Mumbai Indians and Rajasthan Royals, come face to face at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Though three teams -CSK, DC and RCB - have qualified for the playoffs with two matches to spare for each, the remaining slot is up for grabs.

Four-way contest

Royals and MI are very much in contention; so are Kolkata Knight Riders and Punjab Kings. The latter, though, is the worst-placed among the contenders as it is on 10 points with just a game in hand.

While Royals are in fami-

TODAY'S MATCH



SHARJAH, 7.30 P.M. IST

Played: 23 RR 11 | MI 12 In 2021 Played **1** | RR **0** | MI **1** STAR SPORTS 1 & SS SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

liar territory, the Mumbai men would be desperate to keep their reputation in tact.

For the tournament's

most successful team – with five titles – this has been a season of disappointment.

Rohit Sharma's men could still dream of an unprecedented hat-trick of trophies, but they cannot afford to wait any longer to get their act together.

Time to step up

They need a few from their long list of match-winners including Kieron Pollard, Hardik Pandya, Suryakumar Yadav, Quinton de Kock, Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult to come up with major contributions.

Royals may have been handicapped in the second phase by the absence of Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler and Jofra Archer, but they could take heart from the way Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shivam Dube, Evin Lewis and skipper Sanju Samson chased down a formidable target set by Dhoni's men in their last match.

Morgan lauds KKR's bowlers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata Knight Riders captain Eoin Morgan is the first one to admit that he has been woefully short of runs throughout the IPL, but is confident of finding some form with the tournament hitting the business end.

"Yeah, I am short of runs in this phase of the tournament, the whole tournament in general. I am very lucky to be in a position where I have been through stages like this in my career," Morgan said after his team's six-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"And I think the longer you go without contributing a significant score, the closer you are to actually contributing. And that's coming from experience," said Mor-

Speaking about Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy, who have played a key role for KKR, he said the team was very lucky to have

"I think they are the two big impact players for us (Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine). We are very lucky to have them, particularly Narine. He has been a huge part of the franchise for a long time, an integral part of KKR's success."

Morgan was also all praise for the bowling group. The KKR captain said veteran Kiwi Tim Southee has made a big impression in the absence of key players like Andre Russell, Lockie Ferguson, Pat Cummins and the others.

"Tim's obviously had a huge impact on the side, When you miss two or three big gun players – we miss Pat, Lockie, and Dre (Russell) - it's not easy but Tim has stepped up to the plate."

POINTS TABLE

eam	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
elhi Capitals (Q)	13	10	3	20	0.526
hennai Super Kings (Q)	13	9	4	18	0.739
oyal Challengers (Q)	12	8	4	16	-0.157
olkata Knight Riders	13	6	7	12	0.294
unjab Kings	13	5	8	10	-0.241
ajasthan Royals	12	5	7	10	-0.337
Iumbai Indians	12	5	7	10	-0.453
unrisers Hyderabad (E)	12	2	10	4	-0.475
ter the DC-CSK match on Oct	. 4	Q	: Quali	fied; E:	Eliminated

+ Even lightning couldn't take the thunder away from India in pink ball Test

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

mriti Mandhana's flowing Soff-side drives, Jhulan Goswami's impeccable lineand-length, Meghna Singh's swing, Punam Raut's bold decision to walk... India's women cricketers ensured that their first outing with a pink ball under lights was a memorable one.

Dominant show

Lightning and rain may have forced the one-off Day-Night Test to end in a draw at Carrara on Sunday, but India did remarkably well to dominate a formidable and more experienced Australian team right from the opening hour. Captain Mithali Raj called it one of India's "best performances" in a Test.

It certainly was. The Aussies were forced to chase the game throughout after Meg Lanning won the toss and invited India to bat.

