











United States outlines a softer focus for Quad page 10



Omar Abdullah's close aide, two others leave National Conference page 11



A.Q. Khan, father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, passes away



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IN BRIEF

Akhilesh launches SP's

campaign for U.P. polls
GHAZIABAD
Launching the Samajwadi
Party's poll campaign, party
president Akhilesh Yadav said
on Sunday that if the BJP was
not voted out, it would
"trample upon the
Constitution as it has mowed
down [the demands] of
farmers in the last one year".
NEWS > PAGE 11



India, China discuss LAC disengagement

NEW DELHI India and China held the 13th round of Corps Commander talks on Sunday at Moldo on the Chinese side with focus on working out the third phase of disengagement from patrolling Point 15 in Hot Springs as part of overall disengagement and de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh. The talks began around 10:30 a.m. and concluded at about 7 p.m., a defence official said.

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EDUCATION PLUS PAGE 6

Modi not dictatorial, hears all views: Shah

PM holds extensive talks before taking decisions, he says

 $\frac{\textbf{SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT}}{\textbf{NEW DELHI}}$

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has rejected the charge that Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes unilateral decisions.

In an interview to Sansad TV aired on Sunday, Mr. Shah said he had never come across a "better listener" than Mr. Modi.

When asked about allegations of Mr. Modi being dictatorial, Mr. Shah said these were baseless allegations. Mr. Shah, who has worked with Mr. Modi in the BJP, the Gujarat government and now in the Central Government, said the Prime Minister heard out all points of views and held extensive discussions before taking decisions. He said unlike before, the details of decisions taken do not leak out, leading to some people thinking the decisions are taken unilater-

Mr. Shah spoke to the government channel last week, marking 20 years of Mr. Modi in public office – first as Gujarat Chief Minister and then as Prime Minister from 2014.

School enrolment drive Speaking about the challenges faced by Mr. Modi as Chief Minister, the Home Minister said low enrolment at

schools and high dropout

Mr. Modi became Prime Minister at a time the country was down in every sector, there were scams of ₹12 lakh crore and policy paralysis. He took risks in decisions as he believed that he was in government to change the country. Only he could have implemented a decision like demonetisation

AMIT SHAH, UNION HOME MINISTER

rates were hurdles. He said Mr. Modi took up enrolment drives as a mahotsav or festival. Enrolment increased from 67% to 100% and the dropouts decreased from 37% to under 1%, he said. "You can understand what contribution this had on the development of the country and Gujarat. An illiterate person becomes a big burden on the country. Neither does he know his Constitutional rights, nor the duties asked of us by the Constitution. How can he be a good citizen," he asked.

He said Mr. Modi had quickly taken to the world of administration, having had no experience. "Never been a sarpanch, let alone an MLA," he said.

Mr. Shah said Mr. Modi focused on uplift of the tribal population of Gujarat that the Congress had "used as a vote-bank" earlier. Mr. Modi also worked to develop the coastal areas of Gujarat, which became the "backbone of Gujarat's industrial

'India first' motto

development", he said.

He said Mr. Modi became Prime Minister at a time the country was down in every sector, there were "scams of ₹12 lakh crore" and "policy paralysis". He said Mr. Modi took risks in decisions as he believed that he was in government to change the country. Mr. Modi's primary goal was "India first", he said. "Only he could have implemented a decision like demonetisation."

Responding to a question about criticism of Mr. Modi, Mr. Shah said, "With every criticism, Modiji becomes stronger". The public was standing with Mr. Modi through tough decisions. He said allegations, including of corruption and "communal riots", have never stuck as Mr. Modi has worked with transparency.

Farmers in east see little hope in stir

They have not got many of the benefits that the new laws threaten to take away

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ VIGNESH RADHAKRISHNAN

As the movement against the agricultural reform laws builds towards its one-year anniversary, it is clear that the bulk of farmers in eastern States have not been as motivated to join the agitation as their counterparts in the northwest, as they have not even experienced many of the benefits that the laws threaten to take away.

In fact, farmers in these States, with densely populated rural areas, bear the double burden of low procurement as well as low prices in the open market, partly because grains procured in the

Source and target

The tables depict a State's share in the total wheat and paddy procured in FY21 and the share allocated under the National Food Security Act. Only top five States in each category are depicted:

State	Procurement %	State	Allocation %
Punjab	27%	U.P.	17%
M.P.	16%	Bihar	10%
Haryana	11%	Maharashtra	8%
Telangana	10%	West Bengal	7%
U.P.	8%	Tamil Nadu	7%

northern and western States are dumped into the eastern region at subsidised rates via the public distribution system (PDS), a situation exacerbated by additional free grain distribution as CO- VID-19 relief.

Experts and farm leaders say reforms are needed in both procurement as well as PDS, to allow for more effective decentralised procurement, which will benefit both farmers and consumers in the region.

Analysis of procurement and PDS data from 2020-21 highlights the stark divide. Government procurement of wheat and paddy in Bihar and West Bengal each account for just 2% of the national total, despite the fact that the latter is the country's largest rice producer.

SPECIAL

However, 10% of all foodgrains allocated under the National Food Security Act last year went to Bihar, while 7% went to West Bengal.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Ashish Mishra sent to 14-day judicial custody

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra, was sent to 14-day judicial custody by a local court after he was arrested late on Saturday in connection with the October 3 violence in Lakhimpur Kheri district.

A petition for his police custody would be heard on Monday, the police said.

On Sunday, in a press statement, the U.P. police said Mr. Ashish's replies during his 11-hour questioning were "not satisfactory". Upendra Agrawal, Deputy



Ashish Mishra outside the Crime Branch office in Lakhimpur Kheri, U.P. •PTI

Inspector-General of Police in charge of the probe, said he was not willing to share things asked of him.

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RELATED REPORTS ▶ PAGE 11

Centre rebuts fears of power blackouts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Terming any fear of disruption in power supply due to coal shortage "misplaced", the Government on Sunday said coal stocks at power plants would "gradually improve" and were currently sufficient for 24 days.

The Coal Ministry and Coal India promised that there was ample coal available to meet the demand of power plants.

The assurances came at a

The assurances came at a review meeting of the coal stocks at thermal power plants attended by Power Minister R.K. Singh and Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi. The Coal Ministry also

said coal supplies were set to hit a 'record high' in 2021-22 and blamed extended monsoons for constraints in despatches from mines. Coal India, the Ministry said, was supplying more than 2.5 lakh tonnes daily to non-power industries such as aluminium, steel and cement, reflecting the 'comfortable coal position in the country'.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
SHORTAGE IN STATES ▶ PAGE 7



Echoing the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, and motivated by the recent reforms in the space sector carried out by the government; ISpA aspires to be the collective voice of the Indian Space Industry. ISpA will undertake policy advocacy and engage with all stakeholders in the Indian Space domain, including the Government and its Agencies, to make India self-reliant, technologically advanced and a leading player in the space arena.

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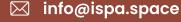












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Man arrested for killing wife, mother-in-law

STAFF REPORTER

A 35-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly killing his wife and motherin-law in Dwarka, the police said on Sunday.

DCP (Dwarka) Shankar Choudhary said Mahesh killed his wife Nidhi (21) and mother-in-law Veero (55) over a personal dispute.

After committing the crime, Mahesh surrendered at the Baba Haridas Nagar police station. Mahesh, who was unemployed, fired multiple bullets at the victims, an officer said.

The police are now questioning him regarding the source of the illegal weapon. The police said he wanted to get a divorce but Nidhi denied him their child's custody. The trio used to often argue over this issue.

"A case under Section 302 (murder) will be registered," Mr. Choudhary said, adding that the murder weapon has been recovered.

He used to live at his wife's house in Baba Haridas Nagar, the police said, adding that CCTV footage is being scanned to probe the sequence of events.

'Divorced man has to support his children financially'

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court remarked that a divorced man has to financially support his children even after they attain the age of 18, noting that the entire burden of bearing the expenses of education cannot fall entirely on the mother.

'Equal duty'

"A father has an equal duty to provide for his children and there cannot be a situation wherein it is only the mother who has to bear the burden of expenses for raising and educating the children," Justice Subramonium Prasad said.

The court made the remarks while rejecting a plea by a man against an earlier order of the High Court directing him to support his son, who is residing with his mother, with a sum of ₹15,000 per month till he completes his graduation or starts earning, whichever is earlier.

Justice Prasad noted that the court cannot shut its eyes to the reality that simply attaining majority does not translate into the understanding that the major son sufficiently.

"A father is bound to compensate the wife who, after spending on children, may hardly be left with anything to maintain herself," the High Court said.

of Landline & Broadband

Family of riots accused fights for justice

Mohammed Salim Khan, who was an exporter of shawls and scarves for 25 years, now languishes in jail

financial crisis, he wrote,

"Agar yahi halat rahi to do-

no betiyon ki padhai bhi ruk

jaaegi (If this continues,

further education of both my

Salim had been an expor-

ter of shawls and scarves for

over 25 years and the busi-

ness reached new heights in

the world for work and had

plans to shift his business to

London, now languishes in

"2015 main mujhe U.K.

jail, waiting for court dates.

main shift hone ka pura

chance mila tha par yeh kah-

kar chhor dia ki hamara

desh India bohot accha hai.

Aaj jab jail main sochta hun

to hasi bhi aati hai aur rona

bhi. (In 2015, I had had a

chance to move to the U.K.

but I thought our country

was very good and quit the

idea. Now, when I look back,

I feel like crying and laughing

at the same time)," he wrote

The reason he is worried

about his children's future is

because after completion of

his daughter's higher educa-

tion, he had planned to open

a hospital - after taking a

loan – where the poor could

be treated for free. He also

used to run an NGO, The

in his letter.

A man who has travelled

daughters will stop)."

early 2000s.

NEW DELH

Two years ago, in a photograph with his wife, standing near the fridge in his house, Mohammed Salim Khan wore a blazer and had black hair. In a photograph from the jail a few days ago, he has grown bald and his beard has turned grey. Salim - an exporter of

shawls and scarves - was arrested on March 11 last year in FIR number 59 registered by the Delhi Police Special Cell under Sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Indian Penal Code in connection with the communal riots that broke out in February 2020. This is the same FIR based on which former JNU student Umar Khalid among others have been lodged in Mandoli jail.

Back at the house in north-east Delhi's Yamuna Vihar, 48-year-old Salim's wife Shavina (43) tries hard to control her tears as she says, "He sounds disoriented on the phone. He is starting to become forgetful. We have one son and two daughters. Sometimes, he thinks we have three daughters."

"I don't see anything apart from dying now. I have gone so deep into depression... I don't even feel like eating. I am alive because my children are outside," Salim reportedly said in front of a judge a few days ago after seeking permission to speak.

In the court – hearing him speak - was his daughter Saima (24) who along with her brother Sahil (23) have been taking care of the family and trying to encourage their father to not lose strength.

But Saima has had to fight. "I ensure that my siblings and I are not photographed at court or anywhere be-



Shavina Khan at her residence in Yamuna Vihar in north-east Delhi. shiv kumar pushpakar

cause it'll directly impact our future... our career. People in the neighbourhood do not know that my father is in jail. We have told him he has gone abroad for work," she

Saima has just completed her Bachelor of Dental Surgery and wants to pursue her Masters. Sahil completed his Bachelor of Business Administration in 2020 and had plans to go abroad for Masters to further expand his father's export business in the U.K.. Another younger daughter is now in Class XII. All the higher education plans of the siblings have fallen apart at the moment as they manage their survival and pick up the pieces of their father's export business, which had taken a sev-

12-page letter

Salim wrote a 12-page summary of his life before jail, the events that led up to his arrest and his time in jail, and sent it to his family a few days ago through another riots accused who has been granted bail. "I was 47 when I came to jail; now, I look like I am 60," he wrote.

Worried about his children's future due to a visible Care, which would help the needy, his family said.

"For the first three months after my father got arrested, we had no idea what to do with his established business, which was crumbling down. My brother then decided to understand the business and started to getting involved a little bit. That's how we have been managing so far," said Saima.

The daughter claimed that he never actively participated in the protests but "unfortunately", the protest site was barely a few hundred metres from his office in Chand Bagh and his route to and from home was via the protest site.

In his letter to the family, he also said that a langar by advocate D.S. Bindra was set up barely 300 metres from his office-cum- manufacturing unit. He wrote that about four-six times a day, he would cross the protest site while going home for lunch, coming back, or bank work etc. On the day of protest as well, February 24, he was at his factory when violence broke out. "Construction work was going on in the shop next to my office. When violence broke out, the workers fled. I then took the articles that were lying outside drum, bucket, wiper – and kept them (aside)," he wrote.

Disclosure statement

The Delhi Police Special Cell, in the chargesheet, claimed that Salim – in his disclosure statement - said that he along with advocate Bindra and others had erected the protest stage and he was assigned the task of maintaining the tent. He is also attributed to be saying that secret meetings were held in his office where the direction for the future course of action

was decided and eventually followed by everyone.

The police also told the court that during investigation, it was revealed that "accused/applicant Saleem Khan was using a mobile and the call detail record (CDR) of the said mobile number was collected from the service provider and was scrutinised". The police claimed that his CDR showed that he was at Chand Bagh, Yamuna Vihar and Bhajanpura at the time of riots on February 24, which meant he was involved in the riots. The police have also submitted in the court a video in which Salim can be seen carrying a wooden stick.

'No credible evidence' Advocate Mujeeb-ur-Rahman, who is representing Salim, said, "Prosecution is simply relying on two CCTV footage captured near his office in Chand Bagh. In one video, he is empty-handed and walking on an inner lane, and in the other, he is carrying a wiper from his office. The police have no credible evidence against him. Apart from this, the police have illegally implicated him in three different cases on the basis of the same video footage in which he is carrying a wiper with different and contradictory narratives."

My father is struggling.. he has heart ailments and needs medicines which he isn't getting, a worried Saima said. "We talk to him for five minutes every day. That's allowed. He asks about us and we ask about his day. We hide our pain and he hides his," she said.

Salim's family – who feels he is depressed – urged him to utilise his time writing a book. He began with the 12page letter.

HC grants bail to man charged under POCSO

'Cannot overrule his friendship with complainant'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court has termed "unfortunate" the practice of the police filing cases under the stringent Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act at the behest of the girl's family, who object to her friendship and romantic involvement with a young

'In a relationship'

Justice Subramonium Prasad made the remarks while granting bail to a 21-year-old man – who is facing charges of rape and sections under the POCSO Act on the complaint filed by a 17-year-old girl. The court noted that the victim and the man are more or less of the same age and photographs clearly show that they were in a relationship and "love between both of them cannot be ruled out as an option".

"This court cannot overlook the fact that the petitioner [man] is now only 21 having a complete life ahead of him. This court also cannot overrule their friendship as both of them were students of the same school," Justice Prasad said.

The court also took into consideration the statement of the girl that she would not like to pursue this case and wants to move on with her life and study ahead and would also not want her friend to suffer in jail. The girl told police that

the incident happened in June last when she had gone to her friend's house to borrow books and on her way back, he stopped her and forcibly took her to the

ground floor of his house. He then forcibly made her consume drinks following which she became unconscious. When she regained consciousness, she found that she was lying down and her body was paining. When she confronted him, he said since she was not adhering to his request for friendship, he committed rape.

The FIR was lodged in August 2020 after the discovery that the girl was pregnant. After this, the man was arrested.

The public prosecutor objected to the bail plea arguing that even if the young man and victim were friends and in a relationship, it would still attract the sixth clause under Section 375 of the IPC, which states that having sexual intercourse with the consent of a girl below the age of 18 would still constitute rape and would be punishable. The public prosecutor said the girl had been impregnated by the assault made by the man and she had to medically terminate her pregnancy, which has caused her much mental trauma.

'Law misapplied'

"Consensual sex has been in legal grev area because the consent given by minors cannot be said to be a valid one in the eyes of law," Justice Prasad said. Fearing a social backlash and to get the pregnancy medically terminated, this FIR has been filed giving it the colour of sexual exploitation and bringing it in the ambit of the POCSO Act, the court said. Justice Prasad remarked that the rigour of the law is being misapplied in this case.

"The petitioner has been in jail for over 12 months...," the court said.

Delhi Skill and

The new university

education circuit,

August 2020 by the

to equip students to

fill the existing gaps

Delhi government

in skill training so

that both students

graduating as well

as the industry may

benefit mutually.

DSEU offers BA,

BCom, BSc, BBA

Admission:

Mindset and

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DSEU, was

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Tejaswini initiative helps build confidence: police

Aimed at creating awareness among women

ARNABJIT SUR

The presence of women constables and their identifying the needy and distressed people works as a catalyst for building confidence and courage among women and making them more aware of their own safety in the present times, the Delhi Police said on Sunday, while elaborating on Tejaswini, a women-centric safety initiative of north-west district.

DCP (north-west) Usha Rangnani said three months after the implementation of the project, the tasks and assignments carried out by these women beat staff resulted in significant growth in terms of its reach and

scope of work. "These women beat constables work in tandem with various NGOs, schools, colleges and other agencies to get insights and spread legal and social awareness of various issues concerning women and children," the DCP

said. The Tejaswini initiative was implemented on July 10 when 46 women beat constables were deployed in crime-infested and sensitive areas of various police stations, including JJ clusters of Jahangirpuri, Shakarpur and Pitampura residential areas.

"The initiative aimed to reach out to women belonging to all strata of society and female senior citizens, and also to safeguard the rights and dignity of women and children in north-west district, thus creating such a conducive atmosphere where they feel at home...,"

The police said not only do these women beat constables perform their regular duties along with their male counterparts, they also regularly do intensive and visible patrolling on ERVs, QRTs, motorcycle and scooters, and ensure safety and security of women.

No seats after DU's 2nd cut-off, candidates turn to other options +

Many students are trying to secure admission in universities where Board exam marks is not sole criterion

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ

With the second cut-off list for Delhi University's (DU) undergraduate courses giving little hope to candidates for securing a seat, the students who have not secured near-perfect scores are looking at options in other universities.

The Capital has several options in Central universities like Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia and State universities like Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD), Indraprastha University and the recently opened Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University. They offer undergraduate courses through entrance tests and reservation for candidates from the Capital so that the sole criterion is not marks obtained in the Board examinations.

However, some aspirants have realised that they needed to have planned for their admission process in advance, by taking the entrance examinations that were conducted before DU's admission season

'Delay due to COVID'

Neha Solanki, who was hoping to pursue a BSc (Hons) at DU, says that her score is a little short of 80%. She adds that she needs to start looking at options outside the Capital. "Securing an UG seat in the Capital is like playing a game. You have to start early and be guided by someone who has played it before. Due to COIVD and delay in the Board examination results, this time the rules of the game have changed as it has been difficult to keep track of the admission process of various universities," says Ms. Solanki.

While DU in its open house sessions for applicants said all its constituent colleges are of the same calibre, the National Institutional Ranking Framework, released by the Ministry of Education clearly puts one college above the other.

Punya Saluja, a parent, feels that the hype surrounding DU blinds students and does not let them explore avenues like professional courses, which could help them secure good jobs. "My daughter does not have a score above 90% and I have encouraged her to take up courses that will allow her to take up internships and build her CV to be job-ready. It better to give

LOOKING BEYOND DU



Jawaharlal Nehru University

Primarily known as a research university and ranked India's secondbest according to the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF), JNU offers an array of BA courses in various languages for students to choose from. Languages include Arabic, Chinese, French. German, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Pushto, Russian and Spanish. The School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies offers a B.Sc in Ayurveda Biology. School of Engineering offers a five-year dual degree programme a BTech in engineering combined with a Masters

programme. Admission: JNU Entrance Examination (JNUEE) conducted by the National Testing Agency BTech- JEE main

AUD was established by the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and reserves 85% of its seats for candidates applying from the NCT. The undergraduate courses include BA (Hons) with a major in English, Economics, History,

Mathematics, Psychology, Sociology, Social Science and Humanities, and Hindi. It also offers a Bachelor of Business Administration course at its Kashmere Gate campus. At the Karampura campus, it offers BVoc in Retail Management, Tourism and Hospitality, Accounting and Finance, and Early Childhood Centre Management and Entrepreneurship. The campus also offers BA in Global Studies, Law and Politics, Social Sciences and Humanities and Sustainable Urbanism.

Admission: marks secured in Class XII Board examination.

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University IP University offers a host of undergraduate programmes and

professional programmes ranging from BBA, BTech, Bachelors in Journalism and Mass Communication, BEd, BCom (Hons), BArch, university, established by the Delhi government, not only provides higher education but also helps meet the needs of Indian industries. Admission: IPU common entrance test and other entrance

Admission: entrance examination

Jamia Millia Islamia Celebrating its centenary year, JMI offers 57 undergraduate programmes that include BA, BA (Hons), B Com, BBA, BDS, BE, BEd, BSc, BTech, BVoc, BLib and BFA among others. The university offers BA (Hons) courses in English, History, Political Science and Psychology among others, which are popular courses in DU as well. However, JMI conducts entrance examinations and admissions are not dependent only on marks secured in the board examination.

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students options rather than make them believe that they have failed by not securing admission in DU," Mr. Saluja says.

The Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) – which was started by the Delhi government in August 2020 – is gearing up for its first intake of students. It promises to produce students who will be job-ready to be absorbed into the industry with the skill they develop.

DSEU Vice-Chancellor Neharika Vohra says that the university has come up with an aptitude test that is not a part of the selection process to help applicants chose a degree that is related to their interests and make an informed choice.

"The DNA of DSEU is to encourage students to choose a degree that is related to their interests. Students have been asked to take an interest test to help them make a choice as to what they offer

like job-linked degrees. Our effort is to help students find more about the industry and the probable jobs by getting many interviews from people who have done well in the field. Students have been asked to watch the videos on the same before making a choice. The key point is that we want the student to exercise agency in choosing their field of study," says Prof Vohra.

At Ambedkar University Delhi, 85% of the seats are reserved for students from the Capital, giving them an edge over students competing to secure admission from other States. AUD, which is now over a decade old, is in expansion mode and providing an alternative to those students wanting to pursue

Jamia Millia Islamia is celebrating its centenary year has an admission process that includes an admission test so that candidates are judged not only on their Board examination

results. A similar admission process is carried out by IP University that makes candidates sit for Common Admission Test.

At present, the National Testing Agency conducts the Central Universities Common Entrance Test (CU-CET) with 12 Central universities participating in it. Ahead of the admission process for DU, university officials had hinted that the CU-CET may be introduced this year but the university stuck to its regular cut-off method.

With Yogesh Singh taking over as the new Vice-Chancellor, candidates applying next year will have to wait and watch if Board examination results will be the only key to securing admission. Mr. Singh on his first day after taking charge as Vice-Chancellor said that he would communicate with all stakeholders of the university and would come to a decision if any reforms are needed in the admission process.

Central govt. turning a blind eye to coal crisis, says Sisodia

'If action not taken on time, the whole country might have to face a terrible calamity'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Delhi government on Sunday attacked the Centre over its failure to admit that there was a coal crisis in the country and said that it could lead to energy disruptions if not tackled urgently.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the Central government had turned a blind eye to the submissions by various States and Delhi claiming that there was a coal crisis.

"Chief Ministers of many States have warned the Centre of the coal crisis, but it is calling it a rumour and trying to prove the States wrong. The Central government is running away from its responsibility and it has

Case against

YouTuber for

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

harassing actor

The Delhi Police has regis-

tered a case against a You-

Tuber for allegedly stalking

and harassing a Bollywood

actor on social media, offi-

The actor filed a com-

plaint alleging that a You-

Tuber and Twitter user

had been circulating some

messages on social media

platforms with an inten-

tion to outrage her modes-

ty, besides some hashtags

with regard to some movie

scene, Deputy Commis-

sioner of Police (South-

west) Gaurav Sharma said.

A criminal case has been

registered at Vasant Kunj

North police station.

cials said on Sunday.



Manish Sisodia

no plan to overcome this crisis," Mr. Sisodia said.

He alleged that the Centre had acted in a similar manner a few months ago when there was a severe shortage of oxygen cylinders during the second wave of COVID-19 and added that the government's policy to avoid its responsibility at the time of a crisis could once again prove fatal for the country.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had on Saturday written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that there was a coal shortage that had been continuing for the third month in a row, which had affected power generation in major Central generating plants supplying electricity to Delhi. However, on Sunday, Union Energy Minister R.K. Singh said there is no coal crisis in the country.

"When the Chief Ministers are appealing to the Centre to save the country from an incoming crisis, the Union Energy Minister is denying its existence and instead is suggesting that Mr. Kejriwal should not have written a letter to the Prime Minister in this regard," Mr. Sisodia said.

Mr. Sisodia urged the Centre to cooperate with States to tackle the situation and warned that there would be a bigger crisis if coal was not supplied to power

"If action is not taken on

time, the whole country might have to face a terrible calamity as the whole system will come to a standstill. All industries will face shutdowns. The policy of the Center to run away from its responsibility has proved fatal for the country in the past and if the Centre does not accept its responsibility this time, the country will be pushed into a crisis once again," Mr. Sisodia said.

Stubble burning: bio-decomposer solution to be sprayed on city farmlands from today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Delhi government, in a move to provide an alternative to stubble burning and combat air pollution, will on Monday start its campaign to use bio-decomposer solution on farmlands under its winter action plan.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said the solution has been given free of cost to farmers who will spray it in over 4,000 acres. Last year, the solution was tried out in about 2,000 acres and the government claimed that it had yielded good results.

