



Noon meal programme to be renamed PM POSHAN scheme

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Taliban request DGCA to allow Afghan carriers to resume flights

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After winning ruling party poll, Fumio Kishida to be next Japan PM

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India takes on Australia in pink ball Test from today

page 13



IN BRIEF



Kejriwal throws 5-point challenge at Punjab govt.

CHANDIGARH
Aam Aadmi Party Chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is on a two-day visit to Punjab, threw a five-point challenge at the ruling Congress government on Wednesday, asking it to fulfil its 2017 poll promises.

NEWS ► PAGE 9

SOCIOLOGY
• Foundation Course
• Haralambos Demystified
• Test Series
Divyak Academy
for Civil Services
(09435800907, 9990788811)

Firecracker ban dampens Ramila celebrations

NEW DELHI
The biggest, oldest and most popular Ramila events that the Capital has been hosting for decades are likely to be cancelled this year. The organisers, who had agreed to keep the celebrations low-key last year in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, seem determined to call off the events, blaming the authorities for not issuing guidelines in time and imposing a total ban on the bursting of firecrackers of all makes and varieties, including 'green crackers'.

CITY ► PAGE 2

Turmoil in Punjab snowballs into major crisis for Congress

Kapil Sibal, Ghulam Nabi Azad openly challenge leadership of the Gandhis

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The turmoil in the Punjab unit snowballed into a major crisis for the Congress on Wednesday with a group of senior leaders openly challenging the leadership of the Gandhi family, and the former Punjab Chief Minister, Capt. (ret.) Amarinder Singh, exploring an arrangement with the BJP.

Capt. Singh, who was removed as the Chief Minister by the party at the instance of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, met Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Later, Capt. Singh tweeted, "Met Union Home Minister @AmitShah ji in Delhi. Discussed the prolonged farmers agitation against #FarmLaws & urged him to resolve the crisis urgently with repeal of the laws & guarantee MSP, besides supporting Punjab in crop diversification. #NoFarmers-NoFood."

Former Union Minister Kapil Sibal, part of a group that is demanding elections and reforms in the Congress, told a press conference, "In our party, at the moment, there is no president and one doesn't know who is taking these decisions."

His colleague, Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is part of the

More worry

The Congress lurched towards a new crisis on Wednesday, with a few veterans seeking reforms and elections in the party again



Agitated cadre: Congress workers protesting against party leader Kapil Sibal outside his residence in New Delhi on Wednesday. • PTI

In our party, at the moment, there is no president and one doesn't know who is taking these decisions... At least, a dialogue can take place in the CWC why we are in this state — **KAPIL SIBAL**, CONG. LEADER

My appeal to Mr. Sibal and others like him is that they should not denigrate the organisation, which has given them political identity, by rushing to the media every now and then — **AJAY MAKEN**, CONG. GENERAL SECRETARY

group of 23 letter writers – the 'G-23', which is seeking internal reforms, wrote a fresh letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi to convene a meeting of the Congress Working Committee for a debate on the state of affairs in the party, including the Punjab turmoil and desertions from the party.

Congress workers from Chandni Chowk, the constituency that Mr. Sibal has represented in the Lok Sabha in the past, protested outside his residence, holding placards with "Get well soon" messages, though there was no direct response from the party to the press conference.

Late in the evening, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala sent out a cryptic tweet that "those in power are troubled that a Dalit has been made a Chief Minister in Punjab and Amit Shah's residence has become a centre for anti-Dalit activities".

Earlier in the day, Mr. Sibal had questioned the decision-making process with, "We know yet we don't know."

While Ms. Sonia Gandhi is the acting president of the party, many believe that most decisions are being taken by her children.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

Sidhu vows to stick to his stance

The chaos in the Congress's Punjab unit refused to show any sign of settling on Wednesday, as Navjot Singh Sidhu, who resigned as its chief on Tuesday, said he would firmly stick to his stance and continue the fight even if it meant losing everything. Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi urged Mr. Sidhu to resolve his grouse by holding talks. ► PAGE 9

Probe shows use of toxic material in firecrackers: SC

'Why shouldn't manufacturers face contempt action?'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said a preliminary enquiry by the CBI into the firecracker industry, including in Tamil Nadu, revealed rampant violation of its ban on use of toxic ingredients like barium and its salts.

In March 2020, the court ordered the CBI Joint Director in Chennai to conduct a "detailed" probe into allegations of violation of the court ban in 2018. The CBI had filed a report in a sealed cover in the court.

A Bench led by Justice M.R. Shah, referring to the report, observed that a chemical analysis of the samples of finished and semi-finished firecrackers and raw materials taken from the manufacturers showed barium content. The court said loose quantities of barium were purchased from the market. Firecracker covers did not show the manufacture or expiry dates.

The court discussed why the manufacturers should not be asked to show cause why contempt action should not be taken against them.

"Every day there is a celebration, but you should also be mindful of the people living around you... people who have asthma," Justice Shah remarked. The court

Toxic fumes

The Supreme Court has repeatedly raised concerns over the use of harmful chemicals in the manufacture of firecrackers



Under the scanner: Firecrackers stacked for sale at a shop in Tamil Nadu. • FILE PHOTO

July 2017: Supreme Court bans use of five chemicals — anti-mony, lithium, mercury, arsenic and lead — labelled as toxic by the Central Pollution Control Board, in firecrackers

Oct. 2018: SC bans use of

firecrackers that are loud and toxic, and permits only "green or reduced-emission" ones. Ban follows petition filed by two infants through their fathers, flagging air pollution

March 2020: Court orders CBI Joint Director in Chennai to probe violation of the 2018 ban

Every day there is a celebration, but you should also be mindful of the people living around you... people who have asthma
JUSTICE M.R. SHAH

posted the case for further hearing on October 6.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court *prima facie* brushed aside the manufacturers' contention that thousands of employees earned their livelihood in the industry.

Justice Shah retorted: "We have to balance between employment, unemployment and the right to life and health of citizens. We cannot sacrifice the lives of many for a few. Our prime focus is the right to life of innocent people."

The case gained significance

with the onset of the wedding season and festivals like Dussehra and Deepawali.

"Every day, there is a violation in this regard... in religious processions, political rallies," Justice Shah, accompanied by Justice A.S. Bopanna on the Bench, pointed out. He noted that the court had to fix liability on the authorities in charge.

"Sometimes, we have to fix liability. If the police commissioner is sedate about liability, only then all this will happen," he said.