If much of the first two days hadn't been lost to bad weather, Mithali's women



Setting the tone: Smriti's brilliant century in the first innings ensured India held the upper hand always. • GETTY IMAGES

would have been in a great position to press for a win. Replying to India's 377 for eight declared, the host was in the danger of a follow-on. It was averted by a resolute, unbeaten 68 off 203 balls by the magnificent Ellyse Perry. The Indians may have

been undone by the elements, but before the Test, they had put an end to Australia's stunning streak of 26 ODI wins.

They took that momentum into the Test. That they had just two training sessions with the pink ball in the run-up to the Test

seemed irrelevant. Forget the pink ball, the Indian women are not used to playing much even with the red one. The Test against England at Bristol in June was their first in seven years. Unlike the Test in Carrara, the Indians had to play catch up in England. They did that in some style.

Snatching a draw

Following on, debutants Sneh Rana and Taniya Bhatia's heroic, unbroken 104run stand for the ninth wicket helped India snatch a draw from the jaws of defeat.

Mithali said India could take away a lot of positives from the Tests against England and Australia.

"Sneh, Taniya and Deepti Sharma did well in England," she said. "In Australia, Smrti's hundred was fabulous. All our seamers bowled well too. Along with Jhulan, the two young seamers (Meghna and Pooja Vastrakar) have really stood up."

England to decide on Ashes tour this week

Players have concerns over bubble environments and safety

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

England cricket chiefs will meet this week to decide whether the Ashes will go ahead later this year, with fears expressed about the strictness of coronavirus protocols in Australia. Joe Root's team are due to

play a five-Test series starting in Brisbane on December 8, with further matches in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Perth. But the players are under-

stood to harbour concerns over quarantine, bubble environments and access for families and Root last week refused to commit to the

Constant touch

The England and Wales Cricket Board said on Monday it was in "regular and positive dialogue" Cricket Australia.



A replica of the fabled Ashes Urn. ■ REUTERS

"With health and well-being at the forefront, our focus is to ensure the tour can go ahead with conditions for players and management to perform at their best," an ECB statement said. "Later this week the ECB

board will meet to decide whether the conditions in

place are sufficient for the tour to go ahead and enable the selection of a squad befitting a series of this significance," it added. Multi-format England players potentially face months of travelling and liv-

ing in biosecure bubbles. The T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates and Oman starts on October 17 before the Ashes series in December and January. The issue of players' wellbeing was brought sharply into focus in July when it was

announced that star England all-rounder Ben Stokes would be taking an indefinite break from cricket to "prioritise" his mental health.

Australia is the current holder of the Ashes after retaining the urn following a 2-2 draw in England in 2019. The host won the last home series in 2017-18 4-0.

Double whammy for India paddlers

SPORTS BUREAU

The Indian doubles pairs of G. Sathiyan & Sharath Kamal and Harmeet Desai & Manav Thakkar lost in the men's doubles semifinals of the Asian table tennis championships here on Monday.

Harmeet and Manav rallied from a two-game deficit but fell short as Koreans Jong Woojin and Lim Jonghoon triumphed 11-4, 11-6, 10-12, 9-11, 11-8, while the Sharath-Sathiyan pair was outplayed by Yukiya Uda and Shunsuke Togami of Japan 11-5, 11-9, 13-11.

India ended its campaign with three bronze medals – one in the men's team event and two in men's doubles.

The results (semifinals):

Men's doubles: Jong Woojin & Lim Jonghoon (Kor) bt Harmeet Desai & Manav Thakkar 11-4, 11-6, 10-12, 9-11, 11-8; Yukiya Uda & Shunsuke Togami (Jpn) bt G. Sathiyan & Sharath Kamal 11-5, 11-9, 13-11.

Milan stays on Napoli's coattails with a win at Atalanta

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

AC Milan stayed in touch with Serie A leader Napoli on Sunday after coming away from Atalanta with a 3-2 win which maintains its unbeaten start to the season and underlines its credentials.

Milan came out on top in a frenetic encounter to stay two points behind Napoli, whose 2-1 win at Fiorentina was its seventh in as many games so far this season, after a nervy ending in Bergamo which saw Atalanta pull back two late goals after going three down with 12 minutes remaining.