Mr. Rai said there has been excitement among farmers after a third-party audit report of the solution showed positive results. "The Kejriwal government

The Kejriwal government has appealed to all the States to help their farmers by bearing the entire cost of spraying the bio-decomposer like the Delhi govt.

is doing

has appealed to all the States to help their farmers in decomposing the stubble by bearing the entire cost of spraying the bio-decomposer like the Delhi government is doing. From making the solution to its spraying in the field, the entire process costs less than ₹1,000 per acre," Mr. Rai said.

He further said that the

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) too has ordered all States to use the bio-decomposer solution after the Delhi government submitted the thirdparty audit report.

"WAPCOS, a Central government agency, had conducted the third-party audit of the impact of spraying the bio-decomposer on the stubble. The agency in its report has described the biodecomposer a better solution for stubble decomposition," the Minister said.

The solution has been prepared in collaboration with Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, and the government is spending about ₹50 lakh from making the solution to spraying it, Mr. Rai added.

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Apala Mishra

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CM YK

Naveen seeks PM's intervention for surplus rice procurement from Odisha

Non-lifting will affect 10 lakh farmers, says CM

SATYASUNDAR BARIK BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has raised objections to non-lifting of surplus parboiled rice from the State due to restrictions imposed by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, saying it would affect paddy procurement from 10 lakh farmers.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday shot off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi bringing to his notice that Odisha's paddy procurement could be adversely affected due to such restrictions.

"Odisha became a Decentralized Procurement (DCP) State in the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2003-04. Since then the State has been undertaking minimum

EDUCATIONAL

support price operations for procurement of paddy in decentralized mode. Such Decentralized Procurement has improved the outreach of MSP support to paddy growers," Mr. Patnaik mentioned in his letter.

'Delivered to FCI'

"The rice milled from the paddy so procured is being used under the National Food Security Act and other welfare schemes of Central government and the surplus rice is being delivered to the Food Corporation of India (FCI)," he said.

Odisha Chief Minister informed that: "during the KMS 2020-21, around 14 lakh farmers have sold 77.33 lakh MT of paddy (equivalent to 52.35 MT of rice) to the State Government and MSP dues of about ₹14,444 crores have been transferred to the bank accounts of the farmers within 24 to 48 hours of pur-

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chase of paddy."

"In connection with paddy procurement, it is pertinent to mention here that on August 31, the Centre intimated that for the next KMS no surplus parboiled rice shall be accepted from Odisha by the FCI," he said.

According to State government, in upcoming KMS 2021-22, Odisha is estimated to procure 52 lakh MT of

"The State's own require-

Cong. starts campaign against Haryana govt. No section of society is happy: Hooda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

ment of rice under all the

schemes is about 24 lakh MT.

This goes to indicate that the

State will have a surplus of

28 lakh MT of rice out of

which only 4 lakh MT will be

raw rice. That leaves the

State with a balance of 24

lakh MT of parboiled rice for

evacuation by FCI. But the

latest decision of DFPD has

put a question mark on lift-

ing of the said surplus rice

from the State," Mr. Patnaik

RISE 06:20 SET 17:56

RISE 11:32 SET 21:56

RISE 06:20 SET 17:55

RISE 12:36 SET 22:56

RISE 06:21 SET 17:54

max min

37

36

RISE 13:35 SET 00:00

said.

Timings

MONDAY, OCT. 11

TUESDAY, OCT. 12

Delhi Weather

Delhi Palam Today 35°C A comfortable morning

mainly sunny sky.

will be pleasant.

and late evening but day

Delhi Palam Tomorrow

hazy. Day will be very warm

with uneasy afternoon. Night

35°C A dry weather to prevail. The morning will be

would turn very warm with

Delhi City

Safdarjang

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 13

DELHI

The Haryana Congress on Saturday started a "Vipaksh Aapke Samaksh" campaign led by Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda in what it termed an attempt to capture the "pain and problem" of the people and draw the State Government's attention towards issues concerning the public.

Congress workers including several sitting and former MLAs participated in the programme at Karnal to interact with people and hear their 'issues' and raise them before the ruling BJP-JJP government. Farmers, labourers, traders, workers, government, temporary transporters and people from different walks of life took part.

Accusing the State government of failing to address the problems of the people in their two-year rule, Mr. Hooda said as a responsible Opposition party, it was the party's responsibility to go among the people and become its voice.

"The BJP-JJP coalition government has failed to fulfil its election promises. In such a situation, no more time can be given to it which is formed for mere opportunism and selfishness. That is why the Congress Legislature Party has decided to go to the public in every district and ev-



Cong. leader B.S. Hooda

ery Assembly constituency and establish direct communication with the people. We will listen to their pain and problems and I assure the people that we will forcefully raise all their problems and issues not only on the streets but in the Assembly as well," he said.

Mr. Hooda said no section of society is happy with the coalition government - be it farmers, traders, employees, labourers, transporters etc.

"It seems that the government has turned its back on the people of the State. The farmers are not getting MSP, traders are not getting their commission, labourers are not getting fair remuneration and employees are not getting pension. The government is cutting the facilities of every section. Before the formation of the BJP government, Haryana stood first in per capita income, per capita investment, employment generation and develop-

ment," he said.

Meghalaya

river back

from dead,

claims govt.

GUWAHATI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A detoxing pilot project has

brought a river back from

the dead, the Meghalaya

language – was considered

toxic beyond redemption a

decade ago. The Meghalaya

Pollution Control Board

had in its 2012 investigative

report blamed the contam-

ination on acid mine drain-

age and run-off from the

The Lukha – "reservoir of fish" in the local Pnar

government has claimed.



Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION **DIVISION GANDERBAL**

Improvement of Existing Earthing at Ganderbal Power House Ref: This office e-NIT No: GDG/02 of 2021-22 dated:27-09-2021 wit e-Tender Id No: 2021_SPDC_141574_1.

In view of the poor response, the submission dates for above referred e-NIT ar hereby extended. The new dates for submission of e-NIT areas under: **Critical Dates:**

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(A) 1. 81/SM(Jal-III)/ET/2020-21, Name of Work:-Strengthening of W/s (2000 KL Capacity near Sarkari Pashu Hospital in Village-Barola, Providing/Fixing Booster Pump in Place of V.T. Pump and Construction of Pump Room, Noida Cost - Rs. 55.98 Lacs

2. 29/DGM(Jal)/AO/SM(Jal-I)/2020-21, Name of Work:-M/o W/s (Cleaning of Rainey Well No.-7 and 8), Noida Cost - Rs. 50.67 Lacs

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S. No Name of Work

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		DD	MM	YY							
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coal mines. **Rat-hole coal mines**

The Lukha river is in the East Jaintia Hills district where most of Meghalaya's rat-hole coal mines are located.

Forest and Environment Minister James Sangma said the pilot project to reiuvenate the Lukha by using algae to remove toxic contents from the water has become a success. The detoxification process is called phycoremediation.

"Phycoremediation has improved the pH level of a critical stretch of the river. Enthused by the success of the rejuvenation process, we are going to upscale this pilot project to the rest of Lukha and other rivers as well," he said.

Environmentalists in Meghalaya and elsewhere have been raising an alarm over the contamination of the Lukha, marked by dead fish found afloat frequently and the colour of the water turning either blue or yel-



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suring 400 square yard of land, in Survey no. 96 Part vide approved Layout L.P.No. 06/MP2/HUDA/08 dated: 12–3–2008 in the Layout named NRIs Golden City situated at Pulimamidi Revenue village & Gram Pan-chayat, Kandukur Mandal, R.R. Dis-trict, Telangana state vide Regis-tered Sale deed Doc. No:4093/2008 dated 03rd May 2008.Since the date of the registration, we moved to Delhi and at present live at the permanent address cited above. We have appointed Dr. Bela Chaudhry to act as our attorney to sell, enter into any agreement for sale of the said property and to pay and receive money in our name for that purpose and to do all other necessary deets in connection with sary deeds in connection with sary deeds in commedium with thereto. The power of attorney is sued in her favour is duly regis-tered at the SRO at Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi bearing registration no. New Delhi bearing registration no. 825 in Book No. 4, Vol. 833 on

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CM YK

INTERVIEW | SANJOY CHAKRAVORTY AND NEELANJAN SIRCAR

'As Delhi becomes a global city, people cling to caste, religious identities more'

The kind of social and spatial segregation that is there for the Muslim community at present, it's hard to imagine it will unravel soon, says Neelanjan Sircar

The editors of the new book Colossus: The Anatomy of Delhi, which was released in India in September, professor of geography and urban studies at Temple University Sanjoy Chakravorty and assistant professor of political science at Ashoka University Neelanjan Sircar, discuss their findings. The book analyses results of an NCR-wide survey funded by the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, from late 2015 to early 2016, which the editors term a one-of-a-kind look at the metropolitan region.

Q: In terms of the findings of the book, what were some of the highlights for you both?

■ NS: Throughout the book. you realise that you have to cross-reference space, a social attribute or demography and the outcome you are interested in. For example, we find that even if you control for the wealth of a person, natives of Delhi have the firstmover advantage. They live in places that have better infrastructure than migrants. ■ SC: For me, what it under-

lined was the information bubbles we all live in. We all 'knew' Delhi and it turned out that we didn't really know Delhi. And that's because our social networks are limited. There were two important things. First, how traditional Delhi is. There is this idea that people in cities are more advanced and liberal. But it turns out that it is not true in Delhi. It may not be as stuck in time as say, villages in Rajasthan and U.P. But it certainly isn't a modern, cosmopolitan city as far as say getting along with other communities and marriage practices and eating practices are concerned. The village transferred to the city and the village habits really have not gone away. So marriage is conducted roughly the same way as it was 30 years ago. People don't eat with outsiders, they don't share meals with other communities. The very first time



There are talented people trying to put together master plans. If we go to any Indian city, there is a lot that is unplanned

at the Centre for Policy Research a couple of years ago, a lot of people were upset with us and said you are wrong. I would have not expected this myself because we don't meet people from different social classes. Yes, there are casual interactions with auto drivers or service providers, but you don't get to know what happens at home. At the same time, Del-



The master planning process is being dropped pretty much everywhere in the West in favour of citizen advocacy

SANJOY CHAKRAVORTY

hi is very modern. There are RWAs, the politics, the engagement with politicians at all levels, dharnas and road blocks. Delhi is at the forefront among Indian cities in terms of overt politics, visible politics. The second thing that stood out was the multiple levels at which privilege, inequality and dominance work. For example, in access to drinking water and police services.

Q: As you know, Delhi is in the process of master-planning, with the DDA having released its draft master plan 2041 recently, and the National Capital Region Planning Board is also drafting the Regional Plan-2041. How do you see this process, in the light of vour findings? ■ SC: Urban planning in In-

dia is not a democratic process, it never has been. Urban planning in the world in general is the upper middle class and the elite planning the cities that they want to live in. The master planning process is being dropped pretty much everywhere in the West in favour of citizen advocacy. Talking to citizens is the core of planning, but we are not there. There is a top-down nature of policymaking, probably more so today even more than 10 years ago. Very big decisions are being taken without any consultation

NS: It's not that there aren't skilled and talented

people trying to put together master plans. What this perspective misses is that how do you go from planned to unplanned. If we go to any Indian city, there is a lot that is unplanned.

Q: You've written that most residents of the NCR are not aware of the existence of the NCR. How does this inform the way they interact with it?

SC: I'm actually quite certain that 90% of Delhiites have never heard of the NCR. They could have heard the word somewhere but have no idea what it is. As long as its not a taxing authority or a voting authority, it has no organic meaning. It will remain that way. It will be an organisation that creates documents. Delhi has had many of these organisations.

survey is that Muslims are more likely to live within 1km of each other than Scheduled Castes and Muslim households interacting with

Q: One of the findings of the

a neighbouring household

interacting with another Muslim household, while the number is 44.2% for SC households. What in your opinion does this say about the state of integration in the NCR? Is the situation

improving or getting worse?

■ NS: To be frank, India as a whole and that includes Delhi is getting worse if you're Muslim. The Delhi riots are a manifestation of some of the troubles we have highlighted. The kind of social and spatial segregation that is there for the Muslim community at present, it's hard to imagine it will unravel soon. The story with caste seems to be at the outset a bit more positive, though not on the most intimate of practices like marriage.

■ SC: Religious polarisation is the goal of the current regime. Polarisation ultimately is most effective when there is segregation. We are slowly but inevitably moving in that direction. If we look for good news, there may be some in caste relations. I see hope in education, gender and gender relations. It is possible

that this coming generation will all be educated at a level in which they become civic participants, active political agents, not partisans. We suggest that the more Delhi becomes this global modern city, the more people hunker down in their religious and caste identities.

Q: Looking at the economic indicators, the survey shows the situation improving. Households that own a refrigerator and washing machine have increased, which may have an impact on health. Is that something that is clear from the data?

■ SC: Yes. Consumption is up and poverty is down. That is the India story. This is not taking into account the CO-VID-impact. We have hit a rough patch over the past couple of years. But the general trends are that people are eating better, they are more mobile, their houses are bigger and better finished. Inequality is, however, getting worse. The gap between the top and bottom is widening.

Told not to drive rashly, man drives car into five

Two killed, three injured in incident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Angered at being repeatedly told not to drive rashly, a 20year-old man allegedly drove his car into five people in Haryana's Karnal on Sunday, leading to the death of two and injuries to the other three, police said.

Police said there was a wedding in Karnal's Nilokheri on Friday and some guests were standing outside a

house when the incident took place. The accused drove his car into the group leaving two dead and three injured, police said.

we presented this at an event

The man used to often drive in a rash and negligent manner and he was repeatedly told by the area residents to drive with caution, Butana SHO Kanwar Singh said over the phone. "The accused has been booked for murder. He is on the run," he said.

PM's 'silence' comes under NCP criticism

Modi has neither shown any remorse nor expressed any grief: Jayant Patil

STAFF REPORTER

The Nationalist Congress Party on Sunday chastised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for failing to condemn the death of farmers in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence in Uttar Pradesh, with NCP State president Jayant Patil stating that Mr. Modi's "continued silence" over the incident was astonishing.

"He [Mr. Modi] has neither shown any remorse, nor expressed any grief, nor con-



Jayant Patil •

demned the incident in which farmers were crushed to death," said Mr. Patil, who is the State Water Resources Mi-

Speaking in Sangli, Mr. Patil said the Centre was quick to stifle any dissent expressed by non-BJP parties of its antifarmer policies.

"If voices are raised against the government today, the Central government will unleash probe agencies. Even though there is not the slightest evidence against any of its leaders, the BJP has strained every sinew to defame the MVA government in Maharashtra," he said.

Mr. Patil claimed that when

NCP supremo Sharad Pawar likened the Lakhimpur incident to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, the Centre promptly began investigating firms linked to or owned by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's kin by springing the Income Tax department in a bid to discredit him.

"The Central probe agencies, be it the I-T or the ED are being guided by the BJP and a planned smear campaign is under way in the State," alleged Mr. Patil.

Doctor held for helping accused evade police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

A Guwahati-based senior doctor, who had allegedly helped a model and ex-Miss India finalist evade the police by admitting her to the ICU of a private hospital, was arrested on Sunday after three days of interrogation.

Rajkanya Baruah, the 29year-old model, had checked into the private hospital on October 5 citing poor health after the police had summoned her in connection

with a hit-and-run case at about 2 a.m. on October 2.

Neurosurgeon Navanil Barua had reportedly facilitated her admission. But a sixmember medical board found that her condition was not so bad that she needed to be in an ICU. The police arrested her the following day on a couple of charges, including an attempt to culpable homicide for injuring eight road workers while the legs of a ninth had to be amputated.

+ THE HINDU

EDUCATION PLU

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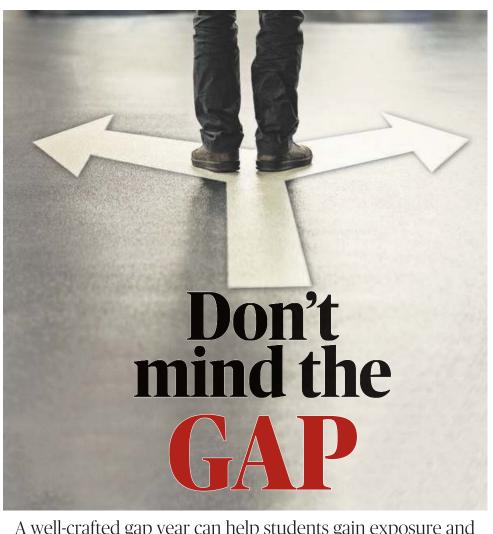
■ VEENA JADHAV

The tradition of a gap year can be traced back to affluent British men of the 17th century who travelled for a year to gain experiences before starting college. Over time, this trend spread to other countries. Eventually,the gap year evolved into an immersive learning experience, usually in an alien environment, away from family. Consistent growth in overseas education over the past few decades has further fuelled the appeal of gap year, leading to several U.S. universities allowing participants to gain real-world experiences before commencing formal college education.

Distinct and unique

For a young adult looking to undertake a gap year, the defining feature is the quality of learning and self-discovery through immersion and reflection. It enables development of personal identity and character, allowing for exploration of interests and appreciation of cultural, social and environmental diversity. Each individual's gap year experiences are unique, giving them a distinct personal identity and voice that differentiates them from that of their peers. These formative experiences also better equip young adults to be deal with complex and real-life situations. In addition, a better appreciation of the practical world and its challenges enables these students to assimilate the knowledge of their chosen disciplines and apply them with fresh perspectives.

However, not everyone is very positive about the gap year. Critics point to out the challenges of finding meaningful and productive gap year activities that are aligned with stu-



A well-crafted gap year can help students gain exposure and real-world experiences that can offer fresh perspectives when they join college

dent interests and the trend of students dropping out of college education after their gap vears.

The current pandemic has accelerated the need for gap year among young adults. Owing to travel restrictions, most universities are compelled to shift to online and hybrid learning, resulting in the loss of campus experience. Outside the classrooms, the shift to vir-

tual internships and suspension of exchange programmes have led students to opt for a gap semester or a gap year, with the hope that students will get to experience 'pre-pandemic campus life' once the crisis is resolved.

Need for dialogue

The negative perception of the gap year is quite deep rooted within Indian higher education

and this is reflected in the attitude of parents, teachers and even schools. Here, a 'gap' in the educational journey is still viewed as a disgrace and the reasons for such thinking can be traced back to different social, economic and employment practices prevalent in our country. Hence there is a need for a dialogue on the benefits and limitations of the gap year in the current Indian eduA better appreciation of the practical world and its challenges enables these students to assimilate the knowledge of their chosen disciplines and apply them with fresh perspectives.

cation system.

Historically, the education systems in India have encouraged students to attain their qualifications without any gaps, and to view education as a linear progression. This may have been suitable in the past when the emphasis was on acquisition of knowledge in the chosen discipline. However, the emerging technologies that are now driving the workplace and society at large call for completely different workforce attributes, such as sense-making, emotional intelligence and risk-taking. These are life-skills that can be shaped through a well-crafted exposure during a gap year. Such young adults will be able to bring these insights into their classroom discussions and enrich peer learning.

In order for the gap year to become mainstream, educational institutions need to reconsider their entry requirements so that high-school grades are complemented or supplemented with the quality of real-life learning experiences and the candidate's assessment goes beyond academic achievements. This will extend the benefits of gap year beyond individuals, creating next generation of young leaders ready to address the mega challenges and issues such as climate change, sustainability and diversity and inclusion.

The writer is Associate Dean -Global MBA and MGB. SP Jain School of Global Management,

SCHOLARSHIPS

Ciné Impact Film **Fellowship**

An initiative of the Hyphen in association with IndiaCSR to identify and nurture new talent from the next generation of filmmakers for independent storytelling on social issues. **ELIGIBILITY:** Open for In-

dian nationals below 25 years of age. PRIZES AND REWARDS: Filmmaking grant up to ₹1,00,000; Cash prizes worth ₹1,00,000; Filmmaking bootcamp and mentorship APPLICATION: Online

b4s.in/edge/CIFF1 The Tata Capital Pankh Scholarship

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DEADLINE: October 15

ELIGIBILITY: Open to Indian nationals studying in Class 6 and above (up to professional and general undergraduate/diploma course) who have scored at least 60% marks in the qualifying examination. Annual family income must not exceed ₹4 lakh from all sources. For students in the Class 6 to 10 category, only those who have lost their parent(s) or earning family members due to COVID-19 are eligible. PRIZES AND REWARDS: Up to 80% of the tuition fees

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Tata Capital Limited aims to support meritorious students from economically weaker sections of society.

APPLICATION: Online **DEADLINE: October 15**

BYPL SASHAKT

Scholarship BSES Yamuna Power

Limited (BYPL) aims to support higher education of meritorious students from underprivileged sections of society.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to Indian students residing in Delhi only and studying in the final year of undergraduate programme (any stream) in a government institute in Delhi. They must have secured more than 55% marks in their last appeared examination. Annual family income must not exceed ₹6 lakh. PRIZES AND REWARDS: Up to ₹30,000 APPLICATION: Online **DEADLINE:** November 14

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

b4s.in/edge/BYPL1



States scramble to avoid power restrictions

Many power stations are facing a coal shortage with a fall in supply

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The power utilities in most southern States are staring at coal shortage and scrambling to avoid power restrictions. Majority of the thermal power plants in various States were running with stocks sufficient only for three to four days against having reserve stocks to last for at least two to three weeks in the past.

Limited supply in T.N.

In Tamil Nadu, the State power generating stations were maintaining an average 4 to 4.5 days of coal and the power officials were confident that they would be able to maintain this coal stock in the future. A senior official of the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) said the State had been receiving coal in limited supply, with power stations maintaining a cumulative average of four days' stock. He said the normal coal stock maintained by Tangedco would usually be nine to 10 days. As of Sunday, more than five days of coal stock was available in north Chennai, three days in Mettur and five days in Thoothukudi. Tangedco has three thermal stations, with a total capacity of 4,320 mega watt.

Kerala keeping a watch

The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) was keeping a close watch on the developments. Although the KSEB



coal shortage. • G.N. RAO

had managed the situation without power restrictions thus far, a sharper dip in supply from Central generating stations would warrant tight measures, officials of the State utility said.

The State had been recording a daily shortage of 120 MW-200 MW in supply during peak consumption

The KSEB had told its 1.3 crore consumers to reduce electricity usage during the evening hours when consumption peaked.

Three units shut in A.P. In Andhra Pradesh, while the total daily requirement of coal at AP-Genco plants was 70,000 tonnes, the present supply was only 40,000 tonnes. Three units had been shut due to a coal shortage. Sources said the existing stock would last for another

Rain helps Karnataka

Though Karnataka was presently managing its power supply without any problem, it was bound to face the heat of the coal shortage soon as none of its three Stateowned thermal power stations had adequate coal stock to operate all the generating units at optimal level.

While the rains had reduced the demand for power, especially agricultural load, the present hydel generation, too, stood at the optimal level, covering up for the coal shortage. But the present coal stock and the daily supplies were not sufficient enough to run all the three thermal stations at full capacity, said sources in these stations said.

To tide over the coal shortage, the Karnataka Government had sought additional coal supply from the Centre.

To step up supply

With the increasing demand for coal, particularly in the power sector, the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) in Telangana has decided to dispatch coal by at least 34 railway rakes a day from the present 30 rakes to its contracted buvers.

The decision comes in the backdrop of the Ministry of Coal's direction to the coal companies to scale up production and dispatches to meet the increasing demand and improve coal stocks at thermal power plants.

(With inputs from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana bureaus)

chalked out strategies for

further course of action in

the backdrop of the develop-

ments relating to the increas-

ing presence of Chinese de-

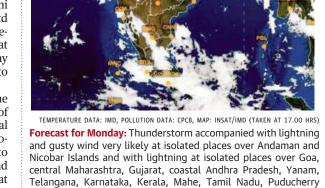
fence personnel in Sri

Lanka. Since the Chinese

presence in the neighbour-

hood could pose a threat to

India, the DGP called for en-



RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

÷	CITY	KAIN	IVIAX	IVIIIV
:	Agartala		34.5	26
÷	Ahmedabad	0.4	33.6	25.5
:	Aizawl		28.4	21.8
i	Allahabad		35.5	23.6
:	Bengaluru	. 14.5	27	21.1
:	Bhopal		34.1	20
i	Bhubaneswar	17	33.7	25.3
:	Chandigarh		–	–
:	Chennai	12	35	25.6
i	Coimbatore		30.5	23.4
:	Dehradun			
:	Gangtok			
:	Goa			
:	Guwahati		35.2	24.9
i	Hubballi			
:	Hyderabad			
:	Imphal			
:	Jaipur			
:	Kochi			
i	Kohima			
:	Kolkata			
:	(

and Karaikal

Kurnool	2	.31.4	22.
Lucknow	3	.35.4	24.
Madurai	–	.35.5	24.
Mangaluru	1.8	.29.8	23.
Mumbai	–	.32.4	2
Mysuru			
New Delhi			
Patna			
Port Blair			
Puducherry			
Pune			
Raipur			
Ranchi			
Shillong			
Shimla			
Srinagar			
Thiruvananthapuram			
Tiruchi			
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Visakhapatnam			
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(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

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Pollutants in t	the a	ir yo	u are	breat	hing			
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	co	PM2.5	PM10	CODE		
Ahmedabad	6	145	6	53	60			
Bengaluru	11	.24	.79	–	21			
Chennai	10		.76	38	47			
Delhi	29	108	102	172	.287			
Hyderabad	5	1	.41	71	68			
Kolkata	12	.33	.26	202	.126			
Lucknow	40	.49	.34	214	.150			
Mumbai		.11		63	.102			
Pune	90	.28	.70	49	42			
Visakhapatnam	11	.63	.23	102	.132			

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

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

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

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

'Take action against DU professor'

STAFF REPORTER THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Registering protest against the "marks jihad" remark, Kerala has sought action against Rakesh Kumar Pandey, a Delhi University professor, for his alleged attempts to cast aspersions on its education sector and spark communal rifts. In a letter to Union Edu-

cation Minister Dharmendhra Pradhan, Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice R. Bindu accused the Kirori Mal College professor of maligning students from the State. "The derogatory statement was an intentional move to create division... Dr. Rakesh's antipathy and intolerance were evident in his venomous statements," it

China's presence in Sri Lanka raises concerns

Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora, including former cadre of the defunct LTTE concerned, say probe agencies

S. VIJAY KUMAR

The Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora, including some former cadre of the defunct Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), are "seriously concerned" over the large-scale and long-term investments by the Chinese Government in Sri Lanka, Indian intelligence agencies have said.