Nipah antibodies found in bat samples in Kerala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Nipah virus antibodies (IgG antibodies) were detected in bat samples collected by the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, from Kodiyathoor and Thamarassery in Kozhikode district near the panchayat where a Nipah infection

was confirmed last month.

The samples were collected by the NIV as part of the Nipah outbreak investigation. A sample belonging to the Pteropus species, collected from Thamarassery, was found to have Nipah antibodies, while the same was

detected in another sample from the Rousettus species collected from Kodiyathoor.

The results of over 50 bat samples collected as part of the outbreak investigation were still awaited, Kerala Health Minister Veena George said on Wednesday.

Given the current evi-

dence, it would be logical to conclude that the Nipah outbreak in Kozhikode did originate from bats, even though the authorities are still in the dark as to the route of virus transmission from bats to humans, Ms. George said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

Bid amounts for PM's mementoes fall

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Bids on Olympians' gear, including Neeraj Chopra's javelin and P.V. Sindhu's badminton racket, reduced from highs of ₹9 crore-₹11 crore in the first week of the e-auction of mementoes gifted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to near the base prices of ₹80 lakh to ₹1 crore as on Wednesday.

The auction, the proceeds of which are supposed to go to the Namami Gange Mission, started on September 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday. A total of 1,330 mementoes gifted to him were put on auction through the website pmmementos.gov.in till October 7.

The equipment used by Olympic and Paralympic athletes and medal-winners had received bids of around ₹10 crore on day two of the auction. However, the amounts had been reduced after the Ministry disqualified bids that were found not to be genuine, a Culture Ministry official said.

On Wednesday, gold medalist Neeraj Chopra's javelin was going for ₹5 crore, while it had received a bid of over ₹10 crore in the first week of the auction. Similarly, the badminton racket and bag of Ms. Sindhu, a bronze medal winner, had a price of ₹1.1 crore on Wednesday, down from ₹9 crore on September 18.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

NEXT IAS

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Kannur University approves revised syllabus following row

Committee looked into issue after controversy over Golwalkar, Savarkar texts

STAFF REPORTER
KANNUR

Kannur University has decided to approve the revised syllabus prepared by the Board of Studies in Political Science for the third semester M.A. Governance and Politics course.

An external expert committee looked into the syllabus after it stirred a controversy over the inclusion of texts by Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangh ideologue M.S. Golwalkar, V.D. Savarkar, Balraj Madhok, and Deendayal Upadhyay.

The committee had studied the syllabus and recommended revisions, and its report had been sent to the Board of Studies in Political Science for consideration.

The Academic Council, which met on Wednesday, resolved to approve the re-



A file photo of Kannur University in Kerala. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vised syllabus prepared by the Board of Studies, and this will be taught in the third semester.

‘Not comprehensive’

The experts concluded that the M.A. Governance and Politics syllabus was not comprehensive.

The committee, it is learnt, suggested that the texts of Deendayal Upadhyay

and Balraj Madhok be omitted from the syllabus. Lessons on Savarkar and Golwalkar will continue in the syllabus.

However, it has been proposed to combine the books of both and teach them only in connection with the idea of Hindutva.

The committee further recommended the inclusion of Islamic, Dravidian, Socialist

and Gandhian ideas in the syllabus. It was also decided to include the ideas of leaders such as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Periyar.

The Academic Council decided to constitute a review committee with the Pro Vice-Chancellor as chairman to have more clarity on recognising various faculties and schools of the university.

No legal bar on minor being initiated into sanyasa: HC

It rejects plea against appointment of Shiroor Mutt seer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday rejected a petition against the anointment of a minor boy as the 31st seer of Udipi Shiroor Mutt while holding that there is no statutory or constitutional bar on a person aged below 18 being initiated into sanyasa.

“The petition has not been able to make out violation of any statutory provisions or any violation of constitutional rights guaranteed to respondent Aniruddha

Saralathaya [now named Vedavardhana Tirtha] as the peetadhipathi of the Shiroor Mutt. The essential religious practice has been going on since last 800 years,” the court said.

A Division Bench, comprising acting Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sachin Shnkar Magadum, delivered the verdict while dismissing the petition filed by P. Lathavya Acharya, secretary and managing trustee of Sri Shiroor Mutt Bhaktha Samiti, Udupi, along with three other of-

fice-bearers of the samiti. All the petitioners are close relatives of Lakshmiyara Tirtha swamiji, former seer of the Shiroor Mutt, who passed away in July 2018 without appointing a successor.

“The courts are certainly not meant to write the religious text; however, they are under an obligation to follow the religious text in religious disputes and to follow the old practices which are prevalent in religion so long as they do not violate constitutional rights of an individual,” the Bench said.

Huge difference in how BJP-RSS, Congress view India, says Rahul

STAFF REPORTER
MALAPPURAM/KOZHIKODE

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangh view India as a geographical territory or a map but the Congress views the country as the people here and the relationships they have with others here and globally, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday.

“Some people view India as a map. They see it as the space bordered by lines. That is the vision of the BJP. Our [the Congress’s] vision is different. Our vision of India is the people here and the relationships they have

Afghan students hit as ICCR stipends end

SYED MOHAMMED
HYDERABAD

Students from Afghanistan who recently graduated are facing a dilemma as the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships, of which they were beneficiaries, have come to an end. This, they say, has given rise to financial concerns. And what has compounded the problem is the fact that their student visas do not permit them to work.

ICCR’s special scholarship scheme for Afghan nationals provides for stipends of up to ₹25,000, and house rent allowance of up to ₹6,500 per student per month to those pursuing undergraduate degrees and post-doctoral fellows.

Khanullah Behrooz is one such student. Upon completion of his MBA from Osmania University recently, he received the last of this ICCR stipend instalment – ₹26,500 – in September. He

is on his own now. “We sent a list of about 70 students, of which 10 or 15 had financed their education themselves, to the ICCR. We requested the government if they can extend our scholarship. It seems they have not decided anything yet. The problem is that we are on student visas and cannot work here. We are waiting for the scholarships to be extended so that we can pursue a Ph.D. If they grant us permission to get a job here, we will work,” he says.

Yousaf Khanmirzai, who has been living in the city for three years, shares a similar story.

After completing his BBA from Nizam College, his scholarship of ₹24,500 per month ended. His family, he shares, is not in a position to support him at this juncture. “The situation is critical. And it is difficult to go back [to Afghanistan],” he says.



Friendly talk: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi having tea with autorickshaw drivers at Wandoor on Wednesday.

with others,” he said.