There are signs that a three-way title race is starting to take shape with Inter Milan a further two points back in third.

Milan went ahead almost from kick-off through Davide Calabria.

The home crowd groaned in disbelief in the 20th minute when, after doing brilliantly to tip away Davide Zappacosta's near post drive from the edge of the area, Milan 'keeper Maignan then got a hand to Duvan Zapata's bullet header from the subsequent corner.

And Sandro Tonali made the most of his goalkeeper's fine display when he doubled Milan's lead two minutes from half-time with his second Serie A goal of the

Tonali, who has had a brilliant start to the campaign for Milan, picked Remo Freuler's pocket and then raced through unopposed on goal before calmly slotting past Juan Musso.

Milan kept a lid on Atalanta and should have added to its lead through Alexis Saelemaekers before Rafale Leao curled home the third in the 78th minute. Zapata's 86th-minute pe-

tap-in deep in stoppage time kept the game alive until the final whistle but Milan ran out deserved winner. The results: LaLiga: Elche 1 (Benedetto 49) bt Celta Vigo 0; Getafe 1 (Ramirez 40) drew

with Real Sociedad 1 (Oyarzabal

68); Villarreal 2 (Danjuma 45+1,

nalty and a Mario Pasalic

69) bt Real Betis O; Granada 1 (Rochina 25) bt Sevilla O. Serie A: Atalanta 2 (Zapata 86pen, Pasalic 90+4) lost to AC Milan 3 (Calabria 1, Tonali 43,

Bundesliga: Arminia Bielefeld O lost to Baver Leverkusen 4 (Diaby 18, Schick 24, 57, Demirbay 90+2).



goalkeeper Musso makes a desperate attempt to save. • AFP

10-man Bangladesh holds India

Chhetri scores 76th international goal

SAFF C'SHIPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India allowed a 10-man Bangladesh to come back and score a shock goal, after talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri's 76th international strike, for a 1-1 draw in their SAFF championships opener here on Monday.

The 37-year-old, playing his 121st match for India, struck in the 27th minute to move just a goal shy of legendary Brazilian Pele (77 goals from 92 matches). He is now fourth in the list of highest scorers among active footballers, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (111), Lionel Messi (79)

and Iraq's Ali Mabkhout (77). India was the better side in the first half and even



AIFFMEDIA

though it lost possession quite often, it seemed to be cruising. It also had numerical advantage from the 54th minute after Bangladesh's Biswanath Ghosh was sent off for committing a foul on Liston Colaco.

attack from Bangladesh and conceded in the 74th minute. The result: India 1 (Chhetri 27)

But Igor Stimac's men

failed to stop a swift counter-

drew with Bangladesh 1 (Yeasin Arafat 74).



Ruud cruises past Norrie for fifth title in 2021

LOS ANGELES Casper Ruud powered past Cameron Norrie 6-0, 6-2 to win the ATP San Diego title on Sunday, his fifth in 2021. The Norwegian had earlier triumphed at Geneva, Bastad, Gstaad and Kitzbuhel, Ruud, who had won only one ATP title before this year, moves into eighth place in the Race to Turin as he tries to qualify for the November 14-21 ATP



Finals. AFF

Muguruza beats Jabeur in Chicago final

Garbine Muguruza rallied to beat Ons Jabeur 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 in the Chicago Fall Tennis Classic for her second WTA Tour victory of the season and ninth overall. The ninth-ranked Muguruza had won the Dubai Duty Free Championships in March. AP

Tvesa finishes 20th. Diksha slips way down

Tvesa Malik carded a one-over 73 in the final round to finish 20th at the Estrella Damm Ladies Open in Sitges, Spain on Sunday. However, Diksha Dagar, playing her first event since the Olympics, returned a 78 to finish T-58 at one-over 217. Sweden's 21-year-old Maja Stark, who began the day on T-17, carded a 65 to win the title with an eight-under total. PTI

Status of abandoned match a mere technicality, says India star

CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India's white-ball vice-captain Rohit Sharma has no idea about the status of last month's abandoned fifth Test against England in Manchester but is quite clear in his mind that his team "won" the hard-fought series 2-1.