In a note to States, a Central agency referred to a conclave of the Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora held in London recently and said the delegates felt that India had not taken it seriously to safeguard the interests of the Sri Lankan Tamils and even lost its influence over the island nation. The conclave was convinced that the fate of the Sri Lankan Tamils would be in jeopardy if the Chinese esta-



C. Sylendra Babu

blished their presence in northern Sri Lanka.

Contact with Beijing

Noting that "inaction" on the part of the Government of India had paved the way for China to gain prominence in Sri Lanka, the conclave decided to take all out efforts to establish contact with the Chinese Government to create a political and economic base for Sri Lankan

"They assume that the Chinese will welcome such initiatives as it would assist them in northern Sri Lanka to have a hassle-free presence, besides facilitate them in their stance against India," the note on security preparedness said, adding that the Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora was deploying its global resources to tap Chinese intellectuals to gain a groundswell of opinion favouring their efforts. However, the conclave had strong dissenters to the strategy as they believed that the Sri Lankan Tamils would lose the support of the Indian Ta-

Adding to the Central inputs, Tamil Nadu Director-General of Police (DGP) C.

Commissioners/Superintendents of Police (SPs) on reliable information about the LTTE remnants regrouping and holding meetings near Thiruvanmiyur in Chennai "very often". The alert was given days before the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested former LTTE intelligence operative Satkunam, alias Sabesa, 47, on charges of indulging in drug trafficking with international links and also funding the revival of the defunct organisation in Sri Lanka. Materials seized from his premises in Valasa-

Sylendra Babu wrote to the

contacts in Sri Lanka, investigators said. At the meetings held in Chennai, the participants

hanced surveillance along the coastal districts. The State intelligence, relying on the Central agency inputs, said some radicalised Muslims were brought from Pakistan and Turkey by senior Sri Lankan political leaders and made to settle in Batticaloa, Mutur and Kal-

ravakkam, Iyyappathangal, etc., revealed evidence of a patti. They had started mahuge transfer of money to his drasas to spread their ideology in eastern Sri Lanka and had planned to infiltrate into India, police sources told

The Hindu on Sunday.

'Nod for industrial units to + cover full validity period'

But they must follow pollution norms

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

In a significant relief for industrial units, the Tamil Nadu Government has done away with the requirement for industrial units to approach the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) every year for getting consent to operate and renewal of consent.

An order issued by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests on Friday said the TNPCB would issue the clearance for the entire validity period of an industrial unit on payment of the total consent fee in advance. "Hereafter, the clearance will be issued at one go, covering the total pe-

riod," an official explains. The validity period for the red category units has been fixed at five years; for the orange category at 10 years; and for the green category at

14. The order follows the goin the Assembly in September, which was part of the ease of doing business policy.

But this will be subject to compliance with the conditions stipulated in environmental clearance issued under the Environment Impact Assessment notification and the 'consent to establish' order issued under the laws to prevent and control water and air pollution.

Until now, the red category units had to get renewal of consent annually.

orange category units, too, had to get it annually until they operated the effluent treatment plant and implemented air pollution control measures satisfactorily; thereafter, they could get it once in two years. The green category units were required to have the renewal done once in two years.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM The All India Congress Comcision-making body mittee (AICC) seemed to play a waiting game on Sunday regarding the much-an-

⁺ AICC yet to announce

KPCC office-bearers

Another bout of internal feud likely

ticipated announcement of the list of new Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) office-bearers. The "delay" has triggered measure.

speculation that the impending nominations would reignite another bout of bitter falling out in the KPCC over reorganisation. Some insiders said a last-minute bid by the AICC to make the process rancour-free might have caused the hesitancy. Leader of the Opposition

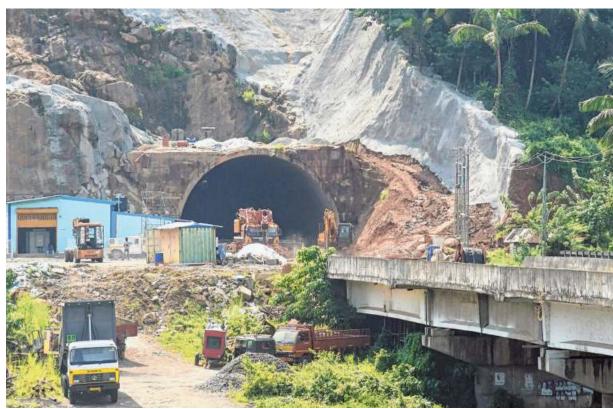
G. ANAND

V.D. Satheesan told presspersons in New Delhi that factional loyalty was not a criterion for nomination. The second phase of KPCC reorganisation entails the naming of vice presidents, general secretaries and secretaries. The 51-member panel would be the apex de-

A party insider said emphasis was on youth and competency. Caste, communal and gender demographics had impacted the nomination process in some

By one account, the AICC believed that the BJP had ceased to be a disruptive force in Kerala, given its "severe loss" of political ground in the 2021 Assembly election. It sensed an opportunity to regain lost turf. The AICC had reportedly cautioned the KPCC that the party in Kerala risked locking itself out of power for another successive term if the intra-party feuding persisted. The focus should be to take the fight to the Left Democratic Front (LDF)

Work in progress



Obstacle course: Work in progress at the second tunnel at Kuthiran hills on National Highway 544 between Palakkad and Thrissur in Kerala on Sunday. The work on the second tunnel is expected to be completed by January 2022. • K.K. MUSTAFAH

Study sought into rabies deaths despite vaccination

Doubts raised over the quality of the serum and whether it is being administered properly

A.S. JAYANTH

A proper study has been sought into recent deaths due to rabies among people who are vaccinated against the infection.

The latest case is that of a seven-year-old boy from Kasaragod district in Kerala, who died on October 7, more than three weeks after getting the first dose of the vaccine following a stray dog

According to sources, similar cases have been reported from across the State, including in major governmedical college hospitals.

K.K. Purushothaman, Professor of Paediatrics, MES Medical College, Perinthalmanna, told The Hindu on



Health concern: The Health Department is collecting data on similar incidents from various districts. ■THULASI KAKKAT

Sunday that rabies is a fatal infection in which "the chances of death are 100%". Patients are given four to five doses of the anti-rabies vaccine in intervals from the day of the bite, along with antirabies serum.

If the bite happens somewhere in and around the head and neck, it may affect the brain very fast. The virus may spread and lead to problems as the vaccine-induced antibodies may take time to reach the protective There is a need to verify the quality of the serum. The healthcare workers need better training too

K.K. PURUSHOTHAMAN Dr. Purushothaman

level,

said. "The vaccine gives full protection only 14 days after it is administered. The serum, in the meanwhile, ensures temporary protection," he said. Taking the patient to the hospital at the right time is also important.

The boy in Kasaragod was given three doses of the antirabies vaccine and the antirabies serum. He died before getting the fourth dose.

"If deaths are happening even after the patient is administered the vaccine and the serum on time, there is something wrong somewhere. It may be due to bad quality of the serum, or the manner in which it is transported to the hospital and stored. People who are administering the serum may not be doing it in the right way as well," he said.

Dr. Purushothaman said authorities government should take these issues seriously. "There is a need to verify the quality of the serum. The healthcare workers need better training too,"

The Health Department is collecting data on similar incidents from various dis-

5 of family killed in wall collapse in Telangana

Two children suffer minor injuries

STAFF REPORTER

A couple and their three minor children were killed after a wall of their hut collapsed at Kothapally village in Aizaw mandal of Jogulamba-Gadwal district in Telangana late on Saturday night. Their other two children escaped with minor injuries.

The victims were identified as Puddeddula Mosha (40), his wife Shanthamma (35), and their children Charan (11), Teja (9) and Ramu (7). The injured children, Sneha (5) and Chinna (4), were rushed to a nearby hospital for medical assistance.

Speaking to The Hindu, Superintendent of Police (SP) Ranjan Ratan Kumar

said a partition wall of the family's hut had weakened and collapsed in the wee hours of October 10, burying all of them under the debris. "They were sleeping adjacent to the wall," he said. Mr. Kumar said the incident came to light only on October 10 morning after a few villagers noticed the house. The bodies were pulled out of the debris and shifted to the government hospital morgue.

Asked if the rains were to blame for the wall collapse, Mr. Kumar said, "It was not raining here." Expressing grief over the

incident, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao announced an *ex-gratia* of ₹5 lakh for the affected family.

3.0 magnitude earthquake in Kalaburagi

STAFF REPORTER

An earthquake with a magnitude of 3.0 on the Richter Scale was recorded near Kodadur village at Kalagi taluk of Kalaburagi district, Karnataka, at 6.05 a.m. on Sunday. As the intensity of the tremor was very low, no casualty or damage to property was reported.

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, the epicentre was around 2.1 km northeast of Kodadur village. Rajapura, Malagi, Halchera and Tegalatippi villages (all in Kalagi taluk) fell within a 5.3-km radius from the epicentre of the earthquake. A similar tremor was recorded a day before in the same region.

A probe after prodding

U.P. police must do a credible probe to inspire public confidence in farmers' killing case

The arrest of Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home, Ajay Mishra, appears to be a course of action impelled mainly by the intervention of the Supreme Court, which voiced its dissatisfaction with the way the Uttar Pradesh police were handling the killing of four farmers and four others during a protest. By taking cognisance of the incidents that took place during a farmers' protest at Tikonia in Lakhimpur-Kheri district, the Court may have helped infuse some much-needed impetus to the investigation. The Bench gave enough time until its next hearing on October 20 to the police to pursue the probe diligently, but not without thinking aloud on whether any other agency ought to take it over and asking the State police chief to preserve the evidence. The arrest of the Minister's son, coming after he had skipped an earlier summons and was questioned for long hours once he appeared, is largely in response to the Court's criticism. The Bench, headed by the Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, wondered how investigators in a murder case could merely issue summons to the prime suspect instead of taking steps to apprehend him. Scepticism about the intentions of the State police is not misplaced. It is not the first time that the initial response is one of hesitancy and obfuscation, but once an incident blows up enough to occasion judicial intervention, there is some action.

What is known so far is that vehicles in the Minister's convoy ploughed through a group of farmers, causing four deaths. Three others may have died in retaliatory violence by the infuriated mob, while Raman Kashyap, a television reporter, may also have been run over. Initial reports that the driver lost control after being hit by a hail of stones have been superseded by footage that seems to show the vehicle being driven into a group of unsuspecting people. The FIR says Ashish Mishra was in one of the cars, even though he claims to have been elsewhere. The role of the Union Minister should also be subjected to scrutiny, as some reports suggest he may have made a provocative speech earlier to the effect that the protesting farmers should either mend their ways or he would set them straight. The mention of a 'conspiracy' in the FIR gives scope to the police to examine this angle. It is regrettable that the Union government is noticeably silent, and there appears to be no effort to advise Mr. Ajay Mishra to step down until his and his son's names are cleared. It is difficult to see how an impartial probe can go on as long as he is in office, and his party's government in the State is seen to be soft on the accused. The onus is on the Littar Pradesh police now to conduct a credible investigation, if the Court does not replace the present set of investigators.

A homecoming

Tatas will find turning around Air India tough with high fuel costs, travel hit by COVID-19

ir India, the airline started by J.R.D. Tata in the 1930s, is all set to return to the Tata fold after a carrier. The Centre's announcement on Friday that Tata Sons' subsidiary Talace Pvt. Ltd. was the winning bidder for the 100% stake in the debt-laden airline rings the curtain on the government's multi-year effort to privatise the loss-making carrier. Talace emerged winner in the two-horse race by bidding to take over ₹15,300 crore of Air India's more than ₹60,000 crore of accumulated debt and offering an additional ₹2,700 crore in cash for the Government's equity stake. For the Tatas, who have retained an abiding interest in the country's airline industry and currently majority own both a budget carrier, AirAsia India, and a full-service airline, Vistara, the Air India acquisition brings opportunities to gain scale and synergies at a significant level. With Air India and its low-cost unit, Air India Express, together serving 55 overseas destinations, holding over 3,000 landing and parking slots, operating a 141-aircraft fleet of wide-body long-haul jets and narrow body planes for shorter flights, and the parent holding membership of the 26-airline Star Alliance, the Tatas in one stroke add unparalleled global reach among Indian carriers. Air India's 13.2% consolidated market share of domestic traffic as of August also gives the group a more competitive combined share of almost 27%, albeit still a substantial 30 percentage points adrift of market leader IndiGo.

The Centre, for its part, can finally heave a sigh of relief at having successfully exited the commercial aviation space, a high-cost industry that most governments around the world have left in the hands of private carriers so as to ensure taxpayers' money is deployed more meaningfully in social and strategic sectors. After having ploughed in more than ₹1-lakh crore of capital in the past decade alone and seeing Air India suffer a daily loss of over ₹20 crore, the Government's desperation to cut its losses and close out a fire sale is understandable. The pandemic's impact on public finances and the carrier's operations, especially given the devastating impact on air travel both domestic and international, is sure to have helped spur the Government's decision to agree to not only absorb 75% of the carrier's debt, but to also pick up the tab on medical benefits for former employees. And in a bid to protect the interests of the more than 13,000 permanent and contractual staff at the airline and its unit, the government has bound Talace to ensuring there should be no job cuts for at least one year. Still, integrating the state-run carrier's sizeable workforce is going to be one among the many serious challenges, awaiting the Tatas. To turn around Air India at a time of soaring fuel costs and COVID-hit air travel, is sure to test the conglomerate's managerial mettle.

A 'Taiwan flashpoint' in the Indo-Pacific

In pursuing its Indo-Pacific strategy, India needs to be mindful of the China-U.S. equations in the region



SHYAM SARAN

f the rising confrontation between the United States and China erupts into a clash of arms, the likely arena may well be the Taiwan Strait. Taiwan is the unfinished business of China's liberation under the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in 1949. The Guomindang (KMT) forces under Chiang Kai-shek lost the 1945-49 civil war to the CCP forces under Mao Zedong. Chiang retreated to the island of Taiwan and set up a regime that claimed authority over the whole of China and pledged to recover the mainland eventual-

'Strategic ambiguity'

The CCP in turn pledged to reclaim what it regarded as a "renegade" province and achieve the final reunification of China. Taiwan could not be occupied militarily by the newly established People's Republic of China (PRC) as it became a military ally of the United States during the Korean War of 1950-53. It was described as an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" underscoring its strategic significance. This phase came to an end with the U.S. recognising the PRC as the legitimate government of China in 1979, ending its official relationship with Taiwan and abrogating its mutual defence treaty with the island.

Nevertheless, the U.S. has declared that it will "maintain the ability to come to Taiwan's defence" while not committing itself to do so. This is the policy of "strategic ambiguity". China, on the other hand, is committed to pursuing peaceful unification but retains the right to use force to achieve the objective. This is its own version of strategic ambigui-

ty. The PRC has pursued a typical carrot and stick policy to achieve the reunification of Taiwan with the mainland. It has held out the prospect, indeed preference for peaceful reunification, through promising a high degree of autonomy to the island under the "one country two systems" formula first applied to Hong Kong after its reversion to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. According to this formula, Hong Kong would retain its free market system and its political and judicial institutions and processes for a period of 50 years, thus enabling an extended and gradual transition. The same was promised to Taiwan, but with the added assurance that it could also retain its armed forces during the transition period.

Economic links

With China itself adopting marketoriented reforms since 1978 and becoming, over a period of time, a significant economic and commercial opportunity globally, Taiwan business entities have invested heavily in mainland China and the two economies have become increasingly integrated. Between 1991 and 2020, the stock of Taiwanese capital invested in China reached U.S. \$188.5 billion and bilateral trade in 2019 was U.S. \$150 billion, about 15% of Taiwan's GDP. By contrast the stock of Chinese capital invested in Taiwan is barely U.S. \$2.4 billion although investments through Hong Kong may be considerable.

Taiwanese attempts to reduce the island's economic exposure to China have not been successful so far. China hopes that the considerable economic benefits that Taiwan business and industry enjoy through a burgeoning relationship with China would weaken opposition to unification. By the same token, China is capable of inflicting acute economic pain on Taiwan through coercive policies if the island is seen to drift towards an in-



Taiwan's politics

Taiwan has two major political parties. The KMT, dominated by the descendants of the mainlanders who came to the island along with Chiang Kai-skek in 1949, remains committed to a one-China policy and does not support the independence of Taiwan. The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), on the other hand, is more representative of the indigenous population of the island, and favours independence.

However, faced with aggressive threats from China and lack of international support, the demand for independence has been muted. China feels more comfortable with the KMT and is hostile to the DPP. Ever since the DPP under Tsai Ing-wen won the presidential elections in 2016, China has resorted to a series of hostile actions against the island, which include economic pressures and military threats. These actions have escalated since the re-election of Tsai Ing-wen in the 2020 elections, Public opinion swung in her favour as China adopted a series of hardline policies in Hong Kong, abandoning the 'One Country Two Systems' formula promoted by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. China could no longer pretend that the model was relevant in any sense to Taiwan's future under Chinese sovereignty.

One important implication of this development is that prospects for peaceful unification have diminished. Sentiment in Taiwan in

increased. The escalating military threats against Taiwan, through daily violations of its air defence identification zone (ADIZ) and aggressive naval manoeuvres in the Taiwan Strait are currently deterrent in nature, aimed at heading off any move towards independence and its closer military relationship with the U.S.

The U.S. stance

While the U.S. does not support a declaration of independence by Taiwan, it has gradually reversed the policy of avoiding official-level engagements with the Taiwan government. The first breach occurred during the Donald Trump presidency when several senior officials, including a cabinet-level official, visited the island. The Joe Biden officials have continued this policy. The Taiwanese representative in Washington was invited to attend the presidential inauguration ceremony (Biden), again a first since 1979. Reports have now emerged that U.S. defence personnel have been, unannounced, training with their Taiwanese counterparts for sometime. In a new incident last week, a U.S. nuclear-powered submarine reportedly ran into an "unidentified obiect" while in the South China Sea. China has objected to these U.S. actions vociferously

The latest statement by Chinese President Xi Jinping on Taiwan on October 9, on the eve of Taiwan's national day, responds to these developments. Mr. Xi said that unification should be achieved peacefully but added that the Chinese people have a "glorious tradition" of opposing separatism. Mr. Xi added, "The historic task of the complete reunification of the motherland must be fulfilled and will definitely be fulfilled."

These statements are somewhat less aggressive and impatient than his earlier ones on Taiwan. This may be related to the recent telephone conversation between PreMr. Biden reportedly assured Mr. Xi that the U.S. would abide by the "Taiwan agreement", that is, the U.S. would not overturn its one China policy.

Is China prepared to carry out military operations to invade and occupy Taiwan?

In March this year, the U.S. Pacific Commander, Philip Davidson, warned that China could invade Taiwan within the next six years as part of its strategy of displacing U.S. power in Asia. He appeared to suggest that Chinese military capabilities had been developed in order to achieve this objective. Other analysts argue that cross-strait operations would be extremely complex and pacifying a hostile population may prove to be long drawn out and costly. China may, therefore, be content to head off Taiwan independence while continuing to build its capabilities and await a further relative decline of U.S. power and its will to intervene in the defence of Taiwan.

Impact of alliances

These calculations may be upset by accident or miscalculation, and the recent submarine incident is a warning in this respect. The recent crystallisation of the Quad, of which India is a part, and the announcement of the Australia-U.K.-U.S. alliance, AUKUS, with Australia being graduated to a power with nuclear-powered submarines, may act as a deterrent against Chinese moves on Taiwan.

But they may equally propel China to advance the unification agenda before the balance changes against it in the Indo-Pacific.

For these reasons, Taiwan is emerging as a potential trigger point for a clash of arms between the U.S. and China.

In pursuing its Indo-Pacific strategy, India would do well to keep these possible scenarios in mind.

Shyam Saran is a former Foreign Secretary and a Senior Fellow, Centre for

A lengthening shadow of Tamil nativism

As a player in Tamil Nadu's residual vote share space, the NTK's political offering could hurt the State's social fabric



KARTHICK RAM MANOHARAN & VIGNESH KARTHIK K.R.

▲ recent public conference on the theme, "Tamil or Dravi-Adian?", was organised by the Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK), featuring NTK leaders, a couple of veteran Tamil nationalist ideologues, and a hotchpotch of largely non-descript speakers. The points raised were that Dravidian politics had duped the native Tamil castes, led to an influx of immigrants, and was responsible for the troubles that the Eelam Tamils

faced. The common point for all was that Dravidian politics had to go and be replaced by a nativist form of Tamil nationalism. The main speaker was the coordinator-inchief of the NTK, Seeman, who, among other things, invoked Adolf Hitler to bolster his anti-Dravidian rhetoric. This is not the first time he has referenced Hitler positively.

Public image

Mr. Seeman's route to fame was through public speeches at meetings organised by Dravidian collectives in the 2000s. He initially claimed to be inspired by both Perivar, and the chief of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Velupillai Prabhakaran. However, after Sri Lanka's military defeat of

the LTTE in 2009, Mr. Seeman abandoned the former for the latter. To Mr. Seeman, Prabhakaran is a leader not just for the Eelam Tamils but Indian Tamils as well. The NTK was floated in 2010 and claims to have popularised the image of Prabhakaran in Tamil Nadu, often making up apocryphal stories of friendship between Mr. Seeman and the LTTE leadership. However, the image that NTK is trying to cultivate is that of Mr. Seeman as the sole spokesperson of Tamils

Leader identification matters

The NTK pursues a programme of nativism in identifying its leaders. Apart from Prabhakaran, it identifies Tamil kings of yore, and a pool of modern Tamil leaders such as Iyothee Thass, Bharathiyar, Immanuel Sekaran, U. Muthuramalingam, M.P. Sivagnanam among others, as its inspirations and icons. To the NTK, the Tamil identity of these figures plays a greater role than the ideology they professed. The NTK's targets for attacks are leaders of the Dravidian parties, especially C.N. Annadurai and M. Karunanidhi, often on the specious claim that they belong to non-Tamil immigrant castes. Some in the NTK play lip service to E.V.R. Periyar, but they consistently try to downplay his central role in modern Tamil politics, owing to his irreverence for any form of identitarian parochialism. The NTK seeks to foreground only those who can claim to belong to a Tamil native caste, determined by birth in a Tamil clan (*kudi*) – their



based on this.

Nationalism and politics

Chauvinistic Tamil nationalism has historically had a marginal place in modern Tamil politics. For the good part, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) contained extremist Tamil elements and promoted a composite and pluralist approach to politics and identity. Even during the anti-Hindi agitations, neither caste-elites nor Hindi speakers were harmed. The conflict was on ideas rather than identities, as laid out by several Dravidian ideologues. The camaraderie between Periyar and Rajaji is also a testament to the same. Likewise, once they captured power, the Dravidian parties have maintained Tamil Nadu as a State free from major communal or ethnic conflagrations. Post the 1960s, Dravidian rule has also prevented the rise of violent movements threatening the sovereignty of India.

While Tamil Nadu's legislature is the most diverse in terms of caste representation across the country, localised caste conflicts

of course are quite common in Tamil Nadu, with sections of Dalits usually being at the receiving end of atrocities. Likewise, of the more than 250 backward castes (https:// bit.ly/3mymfgQ), quite a few have minimal or intermittent political

Both the NTK and Bharatiya Janata Party have tried to mobilise articulating their grievances by promoting leaders from the said communities in their party ranks. The target for both is Dravidian politics, specifically the DMK.

While the BJP tries to unite such castes on the religious plank, the NTK tries to do the same on an ethnic nativist plank. The NTK's Tamil nativism addresses the grievances of these castes with theories of a Dravidian conspiracy to secure the dominance of non-Tamil castes and a global conspiracy against the Tamil identity. Normally, such conspiracy theories are humourous, but when they are backed by a political party that secured an estimated 6.6% vote share in the recent elections, they are potentially dangerous. The inability of progressive governments to contain the class disparities generated by the current economic order engenders the proclivity for such

Mr. Seeman's sympathisers are very active on social media, especially YouTube, characterised by conspiracy theories, abusive language and aggressive machismo, and rooted in an aggravated sense of Tamil victimhood. It is not unusual to spot them making threats of violence that they would unleash should they come to power. Their key targets of attack, apart from linguistic minorities in the State are Dravidianists, leftists and feminists.