“We carry India inside us, and it evolves every day. That is the difference between how the RSS and the BJP view India and how the Congress views India,” he said. He was speaking at the

inauguration of a recreation centre for senior citizens in Kozhikode district.

Mr. Gandhi surprised autorickshaw drivers of Wandoor when he accepted their on-the-spot invitation for tea and snacks with them.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Saurashtra & Kutch, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, north Konkan, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3...	32.6...	24.9	Kozhikode	12...	32.0...	24.2
Ahmedabad	0.8...	29.0...	26.6	Kurnool	...	33.8...	24.7
Aizawl	8.6...	27.6...	18.9	Lucknow	...	34.1...	26.5
Allahabad	...	34.5...	26.0	Madurai	...	37.2...	25.0
Bengaluru	9.1...	28.0...	19.4	Mangaluru	2.8...	29.9...	23.6
Bhopal	3.8...	30.5...	23.4	Mumbai	100...	30.7...	24.5
Bhubaneswar	0.2...	31.0...	24.7	Mysuru	...	30.0...	21.6
Chandigarh	...	39.9...	27.9	New Delhi	...	35.0...	26.7
Chennai	...	34.2...	27.2	Patna	0.6...	32.8...	25.6
Coimbatore	...	33.3...	22.8	Port Blair	1...	31.1...	24.1
Dehradun	0.2...	31.9...	23.6	Puducherry	...	35.2...	22.6
Gangtok	1.1...	19.6...	16.4	Pune	4...	29.4...	21.4
Goa	45...	30.0...	23.6	Raipur	...	32.0...	23.6
Guwahati	...	31.9...	25.0	Ranchi	...	26.6...	22.2
Hubballi	...	27.0...	21.0	Shillong	0.9...	21.4...	17.1
Hyderabad	0.2...	30.0...	21.4	Shimla	...	22.6...	14.6
Imphal	...	30.1...	20.7	Srinagar	...	30.4...	15.6
Jaipur	...	33.0...	25.6	Thiruvananthapuram	9...	31.1...	22.6
Kochi	11...	31.0...	22.4	Tiruchi	...	36.3...	25.0
Kohima	...	28.6...	18.4	Vijayawada	10...	33.8...	23.8
Kolkata	47...	27.0...	24.5	Visakhapatnam	7...	32.4...	23.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	...	35	111	...	18	...	
Bengaluru	...	5	11	28	...	181	...
Chennai	...	9	33	61	...	52	...
Delhi	...	12	35	73	...	67	...
Hyderabad	...	4	64	17	...	21	...
Kolkata	...	10	22	66	...	20	...
Lucknow	...	7	29	51	...	72	...
Mumbai	...	21	10	63	...
Pune	...	35	23	73	...	32	...
Visakhapatnam	...	10	63	37	...	63	...

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

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 death in people with heart or lung disease

HC rejects plea to commute death penalty

It extends stay on serial killer’s execution for 6 weeks to enable him to move SC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday rejected the plea of B.A. Umesh, alias Umesh Reddy, who was sentenced to death in a rape and murder case, for commutation of the death penalty to life imprisonment, claiming “compelling supervening circumstances”.

However, the High Court extended for six weeks the stay granted against his execution on October 20, 2016, on a plea by his advocate seeking time to file an appeal before the Supreme Court challenging Wednesday’s order.

A Division Bench, comprising Justices Aravind Kumar and Pradeep Singh Yedur, passed the order while dismissing Reddy’s plea filed in 2016. He filed the petition on October 17, 2016, when the prison authorities were preparing for the execution



A file photo of serial killer Umesh Reddy being brought to the Karnataka High Court.

of the death sentence and were awaiting orders from the jurisdictional court as the Supreme Court on October 3, 2016, had rejected his review plea against its order confirming the death penalty.

It was claimed in Reddy’s petition that the death sentence had become “non-executable” due to delay of over two years in disposal of the mercy petition filed by his mother before the President, resulting in his confinement to solitary imprisonment for 10 years.

‘Mental illness’

Reddy had suffered mental illness due to prolonged solitary imprisonment, and all these circumstances fall under the “compelling supervening circumstances” defined by the top court for commuting death penalty to life imprisonment, it was stated in the petition.

It was argued on behalf of Reddy that he filed this petition “not as an accused” but as a “victim of violation of fundamental rights” for the injustice caused to him due to the delay in the disposal of his mercy petition.

Umesh, a former reserve police constable, was involved in a series of rape and murder cases in Karnataka and other States. The police described him as a “psychopath serial killer” who raped women before killing them and sexually abused victims even after murdering them.

Though he was convicted in several cases, the case in which the stage was set for his execution in 2016 was related to the 1998 incident of rape and murder of a widow at her house in Peenya in Bengaluru.

The trial court in 2006 had sentenced him to death and it was confirmed by the High Court in February 2009. The top court on February 1, 2011, upheld the death penalty imposed on him, and his mother, Gowramma, filed a mercy petition before the President, who rejected the plea in May 2013.

Fraudsters back in business with job offers in U.K., Canada

Letters forged to target young graduates, skilled workers

MITHOSH JOSEPH
KOZHIKODE

With several largescale employers bouncing back to the usual pace of international recruitments, fraudsters who flourished in illegal recruitment through fake job offers are back.

Forging appointment letters from professional recruiters offering attractive pay packages and liberal terms, they target young graduates and skilled workers keen on working in the United Kingdom.

The low-cost technical procedures and minimal service charges are the biggest lure for aspirants. There is also the promise of easy migration and appointment

without clearing mandatory language proficiency tests, like IELTS or OET. Noticing the trend, professionals in the U.K. are warning aspirants through social media.

“I was shocked to see a fraudulent appointment letter received by a friend recently. Those who respond to such offers without proper verification are sure to lose their money,” said Nirish Antony, who recently secured placement as a psychiatric social worker in London. The spurt in job openings after the pandemic has turned out to be an opportunity for fraudsters.

A few who identified fake appointment letters said fraudsters who secured bio-

data and email addresses from various sources behaved professionally and demanded a meagre amount initially. Many a time, the tendency among aspirants to bypass standard procedures for convenience lands them in traps, they said.

“For qualified professionals, there is no shortcut to reach the U.K. Also, no big expenses are involved in securing a job in the proper way,” said M. Manoj, a registered nurse from Kannur who works for the National Health Service, U.K.

Ajith Kolassery, general manager, NORKA Roots, said several candidates had got fake offers from Canada and East European countries.

Hospital libraries with their wide range of biomedical literature usually cater to healthcare professionals. But now, inpatients and caregivers at the Government Victoria Hospital, Kollam, will have access to a spectrum of recreational reading material following an initiative of the Kollam district panchayat.