The fifth Test in Manchester was abandoned after Team India's junior physio Yogesh Parmar tested positive for COVID-19 and was found to be in direct contact with the players. This was after some senior members of the Indian support staff were also found to be infected.

Extension

The BCCI has agreed to play the fifth Test in July, 2022. BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has said it will be an extension of this year's series and not a one-off game as England wants.

"I don't know what's happening with the last Test match. Whether we are playing a one-off Test (next year) but in my mind we have won the series 2-1," Rohit said during Adidas' campaign 'Impossible Is Nothing' which also features Tokyo Olympic medallists weightlifter Mirabai Chanu and boxer Lovlina Borgohain among other sports stars.

Milestone

Asked if the England series, where he scored more than 400 runs with a hundred and two fifties in four games was a milestone series for him, he replied: "It was a good one considering where I was standing in my Test career." But the soon-to-be T20

captain refused to call it his

"It's not my best series. I

feel my best is yet to come. I utilised the time before the World Test Championship final in Southampton (to figure out) what sort of techand mindset is required. I was pretty happy and would like to take it further."

We won the England series 2-1, asserts Rohit

Save the rhino

Rohit has been actively involved with the 'Save the Rhinos' campaign and also for a plastic free sustainable planet. He spoke about his experience thus far.

"It was in 2014 when I went to Kenya and learnt about the condition of rhinos. India and Africa are two places where we have the maximum rhino population. "I often thought 'why

don't I carry my cause on to the field'," Rohit said about the company's specially designed cricket shoes which carry the 'Save the rhino'



Working to a plan: Rohit Sharma is immensely satisfied with his performance in the series, but claims his best is vet to come. • AP

Edulji, Shantha prefer 'four-day' Tests as they feel it's more than enough



■ FILE PHOTO: PTI

Want BCCI to restart red-ball cricket in domestic circuit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Australia head coach Matthew Mott has reiterated his call for five-day Test in women's cricket but former India captains Diana Edulji and Shantha Rangaswamy are among the ones who prefer status quo and instead want resumption of red-ball games in domestic cricket.

Mott and England captain Heather Knight suggested the need for making women's Test matches a five-

day affair from four after the pink-ball game between India and Australia ended in a

Too much time lost

Close to 100 overs were lost in the game due to rain on the first two days. "It's the five days for me," said Mott after the drawn Test.

The head coach also spoken about the need for fiveday Tests after the 2019 women's Ashes Test.

"Had this game gone

another day, I think we'd have seen a very good Test. A little more time in the game would certainly everyone.

India, which played its first long format game against Australia in 15 years, had also drawn its last Test against England in June.

"The four-day format is fine for now. We played three-day games back in the day. As it is, there are only three countries (India, Australia, England) that are playing Tests in women's cricket at the moment and India just started playing again. She said the focus should

be on making a one-off Test part of the full fledged series and restart red-ball cricket on domestic circuit.

Another former India captain, Shantha, echoed Edulji's views. "Results should come in four days only. It is more than enough. There was too much time lost to the weather in this game."



Shantha Rangaswamy. ■ FILE PHOTO

was more than two seconds

up on Quartararo, who start-

ed from the middle of the

front row and finished

Bagnaia, starting from

pole for the third straight

race, was running fourth

with a few laps remaining,

when his pressure on Jorge

Martin finally caused the

rookie to cut two corners

4.679s behind.

ATP investigating allegations of abusive behaviour against Zverev

ANI

ATP on Monday announced that an internal investigation is currently underway into allegations concerning Alexander Zverev at the ATP Masters 1000 event in Shanghai in 2019.