For long, several political parties and activist groups in Tamil Nadu have expressed solidarity with the Tamils of Sri Lanka and have supported calls for a just pol itical solution for their crisis. The NTK has capitalised on a grave issue to promote its own chauvinistic variant of nativist nationalism.

A danger

The NTK continues to operate in the residual vote share space. Though the elections have become more competitive with the NTK's participation, the two Dravidian alliances continue to garner 85% of votes. However, the NTK's leader's rhetoric has become shriller and the followers he inspires are restive. The NTK's political offering could hurt Tamil Nadu's composite social fabric especially when the current regime is attempting to cover more ground inter alia in empowering marginal backward castes, Dalits and women, reducing caste-class disparities, and upholding the federal ethos of the country.

Karthick Ram Manoharan is a Marie-Sklodowska Curie Research Fellow working on the political thought of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy at the University of Wolverhampton, U.K. Vignesh Karthik K.R. is a doctoral researcher at the King's India Institute, King's College London. The views expressed are personal

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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.

Wheels of justice turn But for the *suo motu* cognisance by the Supreme Court of India, the wheels of justice in the Lakhimpur Kheri case may have never turned soon (Page 1, "Union Minister's son arrested after 11 hours of interrogation", October 10). As is the wont of the political class, the efforts to create an alibi for the main accused are deplorable.

■ The orchestrated attempts to browbeat the farmers into submission by some political leaders of the ruling party have ended. The unflinching

A. JAINULABDEEN,

determination and the steadfastness the farmers displayed to go ahead with their agitation under challenging circumstances must be noted. The brazen attempts to suppress democratic protests with brute force and ministerial clout deserve to condemned by all. ABDUL ASSIS P.A., Kandassankadavu, Thrissur, Kerala

China at the border build-up of troops and

Going by the large-scale infrastructure by China along the Line of Actual Control, and India being forced to keep pace with the Asian giant, it is regrettable that

despite a series of diplomatic and military level talks aimed at disengagement the situation continues to be dangerous; there is also another harsh Himalayan winter around the corner (Page 1, "China is here to stay, says Army chief on Ladakh", October 10. It is now evident that with most countries upping the ante against China for various reasons, Beijing views democratic India as a potential threat to displace its importance. China is emboldened by the

fact that even with those countries that are locking horns with it today, it is still linked with them

economically, technologically and financially, and also enjoys veto-wielding permanent membership of the UNSC. NALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN,

■ It is not only Ladakh but also the entire length of the border that India needs to

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

watch like a hawk. Decades of talks have failed to bridge trust deficits and misperceptions. The outcome of China's hard stand and its wolf-warrior policy on the border and with other neighbours are beginning to be felt. That China is adept at protracting negotiations only to buy time

and consolidate its territorial gains is well accepted. India needs to improve its lines of communication, infrastructure and defence preparedness along the LAC

to match China. H.N. RAMAKRISHNA,

 $An infographic titled \verb|`Tata| in the sky" that accompanied the front-page story, \verb|`After 68| years, Tatas| and the first of the fir$ win back Air India with ₹18,000 cr. bid" (October 9, 2021), erroneously mentioned October 2020 in

the last item in the timeline. It should have been October 2021. In the story titled "I-T Dept. officials search office of Ajit Pawar's son" (October 8, 2021), the last few paragraphs regarding an IT department's press release did not pertain to the story.

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THE HINDU DELHI MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021

The many questions arising from QES data | Throttling the press in J&K

The Quarterly Employment Survey for the April-June quarter throws up some perplexing numbers



K.R. SHYAM SUNDAR

The Labour Bureau released the results of the All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (QES) for the first quarter (FQ) of 2021 (April to June). The survey covers establishments employing 10 or more workers in the organised segment in nine sectors (manufacturing, construction, trade, transport, education, health, accommodation and restaurants, IT/BPO, and financial service activities). These sectors account for 85% of the total employment in establishments employing 10 or more workers as per the Sixth Economic Census (EC), which serves as the basis of the QES survey. The data for QES were collected either telephonically or through visits. The report cautions that "verification of records has not been resorted to for collection of data". This could have significant implications for the statistics generated from the survey. While the QES provides a demand side picture, the National Sample Survey or Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) gives the supply side picture of the labour market.

The stated objective of the QES is to enable the government to frame a "sound national policy on employment". India ratified the International Labour Organization's Employment Policy Convention, 1964, which requires the ratifying countries to implement "an active policy designed to promote full, productive and freely chosen employment." India does not have one till now.

The PLFSs have not presented an encouraging picture of the labour market. The CMIE has been projecting a distressed labour market scenario, especially during the pandemic. Notwithstanding criticisms, the CMIE database has dominated the analyses and understanding of the labour market. This could be quite irksome to any ruling party. Thus, the government needed an 'official' database that projects a rosy picture of the economy and the labour market (remember the controversy over the release of the PLFS results in 2019, which showed the highest-ever un-



Reserve Bank of India's growth rates

of high-frequency indicators during

the pandemic did not show encou-

raging trends even though they were

fluctuating. The provisional esti-

mates of annual national income for

2020-21 showed contraction in ma-

nufacturing (-7.2.%), construction

(-8.6%) and trade (-18.2.%), which are

some of the sectors covered in QES.

The real national income growth

rates, though controversial for up-

ward revisions, declined 2017-18 on-

wards - the annual average growth

rate in 2013-14 to 2020-21 was 4.95%.

Are we talking of employment

growth despite economic slowdown

growth to growthless job growth?

from jobless growth to job-loss

Various surveys and reports, in-

cluding those by the Central govern-

ment, showed that the smaller esta-

blishments suffered much more than

the bigger industries. This was surely

more so during the more extensive

lockdown period, April-June 2020,

when they faced challenges concern-

ing debt repayment, wage/salaries

and statutory dues. They are also

least likely to have permanent work-

ers on their payroll. Given that nearly

75% of the estimated establishments

employed less than 40 workers, as

reported in the QES, one wonders

about the credibility of two statistics

reported in the report. One, that

87.5% of the estimated workers were

regular workers and just about 2.1%

(12.5% in construction) were casual

workers. Two, even though exclud-

ing health and financial services,

around 24-35% of the establishments

were operational from March 25 to

June 30, 2020, 66-86% of estimated

employees received full wages in-

cluding in the construction, trade

and hospitality industries. We should

treat these statistics as claims by em-

employment rate of 6.1%). The government has also been using the payroll data periodically to show formal employment generation and/or recovery in employment during the pandemic. It is not surprising that the QES has reported a simple growth rate of 29% in employment in FQ2021 over 2013-14 (Sixth EC).

Data that raise eyebrows However, strangely, the QES pro-

vides very broad employment figures - "3 crores and 8 lakhs approximately" in FQ-2021 against a total of 2 crores and 37 lakhs in these sectors taken collectively [in 2013-14]". By any reckoning, these are impressive statistics. But let us put these figures in perspective. Between the Fifth EC (2005) and the Sixth EC (2013), employment grew by a simple growth rate of 38.13%. And between the Fourth EC (1998) and Fifth EC (2005), it grew by 21.13%. The compound annual growth rate (CAGR) a far more reliable indicator of growth rates spanning several years - between the two is 4.12%. The approximate CAGR between the 6th EC and FQ2021 is 3.33%.

The remarkable simple growth rate reported above compares a normal period to a pandemic-ravaged period. The overall growth rate is incongruent with macro-economic factors and other labour market portrayals. The CMIE data revealed a rather discouraging picture in April as the salaried class shed an estimated 3.4. million jobs from the level in March 2021 and the urban unemployment rate was as high as 9.78%. Further, normal economic indicators like income growth rates, capacity utilisation, business confidence, aggregate demand measured by the Purchasing Managers' Index and the ployers rather than reliable data. The report throws up another per-

plexing statistic. It says contract workers accounted for 0.7% (IT/ BPOs), 10.4% (manufacturing) and 17.6% (construction) and overall a measly 7.8%. According to the Annual Survey of Industries for 2017-18, 36.37% of the total workers are employed in the organised factory sector. However, the reported contrastatistics in QES are plausible because given the low employment demand, cost-minimising manufacturers would be more likely to engage permanent and possibly unionised and high-skilled workers while the flexible category workers will have to queue up for employment till better times come. On the flip side, the report concedes a decline in the share of female workers from 31% in the Sixth EC to 29% in FO2021. Like the Sixth EC, it could have collected data on social aspects like caste and religion as the pandemic would have had differential impacts on social statuses of workers. The data on the formalisation of establishments as revealed by registration under the laws must take care of two aspects. One, there could be overlaps between the registrations (say, factories or shops registering under more than one law). Two, since this is an employment survey, it is relevant to consider labour laws under which the establishment can be registered like the Factories Act, Shops Act or the Building and Other Construction Workers Act and employ workers rather than including tax laws as QES does.

A starting point We need to wait for unit level data to generate data at the disaggregated levels and create cross-tabulations to understand the labour market dynamics much better than the ratios released in this report. At any rate, the F12021 QES must be considered as a starting point of the new data set rather than as a continuum of the Sixth EC as the Seventh EC would enable sensible comparisons. Finally, it is baffling why the Labour Bureau has initiated five segmented employment surveys when it could have put in place a high-frequency labour market information base like most advanced economies.

Shyam Sundar Professor, HRM Area, XLRI,

By denying the media freedom, the government is building its own narrative and providing space for fake news



MOHAMAD YOUSUF TARIGAMI

A major casualty of the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, has been press freedom in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). This has led to the problem of disinformation and is causing great anxiety in the region. The feeling of alienation in the Kashmir Valley is inimical to the national interest besides the interests of Kashmiris.

Historically, the press in J&K used to highlight democratic, anti-feudal and secular struggles. It supported the efforts to accede with India as the Maharaja wavered and the political leadership under Sheikh Abdullah threw its weight behind democratic and secular India. The Urdu daily, Ranbir, was banned by the monarchy in June 1947 for demanding accession to India and the release of Sheikh Abdullah. The ban was eventually lifted. The editor of an Urdu weekly, *Pukar*, was also threatened in 1942 by the monarchy as the paper supported the Quit India movement led by Mahatma Gandhi.

Government-regulated press

Nowadays, it is painful to see the newspapers of Kashmir in the morning. There is nothing about the current political situation in J&K; there are only government press releases. There is hardly any room for political parties and their statements. Newspapers mostly carry advertisements or advertisement-cumstatements of government officials and senior government functionaries. Government advertisements are used as an instrument to force editors to control the media narrative. And if a newspaper does not conform, it has to face action: advertisements are abruptly cancelled or investigating agencies carry out raids. Our journalist friends tell us that it is routine for the police to call them and seek information about them and their relatives. These actions only send a message to the larger journalistic community that freedom of the press, which is implied in the freedom of speech in the Constitution, is under

More and more journalists are being harassed since the administration introduced the revised Media Policy in 2020, which effectively gags the media. The Press Council of India has constituted a three-member fact-finding committee to inquire into the allegations of intimidation and harassment of journalists. The Council is scheduled to visit

J&K. The aim of the Media Policy, which has been formulated without any consultation with the media groups, seems to be to marginalise the local media and build the government narrative. The press in J&K is now virtually a government-regulated one.

Strategy to prevent disinformation

The denial of press freedom in J&K should be seen from a larger perspective. First, in this age of social media, where information and narratives are shared through encrypted platforms, it is important to protect the general public from disinformation and fake news. While state media outlets have a role to play in this, the public at large relies on sources of information which are seen as being more credible and independent. In this connection, allowing professional reporters to perform their task without being under duress or facing threats is at the heart of any strategy to prevent disinformation. After all, journalists are accountable to their newspaper editors who, in turn, have to abide by the laws of the land. Otherwise, in an environment where government press releases fill the newspaper space, the public will invariably reach out to easily available social media platforms which are notorious for feeding people with sensational, false information. In Kashmir, the information vacuum is a breeding ground for fake news. This has security implications as well.

Second, J&K is a battleground of narratives at present. A credible narrative rooted in truth and honesty will win this battle. This can be met by allowing professional reporters to gather information, and editors to share their editorials in a freer environment. The lack of a democratic government has closed all avenues of redress. The government is not amenable to public sentiment as it has nothing to lose by alienating the people and the press. When journalists say it has become impossible for them to do normal reportage, it must be seriously taken by the courts. The judiciary must intervene to restore the dignity of the fourth estate and take serious cognisance of the cases filed against journalists and newspapers. If courts look the other way today, it will not augur well for

More broadly, the refusal to integrate J&K with the Indian democratic tradition that provides for press freedom continues to be the main impediment for J&K's emotional relationship with the country. As the peace activist Balraj Puri once said, "These premises are not only an insult to the people of Kashmir but to all democratic sensibility."

Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami is former member of the

Awards discourage curiosity

We cannot become a culture held hostage by awards which determine what we read and how

KUNAL RAY

Keeping with its reputation, the Nobel Committee sprung another surprise this year by awarding the Nobel Prize in Literature to Abdulrazak Gurnah. Like every year, names like Haruki Murakami, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o and others did the rounds. Mr. Gurnah's award has disappointed all the speculators. The jury is out, and the readers are divided. Some also wonder if he is really that good, but we

hear that every year, don't we?

A safe choice

Often criticised for its Eurocentrism or affinity for obscure white writers, the Nobel Committee has made a safe decision by picking Mr. Gurnah. He hails from Tanzania and later escaped to Britain. Mr. Gurnah is the fifth writer from Africa to win the award. He is a writer of migration, displacement, post-colonial identity - all themes and issues that have come to dominate literary conversations the world over. These are also conversant with the realities of the world we live in today, where largescale migration and refugee crisis make headlines every other day. Mr. Gurnah's novels and stories therefore interest disciplines beyond literary studies, such as sociology and anthropology. This could also be seen as the Nobel Committee's politically appropriate gesture after having made several controversial choices in the recent past. Writer and publishing expert Jane Friedman tweeted saying that Mr. Gurnah had only sold about 3,000 print copies in the U.S. market and his latest novel does not even have a U.S. publisher. Several writers retweeted her post drawing comfort from the fact that poor sales may not be the end of the road for them. Numbers are just a publishing game, after all.

Since the announcement of the award, Mr. Gurnah's books are hard to find online or their price has considerably increased. Bookstores will also run out of copies they had stocked. There will be new commissions, translations into other languages will follow, upcoming book tours will be organised for the new Nobel Laureate. His publishers will benefit from the awards as all publishers do when one of their writers wins the big prize. It is nothing short of a publishing blitzkrieg.

An industry game

But does the Nobel Prize really change our lives as readers or the health of our literary cultures? The euphoria over the winner will eventually die down. The media will find another favourite in a few months. Another big award will be announced soon, and the same circus will follow. This is nothing more than an industry game. Numbers lead to more numbers. Mr. Gurnah has been an active writer and theorist of postcolonial studies for a long time. Why should we rely upon an award to discover him as a writer? Doesn't that indicate a systemic problem? We also ought to probe the relevance of these awards to a generation that doesn't seem to believe in the reputation that being published in certain forums, such as The New Yorker, brought once upon a time.

The problem with awards is their complete failure in creating curiosity among readers. The curiosity is always for the award or the individual winner and not for purposes of reading or literature in general. If philosopher and critic Roland Barthes were alive, he would have probably written an essay titled 'Death of Curiosity' bemoaning the literary culture we have become that lives in the shadow of awards. This is also the biggest fallout of neoliberal capitalism which creates momentary interest in an individual before finding another icon to replace the existing one. This obsession with the individual feeds into a culture of adulation and not critical questioning or self-reflection.

In India too, many awards celebrate the best in Indian writing. There's no denying the fact that awards help writers find new readers and brings them some financial rewards which might help to start their next project or give them more time to work on their next book. But we cannot become a culture held hostage by awards which then determine what we read and how.

Kunal Ray teaches literary and cultural studies at FLAME University, Pune

DATA POINT

1. PERCEPTION ABOUT THE ECONOMY

Consumer confidence improves marginally

As the devastating effects of the second wave of COVID-19 reduce, the perception of consumers of the current economic situation improved slightly in September 2021, according to the latest round of the RBI's consumer confidence survey in urban areas. However, most consumers continue to be pessimistic about the economy. The perception improved mainly due to more optimism about employment opportunities due to an uptick in urban employment numbers over the past couple of months. But consumers feel that their income levels are yet to go back to pre-COVID-19 levels, with commodities prices continuing to soar. By The Hindu Data Team

the general economic situation worsened in September 2021 compared to the same month in 2020. While the negative perception has decreased consistently in the last two cycles, 72.3% of the respondents were still pessimistic about the economy in September % PEOPLE WHO SAID THAT THE GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION HAD WORSENED 72.3% **MARCH 2020** SEPT. 2018 SEPT. 2021 In May 2021, 81.4% of the respondents had said that the general economic situation in the country had worsened, the highest between the Sept. 2018 and Sept. 2021 cycle

The graph shows the share of respondents who said that

3. PRICE AND INCOME PERCEPTION | The graph shows the % of people who said that the price levels of commodities had increased and income levels had decreased in September 2021 compared to September 2020

% PEOPLE WHO SAID THAT PRICES HAVE INCREASED PEOPLE WHO SAID THAT INCOME LEVELS HAVE INCREASED SEPT. 2018 While the negative perception about prices still

remains high, it marginally reduced for income levels in September. Both, however, remain high compared with pre-pandemic levels

decreased over the past two cycles of the survey. This is most likely because of the increase in the number of employed persons in urban areas. However, both the negative perception around employment and job levels are yet to reach prepandemic levels 40 NO. OF EMPLOYED % PEOPLE WHO SAID (RIGHT-AXIS) THAT EMPLOYMENT 100 OPPORTUNITIES HAVE

2. EMPLOYMENT PERCEPTION | The share of people who said

that employment opportunities have worsened has also

4. FUTURE EXPECTATIONS | Nearly three-fourths of the respondents said that price levels will continue to increase one year from now compared to the levels in September 2021

➤ SEPT. 2021

SOURCE: RBI, CMIE

WORSENED (LEFT-AXIS)

PRICES WILL INCREASE PEOPLE 22 INCOME WILL DECREASE EMPLOYMENT WILL WORSEN **MARCH 2020**

On the other hand, most said they were optimistic about the general economic situation, employment opportunities and income levels in September 2022. While 37.1% said the employment scenario will worsen, only 13% said that income

levels will fall one year from now

The Man Kindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 11, 1971

Pentagon tests with Cancer patients

Washington, Oct. 9: Senator Edward Kennedy has said that his health Sub-committee would investigate a Pentagon research work under which advanced cancer patients were being used to test the possible effects of atomic radiation on troops. He said he was "shocked and disturbed" to find that the research, at the University of Cincinanati's College of Medicine, was going on without the patients being informed of its prime purpose. "I believe this project represents an incredible infringement of individual liberty, and establishes a dangerous precedent for the reduction of human rights in our society", he wrote yesterday to the Defence Secretary, Mr. Melvin Laird. Mr. Kennedy asked Mr. Laird for the full report of the 11year-old project. According to the report, first revealed in the Washington Post, the Pentagon's defence nuclear agency has paid the university \$850,000 for treating 111 patients. The patients, all with tumours on several parts of their bodies, are recruited for "whole body" doses of radiation after they have been told they can no longer be helped by surgery, drugs or selective radiation, the paper had reported. The patients were not told that the Pentagon was giving funds for their treatment, or that the main purpose of the research was to test the probable effects of radiation such as would be received on the battlefields during a nuclear explosion.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 11, 1921

Indian Railway Conference

Simla, October 10: Mr. F.A. Hadow, presiding over the annual session of the Indian Railway Conference Association referred to the Railway Committee's Report and said that if the Government accepted and endorsed to unanimous conclusions of the Committee, that English domiciled companies must go, it could not but give rise to a feeling of sadness, because these companies had done much in the past to establish Indian Railways on a sound basis. On the question of coal companies, Mills and Iron and Steel Companies being permitted to put privately owned wagons on the rails the President declared emphatically against the suggestions for a railway should never be saddled with such an incubus. He did not think that the representatives of industry and commerce who desired to be present at the Conference could assist the Conference much or themselves very much and emphasised that their absence would not prejudice the interests of industry and commerce in any way.

FROM PAGE ONE

Farmers in east see little hope in stir

Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are the other major States in a similar situation. On the other end of the spectrum, Punjab accounts for a whopping 27% of all procurement, and Haryana for 11%, while only being allocated 2% and 1% of grains under PDS respectively.

Madhya Pradesh, which has seen a major increase in buying by the government over the last few years, now accounts for 16% of national procurement, and only 6% of PDS allocations. States like Chhattisgarh and Odisha have a greater balance between their share of procurement and the grain allotted for PDS beneficiaries.

Different scales

"In Punjab and Haryana, farmers are protesting because they are experiencing the benefits of the MSP procurement system and are fighting so that it is not snatched away from them. But in other States, those who have joined the movement are fighting to get the benefits in the first place. So definitely, we cannot expect the same scale," said Hannan Mollah, general secretary of the All India Kisan Sabha, pointing out that although the MSP for paddy is set at ₹1,868 per quintal last year, most Bihar farmers were forced to sell at ₹1,500 per quintal.

"As long as the government is procuring at MSP rates in one place and then distributing the grains at subsidised PDS rates in another place, the prices will definitely be depressed in the second location," said Himanshu, an economist at the Jawaharlal Nehru University's Centre for Economic Studies and Planning.

tary Sirai Hussain, currently

Infra challenges Former Agriculture Secre-

a senior fellow at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, pointed out the infrastructural challenges hampering procurement in eastern States. "There is a shortage of the necessary warehouses and godowns needed to store procured grain. When Bihar dismantled the APMC mandi system in 2006, they failed to create any formal substitute for the marketing system," said Mr. Hussain who is also a former CMD of the Food Corporation of India. "BIS-COMAUN [Bihar's State Cooperative Marketing Unit1 is in a very bad shape financially, so farmers don't get paid on time. Apart from fiscal and physical infrastructure, the manpower needed is also not there," he added.

Dr. Himanshu pointed out that Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh provided positive models of what needs to be done.

"They have reformed their PDS system and revitalised decentralised procurement," he said, adding that there have been hurdles with getting the Centre to reimburse increased procurement due to bonuses offered by the States.

"When grain is procured locally, it helps the local farming community get fair prices, it cuts costs of storage and transport for the government, and it provides PDS beneficiaries with the kind of local variety of food grains they are most used to. This is the ideal," he added.

+ Power blackout fears misplaced: Centre

The daily average coal requirement at power plants is about 18.5 lakh tonnes whereas the daily coal supply has been around 17.5 lakh tonnes per day.

Heavy rains

Citing the heavy rains in coal field areas, the Ministry said the CIL was now supplying over 14 lakh tonnes a day to power plants which would increase to over 16 lakh tonnes by the end of October as the rains recede.

The Power Ministry said in a separate statement that domestic coal supply had sustained the power plant operations "despite heavy rains in August and September, steep hike in power demand due to economic recovery and increase in imported coal prices".

"All out efforts are being made to ensure full power supply to the DISCOMs as per requirements," the Mi-

nistry added. Taking special note of concerns raised by Delhi about the prospect of power supply disruptions in the capital, Mr. Singh had directed that distribution companies of Delhi would get 'as much as power as requisitioned by them as per their demand'.

'Give power to capital'

The Minister had directed the NTPC and the DVC to give full availability of power as per the needs of distribution companies, and advised GAIL India to provide gas from all sources to gasbased power plants in the

"If any DISCOM is found to resort to load-shedding despite being power available as per the PPA, action would be initiated against them," the Power Ministry

U.S. outlines a softer focus for Quad

Visiting U.S. Deputy Secretary of State clarified the track different from the security role for AUKUS

SUHASINI HAIDAR

The Quad is a "non-defence, non-military" arrangement, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman said during her visit to India and Pakistan last week, indicating at two separate interactions that the purpose of the Australia-India-Japan-U.S. grouping is meant to cooperate on what are considered "softer" issues.

"The Quad is [a] vehicle which largely operates in security realms that are nonmilitary, non-defence. Things we do together on vaccines, and infrastructure, supply chains, technology and climate - all the forward-thinking areas in which we need to gain confidence and ensure security for our people," Ms. Sherman said at an event organised by the think-tank Ananta Mumbai.

People-to-people ties

In an interview to Pakistan's official PTV, broadcast on Saturday as well, Ms. Sherman called the Quad "a cooperative effort to work on things like energy, people-to-people exchanges and infrastructure and supply chain resilience".



New alignments: Foreign Secretary Harsh V. Shringla with Wendy R. Sherman in New Delhi. • PTI

The comments by a senior U.S. official are the clearest signal yet that Washington has shifted its view of the Quad's agenda, particularly after the announcement of the new Australia-U.K.-U.S.. or AUKUS, alliance for nuclear submarines in the Indo-Pacific.

The announcement came just a week ahead of the first in-person Quad summit, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended in Washington in September.