Perhaps the first-of-its-kind initiative started by a local body, the project will be extended to more government hospitals in the future.

“In the initial phase, we will be setting up libraries in Victoria Hospital, District Hospital, District Ayurveda

Whiff of antiseptic to make way for bibliosmia

In a first, Kollam district panchayat proposes to set up libraries in hospitals for patients and caregivers

NAVAMY SUDHISH
KOLLAM

Hospital libraries with their wide range of biomedical literature usually cater to healthcare professionals. But now, inpatients and caregivers at the Government Victoria Hospital, Kollam, will have access to a spectrum of recreational reading material following an initiative of the Kollam district panchayat.

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“In the initial phase, we will be setting up libraries in Victoria Hospital, District Hospital, District Ayurveda



Novel initiative: A library set up by the district panchayat at the Government Victoria Hospital, Kollam. • C. SURESHKUMAR

Hospital, and Homoeo Hospital. Inpatients and their caregivers can grab books from the library during their stay and return

them before or on the day of discharge. We are also planning to arrange “Pushthakakoodu” for other visitors, including

outpatients. Apart from providing an extra facility, we want to promote reading among the visitors,” says K. Prasad, district panchayat secretary.

While the library at the Victoria Hospital will be inaugurated by writer K.R. Meera on Friday, the next one will be opened at the District Hospital in a couple of weeks.

To provide infra

“After identifying a suitable space for the library, the district panchayat will provide the infrastructure and the books required. The project cost for each unit is ₹2.5 lakh,” Mr. Prasad said.

The library at the Victoria Hospital has books worth ₹1.5 lakh, along with

periodicals and dailies.

Books of all major publishers will be available in the library. The current stock includes many recently released titles and nearly 15 periodicals.

“Some staff members have offered to sponsor dailies and periodicals while books from all streams will be made available. You will find many titles of renowned authors such as O.V. Vijayan and Madhavikutty, while latest books such as K.R. Meera’s *Ghatakarn* are also part of the collection,” says P.K. Gopal, health-education standing committee chairman. Since the hospital has COVID-19 patients too, all protocols will be followed while issuing books.



A scheme before its time

A digital health mission needs to get all the fundamentals of the ecosystem right

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the National Digital Health Mission, the most salient aspect of which is that all citizens will have the option of voluntarily opting for a Health ID, a 14-digit health identification number that will uniquely identify every citizen and will be a repository of their medical history. Illustratively, it will contain details of every test, every disease, the doctors visited, the medicines taken and the diagnosis. The portability this offers implies a person will, in theory, never have to haul around their reports. The doctor who is examining the patient can give more well-informed advice because it is possible that patients may not consider aspects of their medical history relevant to share with a doctor, or sometimes may forget about them, but which may be valuable for a better diagnosis. This id can be created by using a person's basic details and mobile number or Aadhaar number, and there will presumably be an app acting as a convenient interface.

As snazzy as all of this sounds, a digital health id right now is really a solution looking for a problem. There is no clear justification that the immobility of medical records is an insurmountable obstacle to the provision of affordable, high-quality health care in India. The challenge of health care in India, as decades of research and the experience with the novel coronavirus pandemic have shown, can be expressed quite simply. There are too few hospitals with trained staff to cater to all Indians. But expanding the health-care system will not be easy. India's federal structure, the size of its population – and a large rural one at that – the cost of researching, finding and buying appropriate drugs and treatment, competing systems of medicine and the very challenging nature of health itself, mean that the issues are manifold. The graver problem is that the technocratic sheen of a digital health id hides a mammoth store of personal data, which in the absence of a privacy law and little public awareness and control over their data, could be open to misuse. There is the danger that any large private insurance company could use sophisticated algorithms across the health and other databases to construct risk-profiles for people and make access to affordable insurance difficult. Also, data mining can prioritise certain rich demographics for their services and direct public and private resources to people who can afford a high premium for their services rather than to those who need them but cannot pay as much. For a digital health ecosystem to work, it is important that the fundamentals be fixed from the ground up.

Change of guard

As Japan's new PM, Kishida will need to address its economic woes and inequalities

The election of Fumio Kishida as the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader opens a new chapter in Japan's otherwise status-quoist politics at a time when its geopolitical prominence is growing amid China's rapid rise and the United States' pivot to the region. Mr. Kishida, a former Foreign Minister, is certain to be elected the next Prime Minister when Parliament convenes next week, as the LDP controls the legislature. Japan was thrown into a leadership contest after the unpopular Prime Minister, Yoshihide Suga, announced his resignation earlier this month amid mounting public anger over his government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic woes. The traditionally conservative, pro-business LDP, which has dominated Japan's post-war politics, was apparently not confident of going to the parliamentary polls in November under the leadership of Mr. Suga; his approval rating had plunged from 60% in January to below 30% in August. In the initial round of the voting on Wednesday among four candidates to lead the party, Mr. Kishida was neck-and-neck with Taro Kono, a serving Minister in the Suga government, who enjoyed higher popularity among the party's rank and file. But in the run-off, most legislators supported Mr. Kishida, who had the backing of the LDP establishment.

Mr. Kishida's most immediate big task is leading the party to the parliamentary elections within weeks. With the COVID situation easing, the LDP appears to be confident of victory under the new leadership. But winning elections would only be the first of a host of key challenges awaiting Mr. Kishida. He needs to come up with a programme to lift the world's third largest economy out of its sluggishness. Even when the U.S. and China had surged back to growth after COVID lockdowns, Japan's economy continued to falter under the long national emergency declared to fight the virus. Despite the LDP's conservative past, Mr. Kishida had taken a centre-left position on the economy during the campaign. He promised increased spending to revive the economy and asked corporations to distribute more of their profits to middle-class workers. What is to be seen is whether these were instances of mere election-time rhetoric or if Mr. Kishida would turn them into policies to address Japan's economic woes and widening inequality. A tougher challenge would be in the realm of foreign policy. After announcing the AUKUS alliance with the U.K. and Australia, under which Australia would be supplied nuclear submarines, the U.S. has made it clear that the Indo-Pacific is the new theatre of great power rivalry. Japan, an American ally in the Pacific with deep economic ties with China, would find it difficult to sit on the fence for long. Mr. Kishida, who called Taiwan "a frontline in the struggle by democracies against authoritarianism" and supported building Japan's missile-strike capability, has already indicated which direction he would be taking on China. If he walks the talk, tensions are going to rise in East Asia.