Notably, more than a year ago Zverev's former partner –Olga Sharypova -alleged she was physically and emotionally abused by the German tennis star. Then just days before the 2021 US Open, a second interview was published by *slate.com* where she made further claims, as per ubitennis.

Taking note of the



Alexander Zverev. • AP

incident, the ATP has condemned any form of violence or abuse and stated that the organisation will investigate such allegations related to conduct at an ATP member tournament.ATP CEO Massimo Calvelli in a

nam bt Kanj Shah 4-6, 6-3, 6-1;

Dhiraj Reddy bt Abhiram Nilakhe 6-2, 0-6, 6-4; Tanuush

Ghildyal bt Arnav Yadav 6-2, 7-

6(11); Advik Natekar bt Sa-

marth Sahita 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-4;

Pratyushraj Goel bt Panshul

Uboveja 7-6(2), 3-6, 6-3; Ash-

wajit Senjam bt Pranav Mishra

6-1, 7-6(4); V Thirumurugan bt

Arjun Rathi 6-4, 6-4; Rian

Sharma bt Vyom Shah 7-5, 6-3;

Dhruv Sachdeva bt Arya Gana-

pathy; 7-6(5), 6-1; Raghav

Amin bt Kunsh Kakkar 6-3, 4-6.

4-0 (conceded); Aarav Chawla

bt Dhruv Ghanghas 6-2, 5-7, 7-

6(4); Swastik Sharma bt Shub-

ham Sehrawat 3-6, 6-1, 7-5;

Kriish Tyagi bt Letheesh Kom-

Under-14 girls: Devanshee

Prabhudesai bt Krisha Dalal

6-4, 6-3; Rishitha Reddy bt Ad-

iti Tvaqi 6-1, 6-3: Prisha Shinde

bt Shatakshi Chaudharv 6-0.

6-3; Harshini N bt Sejal Bhuta-

da 6-0, 6-1; Janhvi Kajla bt Aa-

rushi Raval 6-3, 6-0; Maaya

Revathi bt Inaaya Mittal 6-0,

6-3; Vennela Reddy bt Nee-

lakshi Lather 6-1, 6-1; Anandi

Bhutada bt Jaya Kapoor 6-3,

4-6, 6-3; Ishi Maheshwari bt

Aakruti Sonkusare 7-6(5), 6-4;

Prarthana Solanki bt Prachi Ra-

na 7-5, 6-3; Harithashree Ven-

katesh bt Dheepa Yazhini 6-0,

6-2; Anushka Bhola bt Yashika

7-6(6), 6-1; Aditi Rawat bt Ma-

nognya Madasu 6-2, 6-1; Sree

Tanvi Dasari bt Avni Saharya

6-2. 6-3: Pehal Kharadkar bt

Navva Sharma 6-2, 6-2: Nemha

Sarah Kispotta bt Radha Sad-

hra 6-0, 6-2.

bila 6-4, 6-2.

statement said: 'The allegations raised against Alexander Zverev are serious and we have a responsibility to address

Follow-up action 'We hope our investigation

will allow us to establish the facts and determine appropriate follow-up action. We understand Zverev welcomes our investigation and acknowledge that he has denied all allegations. We will also be monitoring any further legal developments following the preliminary injunction obtained by Zverev in the German Courts."

Marquez reigns at GP of the Americas

Quartararo extends lead at the top of championship standings

MOTOGP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Marc Marquez reasserted his mastery of the Circuit of the Americas on Sunday, winning MotoGP's Grand Prix of the Americas for the seventh

Marquez, starting third on the grid, seized the lead at the start and relentlessly powered to victory over championship leader Fabio Quartararo of France. Marquez never allowed

Ouartararo a look-in, but the Yamaha rider pushed his lead in the standings to 52 points over Italian Ducati rider Francesco Bagnaia, who finished third. With just three races left

this season – and with 25



Wild in the West: Fabio Quartararo, Marc Marquez and Francesco Bagnaia celebrate on the podium at Austin. • AFP

points on offer to the winner of each one – Quartararo is within touching distance of a first MotoGP world title.