In a briefing by the U.S. State Department at the time, a senior official said there was no "military dimension to it or security dimension" to the Quad, which was earlier called the "Quadrilateral Security Dialogue", calling it an "infor-

mal grouping" instead.

Indian officials said the imperatives of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the need for vaccines, technology, supply chain resilience and HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) operations, appear to have "clarified" the Biden administration's plans for the Quad.

"The Quad has not been downgraded, but we are seeing it being purposed differently from the AUKUS," said an official aware of the

Asked about the difference between the Quad and AUKUS at the Ananta interaction, Ms. Sherman replied that the two were noncompeting "pieces of a puz-

"AUKUS is a one-of-a-kind project, which will be a game changer in a maritime sense in this arena," Ms. Sherman said, speaking about the project for the U.S. and the U.K. to help Australia build a fleet of nuclear-propelled submarines "which are faster, harder to detect, more agile".

NEWS ANALYSIS

Former Indian Ambassador to China Gautam Bambawale, who had posed the question to Ms. Sherman, said that in his view, the U.S. position had not shifted.

"Quad may not be a military alliance, but it continues to undertake military activities like the Malabar Naval exercise," he told *The Hindu*, pointing out that the four-nation naval exercises will begin a second phase this week in the Bay of Bengal.

However, other analysts say the shift is perceptible, and that it could lead to more productive outcomes, given India's hesitation over joining any military forum in the Indo-Pacific.

Not containment

"This is not about containing China as much as it is about competing with China. The costs of containment, especially for countries like India, is too high," Rudra Chaudhuri, Director of Carnegie India, said.

Ms. Sherman's words during her visit were in stark contrast to those of Michael Pompeo, the U.S. Secretary of State during the Trump administration, during the Quad's Ministerial level meeting just a year ago.

"As partners in this Quad. it is more critical now than ever that we collaborate to protect our people and partners from the Chinese Communist Party's exploitation, corruption, and coercion. We've seen it in the south, in the East China Sea, the Mekong, the Himalayas, the Taiwan Straits," Mr. Pompeo said in his opening statement in Tokyo in September 2020, where he lashed out at the Chinese government's "authoritarian

CIC favours disclosure of **Bucher files**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The disclosure of files provided by India's second Army chief, General Sir Roy Bucher, to the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library on Jammu and Kashmir is in "national interest", the Central Information Commission (CIC) has observed in an order.

The files are related to the period of 1947-49 and may throw light on the Accession of J&K.

commission stopped short of ordering the disclosure of the documents, which are withheld under the directions of the External Affairs Ministry.

Information Commissioner Uday Mahurkar has instead asked the NMML's Central Public Information Officer "to take up the matter with higher officials" and "secure the necessary permission" before sharing the information with Right to Information (RTI) activist Venkatesh Nayak.

The highest adjudicating authority on RTI matters, the CIC, did not specify if the information can be disclosed if there is an objection from officials".

Group seeks probe into killings in J&K

It expresses solidarity with victims' kin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A Kashmir-based civil society organisation, the Group of Concerned Citizens, on Sunday condemned the growing civilian killings in the Valley and sought "a time-bound probe".

"Our group has expressed deep anguish and shock over the recent spate of killings in Kashmir, particularly the barbaric murders of M.L. Bindroo, Supinder Kaur and Deepak Chand. We also condemn the killing of a civilian who was shot dead by the security forces at a checkpoint in Anantnag," a spokesman of the civil society group said.

demics, businessmen, advocates, scientists and former

We urge the government to unmask the unknown murderers and bring them to iustice

GROUP OF CONCERNED CITIZENS

judges sought a time-bound judicial investigation into the "dastardly killings".

"We urge the government to unmask the unknown murderers and bring them to justice at the earliest. The group has expressed solidarity with the victim families and assured them full moral support," he added.

It denounced the "nefaed interest groups to create

India, China discuss disengagement

13th round of Corps Commander talks held at Moldo on the Chinese side

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India and China held the 13th round of Corps Commander talks on Sunday at Moldo on the Chinese side with focus on working out the third phase of disengagement from patrolling Point 15 in Hot Springs as part of overall disengagement and de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

The talks began around 10.30 a.m. and concluded at about 7 p.m., a defence official said.

The Indian side was led by the Army's Leh based 14 Corps Commander Lt. Gen. P.G.K. Menon. Details on the outcome of talks were not immediately available.

In addition to the overall



disengagement along the LAC in February. • AFP

agreed to work out new protocols for patrolling to en-

Series of meetings disengagement and de-esca- Since the stand-off began in

sure such instances do not

lation, the two sides had also May last year, the two sides area, China has set up tents stay too."

plomatic and military, and as part of agreements reached have undertaken disengagement from both sides of Pangong Tso in February and the Patrolling Point 17 at Gogra area in August. The other friction areas

have held a series of talks at

different levels, political, di-

that remain are Demchok and Depsang.

Officials said while an agreement for resolving Hot Springs is within reach, Demchok and Depsang are legacy issues and are tough to resolve.

While Demchok is one of the two mutually agreed disputed areas in Eastern Ladakh, Depsang is one of the eight friction points in the

In Demchok where there

on this side of the Charding

Ahead of the talks, speaking at an event on Saturday, Army Chief Gen. Manoj Naravane highlighted the largescale build-up as well as infrastructure development on the Chinese side.

Close watch

Gen. Naravane said if the People's Liberation Army continued to stay there through the second winter, it "definitely means that we will be in a kind of Line of Control (LoC) situation though not an active LoC as is there on the western front"

He further added, "So, it means that they (China) are there to stay. We are keeping a close watch on all these developments, but if they are are claims in the Charding La there to stay, we are there to

Issue white paper on evictions, Assam Government urged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A minority-based organisation in Assam has asked the State Government to issue a white paper on the eviction of farmers over the past five vears with all data pertaining to the displaced, land under encroachment and the area re-possessed.

The Assam Civil Society also sought to know how and where the evicted people have been rehabilitated be-

sides demanding the reopening of government-run schools and health centres in Darrang district's Dhalpur-Gorukhuti where an eviction drive on September 23 led to clashes and the death of two persons, including a minor.

"Farmers have invariably been the victims of eviction drives in Assam. The people have a right to know whether or not rules were followed during such drives, the reasons for eviction, district-

wise data on the people evicted with their names and addresses and their places of domicile before allegedly encroaching upon government land," Abdur Rahim Sheikh, society's general secretary, said. "The government should also provide details on the land under encroachment, how the re-possessed areas have been utilised and where the evicted people go. We need data on the rehabilitation of and compensation

to the evicted people, and how their families – especially the women and children – are being taken care of," he

Health and education

The society appealed to the Government to reopen a 30bed primary health centre and a primary school in the Dhalpur-Gorukhuti area. "Eviction notwithstanding, people cannot be denied access to health and educa-

tion," it said in a statement while expressing concern that the evicted people were not being allowed to move out of their 'enclosure'".

The State Committee of the Students' Federation of India too has drawn the attention of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR) to the blatant violation of child rights at Dhalpur.

State SFI secretary Nirangkush Nath said a delegation of the federation took note of the problems faced by the children and students of Dhalpur area after the violent eviction on September 23. "More than 1,000 families were affected by the eviction drive and almost every family had at least one child. After the drive, they were left without any place to take refuge. This makes children vulnerable and severely affects their mental health," he

Domestic travel takes off with festival season

Rail travel for first 8 days of October surpassed pre-COVID-19 levels; airports witness chaotic scenes

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

The festival season is upon us and domestic travel is speeding up. Rail bookings in October have surpassed pre-COVID-19 levels, and demand for air travel too has

recovered. Long queues, a crowded terminal building, machines breaking down, missed flights and frayed tempers this is how passengers described the scenes at the Mumbai airport last week. On Sunday, passengers posted photos on social media of the Delhi airport with serpentine queues at the entrance to the airport build-

Numbers tell the story behind these images.

As per data from the Indian Railways, net passenger booking (reserved) in the **Recovery track** Railway passenger numbers recovered and surpassed the prepandemic levels. Passenger traffic during the first eight days of October was up by 74% from

the corresponding po	the corresponding period in 2019							
Parameter	2021	2019	% change					
Passenger traffic (October 1 to 8)	2.26 cr.	1.3 cr.	74					
Net revenues (October 1 to 8)	1,066.85 cr.	745.66 cr.	43					
Net passengers booked (Oct. 8)	0.29 cr.	0.15 cr.	87					
Net revenues (Oct. 8)	136.79 cr.	87.7 cr.	56					
Average trains per day (Oct. 8)	1,768	1,701	4					

first eight days of October this year stood at 225.95 lakh, up nearly 74% from 130 lakh bookings in the same period of 2019. The Indian Railways' net revenues for the period under review also rose 43% to ₹1,066.85 crore as against ₹745.66 crore dur-

ing the first eight days of October 2019. As on October 8, the Indian Railways was running 1,701 mail/express trains daily on an average, including holiday specials, which is only marginally behind pre-COVID-19 average of 1,768 trains.

ing and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), the sole entity authorised to offer online ticket booking, has also seen average daily reservations cross 13 lakh in the first week of October as against the pre-COVID-19 average of 9 lakh reservations per day. An IRCTC official added that with the festive season beginning, the average daily figure is expected to increase to 14 lakh reservations.

The Indian Railway Cater-

The official said that when the company announced the recommencement of the 'Ramayana Yatra Train Tours', the entire train was booked within five days.

On Saturday, October 9, air travellers on domestic routes in India breached the 3-lakh mark. "October 9 saw 3,04,020 passengers, which is 71.5% of pre-COVID-19 [figures]. The last time the 3,00,000 mark was crossed was on February 28, 2021," says Ameya Joshi, founder of the aviation analysis blog Network Thoughts.

Both Delhi and Mumbai have announced their decision to reopen passenger terminal buildings they had closed because of the dip in traffic. Mumbai decided to reopen Terminal 2 from October 13 instead of October 20, and Delhi airport said it would resume flights from Terminal 1 from November 1.

The government, too, recently decided to remove the limits on the fares an airline can offer if a traveller is booking a ticket more than 15 days in advance. As a result, airfares tumble if travellers book well in advance. For example, a Delhi-Bengaluru flight that costs ₹7,422 on October 11 is priced at ₹3,170 on November 11.

NIA arrests 2 militants in searches in Valley

Case relates to recovery of IED

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out multiple searches in the Valley and arrested two people on Sunday, in a case related to the recovery of an improvised explosive device (IED) from a Lashkar-e-Taiba militant in Jammu in June.

"During searches, two operatives of The Resistance (TRF), Ahmed Wani from Baramulla and Faiz Ahmed Khan from Anantnag, have been arrested for their involvement in the conspiracy," an NIA spokesman said.

The searches were carried out in seven locations in Kulgam, Srinagar and Baramulla districts. Digital devices including mobiles, pen drives, data storage devices and other incriminating



Security personnel standing guard as the NIA carries out a search in Srinagar.

materials were also seized. "Investigation has revealed that Pakistan-based handlers of the LeT and their associates based in J&K had conspired to cause extensive terror activities for harming the general public. They had planned that responsibility for the terrorist acts so committed would be taken by the pseudo-acronym TRF," the spokesman

Earlier, three LeT terrorists were arrested in this case, the NIA said.

Three men arrested for links with IS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday arrested three persons over their alleged association with the banned terror organisation Islamic State (IS), an official said.

Those arrested are Ta-

wheed Latief, Suhail Ah-

mad and Afshan Parvez, all residents of Srinagar, said an NIA spokesperson. The agency said they had received information that the banned IS had hatched a conspiracy to

lim youth to act against the Their plan was to execute their nefarious design

radicalise and recruit Mus-

which involved supplementing their on-ground terror financing activities with a cyberspace campaign, the official said.

Lakhimpur taking on a religious turn'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BJP MP Varun Gandhi on Sunday warned against attempts to turn the Lakhimapur Kheri incident into a "Hindu vs Sikh battle", saying it is dangerous to create these fault lines and reopen wounds that have taken a generation to heal.

The Pilibhit MP, who was recently dropped from the BJP national executive, said the struggle for justice in Lakhimpur Kheri is about the "cruel massacre of poor farmers in the face of an arrogant local power elite", and the issue has no religious connotations.

"To use the word 'Khalistani' liberally to describe the protesting farmers is not only an insult to the generations of these proud sons of the Terai who have fought and shed blood on our borders, it is also extremely dangerous for our national unity," he said.

In a tweet, he said, "An attempt to turn Lakhimpur Kheri into a Hindu vs Sikh battle is being made. Not only is this an immoral & false narrative, it is dangerous reopen wounds that have taken a generation to heal. We must not put petty political gains above national unity."

There is consensus over Kalapani: ex-Nepal Minister

We are confident territorial dispute can be solved through dialogue, he says

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

Nepalese political parties have a general consensus over the fact that Kalapani in Uttarakhand is part of Nepal's sovereign territory, said former Foreign Minister Prakash Sharan Mahat.

Mr. Mahat blamed the previous government of Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli for not holding dialogue on this issue with India, and said the Nepali Congress (NC), which is leading the current coalition government steered by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, is interested for a national consultation on amending the constitution to reflect Nepal's Hindu identi-

"There is general consensus or common understanding across political parties over Kalapani. But we are confident that the territorial dispute can be solved through dialogue," said Mr. Mahat who is here leading a team of NC leaders to sustain conversation between India and Nepal.

Mr. Deuba replaced Mr. Oli in July after the Supreme Court dismissed Mr. Oli's government for decisions that

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra,

A.K. Antony, Ghulam Nabi

Azad and Adhir Ranjan

Chowdhury besides Mr.

Kharge, Mr. Venugopal and

broad day massacre of farm-

ers has shaken the con-

science of the entire nation.

Even more tragic are the

open warnings given by the

Union Minister of State

(MoS) for Home Affairs Ajay

Mishra Teni and the conse-

quent trampling of farmers

under a Thar Jeep owned by

the Minister and his family,"

Mr. Venugopal wrote in his

'Farmers, who were eve

October 9 letter.

"The shocking incident of

Mr. Gandhi.



Forging ties: Prakash Sharan Mahat meeting External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

violated the Constitution of Nepal. India-Nepal relations were disturbed during 2020 because of Mr. Oli's decision to include the Kalapani region in the map of Nepal but Mr. Mahat's comments show that Kathmandu's position on the dispute has remained unaffected by the change of government.

Mr. Mahat met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and BJP Foreign Affairs Cell's head Vijay Chauthaiwale. After meeting Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Mr. Mahat told The Hindu from Lucknow that Mr. Oli exploited the Kalapani dispute for his political gains. "We can resolve whatever issues are there like the

Kalapani problem or the border issues. Faithful discussion can resolve such things. At least we can start discussing these outstanding issues." The visit of the Mahatled delegation is aimed at

building closer working rela-

tions between the ruling par-

ties. Leading figures from

the NC and the BJP have

been discussing issues relat-

ed to the Constitution of Ne-

Shared values

pal adopted in 2015.

Mr. Mahat indicated that Nepal's cultural identity is also under discussion with the Indian side. "Nepal led by strong nationalism is a good thing that will help India. This is what Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath told me."

Nepal is overwhelmingly Hindu and its identity is rooted in Hinduism and Buddhism and there is no way that we can distance ourselves from these interconnected and ancient philosophies," said Mr. Mahat informing that there is a serious discussion within NC on this issue.

A section of the NC led by Shashank Koirala has been vocal about the need to declare the country a Hindu state. Mr. Mahat said Nepal's 2015 Constitution also took note of its ancient traditions and asked the state to protect "sanatana dharma". "But the Constitution did not mention the cultural identity clearly and therefore we have to develop a strong discussion within Nepal on how we can include that in it."

Indian officials and the visiting team also discussed the possibility of high-level visits and it is understood that such a visit is expected to take place soon. Mr. Deuba's Government is meant to remain in power till Nepal holds the general election in 2022 that Mr. Mahat hinted could be advanced.

Trinamool training its guns on Congress increasingly

Mamata bolstered by her successive victories in Bengal

SHIV SAHAY SINGH KOLKATA

After the resounding victory of the Trinamool Congress in the West Bengal Assembly polls in May 2021, the party has been trying to increase its presence in national politics.

The past few weeks have seen a new trend where the top Trinamool leadership is taking on an unlikely adversary, the Congress. Despite the meeting between Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee and Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on July 28 and the Congress not fielding a candidate against Ms. Banerjee in the Bhabanipur bypolls, the political targeting is hard to miss.

In the latest issue of Jago Bangla, the mouthpiece of the Trinamool Congress, Ms. Banerjee wrote an article "Dellir Daak (Delhi Calling)". The main thrust of the piece published on October 7 was reminding the Congress party that the Trinamool had defeated the BJP and the Congress had not.

"The Congress has failed to fight the BIP in Delhi. The last two Lok Sabha elections are an example of that. De-



Mamata Banerjee said the country was witness to Trinamool's win over BJP.

velopments like this have demoralised people," the West Bengal Chief Minister wrote.

"In the recent West Bengal election, the whole country has witnessed how the Trinamool Congress defeated the BJP which came to West Bengal with all its force," she noted.

This is not the first time that the Trinamool leadership has taken on the Congress in the past few weeks. Several other pieces in Jago Bangla have targeted the grand old party.

In the last week of September, a number of leaders from the Congress party in Goa joined the Trinamool.

Trinamool party general

leader Rahul Gandhi for a remark that the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh had allowed leaders of the Trinamool Congress to visit Lakhimpur Kheri while Congress leaders were stopped. The Trinamool leadership was quick to react, stating

that its delegation of MPs

was the first at the spot of

strife and they had managed

to get there by eluding the

secretary Abhishek Banerjee

said that the Trinamool has

fought the BJP on the streets

and advised the Congress to

stop being "armchair war-

riors" and took to the

The Trinamool leadership

has also targeted Congress

streets.

police. On its part, the Congress has said that there was not much of a difference between the BJP and the Trinamool. Congress leader Adhir Ranian Chowdhury held a press conference on October 8 and accused the Trina-

mool of trying to "kill the

Congress politically". "Modi wants a Congressfree India and Mamata Banerjee wants a Congress-free West Bengal. We don't find much difference between the two," he said.

Congress plans to meet President

7-member team seeks appointment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Congress party has written to President Ram Nath Kovind, seeking time for a seven-member party delegation that wants to submit a "memorandum of facts" on the Lakhimpur Kheri incident that left eight people, including four farm-

"Congress delegation led @RahulGandhi has sought an appointment with @rashtrapatibhvn to present a memorandum of facts about the murder of farmers in Lakhimpur," Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge tweeted on Sunday.

"Minister Ajay Mishra and his son are being protected by BJP govt. We will not rest till we get justice for farmers," he added while tagging general secretary (organisations) K.C. Venugopal's letter to the President.

The seven member delegation would comprise of

Priyanka on the front foot in U.P.

Her meeting with Lakhimpur Kheri victims is a fillip for Cong. ahead of polls

SANDEEP PHUKAN

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's Kisan Nyay (justice for farmers) rally on Sunday in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi has been the high point of a hectic political week.

She was among the first few Opposition leaders who tried to reach Lakhimpur Kheri in the aftermath of the death of eight persons on October 3, and visuals of her fiercely arguing with Uttar Pradesh policemen, while being detained at Sitapur, prompted party colleagues to call it her "Indira Gandhi" moment.

Appointment of Sidhu

witnesses, have openly stated that they were run over The comparison, perhaps, by vehicle being driven by provided her some relief as the son of the Union Minisshe was being questioned for ter. Despite all-around protplaying a key role in backing ests and intervention of the the elevation of Navjot Singh Supreme Court, no decisive Sidhu as the president of Punjab Pradesh Congress action has been taken either against the guilty or against Committee. The move, mathe Minister," he further adny argued, was aimed at preventing Mr. Sidhu from walk-



Boost in prospects: Privanka Gandhi Vadra being felicitated during 'Kisan Nyay' rally in Varanasi on Sunday. • PTI

ing over to the Aam Admi Party (AAP) that is gaining ground in Punjab's politics.

Though the Congress says it's a "sin" to link Lakhimpur Kheri with next year's Assembly polls in U.P., the par ty will certainly hope that the incident gives it a muchneeded momentum on the ground.

"People looking for a quick, spontaneous revival of GOP-led Opposition based on #LakhimpurKheri incident are setting themselves up for a big disappointment," election strategist Prashant Kishor tweeted on Friday, adding that the GOP [grand old party, a term for the Congress] faces "deep-

NEWS ANALYSIS

rooted problems and structural issues".

"Prashant Kishor is new to politics and hasn't seen phenomena like N.T. Rama Rao sweeping the polls within months of forming Telugu Desam Party. Just one moment can change an election," counters senior Congress leader from Bihar, Kishore Kumar Jha.

Many, including Mr. Kishor, while advising the Congress during the 2017 U.P. Aselections, put forward the argument of the Congress trying to reach out to Brahmins, who make up the third largest group after Jatavs and Yadavs.

"It's a reality of politics that votes are mobilised along caste lines. Along with Dalits and minorities, we need to regain the votes of the Brahmins," adds Mr. Jha.

However, a CSDS-Lokniti study of the post poll trends of the 2019 Lok Sabha found that 82% of Brahmins voted in favour of the BJP.

Desertions by prominent Brahmin faces like Jitin Prasada and Laliteshpati Tripathi, have further dented the party's prospects. Once considered a 'trump card', Ms. Vadra now clearly faces a huge challenge to build the party organisation in a State where the Congress has not been a major player since

'Govt. tried to save Minister's son'

Priyanka says PM overlooked farmers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday accused the government of the bid to save a Union minister's son in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case and said except BJP leaders and their "billionaire friends" nobody is safe in the country.

The Congress leader also attacked the Prime Minister, saying he travels across the country and abroad but did not have time to talk to farmers protesting over the Centre's farm laws, just at a distance of 10 minutes from his residence.

The PM recently visited Lucknow for an exhibition but could not reach Lakhimpur Kheri, a distance of just two hours, to wipe the tears of farmers, who gave freedom to the country, she said.

"In this country, the son of the (Union) Minister of State for Home crushed

the government was trying to save him," the Congress leader alleged. Nowhere in the world would the police invite a murder accused for interrogation, she said.

Ms. Vadra said people

State, be it from Sonbhadra (where 13 tribals were killed), Hathras or even Lakhimpur Kheri, said they do not want compensation but justice, of which they have

About the farmers' protest, she said, "Farmers are protesting against farm laws for the past 10 months and 600 of them have lost their

men are feeling harassed. she claimed.

caste and religion, they are not safe, the Congress leader alleged.

SKM issues ultimatum to Centre, U.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Samvukt Kisan Morcha on Sunday "warned" the Centre and the Uttar Pradesh Governments that its deadline to sack and arrest Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra ends on October 11 failing which it will start phase-wise protests against the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

Earlier this week, the SKM had issued an ultimatum, asking the government to act against MoS Home Ajay Mishra by October 11 failing which they would start a phase-wise programme as part of their protest.

"Justice clearly getting compromised because Ajay Mishra is in a Minister's post in the Union Government," said SKM, an umbrella body of 40 farmer unions spearheading the anti-farm laws agitation. "The SKM warns the Government of India and Uttar Pradesh Government that time is running out on the deadline of October 11. Ajay Mishra's arrest and dismissal are awaited in addition to arrests of all culprits in Lakhimpur Kheri massacre," it added.

Akhilesh launches SP's campaign for U.P. polls

'Farmers saved the syncretic character of the region'

GHAZIABAD

Launching the Samajwadi Party's (SP) poll campaign, party president Akhilesh Yaday said on Sunday that if the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was not voted out, it would "trample upon the Constitution as it has mowed down [the demands] of farmers in the last one vear".

"The three farm laws came into being because the BJP won Uttar Pradesh," he said, while addressing a massive rally in Saharanpur in western U.P. "It is not going to be an ordinary election. It will decide the destiny of the country, the future of the youth," he empha-

Yashpal Singh event

Talking about the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, Mr. Yadav said "scriptures tell us that no arrogant ruler survived the wrath of the pu-

The rally was organised in the Tintro area of the district to mark the birth centenary of the Samajwadi



speaking at an event in Saharanpur on Sunday. •PTI

Party's vice-president and prominent farmer leader Yashpal Singh, who belonged to the Gurjar community. The location assumes significance as, after the Samrat Mihir Bhoj statue controversy, the community had shown ire towards the

ruling party.

Mr. Yadav said the BJP government wanted to diminish the "Ganga-Jamuna identity" of the region. "I would like to thank the farmers' movement for salvaging the syncretic character of the region despite being humiliated and called names. They have risen above the

caste and religious identities," he said. Providing a sense of the

alliance in the upcoming polls, Mr. Yadav recalled how the SP joined forces with Rashtriya Lok Dal to defeat the BJP in the Kairana Lok Sabha bypoll in 2018. Charging the BJP with

selling national assets, he said a day could come when the party would outsource governance as well. He took on the Central Government on rising pe-

trol-diesel prices, non-payment of sugarcane dues, raging unemployment, and unkept promises.

Omar Abdullah's close aide Rana quits party

Two NC members put in papers

PEERZADA ASHIO

Two senior National Conference (NC) leaders, including the political adviser of its vice-president Omar Abdullah, resigned from the party on Sunday, in what is the first major split within the party in the Jammu province since the Centre ended J&K's special constitutional position in 2019.