A fund without a care for the RTI

The Government's claim that the PM CARES Fund is not a public authority is unacceptable



M. SRIDHAR ACHARYULU

It may not be an exaggeration to say that when it comes to seeking answers and information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is consistent in putting up a screen. The manner in which the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund was set up – with its acronym created to publicise the point that the Prime Minister cares for people – shows a bypassing of the statutory obligations of a public authority.

The other funds

A statutorily constituted National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), which was established under the Disaster Management (DM) Act of 2005, is deliberately ignored while a new, controversial, unanswerable, and 'non-accountable' vehicle is created; its character is not spelt out till today. The NDRF is mandated to be accountable, and answerable under the RTI Act, being a public authority, and auditable by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The Government seems to consider statutory provisions for enquiry and information seeking to be embarrassing obstacles. The DM Act provided for a Disaster Response Fund – state and district level funds (besides the national level) and also to collect and use the donations at the local level, with mandatory transparency and audit provisions. The PM CARES Fund centralises the collection of donations and its utility, which is not only against the federal character but also practically inconvenient.

There is the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) operative since the days of Jawaharlal Nehru. The website says (<https://bit.ly/39Plqdl>): "In pursuance of an appeal by the then Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in January 1948, the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) was established with public contributions to assist displaced persons from Pakistan. The resources ... are now utilised primarily to ren-

der immediate relief to families of those killed in natural calamities... and to the victims of the major accidents and riots. Assistance from the PMNRF is also rendered, to partially defray the expenses for medical treatment ... The fund is recognised as a Trust under the Income-Tax Act and the same is managed by [the] Prime Minister or multiple delegates for national causes." The fact is that there is substantial money also left in the PMNRF. But the Narendra Modi government does not want to use it. The PMNRF has the President of India and the Leader of Opposition also as trustees. The Centre now considers it as another obstacle and has created a new trust with the Prime Minister and his Ministers only.

While both funds, the NDRF and the PMNRF, have been relegated to the back burner, the PM CARES Fund is in the limelight. It has been created not by law, not by notification, but by the mere creation of a webpage, and set up last year in March to raise funds for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The page lists its structure, functions and duties in an arbitrary manner. The official appeals for funds are made under the emblem of the Saranath lions and 'Satyameva Jayathe', which means "Truth Alone Triumphs". Therefore, the recent affidavit, where the Delhi High Court was informed that "the PM CARES Fund is not a Government of India fund and that the amount collected by it does not go to the Consolidated Fund of India", is strange. The affidavit was filed by an Under Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), who added that the trust functions with transparency. The most significant lie of this sworn statement is that the Government has no control over the Fund.

Query and response

After initial denials, the Government has conceded it to be a public charitable trust, but still maintains that it is not a 'public authority'. In his public speeches, the Prime Minister often makes assurances of transparency. The Bharatiya Janata Party also says it is committed to its promise made in its election manifesto – of there being zero tolerance for corruption. If these are true, then the PM CARES Fund should be declared as 'a Public Authority' under the



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RTI Act, and all RTI queries answered truthfully.

Going back to the affidavit about the PM CARES Fund, the Under Secretary's response reflects the adamance to not be transparent and is a stand in defiance of the RTI Act. The issue arose after a petitioner/lawyer, Samyak Gangwal, filed a petition seeking that the PM-CARES fund to be declared as the "State" under Article 12 of the Constitution. In another plea, he had sought for the fund to be designated as a "public authority" under Section 2(h) of the RTI Act (<https://bit.ly/3uqiFjk>). The point is that the PMO operates the Fund, but says it cannot supply any information about the PM CARES Fund because it is not a public authority. The PMO completely glosses over the fact that the PMO is a public authority and has to give us answers about the fund under the RTI.

More questions and gaps

Some of the claims made in the affidavit are: The PM CARES Fund was neither created by the Constitution of India nor by any statute. If that is the case, under what authority does it use the designation of the Prime Minister, designated symbols of the nation, the tricolour and the official (gov.in) website of the PMO, and grant tax concessions through an ordinance? Why does the Prime Minister make appeals for contributions to this fund saying it will help the Government fight COVID-19? The link, "About PM CARES Fund" (<https://bit.ly/2Wm8Lvw>), makes it clear.

The amount received by the Fund does not go to the Consolidated Fund of India. If it goes to the CFI, it could have been audited by the CAG. Because this Fund is not audited by CAG, the Government has to ensure that it is answerable and foreclose any possibility of corruption. It should be transparent when it comes to its sources and fund disbursement.

The third claim is: "This Trust is neither intended to be or is in fact owned, controlled or substantially financed by any Central Government or State Government or any instrumentality of the any Government. In other words, there is no control of either the Central Government or any State Government/s, either direct or indirect, in functioning of the Trust in any manner whatsoever". The Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman and three cabinet Ministers (for Defence, Home and Finance) are ex-officio members. A Government advertisement for the PM CARES Fund says: "PM announces new fund for people to donate towards Govt. fight against Coronavirus". Another advertisement makes the claim, "MY Govt or Meri SARKAR". It is interesting that the Prime Minister is the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees (<https://bit.ly/3um6Of6>), when the claim is that it is not connected with the Government. If the PM CARES Fund is unconnected with the Government, then the Fund could become an office of profit. And that could disqualify him and the three Ministers from holding those constitutional offices.

The composition of the board of trustees can never be a determinative factor to ascertain whether the respondent is a "public authority" or not; the Prime Minister as chairman and three Cabinet Ministers as members, in their official capacity, determines it to be a public authority. This board decides how to spend the funds collected, which is the prime function. The Prime Minister's Office administers the activities. This is 'substantial control' which is the test to determine its character as a public authority under the RTI Act as highlighted in the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court of India in *Thalappalam Service Coop. Bank Ltd. vs State of Kerala*.

The point that some Government officer provides ex gratia services to the public trust is of no relevance; a Government officer providing secretarial assistance on an honorary basis while discharging his official duties can never be a relevant consideration for declaring a body to be a public authority. By agreeing that it is a public trust managed by the Prime Minister and three Ministers in their ex-officio capacity, the Government cannot say that it was irrelevant to

declare it as a public authority. The Prime Minister and the Ministers do not take decisions in their personal capacity. They have to work to implement the objectives of the trust.