"The plan exactly was like I did the race," said a beaming Marquez, the six-time World champion who won the first six races held at the

hope to find

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Not a household name at

the moment, Ritu Rani is

banking on next year's AFC

Asian Cup to become one.

So is Karishma Shirvoikar,

and many others repre-

senting the senior Indian

Ritu and Karishma feel

hosting next year's FIFA

U-17 World Cup and Asian

with the way things are

women's football team.

limelight

Austin circuit but fell off

while leading in 2019. The event was cancelled last season when he was recuperating after breaking his right arm in a crash, and his front-row start was his first since his return to the sport.

By the halfway stage he

and draw a long-lap penalty that secured Bagnaia's place on the podium.

> **History beckons** Ouartararo will have the chance to become France's first MotoGP World champion at the next race at Misano in Italy on October 24.

"Today, everyone on the podium is happy," Marquez

Hockey domestic season begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A total of 24 teams will vie for top honours at the inaugural sub junior academy national championship, marking the start of domestic hockey season in the country.

The event began in Bhopal on Monday. After six days of pool matches, the quarterfinals will be played on October 10, the semifinals on October 12 and medal matches on Oct. 13. The teams:

Pool A: Berar Hockey Academy (Vidarbha) Amravati, Na-(Jamshedpur) and Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre.

Pool B: Bhai Behlo Hockey Academy Bhagta, Namdhari XI and Olympian Vivek Singh Hockey Academy. Pool C: Cheema Hockey Aca-

demy, Mumbai Schools Sports Association and Raja Karan Hockey Academy

Pool D: Citizen Hockey XI. Mata Sahib Kaur Hockey Academy Jarkhar (Ludhiana) and Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy.

Pool E: Dhyan Chand Hockey Markandeshwar Hockey Academy and SAI

Pool F: Ghumanhera Riser's Academy, Malwa Hockey Aca-Hanumangarh and SGPC Hockey Academy. Pool G: HAR Hockey Acade-

my, Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy and Tamil Nadu Hockey Academy Pool H: HIM Academy, Jai

Bharat Hockey Academy and Vadipatti Raja Hockey Acade-

DELHI CRICKET

Akshay Saini hits 271 NEW DELHI

Akshay Saini's 271 and Vishal Abhua's 136 helped M-10 Academy crush Turf Academy by 308 runs in the Swasthik Cup cricket tournament.

The scores: M10 Academy 438/2 in 40 overs (Akshay Saini 271, Vishal Abhua 136) bt Turf Academy 130 in 26.2 overs (Nikhil Naithani 77, Dhruv Sharma 4/42).

Unbeaten 144 by Raunak Raunak Modi's unheaten 144 helped Push Dahiya Academy beat Triloki Nath Memorial by 13 runs in the Push Academy (u-13) League

In another match, Abhirai Gagan Singh's 92 guided Turf Academy to a seven-wicket win over Yug Academy.

The scores: Push Dahiya Academy 257/4 in 40 overs (Rounak Modi 144, Atharv Srivastava 55) bt Triloki Nath Memorial 244/7 in 40 overs (Ankit Sehwag 78, Naitik Dhall 57); Yug Academy 167/9 in 40 overs (Dhairya Bhadana 46, Shaurya Raghav 34, Nihal Singh 3/23) lost to Turf Academy 170/3 in 31.4 overs (Abhiraj Gagan Singh

Nandini beats Saumrita

NATL SUB-JR TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Oualifier Nandini Dixit fought her way past Saumrita Verma 7-6(4), 7-6(7) in the under-16 girls first round of the National sub-junior tennis championship at the DLTA Complex here on Monday.

In another lively match, Sreenidhi Balaji beat Manognya Madasu 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 in the same section.