Mr. Abdullah's close aide and former legislator Devender Singh Rana and exlegislator Surjeet Singh Salathia submitted their resignations to party president Farooq Abdullah.

"The resignations were accepted," an NC spokesman said.

These resignations have come at a time when the BIP is galvanising its support to have a Hindu Chief Minister from the Jammu province whenever the next Assembly elections are held.

Mr. Rana has kept his cards close to his chest on whether he will join the BJP or cobble together an amalgam of political parties from Iammu.

"I vow to pursue the Jammu declaration, a political road map emanating from

Jammu, religiously and resolutely to retrieve the glorious ethos of inclusive J&K to its pristine glory again. Nothing will deter me in realising this objective," Mr. Rana said.

'Appeasement tactic'

He said fair play and justice should not only be the bedrock of the political system but even the perception of one being appeased at the cost of another due to politico-strategic expediency should also become an imperative of the past, in an indirect reference to the Kashmir-based parties. "The Jammu region has hugely suffered on all these counts over the decades," he ad-

ded. Mr. Rana recently met Dogra Swabhiman Sangthan chief and ex-MP Choudhary Lal Singh and former Peoples Democratic Party leader Surinder Choudhary, in an apparent bid to rope in their support too for a Jammu-centric political platform.

Mr. Rana is also the brother of senior BJP leader Jitendra Singh, who serves as Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office.

farmers under his car but

should compel those in power to give justice. She also said families of aggrieved people in the

no hope.

Farmers, Dalits and wo-

People may belong to any

20/10/2021 at 1200 Hrs ANDHRA PRADESH MARITIME BOARD 🥧 1st Floor, Port Admin. Building, Kakinada-533007.

NOTIFICATION FOR e-TENDER CUM REVERSE TENDER

APMB is planning to develop Greenfield Port at Bhayanapadu in the State of Andhra Pradesh on EPC & Reverse Tendering basis. e-Tender cum Reverse Tendering Notice No.7/SE/DB/2021-22 for development of Greenfield Port at Bhavanapadu in Srikakulam District in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The e-Tender cum Reverse Tenders can be downloaded from the websit https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/ from 11.10.2021 and for further details can be had from the undersigned. Contact Ph: 94408 97595

DIPR 419PP/CL, Dt: 08-10-2021 Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Marine), APMB, Kakinada

राजस्थान सरकार

निदेशालय चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं, राजस्थान, जयपुर

पएनजेवाई/ टेलीरेडियोलॅजी/2021-22/ 813 संशोधित ई-निविदा सुचना राज्य के 53 जिला/उपजिला/सेटेलाइट चिकित्सालय में एक्स-रे जांचों की रिपोर्ट को टेलीरेडियोलॉजी के माध्यम से आउटसॉसिंग के माध्यम से करवाये जाने हेतु जारी ई-टेंडर निविदा क्रमांक एफ04()एमएनजेवाई/ टेलीरेडियोलॉजी/ 2021-22/785 दिनांक 27.09.21 में ई-निविदा फार्म अपलोड करने एवं तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की दिनांक को निम्न प्रकार संशोधि किया जाता है :-

Previous Time and Revised Time and Dates 11.10.21 till 5.00 PM | 18.10.21 till 5.00 PM Last date for Submission of Bids download and upload Original Bank draft/Banker 12.10.21 till 11.30 20.10.21 at 11.30 AM cheque received upto 12.10.21 at 12.30 PM | 20.10.21 at 12.30 PM Opening of tender

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निदेशक (जन स्वास्थ्य)

3 metros witness faster COVID-19 spread: study

'R-value of Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru is above 1'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai's R-value, which reflects how rapidly the CO-VID-19 pandemic is spreading, increased to over 1 at the end September, according to researchers at the Chennaibased Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

The Reproduction number or R refers to how many people an infected person infects on an average. An Rvalue smaller than 1 means the disease is spreading slowly. Conversely, if R is greater than 1, the number of infected people is increasing in each round - technically, this is what is called the epidemic phase.

The R-value of Mumbai was 0.70 between August 10 and 13. It rose to 0.95 between August 13 and 17, went up further to 1.09 between August 25 and September 18, and dropped to 0.95 between September 25 and 27. However, it again rose to 1.03 between September 28



A health worker collecting a sample for COVID testing.

and 30, the researchers said. The increase in the R-value of Mumbai comes at a time when the number of COVID-19 cases in the city have seen an upward trend.

The city logged 629 new cases on October 6, the highest after July 14 when it had recorded 635 cases. From October 7, the first day of the nine-day Navaratri festival. the Maharashtra government allowed reopening of religious places in the State.

However, Mumbai seems better placed than Kolkata and Bengaluru. The R-value of Kolkata has been over 1 since August and was 1.06 between September 29 and October 4. The R-value of Bengaluru remained close to 1 in the last month and was 1.05 between September 28 and October 1, as per the study. "If you look at these cities, you see that things aren't that rosy. At least three of the metros (Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru) have R greater than 1 or very close to 1," said Sitabhra Sinha, who is leading the research at the institute.

Also, some cities exhibit large fluctuations. For example, Delhi had R-value greater than 1 between September 27 and 30, but less than 1 between September 30 and October 4, he said.

"Things can switch very quickly from good to bad in smaller regions, because of the higher degree of variability when you are dealing with smaller populations, so it is difficult yet to say whether we are finally seeing the end game," Mr. Sinha said.

Death stalks villages in Odisha's Keonjhar

Lives are lost near one of the State's richest iron ore reserves to poverty, poor nutrition and pollution

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

Over the past few months, Sukurmani Munda, a 31year-old tribal woman in Rugudisahi, a dusty hamlet near Keonjhar's Gandhamardan mines, one of the biggest iron ore mines in Odisha, has been suffering from persistent cough and bouts of fever.

A few houses away, Raiba ri Munda (25), too, showed similar symptoms and lost weight rapidly before she passed away a week ago.

Tala Munda, a 46-year-old neighbour of Raibari, also died a couple of months ago after being "reduced to a pack of bones"

Ms. Sukurmani says she cannot sleep thinking of the terrible end that awaits her like it does other people in Rugudisahi and its neighbouring villages. In Uppar Kainsari village, 10 people have reportedly died with identical symptoms since 2020, while Salarapenth, another village close by, has seen two such deaths.

Though the District Headquarters Hospital is just 15



Water woes: The stream in a village in Keonjhar district has turned reddish-brown due to iron ore dust. • BISWARANAN ROUT

km away, most villagers are unable to afford losing a day's wage to travel for treat-

Big mining

Near the villages, iron ore is scooped up every day by the large earth excavators of the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) – lease holder of the Gandhamardan iron ore mines and the largest profitmaking public sector undertaking in the State. But little has changed in the lives of tribals like Ms. Sukurmani who live in the area. By one conservative estimate, iron

ore worth ₹5,000 crore has been excavated from the Gandhamardan mines in the last five years.

"We survive only on pakhala (fermented rice in water) throughout the year. The only other dish that we can afford is a preparation of arum leaves," said Ms. Su-

While the land beneath their feet is a massive iron reserve, Rugudisahi's villagers are unable to even meet basic needs. The village does not have an anganwadi. This year, six students in Rugudisahi started herding goats after dropping out of school. Iron ore dust mixes into the stream in which villagers bathe. The water is reddish

Pollution worries

Keonjhar MLA Mohan Majhi, who visited Raibari before her death, thinks she might have succumbed to tuberculosis. "Lack of access to safe drinking water, and pollution caused by iron ore mining, are the major reasons behind people dying early. Untimely deaths have been occurring among tribal families who live around iron ore mines in the district. I had requested the district administration to send mobile health units for treating villagers, but there has been no response. People are left to die while the government exchequer is full with cash," alleged Mr. Majhi.

However, Ashok Kumar Das, Chief District Medical Officer, Keonjhar, said, "These villages have been the special focus of the district health administration. We have invariably found high liquor consumption by tribal people, which could be one of reasons behind early deaths. Due to social stigma and low awareness level, they don't approach hospitals in the first place. After the situation worsens, they come to the hospital."

Dr. Das said a health survey was conducted in different villages but extensive prevalence of tuberculosis was ruled out.

Kiran Shankar Sahu, president of the Keonjhar Citizen Forum, laments that not even a tiny fraction of the profit earned by mining companies in Keonjhar has percolated down to the district's poorest people.

"In 2017, the Supreme Court ordered the levy of fines on miners for the violation of environmental laws. Accordingly, the ₹17,000 crore fund of the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation came into being. It was mandated that the funds should be spent on mining affected people. However, a sizeable amount of the fund is lying unutilised," Mr. Sahu al-

85 HIV cases in 2 Assam jails in a month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of two jails in central Assam's Nagaon district have detected 85 human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) positive cases in about a month.

The cases were reported from the Central Jail and the Special Jail, both in district headquarters Nagaon, about 125 km east of Guwa-

According to Atul Pator, district Joint Director of Health Services, most of the inmates had contracted the virus before they were put behind bars. "The disease in them was detected a few days ago," he said.

Officials said the patients, mostly intravenous drug users, were arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

"Forty cases were detected at the Central Jail," jailer Prabin Hazarika said, denying the possibility of those found positive infecting others. He also denied allegations that the infected inmates were getting access to drugs.

Officials of the Special Jail said they detected 45 HIV positive cases

Nagaon Superintendent of Police Anand Mishra said, "The jail authorities should be vigilant about the inmates getting access to drugs. The police recently arrested a pharmacist."

ACROSS

1 Complete jerk in love with heartless gal (8)

10 Director seen in Tarantino landmarks (5)

14 Port does trading with South Africa (6)

12 Restrain China anyhow (5)

6 Relative value of speaking without extremes (5)

11 A film many adapted for a hit web series (6,3)

13 Willing help said to be available immediately (9)

Danish day out



Agra on Sunday. "This place is beautiful," Ms. Frederiksen wrote in the visitors' book. •AFP

Govt. allows export of Sputnik Light

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The government has permitted the export of Russia's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik Light, domestically produced here, as the jab has not yet been approved for emergency use in India, sources said on Sunday.

Indian drug firm Hetero

Biopharma Limited has been allowed to export 40 lakh doses of Sputnik Light to Russia, the sources said.

Sputnik Light is the same as component-1 of the Russian vaccine Sputnik V, which is being used in India's anti-COVID inoculation programme after getting emergency use authorisation from India's drug regulator in April. The Russian Ambassador had urged the Indian government to allow the export of Sputnik Light produced by Hetero Biopharma, one of the partners of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) in the production of the jab, to his

In a communication to the Centre, Russian Ambas-

SCAN TO PLAY

sador Nikolay Kudashev had stated that Hetero Biopharma Limited had manufactured one million doses of Component 1 of Sputnik V and two million doses of the Sputnik Light but the sixmonth shelf life of the vaccine could expire before its registration which would result in the wastage of vaccine doses, sources said.

New MoD complexes designed to be eco-friendly: architects

Rainwater harvesting, wastewater treatment incorporated

DINAKAR PERI

The two new office complexes of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) that were inaugurated recently as part of the Central Vista redevelopment are state-of-the-art and energy-efficient, with comprehensive security management measures, according to the construction firm GPM Architects & Planners, which executed the project.

"One of the defining features is the use of new and sustainable construction technology called LGSF [light gauge steel frame] which reduced construction time to 10 months in comparison to conventional reinforced cement concrete [RCC] construction," GPM said, elaborating on the series of environment-friendly measures incorporated into the buildings. "A non-polluting, dry construction method is used to make its execuenvironmentally friendly," it stated.

The two complexes at Kasturba Gandhi Marg and Africa Avenue constructed at a combined cost of ₹775 crore have a built-up area of 93,000 sq.m. and were inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month. Over 7,000 employees of the MoD will soon move to the new complexes from existing hutments and old



Green push: The new office complexes of the Ministry of Defence that were inaugurated recently. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

buildings around South Block and North Block.

To reduce the construction time, pre-engineered structural members such as structural steel columns and beams were used, GPM said. The building facade was designed to be dynamic with the use of ventilated terracotta tiles to provide thermal comfort. "Being a low maintenance material, it provides acoustic insulation from outside which reduces noise levels up to 15%," it stated.

Terracotta facade

GPM further said: "The terracotta facade reduces solar heat gain, reducing air conditioning load and saving energy by 30%. The main grid is connected to solar panels of 520 kWp capacity and the solar energy generated is used for solar-supported street lights." Additionally, the use of occupancy sensor-based

lighting systems and air conditioning systems saves unwanted wastage of electricity, reducing energy consumption, it said.

A Central Public Works Department (CPWD) certified green building, the complex has large clear glazed windows to bring in natural light and air quality monitoring devices to keep the air quality in check, GPM said.

The other sustainable practices incorporated are rainwater harvesting and treatment of wastewater.

GPM said that part of the treated wastewater was utilised for flushing, using dual plumbing systems, and gardening, while the surplus was supplied to the New Delhi Municipal Council.

GPM said an integrated command and control centre had been established for managing building operations, while also catering to the endto-end safety and surveillance

THERES | SWORD + 13374 | Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids:

15 Meditating macho-man and feminine energy merging ultimately (8) 17 Proof that devil essentially is thick, as many say (8)

Display keystrokes of genius.

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

21 Candy's doubly good in Paris (6) 25 New hot poets composing extempore (2,3,4)

26 Gates kind of reasoning (5)

27 Settler, one who pretends to guard our borders (9) 28 Work naked perhaps (5)

29 Instructions to turn the clock back (5) **30** Farewell, for example on a road, seen occassionally (8)

2 Disrepute of the Italian family partly protected by the French (3,4)

3 On-line models on small weather patterns (7)

4 University shoes (6) **5** GST has confused many – one has to twist, turn and somersault to get

through (7) 6 Communicated about abnormal delay (7)

7 Victim panics a little, gets beaten by sticks, makes rolling sound (7) 8 Grains for cat (5)

9 Passionately enacted love story (8)

16 Leaders of German establishment coined new term for ethnic cleansing (8) 18 I'm following the Milan club for the time being (7)

19 Sadly, it's glee for a poet (7)

20 Top layers of company messages (7)

22 Something waterproof that spoils kingfisher nests (7) 23 Phone tap on Yogi, for instance would create a long-term problem

24 Rust formed on dry edges is very hard (6) **25** Unacceptable royal proposal (5)

SUDOKU



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FAITH

Ramayana avatara

The first major festival that we celebrate with the birth of the New Year, according to the Hindu almanac, is Sri Rama Navami. That is the avatara day of Rama. There is a Veda vakva that says Citra Paurnami marks the mukha (commencement) of the samvatsara (year), said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar in a discourse. In the same way, we can say that Sri Rama Navami marks the beginning of a year of joyous festivals, which offer us a chance to give thanks to the Supreme One.

The significance of the Rama avatara lies mainly in the fact, that as Rama, He showed us that adherence to dharma was of the utmost importance. He could have taken any kind of avatara. Did He not take the unusual man lion form in the Narasimha avatara? But He chose to come as a human being in the Rama avatara to show us that it is not impossible for humans to keep to the path of righteousness. It may not be an easy path. But one must not waver. Just as Rama never for a moment thought of moving away from the path of dharma, so too must we never think of moving from the path of dharma.

Vedanta Desika prays that Rama, the embodiment of dharma, must keep him from doing anything that is adharmic. While it is true that Rama kept to dharma, His message would not have reached us but for Valmiki's Ramayana. Therefore, the Ramayana is of as much importance as the hero whose story it presents. The Ramayana too is an avatara. Rama is an avatara of Lord Narayana. Likewise, Valmiki's Ramayana is an avatara of the Vedas. Just as Rama drew everyone through His saulabhya, so does the Ramayana draw us. The Vedas are not understood by all, but the Ramayana is easier to follow. The Vedas command; but the Ramayana advises us gently, like a good friend or a beloved wife.

Taiwan won't bow to China's pressure: Tsai

We will do our best to prevent the status quo from being unilaterally altered, says the President

ANANTH KRISHNAN

Taiwan President Tsai Ingwen said on Sunday Taiwan will not "bow to pressure" and would "resist annexation", speaking amid rising tensions with China and a day after Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to realise "complete reunification".

Ms. Tsai, during her National Day address in Taipei, said Taiwan's "position on cross-strait relations remains the same: neither our goodwill nor our commitments will change." "We call for maintaining the status quo, and we will do our utmost to prevent the status quo from being unilaterally altered," she said, adding that "resolving cross-strait differences requires the two sides of the strait to engage in dialogue on the basis of parity."

Aerial intrusion

"We hope for an easing of cross-strait relations and will not act rashly, but there should be absolutely no illusions that the Taiwanese people will bow to pressure," Ms. Tsai said.

The status quo has been coming under stress, with



Increasing pressure: Tsai Ing-wen speaking during the National Day celebration in Taipei on Sunday. • REUTERS

China's air force in recent days carrying out a series of aerial intrusions into Taiwan's Air Defence Identification Zone, with a record 38 aircraft on October 1, when China marked its National Day, followed by 39 on October 2 and 56 on October 4. Taiwan's Defence Minister described the current tensions as the worst in 40

Mr. Xi on Saturday vowed that "reunification will be realised" and warned against any "external interference" on the Taiwan question, which is among the issues

straining China-U.S. ties. He was speaking in Beijing a day ahead of October 10, which is marked in Taiwan as its National Day and celebrated in China as the anniversary of the 1911 Xinhai Revolution, which led to the fall of the Qing Dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China (ROC). Following the Chinese Civil War, Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang fled to Taiwan and declared Taipei as the ROC's capital in 1949, while Mao Zedong's Communist Party esta-

blished the People's Repu-

blic of China. The Commu-

nist Party still views Taiwan as its "province" and has pledged "reunification" as its

Charting its own course Ms. Tsai said Taiwan "will continue to bolster our national defence and demonstrate our determination to defend ourselves in order to ensure that nobody can force Taiwan to take the path China has laid out for us." 'This is because the path that China has laid out offers neither a free and democratic way of life for Taiwan, nor sovereignty for our 23 million people," she said.

On the aerial intrusions, Ms. Tsai said "the routinisation of Chinese military activity in Taiwan's southwestern air defense identification zone has seriously affected both our national security and aviation safety." "The situation in the Indo-Pacific region is becoming more tense and complex by the day. After taking complete control of Hong Kong and suppressing democracy activists, the Beijing authorities also shifted away from the path of political and economic development that they had followed

since 'reform and opening up' began decades ago. At the same time, regional order is being challenged in the South and East China Seas,"

She called on the people of Taiwan to 'renew with one another our enduring commitment to a free and democratic constitutional system" as well as a "commitment to resist annexation or encroachment sovereignty.'

The Taiwan President also highlighted Taiwan's importance in supply chains underscored by the global shortage of semiconductor chips, as well as its geopolitical importance because of "a changing situation in the Indo-Pacific." She referred specifically to the Quad - the India, Australia, U.S., Japan grouping - among those paying attention to the security situation the strait, saving that "the G7, NATO, EU, and Quad have all highlighted the importance of peace and security in the Taiwan Strait, while expressing concern over whether China may unilaterally undermine the status quo of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region."

Scientist behind Pak. nuclear bomb, A.Q. Khan, passes away

He was accused of trading nuclear secrets with Iran, N. Korea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD

Abdul Qadeer Khan, the disgraced atomic scientist known as the 'father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb' under the clandestine enrichment programme and infamous for his controversial role in nuclear proliferation, died here on Sunday after a brief illness. He was 85.

Khan, who was born in 1936 in Bhopal and migrated to Pakistan along with his family after the Partition in 1947, breathed his last at about 7 a.m. (local time) at the Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) Hospital - the medical facility named after him. He was earlier discharged from a military hospital in Rawalpindi after undergoing treatment for COVID-19.

Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed said that all efforts were made to save his life.

"The Prime Minister has directed to bury Dr. Qadeer with full (state) honours," Mr. Rashid said, adding that the Pakistan flag shall fly at half-mast on Sunday.

A.Q. Khan

Prime Minister Imran Khan said that he was "deeply saddened by the passing of Dr AQ Khan".

"He was loved by our nation bec of his critical contribution in making us a nuclear weapon state. This has provided us security against an aggressive much larger nuclear neighbour. For the people of Pakistan he was a national icon (sic)," he said in a tweet.

Khan, considered as the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, is revered at home as a hero. He was also called a man who built the Muslim world's first atomic bomb.

The nuclear physicist was

disgraced in 2004 when he was forced to acknowledge responsibility for nuclear technology proliferation and was forced to live a life of official house arrest.

Khan was accused by the U.S. of sharing nuclear technology with North Korea and Iran.

The U.S. State Department said in 2009 that Khan had run an "extensive international network for the proliferation of nuclear equipment and know-how that provided 'one stop shopping' for countries seeking to develop nuclear weapons." This network's actions had "irrevocably changed the proliferation landscape and have had lasting implications for international security," it said.

According to an article dated January 31, 2018 published in the Foreign Policy magazine, "Khan built a clandestine global network that increased the danger of a nuclear catastrophe. Worse, he was never forced to identify the participants in his black market."

16 parachutists killed in Russian plane crash

The aircraft hit a parked van while attempting to land after engine failure



Tragic end: The L-410 plane after it crashed near the town of Menzelinsk, about 960 km east of Moscow, on Sunday. • AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sixteen people were killed when a plane crashed in central Russia on Sunday, the Emergencies Ministry said.

The L-410 plane, owned by Menzelinsk club that organises skydiving experiences, was carrying 22 parachutists when it crashed near the town of Menzelinsk in the Republic of Tatarstan, the Ministry said. "Six people were rescued, 16 were taken out without signs of life," it added.

Tatarstan head Rustam Minnikhanov said pilots had reported an engine failure and requested an emergency landing shortly after taking off. He said the plane tried to avoid a nearby residential area as it approached for landing but "the altitude didn't allow it". The plane hit a parked van with its wing and the aircraft turned

Iran makes 20% more enriched uranium

The country was prohibited from enriching uranium above 3.67% under a 2015 deal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran has produced more than 120 kg of 20% enriched uranium, the country's nuclear chief said, far more than what the UN nuclear watchdog reported last month.

Mohammad Eslami said in an interview with state TV late on Saturday that under the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, the other signatories were to provide Iran with 20% enriched uranium needed for its research reac-

"But it was not delivered," he said. "If we did not produce it by ourselves this would have turned into one of our problems."

Under the terms of the nuclear deal, Iran was prohibited from enriching uranium above 3.67% with the exception of its research reactor activities. Enriched uranium above 90% can be used in a nuclear weapon.

In September, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched to up to 20% fissile purity was estimated at 84.3 kg up from 62.8 kg three months earlier.

Scientists estimate that at least 170 kg of enriched uranium is needed to make a bomb.

The nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, mits on its nuclear programme, and is meant to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear bomb. Tehran insists its pro-

promises Iran economic in-

centives in exchange for li-

gramme is peaceful.

The U.S. unilaterally pulled out of the deal in 2018 under then-President Donald Trump, but Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia have tried to preserve the accord.



replace embattled Kurz

Austria's Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg on Sunday said an "enormously challenging task" awaited him after embattled Chancellor Sebastian Kurz named him as his successor in a spectacular leadership change in the EU member. Kurz announced on Saturday that he was stepping down as Chancellor over a corruption scandal. AFP

Gunmen kill 19 traders in Nigeria market raid

Gunmen opened fire on a market in northwest Nigeria. killing at least 19 people, officials and local residents said on Sunday. Northwest and central Nigeria are plagued by criminal gangs of cattle thieves, who raid villages, killing and abducting residents as well as looting and burning homes. AFP

Iraqis vote in general election, a test for democratic system

Populist Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr expected to come first

Iraqis were voting on Sunday in a general election many said they would boycott, having lost faith in the de-

armed and Shia Islamistdominated ruling elite is expected to sweep the vote.

The U.S., Arab countries and Israel on one side and Iran on the other compete for influence in Iraq, which has provided a gateway for Tehran to support militia proxies in Syria and Lebanon.

At least 167 parties and over 3,200 candidates are competing for 329 seats in



Election Commission.

Washington is removing all U.S. troops from Iraq as part of a deal with the Iraqi government, although the move keeps most of its 2,500 troops in the country in non-combat roles, accord-

down troop levels came under pressure from Iraq's dominant Shia parties, many of them backed by Iran, which

called for the removal of U.S. forces after the U.S. killing of Iran's top military commander, Qassem Soleimani, in Baghdad in 2020.

The populist Shia cleric

Kadhimi, widely viewed as Western-friendly, cast his ballot as soon as polls opened. "I call on Iraq people: there's still time. Go out and vote for Iraq and vote for your future," he said.