Funding avenues

The mere grant of certain tax exemptions with regard to the voluntary donations made to a public trust is not a determinative factor for the purpose of Section 2(h) of the RTI Act. An ordinance was promulgated to amend Income Tax Act, 1961 and declare that the donations to the PM CARES Fund "would qualify for 80G benefits for 100% exemption". The official website and the Press Information Bureau (<https://bit.ly/3D2cFcr>) also declared that donations to the PM CARES Fund "would qualify for 80G benefits for 100% exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961. Donations to PM CARES Fund will also qualify to be counted as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure under the Companies Act, 2013... PM CARES Fund has also got exemption under the FCRA [Foreign Contribution Regulation Act] and a separate account for receiving foreign donations has been opened". All this amounts to substantive funding.

Section 19 of the Indian Trusts Act mandates the trustees to present full and accurate information of the amount and state of the trust property to the beneficiaries. Because of this statutory access, all information about the PM CARES Fund should be accessible as per Section 2(f) of RTI Act; "information" here means any material in any form, including records, documents, memos, e-mails, opinions, advices, press releases, circulars, orders, logbooks, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any other law for the time being in force" (this enables access to information of trust even if it is private, through the Indian Trusts Act). The claim that the PM CARES Fund is not a public authority is absurd to say the least.

M. Sridhar Acharyulu is Former Central Information Commissioner. He is presently the Dean, School of Law, Mahindra University, Hyderabad

The scorching rays of Assamese nationalism

The Darrang incident is not a lone wolf act but leads back to robust and embedded anti-Muslim sentiments



SURAJ GOGOI

The Darrang killings, in Assam, wherein there were casualties in police firing during an eviction drive, have unmasked an evil social character of Assamese nationalism and its further descent into darkness. The event was so macabre and grotesque that I will still call it an act of political sadism. How else can one characterise the emotional matrix of a group of people who defile a body after a person is shot right before their eyes and even go on to celebrate that act of humiliation? Erich Fromm, social psychologist, psychoanalyst, sociologist, has reminded us that the only way to understand the spirit of culture and social character is to pay keen attention to the 'emotional matrix'. Assamese nationalism should be evaluated and diagnosed, among others, for its emotional matrix and how it makes its followers turn to it, like flowers to the sun.

most. Assamese society never opened its doors to them. Assamese nationalists are wont to say, 'become us' by speaking our language, but do keep your religion and culture private, or you may live like nobody. The language riots and the Nellie massacre (1983) drew definitive measurements of the horror and destiny of "Bangladeshi" bodies. The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is not the last nail in their coffin either.

It was declared much before independence that the Pakistanis, Communists and Bengalis were enemies of the Assamese. There is a convergence in how the Assamese and the Hindu nationalists think of their enemy in the Muslim or "Bangladeshi" figure in Assam. Somewhere, they both harbour the fantasies of the collective elimination of this figure. However, they have different histories and methods by which they arrived at this similar sentiment. While the latter flaunts its enemy and their desires publicly, a section of the former tries to hide behind the latter. To say that communalism in Assam and violence against the minority is only due to the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is either a prayer or a fantasy – a beautiful camouflage.

A marginalisation

Even with such clamour of hatred and enmity surrounding them, they have continued with their life, minding their own business and engaged in deep conversation with the soil and the water of the



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Brahmaputra. They did not have any community but their own. Everything they did was declared to cause decay to the Assamese and their existence, a danger to Assam. To echo Walter Benjamin, philosopher, critic and essayist, the minorities in Assam are prohibited from investigating (or even dreaming) about the future. They are, as the poet once said, "forever a silent sob".

In the Constituent Assembly debates on minority rights, Begum Aizaz Rasul rightly qualified that denying a child an opportunity to learn in their mother tongue is militant. The minority in Assam face such militancy in primary education and in all walks of their life. Everything to do with the Muslim is screened. Clothes, children, family, museum, poetry, food, dwelling; everything is questioned, hated, and profiled. Popular songs, newspaper cartoons, wall graffiti, bureaucratic documents, gossip in the streets, classroom interactions, vernacular prose and poetry, cricket practice camps, or even films, vilify and humiliate the "Bangladeshi". The poignancy of hate is so profound, commonplace and recurrent, that

any potential empathy towards the minority is hopelessly out of reach. Everywhere they look, and in everything they listen, they see their mutilated identity being projected with disturbing barbarity. Every social interaction they have with the majority in Assam is filled with dehumanisation and violence.

The reactions to the Darrang brutality expressed by journalists, politicians, and the foot soldiers of Assamese nationalism reveal how hatred has crystallised into the caste Assamese social structure, and how benumbed they are. Their narcissism will not stop even when political sadism is in such naked display. They are so consumed with their self-image that they fail to see any other reality. And like a psychotic, there is no reality but of what they see in and about themselves.

A silence and its import

What can you say about the silence of the victims despite lakhs of them being declared stateless, kept in detention camps, hundreds of deaths by suicide and severe impoverishment? Imagine how deep a social and political legitimacy the NRC process enjoys wherein the victim, who loses everything, will not even protest. Alternatively, should they protest, they know the consequences that will visit their bodies, family and life too well. This absence speaks volumes about the degree of unfreedom the minority has and the brutality with which they are forced to live. Perhaps this silence

is also the reason that connects Nellie to Darrang. Ashis Nandy reminds us that the perpetrator remains permanently afraid that whom they have oppressed will strike back, nurturing ideas of revenge. So, they attack again. Was Darrang such an unfolding? I hope I am wrong.

The connecting thread

The Darrang incident was neither an act of a lone wolf nor a disconnected event. The singular event reflects something larger than him. The action of the perpetrators is also connected to the past – to Nellie, Kherbari and the Assam Movement. The singular event takes us to the rightful owners of the sentiments – Assamese nationalism, with its distinct figure of the enemy. How do we erect psychological defences to such robust sentiments of hate for the Muslim distributed so evenly in Assamese society?

I am reminded of a Zapatista slogan that said that we need to learn to host the otherness of the other, not the sameness. Perhaps, there is a lesson there and a need to cultivate such a social character of hosting the otherness and the enemy. This is a possible way to come out of the psychosis and narcissism that plagues Assamese nationalists. As for Assamese political sadism, the only exit of it is to annihilate language and culture in its current form and interest.