In the under-14 girls section, lucky loser Anandi Bhutada beat qualifier Jaya Kapoor 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 to set up a second round against seventh seed Priyanka Rana.

The results (first round):

Under-16 girls: Saina Deshpande bt Shagun Kumari 6-3, 7-5; Riya Sachdeva bt Sweta Rana 6-1, 6-1; Nandini Dixit bt Saumrita Verma 7-6(4), 7-6(7); Sukhmanni Bhandari bt Sreenidhi Reddy 6-1, 6-3; Sreenidhi Balaji bt Manognya Madasu 6-3, 3-6, 6-2; Samya Sikand bt Suyash Chaudhary 6-0, 6-3; Pushti Laddha bt V.Anya Arora 6-1, 6-0; Niyati Kukreti bt Lagan Budhiraja 6-0, 6-0; Saumya Ronde bt Suhani Gaur 6-3, 6-2; Lakshmi Gowda bt Harshini Viswanath 6-2, 6-0; Asmi Adkar bt Ikaraju Kanumuri 6-1, 6-2; Ananya SR bt Khushi Ghu-

Under-14 boys: Shanker Heis-

Dortmund sweats over Haaland fitness



Out of action: An unspecified muscle problem has laid Haaland low since September 19. ■ FILE РНОТО

FOOTBALL

ASSOCIATED PRESS DUSSELDORF

Borussia Dortmund is set to spend the international break worrying about the fitness of Erling Haaland after the club indicated the Norway striker's injury could drag on into the second half of October.

Haaland hasn't played since Sept. 19 with a unspecified muscle problem and will sit out Norway's upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Turkey and Montenegro.

Haaland wished the team luck on Twitter on Monday ahead of crunch games for his ambition to

"Fundamentally,

clubs have a duty to release (players) for international duty," said Sebastian Kehl, the administrative manager for Dortmund's team, in comments published on Monday by the Westdeutschen Allgemeinen Zeitung newspaper. "However, Erling is cur-

rently injured and hasn't been able to play for us recently and also can't take part in team training in the following weeks." Kehl said he expected

Cup will "change" the play in Norway's first matournament since country's women's football scene.

"This will definitely bring about a change in women's football all over the country and girls would take it as a career option," Karishma told Mid-fielder Ritu, who is known for her tackling and aerial ability, is satisfied

shaping up for the team. "Preparations are going on for AFC with the exposure tours and camps. "The teammates and

coaching staff are supportthe Norwegian federation ed well and the aim is to to have "trust in us and in perform well in AFC Asian (Haaland)" over the injury. Cup," she said.

Mbappe's PSG departure move India's women footballers

Says he told the club in July that he wanted to leave

down the offer.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Kylian Mbappe on Monday confirmed that he told Paris Saint-Germain in July he wanted to leave the club.

"I said at the end of July that I wanted to leave," Mbappe said in an interview with RMC radio.

"My position has been

clear. I said I wanted to leave and I told them (PSG management) quite early on." The French World Cup

winner has not extended his contract at PSG, fuelling speculation he will seek a

move to Real Madrid at the end of the season.

The Spanish giant bid €180 million for Mbappe in August but PSG, which had just signed Lionel Messi from Barcelona, turned

At the time, PSG's sporting director Leonardo said Mbappe could "leave or stay on our conditions".

Mbappe said he eventuallv told PSG "if you don't want me to leave, I will

"People said I had refused six or seven offers to extend

and that I never talk to Leonardo, which is absolutely

not true," he added. Mbappe, who joined PSG from Monaco for a deal worth a total of €180 million in 2017, said he had offered to leave the club in July to allow PSG to find "a quality replacement".

"I wanted everyone to be in a win-win situation," he said.

"Paris is a club that has given me a lot, where I've always been happy for the four years I have spent here and I am still happy.'



Let me go: While Kylian Mbappe had made his intentions clear, PSG's sporting director Leonardo, centre, and president Nasser Al-Khelaifi held on to the French international. • AFP