Mr. Kadhimi's government called the vote several months early in response to the demands of anti-establishment protests in 2019 that toppled the previous

mocratic system brought in Muqtada al-Sadr, who opby the U.S. invasion of 2003. poses all foreign influence The election is being held and is a rival of the Iranseveral months early under aligned Shia groups, is exa new law designed to help pected to come first in the A man carrying a child casts independent candidates - a his vote at a polling station election. He has also called foreign troops to response to mass anti-goin Sadr City. ■ REUTERS vernment protests two years withdraw. Prime Minister Mustafa alago. But the established, Parliament, according to the

ing to U.S. officials. The decision to draw

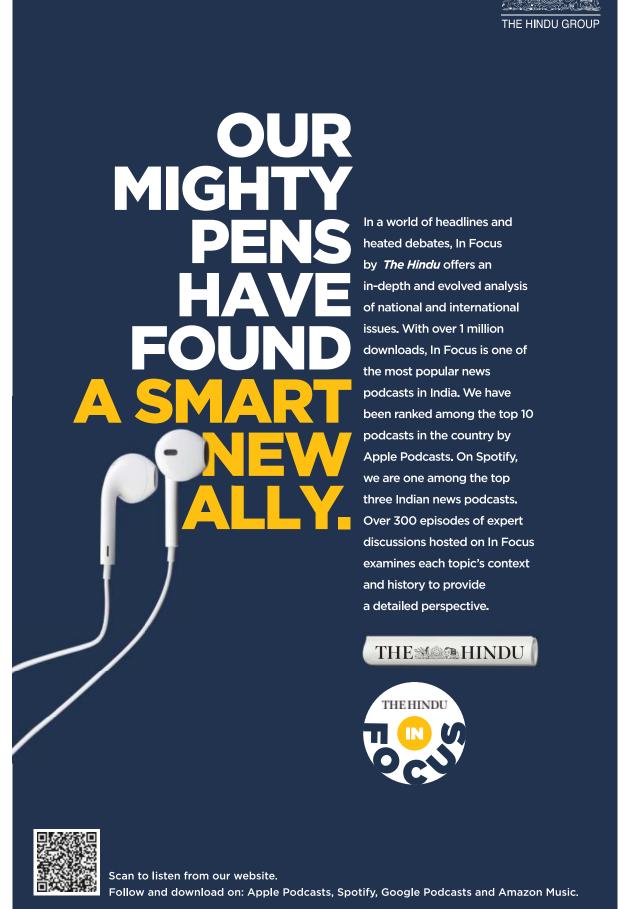
10-member military commission signs a 'gradual and balanced' withdrawal deal

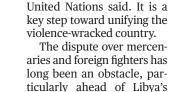
the UN in Geneva. The plan would be "the cornerstone for the gradual, balanced, and sequenced process of withdrawal" of the mercenaries and foreign forces, the mission said.

days of talks facilitated by

Jan Kubis, the UN special envoy for Libya, welcomed the move as "another breakthrough achievement."

Libya's split came into the forefront in 2019, when selfstyled military commander Khalifa Haftar, allied with the east-based administration, launched an offensive to take Tripoli from armed militias loosely allied with the UN-supported but weak government in the country's





ASSOCIATED PRESS

Libya's rival sides reached an

initial agreement on the

withdrawal of foreign fight-

ers and mercenaries from

the North African nation, the

TRIPOLI

due in December. Libya has been engulfed in chaos since a NATObacked uprising toppled longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. The oil-rich country was for years split between rival governments,

landmark general elections



Each side is backed by different foreign powers and militia groups. The UN mission mediating

Libyan rivals agree on pullout of mercenaries

member joint military commission, with five representatives from each side, signed a "gradual and balanced" withdrawal deal on Friday, at the end of three

capital.

Recent amendments to

DICGC Act promise to

fix the ineffectual

mechanism



K. NITYA KALYANI

Q. Please advise whether as per IRDAI norms it is mandatory for a health insurance company to provide voice conversation in case policy is purchased online and proposal form is not physically signed? I also request you to provide the relevant IRDAI circular.

A. When an insurance policy is sold by a tele-caller, the call has to be recorded and you, as the customer, are entitled to a voice copy at any time during the term of the policy or until a satisfactory settlement of claim, whichever is later.

Anytime a policy is issued without obtaining a proposal in physical form, your insurer has to send you, along with the policy bond, a verbal transcript of the voice/ electronic record of the queries and the answers to those queries, on the basis of which the policy has been underwritten. The insurer is supposed to also preserve such records securely.

You can download a copy of the Guidelines for Distance Marketing from IRDAI's consumer education website, www.policyholder.gov.in. On the home page click on Protecting You 'Already in Place' 'Distance Marketing' and download a copy of the guidelines.

Insurance-related query

Q. My husband and I are working in a private firm. We are planning to take a health insurance cover and a term insurance plan although we are covered by our employer. Can you suggest some of the best health as well as term insurance plans? Also, can we avail a single term insurance that covers both of us?

SRUTHI M. NAIR

A. Taking control of your own health insurance is a good move. It can be a supplement to your employer's health scheme and also serve as your safety net independently.

Depending on your age, health status and location, please choose the maximum sum insured you can afford the premium for. This way you work off your waiting period for making claims under various clauses and also accumulate incentives for no-claim years.

Keep the policy valid and upgrade your sum assured periodically. At some point supplement your coverage with a top-up

The health insurance company you choose should have the covers and options you require and a reputation for efficiency and customer friendliness.

The former you can find out through old-fashioned research on the internet and talking to representatives of the companies for specific information. The latter will be apparent if you quiz your friends and relatives who are their customers. It is also reflected in a high claims settlement ratio, a number you can find from the company's websites and also from the regulator's website.

You will need your preferred hospital to be part of the insurer's hospital network in order to get cashless claims. This will be a blessing at a time of stress when a family member is hospitalised as it can work seamlessly with the company and its third-party administrator (health services), the TPA, taking care of the paperwork and the payments directly with the hospital while you focus on getting well.

Of course, if you wind up having to go to a non-network hospital, you have to pay the hospital and make a claim with the insurer through the TPA to get a reimbursement.

If you have a satisfactory relationship with a general insurance or health insurance company or its agent/ broker already, consider that company as a first option. The other decision to make is whether to take a family floater cover or individual covers. Individual covers are recommended as they give you better coverage, which will be reflected in the premium cost. Also, each of you is likely to claim tax benefits under Section 80D of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for

Term policies are an excellent option for life insurance. Starting out at an early enough age, the premium is almost negligible and it will serve as a very price efficient cover. Joint cover versus individual cover is something you can decide on depending on costs and attendant benefits and choosing the company to insure with follows the same broad approach as for the health policy. You can enhance cover by taking additional policies over time. Buying term policies online give you some cost advantages.

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



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

What deposit cover overhaul

means for you

AARATI KRISHNAN

As interest rates have plunged to new lows in the last couple of years, depositors seeking regular income have been caught between a rock and a hard place. If they prioritise safety of principal and go with leading banks or NBFCs, they are forced to settle for interest rates of 5-5.5% that barely match inflation. Seeking higher rates with new private sector banks, cooperative banks or less-known NBFCs means exposing their principal to risks, with defaults by Dewan Housing Finance and RBI restrictions on depositors of PMC Bank, Yes Bank and Lakshmi Vilas Bank playing on one's mind.

Recent changes to India's deposit insurance laws make life a little easier for depositors with banks.

Deposit insurance before

Until February 2020, if any commercial bank or cooperative bank failed in India and had its licence cancelled by the RBI, depositors were eligible to receive an insurance payout of up to ₹1 lakh covering all the accounts held by them. The insurance limit was hiked to ₹5 lakh per individual per bank in February 2020. The insurance amount was to be paid by DICGC (Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation) within two months of it's receiving a list of verified claims from the bank's official liquidator. In practice though, there was many a slip between the cup and the lip.

For one, the insurance amount became payable only if a bank was officially ordered to be liquidated by the RBI. However, in many cases, the RBI's first move on perceiving weak financials or dodgy governance was to impose 'directions' on a shaky bank which restricted withdrawals by de-

positors to arbitrary sums of ₹1,000 to ₹10,000.

While these directions were quickly withdrawn in the case of high-profile commercial banks such as Yes Bank or Lakshmi Vilas Bank they have lasted for many years in the case of some cooperative banks. Even today, there are several cooperative banks where depositor money is stuck because they've been under directions for over a decade!

Two, even in cases where the RBI had passed final orders for liquidation, the official liquidator could take months to compile a list of eligible-depositor claims and hand them over to the DICGC, resulting in a multi-year wait for depositors to get their insurance money. Data in DICGC's annual report shows that in FY20 it took 508 days on an average for depositors of liquidated banks to get their claims, with the number at 1,425 days in FY19.

What has changed

Recent amendments to the DICGC Act, which were passed by Parliament in August and took effect from September 1, promise to fix this ineffectual deposit-insurance mechanism.

The new Act makes DICGC liable to pay bank depositors their insurance amount of up to ₹5 lakh as soon as the RBI places the bank under its 'directions' or restricts their withdrawals in

Thanks to this change, bank depositors will not need to cool their heels for many years, with limited access to

their ney, while the bank or other authorities experiment with rescue packages before finally deciding to wind up a bank. The onus for paying depositors moves to DICGC, an RBI subsidiary, instead of resting with the troubled bank's administrator.

The Act crunches the timelines within which depositors can hope to get their hands on the insurance money. Within 45 days of the RBI passing directions on a bank, it is required to furnish a full list of depositors and their claims to DICGC. The DICGC is required to verify the details online within 30 days of receiving this and credit the insurance money within 15 days. Overall, DICGC is now required to settle depositor insurance claims within 90 days of a bank being placed under RBI directions.

crunches the timelines for depositors to aet their hands on the insurance money. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

If the RBI is working on a merger or takeover of the ailing bank, it can ask the DICGC to extend this repayment schedule by another 90 days.

Your FD strategy

The above overhaul of deposit insurance has implications for you, even if you don't have money stuck in a cooperative bank that is under the RBI's directions.

The new rules place commercial

banks, small nance banks and cooperative banks on an equal footing with respect to insurance cover. Should the bank get into trouble, you'll be eligible to receive insurance of up to ₹5 lakh

across all your accounts in it. If you've so far been investing only with scheduled commercial banks and have stayed away from small finance banks or cooperative banks for deposits, you can expand your horizons now. However, small finance banks, which are tightly regulated and wholly under RBI's ambit, are still far safer bets than cooperative banks which are partly regulated by the State governments. To make the most of insurance, it would be best to cap your deposits in riskier private banks or small finance banks at ₹5 lakh each.

If you're unhappy with the rates from top-rated NBFCs, private sector or small finance banks that offer higher rates, which enjoy deposit insurance upto ₹5 lakh offer a better alternative now. No matter how attractive the rates offered by others, it remains best to park your emergency fund and temporary windfalls in post office schemes and systemically important banks (SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI

THINK INVESTOR: RIGHT CHOICE

Bond with income returns or capital appreciation?

Bonds funds are different from bond investments. An investor must carefully weight risks with returns to choose the right vehicle

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

As an asset class, bond plays an important role in your personal finance. In this article, we discuss how to choose bond investment for a goal-based portfolio. We also discuss why risk associated with bonds are different from that of bond funds.

Income returns

Your investment portfolio will typically carry two asset classes viz. equity and bonds. Your exposure to equity will be typically through mutual funds. You have a choice for your bond exposure.

Both institutional investors and individual investors aim for capital appreciation on their equity investments. Dividend income is add-on cash flow, given that dividend yields are low and dividend income is no longer tax efficient.

The source of returns on bond investments can differ between institutional and individual investors. You can set up your bond investments to earn only interest income whereas



Bond funds carry market risk leading to uncertainty in cash flows that bank deposits do not suffer from. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

choose their investments to earn capital appreciation. The question is: Why earn only interest income?

Note that by bonds as an asset class, we mean all interestbearing instruments ranging from fixed deposits to govern-

institutional investors can ment bonds. If you invest today for an 8-year period, you want to know with certainty the cash flow you will receive after 8 years. Bonds can provide such certainty, but only if you aim for interest income. For instance, you will know the maturity value at the time you

deposit. Ignoring the small crein accumulating the desired wealth to achieve your life goal.

make an 8-year recurring bank

Uncertainty factor

Many choose to invest in bond funds because the returns are greater than the interest income on bonds. The downside is that you are exposed to market risk. This leads to uncertainty in cash flows that bank deposits do not suffer from.

Note that bond prices decline when interest rate increases, or when the market anticipates an increase in interest rate. You are exposed to this risk through the net asset value (NAV) of a bond fund.

Then, there is another factor to consider. How will you select your bond funds? Bonds have a finite life. So, if you hold them till maturity, you will receive fixed interest income through the life of the bond and par value on redemption. But bond funds actively trade on bonds and are, therefore, exposed to market risk. The risk of a bond

Many choose to invest in bond funds because dit risk, this certainty helps you the returns are greater than the interest income on bonds. Bond prices decline when interest rate increases, or when the market anticipates an increase in interest rate. One is exposed to this risk via the NAV of a bond fund

> fund is measured by its modified duration. Suffice it to know that if a modified duration of a bond fund is 5.6, then the portfolio value will decline by 5.6% for an 100 basis-point increase in yield in all the bonds in the portfolio.

> So, this leads to two questions. One, do you want uncertainty from your bond investments too? And two, if so, how will you relate a bond fund's modified duration to your life goal?

Conclusion

A simple rule can be to invest in equity for capital appreciation and in bonds for income returns. Your equity investments have the capacity to deliver high returns but also carry high downside risk. Your bond investments (read bank deposits) could provide stable cash flows but lower returns. Note that bonds do not carry potential for high returns. This is because capital appreciation in bonds is driven by decline in interest rates. And interest rates do not typically decline sharply.

The above argument is not to suggest that you should not consider bond funds. Rather, it is to enable you to make informed decision. Choosing a bank deposit is easy – you can match the maturity of the deposit with the time horizon of your life goal.

Matching a bond fund's modified duration with the time horizon for your life goal is not optimal. A fixed maturity plan (FMP), a closed-end fund, could work but only if you find a fund whose life matches with the time horizon for your life goal.

(The author offers training programme for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank fixed deposit rates

		Inter	est Rat	es (%)
Bank Name	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FI	NANCE E	BANKS		
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.25	6.00	6.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.50	7.00	6.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.00	6.50	6.25
Jana Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.25	6.50	6.50
Equitas Small Finance Bank	6.00	5.85	6.00	5.75
Fincare Small Finance Bank	6.75	5.60	6.25	6.75
ESAF Small Finance Bank	6.25	6.25	5.75	5.25
AU Small Finance Bank	6.00	4.85	6.00	5.75
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.25	6.00	6.00	6.00
PRIVATE S	ECTOR	BANKS		
DCB Bank	5.95	5.55	5.95	5.95
RBL Bank	6.30	6.00	6.30	6.30
SBM Bank India	7.10	6.50	6.50	6.00
IndusInd Bank	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Nainital Bank	5.35	5.10	5.35	5.35
IDFC First Bank	5.25	4.75	5.00	5.20
Karur Vysya Bank	6.00	5.25	5.50	5.75
CSB Bank	5.75	5.00	5.25	5.25
Axis Bank	5.75	5.10	5.40	5.75
South Indian Bank	5.65	5.40	5.50	5.65
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	5.60	5.50	5.25	5.25
Karnataka Bank	5.60	5.20	5.50	5.50

		Inter	est Rat	es (%)
Bank Name		1-year		
	Slab	tenure	tenure	tenure
Dhanlaxmi Bank	5.50	5.15	5.30	5.40
Bandhan Bank	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.00
HDFC Bank	5.50	4.90	5.15	5.30
ICICI Bank	5.50	4.90	5.15	5.3
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	5.30	5.10	5.30	5.30
Kotak Mahindra Bank	5.25	4.50	5.20	5.2
PUBLIC S	ECTOR E	ANKS		
Union Bank of India	5.50	5.00	5.30	5.40
Canara Bank	5.35	5.10	5.25	5.2
State Bank of India	5.40	5.00	5.30	5.40
Punjab & Sind Bank	5.30	5.05	5.30	5.30
Indian Bank	5.25	5.00	5.25	5.2
Bank of Baroda	5.25	4.90	5.10	5.2
IDBI Bank	5.40	5.05	5.40	5.2
Punjab National Bank	5.25	5.00	5.10	5.2
Indian Overseas Bank	5.20	5.15	5.20	5.20
Bank of India	5.05	5.00	5.05	5.0
Bank of Maharashta	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90
FORE	IGN BAN	KS		
Deutsche Bank	6.25	3.85	4.50	6.2
DBS Bank India	5.50	4.25	5.50	5.5
HSBC Bank	4.00	3.10	4.00	4.0
	3.50	2.75	3.50	3.50

Upto 30 lakh Above 30 lakh & Above 75 lakh

Punjab & Sind Bank	6.65-7.60	6.65-7.60	6.65-7.60
State Bank of India	6.70-7.50	6.70-7.75	6.70-7.75
Bank of Baroda	6.75-8.15	6.75-8.15	6.75-8.15
Union Bank of India	6.80-7.60	6.90-7.65	6.90-7.65
Punjab National Bank	6.55-7.50	6.55-7.65	6.55-7.75
Central Bank of India	6.85-7.30	6.85-7.30	6.85-7.30
Bank of India	6.85-8.35	6.85-8.35	6.85-8.35
Canara Bank	6.90-8.90	6.90-8.90	6.90-8.90
UCO Bank	6.90-7.00	6.90-7.00	6.90-7.00
Bank of Maharashtra	6.90-8.40	6.90-8.40	6.90-8.65
IDBI Bank*	6.75-9.90	6.75-9.90	6.75-9.90
Indian Bank	6.80-8.40	6.80-8.40	6.90-8.50
Indian Overseas Bank	7.05-7.40	7.15-7.40	7.30-7.40
PRIV	ATE SECTOR	BANKS	
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.50-7.25	6.50-7.25	6.50-7.25
ICICI Bank	6.70-7.55	6.70-7.55	6.70-7.55
Axis Bank	6.75-7.20	6.75-7.20	6.75-7.20
HSBC Bank	6.45-7.10	6.45-7.10	6.45-7.10

7.25-10.00 7.25-10.00 7.25-10.00

Home loan interest rates

Name of Lands	Lo	an Amount	(Rs.)
Name of Lender	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Karur Vysya Bank	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35
Karnataka Bank	7.50-8.75	7.50-8.75	7.50-8.85
Federal Bank	7.65-7.70	7.70-7.75	7.75-7.80
Dhanlaxmi Bank	7.85-9.00	7.85-9.00	7.85-9.00
Familnad Mercantile Bank	8.25	8.25	8.25
Bandhan Bank	8.50-11.75	8.50-11.75	8.75-11.75
RBL Bank	10.20-12.80	10.20-10.70	9.50-10.00
HOUSING FII	NANCE COM	PANIES (HF	CS)
LIC Housing	6 66-7 85	6 66-8 05	6 66-8 05

LIC Housing	6.66-7.85	6.66-8.05	6.66-8.05	
HDFC Ltd.	6.70-8.45	6.70-8.60	6.70-8.70	
Bajaj Finserv	6.75-8.25	6.75-8.25	6.75-8.25	
Tata Capital	>=6.70	>=6.70	>=6.70	
PNB Housing	7.20-12.00	7.20-12.00	7.40-12.00	
GIC Housing Finance	>=7.90	>=7.90	>=7.90	
Repco Home Finance	>=7.50	>=7.50	>=7.50	
Indiabulls Housing	>=8.65	>=8.65	>=8.65	
Aditya Birla Capital	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50	
Reliance Home Finance	9.75-13.00	9.75-13.00	9.75-11.00	
*Limited period offer. Conditions apply.				

 $mutual \, fund \, scheme, \, share \, or \, fixed \, deposit.$

Dhoni turns back the clock, steers Super Kings into a ninth final

Skipper hits unbeaten six-ball 18 after Ruturaj and Uthappa set up the chase with half-centuries; Shaw, Pant knocks and Shreyas' fielding heroics in vain

IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

In IPL 2020, Chennai Super f IKings (CSK) was the first team to be eliminated from the playoffs race. Nearly 12 months later, M.S. Dhoni's men have completed a remarkable turnaround to become the first side to reach the IPL 2021 final, their ninth overall.

The Super Kings showed how to win big matches with a four-wicket victory against Delhi Capitals (DC) in Sunday's IPL Qualifier 1 in Dubai.

With 24 needed from 12, Avesh Khan bowled the 19th over and got Ruturaj Gaikwad for 70 off his first ball. Dhoni came ahead of Ravindra Jadeja and with Moeen Ali took 11 off the 19th over to make it 13 off six.

Finisher at work

Rishabh Pant turned to Tom Curran - Rabada had an over left – for the final over. Curran got Moeen out off his first ball, but couldn't deny the timeless finisher, Dhoni, who sealed the chase with three fours and two balls to spare.

CSK's run-chase got off to a rocky start when Faf du Plessis was bowled by Anrich Nortie. But his departure didn't affect the tempo as Ruturaj and Robin Uthappa – promoted ahead of Moeen – put on some breathtaking strokeplay. Uthappa struck two fours and as many sixes off Avesh Khan as CSK



Dashing duo: Uthappa and Ruturaj forged a match-winning 110-run partnership for Super Kings. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

cruised to 59 for one at the end of the PowerPlay.

Uthappa reached his fifty in the 10th over, off 35 balls and then brought up the century stand in the 13th over before being expertly caught by Shreyas Iyer on the boundary for 63. Shardul Thakur, promoted to No. 4, fell in the same over. And when Ambati Rayudu was run out -Shrevas again – in the next over, CSK had lost three wickets for just six runs.

DC, which conceded just one boundary each in the 16th and 17th overs to mount the pressure, then ran into

Earlier, Chennai won the toss and inserted Delhi. Prithvi Shaw began in streaky fashion, top-edging Josh Hazlewood for two boundaries in the second over. He then took 16 off Deepak Chahar's second over with four fours. A square punch through point stood out.

DC had raced to 36 when Hazlewood had Dhawan caught behind. That did not deter Shaw, who collected 13 off Shardul's first over. Shaw got a reprieve on 42 when Dhoni dropped him. Hazlewood, meanwhile, picked up his second when he removed **SCOREBOARD**

DELHI CAPITALS

Prithvi Shaw c du Plessis b Jadeja 60 (34b, 7x4, 3x6), Shikhar Dhawan c Dhoni b Hazlewood 7 (7b, 1x4), Shreyas Iyer c Ruturaj b Hazlewood 1 (8b), Axar Patel c sub (Santner) b Moeen 10 (11b, 1x4), Rishabh Pant (not out) 51 (35b, 3x4, 2x6), Shimron Hetmyer c Jadeja b Bravo 37 (24b, 3x4, 1x6), Tom Curran (not out) 0 (1b); Extras (w-6): 6; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 172.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-36 (Dhawan, 3.2 overs), 2-50 (Shreyas, 5.3), 3-77 (Axar, 9.4), 4-80 (Shaw, 10.2), 5-163 (Hetmyer, 18.4)

SUPER KINGS BOWLING Deepak Chahar 3-0-26-0, Hazlewood 4-0-29-2, Shardul 3-0-36-0, Jadeja 3-0-23-1, Moeen 4-0-27-1, Bravo 3-0-31-1.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS Ruturaj Gaikwad c Axar b Avesh 70 (50b, 5x4, 2x6), Faf du Plessis b Nortje 1 (2b), Robin Uthappa c Shreyas b Tom Curran 63 (44b, 7x4, 2x6), Shardul Thakur c Shreyas b Tom Curran O (1b), Ambati Rayudu run out 1 (3b). Moeen Ali c Rabada b Tom

Curran 16 (12b, 2x4), M.S. Dhoni (not out) 18 (6b, 3x4, 1x6), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) O (Ob); Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4; Total (for six wkts. in 19.4 overs): 173. **FALL OF WICKETS**

1-3 (du Plessis, 0.4), 2-113 (Uthappa, 13.3), 3-117 (Shardul, 13.6), 4-119 (Rayudu, 14.4), 5-

149 (Ruturaj, 18.1), 6-160 (Mo-**CAPITALS BOWLING** Nortje 4-0-31-1, Avesh 4-0-47-1, Rabada 3-0-23-0 , Axar 3-0-23-0, Tom Curran 3.4-0-29-3,

Ashwin 2-0-19-0.

Toss: CSK; MoM: Ruturaj. Super Kings won by four wickets with two balls to spare and entered the final to be played on

Innings scan					
	DC		CSK		
	36	Dots	33		
	15	Fours	17		
	6	Sixes	5		
	51/2	PP	59/1		
	8.60	RR	8.79		

And the king is back... the greatest finisher ever in the game. Made me jump outta my seat once again

RCB SKIPPER KOHLI on CSK captain Dhoni

With Capitals 51 for two after six overs, Axar was promoted to No. 4. But the move backfired as he fell for an 11ball 10 to off-spinner Moeen.

Against DC, a side with a clutch of left-handed batters, Moeen bowled his full quota for 27 runs. Meanwhile, Shaw brought up his fifty in 27 balls before Jadeja got him for 60 off 34. Pant and Hetmver bided time before upping the ante. Hetmyer and Pant collected 13 and 12 off the 17th and 18th overs, respectively. Bravo removed Hetmyer for 37 to end an 83run fifth-wicket stand. Pant finished unbeaten on 51.

Emotionally great to see MS do it'

S. DIPAK RAGAV

hennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming felt M.S. Dhoni's finishing act was 'emotionally great' for the side, and revealed that the skipper was determined to get the job done.

"It was emotionally great for us. We wish him every time he goes out. We know the pressure that he has, an expectation that there is on him and again he came up chops for us. So it was emotional in the changing room," Fleming.

Commenting on the discussion he had with Dhoni on sending Rayindra Iadeia ahead of him, Fleming said, "I think we probably spoke more in these 20 overs than we have for a long time. There were a lot of technical discussions, just trying to work out how this was going to unfold and who was going to make the maximum impact.