Suraj Gogoi is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the National University of Singapore

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

The Punjab mess
The Indian National Congress has asked for it (Page 1, "Sidhu quits Cong. post, Punjab crisis deepens", September 29). Navjot Singh Sidhu's antics have only shown that the Gandhi siblings are naive and lack political acumen. The Congress party's

chances of retaining power are sure to have been dented now.
S. SANJEEVI RAO,
Puducherry

■ Mr. Sidhu has turned out to be a raging bull in a china shop in Indian politics. The crisis in Punjab is the manifestation of

personality-oriented politics promoted by the high command and where people are selected for key positions mainly based on loyalty to the Gandhi family. Without an alternative ideology and intra-party democracy, the Congress party cannot remain relevant for long. Currently the party appears

to be in the grip of a death wish – to vanish.
MANOHAR ALEMBATH,
Kannur, Kerala

■ Ms. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who according to media reports, is responsible for Mr. Sidhu's elevation, has often been called the Congress's 'Brahmastra'. If

the mess in the Congress in Punjab is an indication, one wonders where she will lead the party to. The hype around her is unwarranted.
S. VENKATARAMAN,
Chennai

Getting monsoon ready
The report, "CM reviews status of flood prevention

schemes" (Chennai, September 29), is heartening as there are days when the northeast monsoon causes the city much grief. We hope the advance planning makes things work.
HAFSA SIRAJUDEEN,
Chennai



To read more letters online, scan the QR code

A lesson from China on gig workers' rights

The swell of public opinion in China has enabled government regulation and change in company policy



On September 20, 2021, the Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers, on behalf of gig workers, filed a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court demanding that the Union government provide succour to workers affected by the pandemic.

That same week, China strode ahead in this regard. Owing to public pressure, two of its food delivery platforms, Meituan and Ele.me, committed to end the practice of forcing workers to register as 'independent businesses', which has long helped these platforms evade responsibilities as employers.

'Invisible' to 'frontline'

The one major factor that the pandemic has helped change is the erstwhile 'invisibility' of delivery workers. Through 2020, a trend that spanned China, India, the U.S. and Europe saw 'invisible workers' being propelled to 'frontline workers'.



ery workers across the two food delivery platforms. Titled 'Delivery Riders, Trapped in the System', the article was shared over 200 million times on the Chinese internet indicating how deeply Chinese social media users connected with the issue.

The Renwu piece highlighted how delivery workers were trapped in a "sophisticated labour control system" that they had unwittingly downloaded onto their phones.

But it is important to note that the pushback against influential platforms had begun long before COVID-19. Over the years, strikes in different parts of China have reflected this growing backlash. As food delivery platforms expanded through the pandemic period, growing massively in revenue and scale, strikes increased in numerous Chinese cities and have continued despite various barriers to collective action.

manding unpaid wages.

In 2018, an Associate Professor of Sociology at Harvard University, Ya-Wen Lei, documented strikes in Chongqing, a municipality in southwest China. She found that workers had mobilised through social media and offline meetings. They united to protest against "decreasing piece rates" and "unilateral change of contract terms or platform rules".

But the pandemic was curious in this regard. It began with the Chinese state indicating that platforms should help soak up the devastating effects of the pandemic on the workforce. And it ended with the state asserting "increased control" over major tech companies, including Meituan for allegedly abusing its dominant market position.

In China, where the government is now focused on "common prosperity", which seeks to narrow a widening wealth gap that threatens the country's economic rise, the government's scrutiny over food delivery platforms has increased. The authoritarian context, a weak civil society and the absence of independent labour unions leaves gig workers in China with very little option but to go on strike or protest, despite the risks, to affect change.

the experience left him feeling humiliated. In July, seven government agencies jointly passed guidelines directing online food delivery platforms that they should not set evaluation criteria based on optimisation algorithms, must respect the rights of delivery workers and ensure that they earn at least a minimum wage with social insurance.

The Indian context

The situation is vastly different in India. Any reform in this sector is led wholly by delivery workers, not the public. For 27 days in 2020, close to 3,000 delivery workers from Swiggy went on strike in Hyderabad to protest the slash in remuneration from ₹35 to ₹15 per order.

The biggest lesson from China is the swell of public opinion that has partly led to government regulation and change in company policy. In the U.S., a gig workers collective has urged customers to delete the Instagram app as a show of solidarity until demands for better working conditions are met.

Sowmyia Ashok, an independent journalist based in Chennai, was part of the 2020-21 China-India Visiting Scholars Fellowship at Ashoka University

An unsteady ship and no Captain

The Gandhis have opened up one more battlefield in Punjab even as the Congress struggles to hold on to other States



The unceremonious dethroning of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh in Punjab was a ha-rebrained idea of the Gandhi siblings. Mr. Singh - war veteran, scion of the Patiala royal family, and a Congress war horse who led the party to victory - was ignominiously booted out by the Congress high command despite being credited with stopping in Punjab the saffron wave of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that swept the nation after Narendra Modi rode to power at the Centre.

The sacking of Mr. Singh was a supreme irony. The legitimately elected leader was ousted by the Congress high command comprising Sonia Gandhi, an interim ad hoc president of the party; Rahul Gandhi, who abruptly resigned as president without putting in place any succession plan but continues to be de facto president intervening and interfering at will; and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who was for long fluttering in the wings but has been anointed as in-charge in Uttar Pradesh to oversee the elections.

A foolish idea

A good leader who is secure and does not hanker after praise will not encourage dissidence that destabilises his own State government. It is well known that Mr. Singh is not given to fawning and has a mind of his own. On the other hand, Navjot Singh Sidhu, his greatest critic, is temperamental and unpredictable. He deserted the BJP and flirted with the idea of joining the Aam Aadmi Party. He joined the Congress just prior to the last election and became a Minister under pressure from the high command.

This is not an attempt to give a clean chit to Mr. Singh on his record of governance. He had many faults and had made many enemies. He may have been incompetent as an administrator, he may have failed to deliver on the election promises of the party, and he may have been inaccessible to his MLAs with his imperious ways, but the method adopted by the Congress high command to undermine him was imprudent and self-damaging.

From riots to reconciliation

The farmers' movement has disrupted the Hindutva narrative in western Uttar Pradesh

SHAIKH MUJIBUR REHMAN

The beauty of liberal democracy is that it offers space to sociopolitical movements that contribute to political discourses in a manner that political parties often fail to do. India's anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests and the ongoing farmers' movement have been able to subvert Hindutva narratives in their own ways and have renewed the appeal for secular politics.