"But when the captain has the look in his eyes and says 'I'll go', it's been well documented the number of times he has done that and today was one of those. So I didn't hold him back and we saw the result of that," Fleming added.

RCB and KKR in a clash of equals

SPORTS BUREAU

Royal Challengers Banga-lore and Kolkata Knight Riders will meet in a clash of equals in the IPL Eliminator at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday.

RCB, after three wretched seasons, has made the playoffs in successive years. In 2020, it lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Eliminator, and this time around, Virat Kohli would want to go much further and end his captaincy tenure at the franchise on a high.

Remarkable run

For KKR, 2021 marks its first playoffs appearance in three

It has come after a remarkable run in the UAE, where the Eoin Morgan-led outfit has won five out of seven

games after having recorded just two victories in the India

Both Royal Challengers and Knight Riders come into the contest with winning momentum.

On Friday against Delhi Capitals, RCB found a new hero in K.S. Bharat, who smashed a last-ball six to carry his team home. The confidence such a victory over a top-two side brings cannot be overstated

RCB has also been helped by a certain consistency in selection, going four straight games without a change. But for the odd rejig of the batting order – like Dan Christian at No.3 – players seem to have well-defined roles.

Harshal Patel and Yuzvendra Chahal have continued to impress while Glenn Maxwell has been outstanding.

KKR has recorded consecutive victories, with the second a thumping 86-run win over a hapless Rajasthan Royals last Thursday.

Sharing the load

Shubman Gill has returned to form with back-to-back fifties, ensuring that Venkatesh Iyer, KKR's find of the season, doesn't have to do all the heavy-lifting.

Rahul Tripathi and Nitish Rana have been aggressive in the middle overs and how they handle Chahal at the sluggish but small Shariah ground will be an interesting sub-plot.

RCB's batters will have a similar challenge against the spin combo of Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine.

Speedster Shivam Mavi will be a threat, having picked up seven wickets in the last three matches, including a match-winning 4/

21 against RR. The sole area of concern for RCB and KKR will be the batting form of AB de Villiers and Morgan. Their lack of runs hasn't hurt their respective sides yet, but a return to form now will be

TODAY'S MATCH



SHARJAH, 7.30 p.m. IST FORM GUIDE (last five matches, latest game first) RCB W | 1 W | W | W

STAR SPORTS 1 & SS SELECT 1 (SD & HD)



India ends Oz tour heartbroken

INDIA IN AUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA GOLD COAST

India lost its way despite a fine half-century from opener Smriti Mandhana and went down by 14 runs in the third and final T20I as Australia clinched the multi-format series 11-5.

Chasing a target of 150, Smriti smashed 52 off 49 balls and was involved in a 57-run stand with Jemimah Rodrigues (23 off 26) for the second wicket before the visitors lost four wickets for the addition of just 10.

India's chase suffered an early setback as it lost opener Shafali Verma (1).

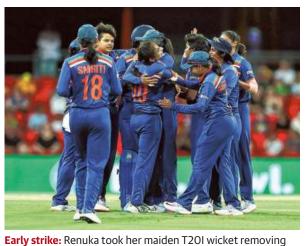
But Smriti was in ominous touch as she pulled, clipped off the pads and hit through covers to pick up three boundaries in the fifth over.

Smriti reached her fifty with a boundary off Carey but was soon dismissed as India reached 93 for three at the end of the 15th over. Needing 57 off 30 balls,

India's chase was derailed as it lost two more quick wickets, including that of Harmanpreet Kaur. The Indians collapsed af-

ter that and only some big hits from Richa Ghosh in the final over reduced the margin of defeat.

Earlier, opener Beth Mooney's half-century and Tahlia McGrath's unbeaten 44 helped the hosts post 149 for



Healy, but it was Australia all the way in the third T201.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA Alyssa Healy c Richa b Renuka 4 (8b, 1x4), Beth Mooney c Harmanpreet b Rajeshwari 61 (43b, 10x4), Meg Lanning hit wicket b Rajeshwari 14 (14b, 2x4), Ashleigh Gardner c Richa b Pooja 1 (5b), Ellyse Perry c Pooja b Deepti 8 (11b), Tahlia McGrath (not out) 44 (31b, 6x4, 1x6), Georgia Wareham (not out) 13 (8b, 1x4); Extras (lb-4): 4; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 149.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-5 (Healy, 1.5 overs), 2-44 (Lanning, 6.6), 3-58 (Gardner, 8.3), 4-73 (Perry, 11.1), 5-117 (Mooney, 17.2).

INDIA BOWLING Shikha 3-1-23-0, Renuka 4-0-23-1, Rajeshwari 4-0-37-2, Pooja 4-0-24-1, Harmanpreet 1-0-14-0, Deepti 4-0-24-1.

INDIA Smriti Mandhana c Lanning b Carey 52 (49b, 8x4), Shafali Verma c Vlaeminck b Gardner 1

(3b), Jemimah Rodrigues c Vlaeminck b Wareham 23 (26b, 1x4), Harmanpreet Kaur c Lanning b Sutherland 13 (16b, 1x4), Pooja Vastrakar b Carey 5 (3b, 1x4), Richa Ghosh (not out) 23 (11b, 2x4, 2x6), Harleen Deol run out 2 (4b), Deepti Sharma (not out) 9 (8b, 1x4); Extras (lb-3, w-4): 7; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 135.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-3 (Shafali, 1.2), 2-60 (Jemimah, 10.4), 3-92 (Smriti, 4-95 (Harmanpreet, 15.5), 5-99 (Pooja, 16.2), 6-102 (Harleen, 17.1).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING Vlaeminck 3-0-18-0, Gardner 4-0-22-1, Molineux 4-0-22-0, Wareham 2-0-15-1, Carey 4-0-

42-2, Sutherland 3-0-13-1 Toss: India; Player-of-the-Match & Series: McGrath.

Australia won by 14 runs and clinched series 2-0.

Coach Powar foresees a skipper Smriti

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

England

names a

strong squad

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Indian women may have lost to Australia in the multi-format series, which concluded at Carrara with the third T20I on Sunday, but coach Ramesh Powar said the goals set ahead of the tour had been achieved.

"We were looking at our

seam attack as we needed bowlers to support Jhulan Goswami after we struggled in England," Powar said at a

virtual press conference. "Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh and Renuka Singh proved that we have a pace battery that we could invest in and carry into the World

Cup," he said. The team had shown character. Tours of England and Australia were particularly important for young players,

"We are at a juncture where Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami will fade away at some point. These two tours were the best opportunity to test our players," he said.

The way Smriti Mandhana batted in the Test was amazing, he said, adding she would one day lead the team.

"We are looking at her as a leader," he said. "She has been the vice-captain and at some point she will lead this side. I don't know about the format right now. The BCCI, the selectors and I will decide the next course of

Chhetri. ■ FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chhetri equals

Pele, India

beats Nepal

Sunil Chhetri equalled the legendary Pele with his 77th international goal, his 83rd-minute strike helping India beat Nepal 1-0 and saving his side from the verge of elimination in the SAFF Championships here on Sunday.

The 37-year-old Chhetri, playing in his 123rd match for India, struck a late goal to draw level with the Brazillian great (77 goals from 92 matches).

Seven-time champion India is now in the third spot with five points from three matches in the fiveteam table, below Maldives (six points from three matches) and Nepal (six from three).

India will need to win its final round-robin league on Wednesday against Maldives if it has to make it to the Oct. 16 final.

Bottas notches up first win Verstappen finishes second, takes championship lead

TURKISH GP

REUTERS

England on Sunday named its strongest available squad for the Ashes tour as stars committed to the trip after quarantine fears.

England Test captain Joe Root and vice-captain Jos Buttler hinted they might not travel if their fears were not eased. The ECB on Friday said

it had given "conditional approval" for the tour. There are no opt-outs in the 17-man squad The squad: Joe Root (Capt.), James Anderson, Jonathan Bairstow, Dom Bess, Stuart

Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Haseeb Hameed, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Dawid Malan, Craig Verstappen (Red Bull) 14.584: Overton, Ollie Pope, Ollie Ro-3. Sergio Perez (Red Bull) binson, Chris Woakes and 33.471; 4. Charles Leclerc (Fer-Mark Wood. rari) 37.814; 5. Lewis Hamilton

Valtteri Bottas ended his year-long drought with a dominant victory in Turkey on Sunday while an unhappy Mercedes teammate Lewis

Hamilton finished fifth and lost the Formula One championship lead to Red Bull's Max Verstappen. Verstappen, 24, was runner-up and 14.584 seconds behind the Finn at a wet Is-

tanbul Park to overturn a two-point deficit to Hamilton and drive away six points clear with six races remaining. Red Bull teammate Ser-Martin) 1.22.018. gio Perez finished third. The results: 1. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) 1:31.04.103; 2.Max



+1 lap: 10. Esteban Ocon (Alpine); 11. Antonio Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo); 12. Kimi Raikkonen (Alfa Romeo); 13. Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren); 14. Yuki Tsunoda (AlphaTauri); 15. George Russell (Williams); 16. Fernando Alonso (Alpine); 17. Nicholas Latifi (Williams); 18. Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin); +2 laps: 19. Mick Schumacher (Haas); 20. Nikita Mazepin (Haas). Standings: Drivers: 1. Verstap-

pen 262.5; 2. Hamilton 256.5; 3. Bottas 177; 4. Norris 145; 5. Perez 135: Constructors: 1. Mercedes 433.5; 2. Red Bull 397.5; 3. McLaren 240; 4. Ferrari 232.5; 5. Alpine 104.

TV PICKS

Badminton: Thomas & Uber Cup: Star Sports 3, 12.30 p.m. IPL 2021: Eliminator: Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

WC 2022 European Qualifiers: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.; Sony Ten 1, 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

IN BRIEF

Cricket umpire Bansal passes away

NEW DELHI
Sumit Bansal, a BCCI umpire
affiliated to Delhi and District
Cricket Association, passed
away, after a cardiac arrest,
on Sunday. He was 46. His
father S.K. Bansal officiated
in international matches in
the 1990s. ANI

Siddhant wins doubles title

CANCUN (MEXICO)
Siddhant Banthia and Japan's
Seita Watanabe beat top
seeds Sho Shimabukuro and
Naoki Tajima of Japan 1-6,
6-4, [10-3] in the doubles
final of the \$15,000 ITF
men's tennis tournament
here. It was Banthia's maiden
doubles title in the
professional circuit.

Other results: Semifinals: Banthia & Watanabe bt Alejandro Mendoza (Bol) & Andres Urrea (Col) 7-6(2), 2-6, [10-6].

Sweeping success for Indians

Clinch all the 12 medals on offer on the final day

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU

The Indian shooters swept all the 12 medals on offer on the final day to provide themselves a golden climax for the Junior World Championship shooting here.

In the non-Olympic, 25-metre standard pistol and 50-metre free pistol events, India asserted its quality in both the junior men and junior women's events.

Vijayveer Sidhu beat his twin brohter Udhayveer Sidhu for the gold in the standard pistol event, winning on better score of inner-10s 17x to 14x after the two tied on 570.

In the free pistol event, Arjun Singh Cheema, Shaurya Sarin and Ajinkya Chavan were all tied on 549 and won the gold to bronze in that order, on the basis of the inner-10s.

The trio denied a medal for Abdul-Aziz Kurozi of Belarus who shot 548.

Rhythm Sangwan collected another gold in style, as



Memorable win: Some of the shooters and coaches celebrate India's supremacy at the Junior World Championship in Peru. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

she won the junior women's standard pistol event with a score of 573, an eight-point margin over Niveditha Nair.

India wound up the championship with 16 gold, 15 silver and nine bronze medals. It was a distant second spot for the USA with seven gold, eight silver and six bronze. India won 40 of the 114

While India won 16 gold medals, USA (7), Italy (3), France (3), Germany (3), Hungary (3), Spain (2) and Belarus accounted for the

The results: Junior men: 25m standard pistol: 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 570; 2. Udhayveer Sidhu 570; 3. Harsh Gupta 566.

50m free pistol: 1. Arjun Singh Cheema 549; 2. Shaurya Sarin 549; 3. Ajinkya Chavan 549; 6. Harsh Gupta 538; 9. Nikhil Chandila 535; 11. Arjun Chhillar 534. Junior women: 25m standard pistol: 1. Rhythm Sangwan 573; 2. Niveditha Nair 565; 3. Naamya Kapoor 563; 8. Anushka Madan 529; 9. Khush Seerat Kaur Sand-

50m free pistol: 1. Shikha Narwal 530; 2. Esha Singh 529; 3. Navdeep Kaur 526; 4. Tiyana

Lack of quality in National Open 400m meet

ATHLETICS

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

Upbeat after the nationwide enthusiasm generated by Neeraj Chopra's gold-winning feat at Tokyo, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) lined up a short series of competitions but the lukewarm response from the athletes continues to be a worry.

After the lack of quality fields in the recent National under-23 meet, the Nehru Stadium is set to witness a similar story when the two-day 3rd National Open 400m championship begins on Monday.

Competitions will be held for boys and girls in the under-16, under-18 and under-20 sections, besides men and women. Heats are scheduled on Monday. Semifinals and finals will be on Tuesday. Athletes without a negative RT-PCR report will not be allowed to participate.

Significantly, leading men and women 400m runners have given this meet a miss. Even those who competed in the recent World Under-20 championships in Nairobi are absent.

When Lucknow hosted the last edition of this meet in 2019, the women's final saw only three athletes, after two others did not start. This year, too, things are not very different. Only six women have entered the event.

With only the National Open javelin championship scheduled later this month here, the athletes have nothing much to look forward to this season. Next year, the athletes eye a packed calendar, including the World championship, world under-20 championship, Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games.

On the brighter side, an added incentive for those participating here in the older age-groups is, their eyecatching performances could get them into the National camps next year. With a bit of luck, some of them could get into the Target Olympic Podium Scheme's core group or the developmental group.

Rajini prevails in thrilling battle

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace rider Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power Racing) scripted a fine win while TVS Racing's K.Y. Ahamed completed a double in the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship at the MMRT here on Sunday.

Rajini, 41, diced with Saturday's race one winner Hyderabad's Rahil Shetty (Gusto Racing) and Deepak Ravikumar (TVS Racing) before winning the thrilling battle in the premier Prostock 301-400cc category with a difference of less than a second between the trio. Later, local challenger Ahamed held his nerve to record his second win in the Pro-Stock 165cc category this weekend with teammate and defending cham-Jagan delivering a 1-2 finish for TVS Racing. Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing) was third.

Dabas and Dahiya add lustre

TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The presence of the top two seeds Nishant Dabas and Aman Dahiya, who came through the qualifying event, adds tremendous thrust to the quality of competition in the National junior tennis championship beginning at the DLTA Complex from Monday.

Both players were scheduled to compete abroad but decided to capitalise on the delay in their travel by getting some valuable matches in the domestic event.

The girls' event is spearheaded by the dynamic Maruri sisters, Reshma and Suhitha. In the girls' final qualifying round, Nandini Dixit beat the under-16 national finalist Sonal Patil.

The results (qualifying singles third and final round): Under-18: Boys: Nishant Dabas bt Shine Tokas 6-0, 6-2; Aman Dahiya bt Azmeer Shaikh 6-1, 6-2; Bushan Haobam bt Prajwal Tewari 6-1, 6-2; Rakshak Tarun bt Lakshay Kumar 7-6(4), 6-2; Jason David bt Samar Bir Sidhu 6-1, 6-3; Suresh Keerthivassan bt Ayush Hindlekar 6-1, 6-3; Monil Lotlikar bt Jaishnav Shinde 6-3, 4-6, 7-5; Tarun Korwar bt Lakshya Chugh 6-1,

Girls: Ikaraju Kanumuri bt Anoushka Sharma 6-3, 6-4; Ananya S.R. bt Kanupriya Rajawat 6-3, 6-1; Somya Arya bt Rhea Arora 7-6(1), 6-1; Nandini Dixit bt Sonal Patil 5-7, 6-2, 6-4; Srichandrakala Tentu bt Sailly Thakkar 6-0, 6-1; Mahika Khanna bt Tamanna Panwar 6-3, 6-4; Samiksha Dabas bt Saumrita Verma 6-1, 6-0; Amodini Naik bt Meher Mishra 6-4,

Seedings: Boys: 1. Nishant Dabas, 2. Aman Dahiya, 3. Denim Yadav, 4. Karan Singh, 5. Aayush Bhat, 6. Sandesh Kurale, 7. Aditya Nandal, 8. Parv Nage.

Girls: 1. Reshma Maruri, 2. Suhitha Maruri, 3. Sanjana Sirimalla, 4. Shruti Ahlawat, 5. Laksh-

mi Prabha, 6. Tejasvi Dabas, 7.

Riya Uboveja, 8. Kavya Khirwar.

RACING

Ashwa Raudee runs to victory in the Artillery Trophy

HYDERABAD: Trainer Laxman Singh's ward Ashwa Raudee, ridden by C.S. Jodha, won the Artillery Trophy, the main event of Sunday's (Oct. 10) races here. The winner is owned by Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chauhan. Jockey Akshay Kumar rode three winners on the

day.

1. TWIN CITIES PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): INDIAN GLORY (Akshay Kumar) 1, Southern Act (B.R. Kumar) 2, Despang (P. Trevor) 3 and Ashwa Pushkin (Ashad Asbar) 4. Nk, 2-1/2 and 3-1/4. Im, 14. 47s. ₹26 (w), 10, 24 and 11 (p). SHP: 79, THP: 54, SHW: 15 and 49, FP: 341, Q: 210, Tanala: 922. Favourite: Despang. Owners: Mr. Mohammed Rasheed Ali Khan, Mr. Venkata Kirshna Reddy Challuri & Mr. Aziz Ahmed Khan. Trainer: S.S.F. Hassan.

2. TWIN CITIES PLATE (DIV. II)

(1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): CITY OF BLESSING

(Mukesh Kumar) 1, Unsung Hero (Aneel) 2, Cabello (G. Naresh) 3 and Cash Register (P. Trevor) 4. 3/4, 4-1/4 and 2-1/4. Im, 14.26s. ₹22 (w), 13, 19 and 12 (p). SHP: 71, THP: 48, SHW: 16 and 36 (p). FP: 304, Q: 193, Tanala: 1,616. Favourite: City Of Blessing. Owners: Mr. Thribuvan Reddy & Mr. K. Vivek Reddy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

3. TWIN CITIES PLATE (DIV. III) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): BLUE ORIGIN (Åkshay Kumar) 1, Sea Of Class (Mukesh Kumar) 2, First In Line (Khurshad Alam) 3 and 1 am Superman (Rafique Sk.) 4. Not run: Flower. 8-1/4,2-3/4,3/4. Im, 13.22. ₹II (w), 10, 14 and 27 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 60, SHW: 10 and 15 (p). FP: 37, Q: 37, Tanala: 238. Favourite: Blue Origin. Owners: Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla, Mrs. Simone Z. Poonawalla, Mrs. Simone Z. Poonawalla & Ms. Delna Z. Poonawalla rep. Poonawalla Racing & Breed-

ing Private Limited, Mr. Rishad N. Pandole, Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy & Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

4. RAJA SAHEB OF CHALLAPALLI MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): BURANO (Ashad Asbar) 1, Keystone (Akshay Kumar) 2, Rising Queen (Abhay Singh) 3 and California Beauty (B.R. Kumar) 4. Nk, 1-1/2 and 1-1/4. Im, 14.07s. ₹32(w), 11, 11 and 14 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 30, SHW: 13 and 10 (p). FP: 79, Q: 19, Tanala: 195. Favourite: Keystone. Owner: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

5. ARTILLERY TROPHY (2,000m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): ASHWA RAUDEE (C.S. Jodha) 1, Forever Bond (P. Trevor) 2, Moringa (Surya Prakash) 3 and King Roger (Akshay Kumar) 4. Not run: Dream Jewel. 1-1/2, 2 and 3-3/4. 2m, 8.10s. ₹46 (w), 12, 10 and 17 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 30, SHW: 14

692. Favourite: King Roger. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chauhan. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

6. P.V.G. RAJU MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I) (1,400m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III): ICE BERRY (C.P. Bopanna) 1, Winning Player (Gaurav Singh) 2, Sea Wolf (Ajit Singh) 3 and Rhine (B.R. Kumar) 4. Not run: Berkeley. 1-1/4, 1-1/4 and Nk. Im, 29.10s. ₹34 (w), 15, 14 and 18 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 47, SHW: 18 and 16 (p). FP: 106, Q: 48, Tanala: 527. Favourite: Winning Player. Owners: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Schbash.

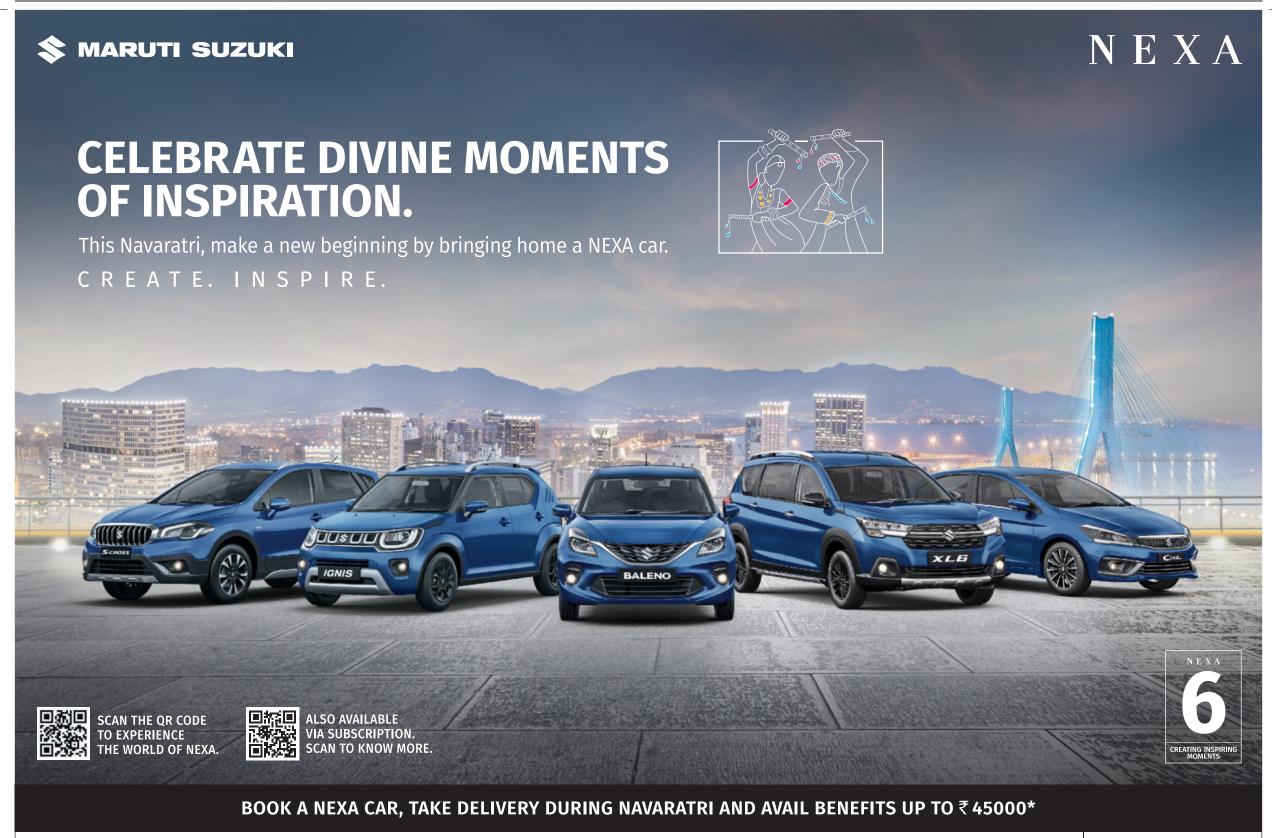
7. NAWAB SULTAN ALI KHAN ME-MORIAL CUP (1,400m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): FOUR ONE FOUR (Deepak Singh) 1, Miss Marvellous (Afroz Khan) 2, Nearest (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Sheldon (P. Trevor) 4. Hd, 2 and 3/4.

(p). SHP: 74, THP: 64, SHW: 55 and 57, FP: 2,351, Q: 930, Tanala: 8,494. Favourite: Sheldon. Owner: Mr. Md. Sultan. Trainer: Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan.

8. P.V.G. RAJU MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II) (1,400m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III): SUN DANCER (Akshay Kumar) 1, N R I Gift (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Starwalker (G. Naresh) 3 and Team Player (Nakhat Singh) 4. 4-3/4, 1/2 and 2. Im, 28.86s. ₹21 (w), 12, 15 and 33 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 107, SHW: 15 and 15 (p). FP: 69, Q: 40, Tanala: 574. Favourite: Sun Dancer. Owners: Mr. Atul Bhanu Sanghani, Mr. Keerthi Narasimhachar, Mr. Ketineni Sayaji Rao & Mr. Sarin Katta. Trainer: L.D.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹16,356 (34 tkts.) & 30%: 2,535 (94 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 128 (340 tkts.) (ii) 332

Treble: (i) 128 (340 tkts.), (ii) 332 (145 tkts.), (iii) 1,066 (94 tkts.). Mini Jackpot: 1,173 (42 tkts.).





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