Birth of an iconic slogan

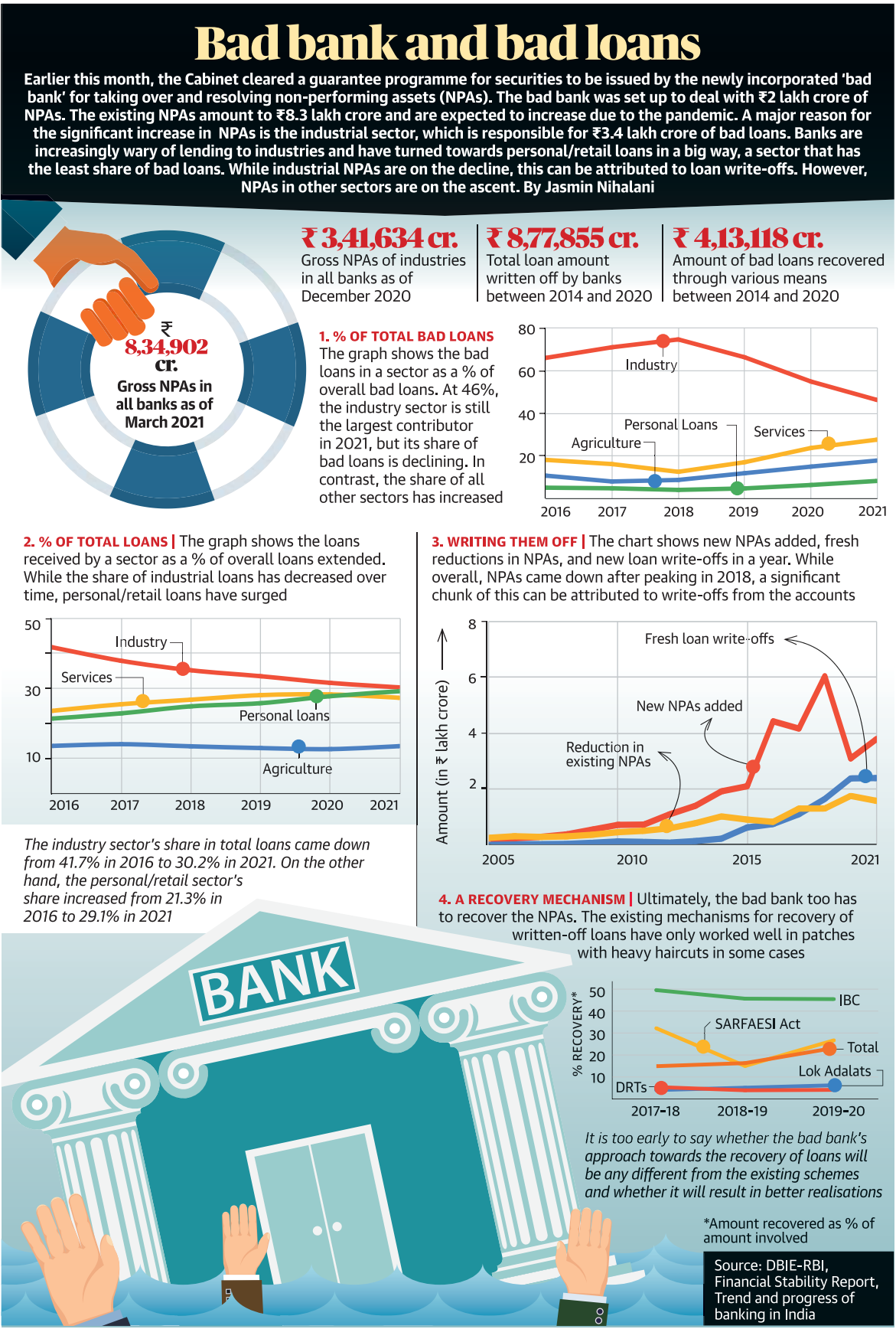
This slogan has a long history, which can be traced to the early days of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), led by Mahendra Singh Tikait. During its early days in the late 1980s, the BKU organised a major protest over farmers' issues. Two farmers - Akbar Ali, a Muslim, and Jai Pal, a Hindu - were killed in police firing during that protest. Keeping their bodies on the main road, the BKU continued the protest. The iconic slogan was born there to celebrate and symbolise the BKU's secular structure.

recent interview to this author, Mr. Jola, an octogenarian, described Mahendra Singh Tikait as a quintessential secular leader. With great enthusiasm, he recalled how the senior Tikait had once urged him and a couple of Muslim farmers to offer Friday namaz on the premises of Har Ki Pauri in Hardwar during a protest since the nearest mosque was located more than 8 km away.

New attempt at polarisation

Although the 2013 riots took place during the tenure of Akhilesh Yadav, it was the BJP that drew enormous electoral capital from it. Some even consider the 2013 riots to have created the background for the Modi wave that swept north India. Some evidence of the ebbing of religious polarisation is visible now, but there are also attempts being made to polarise Uttar Pradesh around the conversion issue.

DATA POINT



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FROM THE SEPT. 29, 1971 EDITION AS THERE WAS NO EDITION ON SEPT. 30

The many deaths of Mao

In all the years of battle of his revolutionary youth, Mao Tsetung suffered not so much as a scratch, and during the long march in 1930 the only affliction to lay him low was a bout of malaria. But in the last three years, the Chinese Chairman has been killed no less than five times by the world press tuned in to Hong Kong. The best publicised story yet was during the early stages of the Cultural Revolution. One then-renowned China-watcher persisted in reporting that Mao had long been dead and that the man taking the review of the million Red Guards at Tiananmen was a "double".

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 30, 1921

Greater India

(From an Editorial)

Rabindranath Tagore is not only a poet but also a prophet and a politician. But his politics are not of the ordinary hum-drum type of the professional agitator, marked by dry controversy and abuse, but of an entirely different and exalted order characterised by an elevating tone, lofty idealism and intimate knowledge of human nature.

FROM PAGE ONE

Punjab turmoil snowballs into crisis for Congress

The Gandhi siblings had backed Navjot Singh Sidhu, who campaigned for Capt. Singh's removal but resigned as State unit president on Tuesday, plunging the party into a crisis. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi that "no school of thought can claim a monopoly of right judgment", Mr. Sibal argued that no monopolies can be created in the power structures of the party, and asserted that the "G-23 is certainly not *ji huzoor* 23", an idiomatic expression referring to a yes-man.

The former Law Minister also confirmed that one of his senior colleagues had written a letter to Ms. Gandhi but didn't name Mr. Azad.

"Some things we cannot say in public. At least a dialogue can take place in the CWC as to why we are in this state. We are the ones who can fight the BJP, and let me assure you that we are not one of those who is going to leave the ideology of the party," Mr. Sibal said, adding, "Ironically, people close to them [the Gandhis] are leaving the party."

The reformists or 'the G-23', who had written to Ms. Gandhi seeking internal party reforms in August 2020, reiterated their demand for an elected CWC, Central Election Committee, and a full-time elected president.

"If somebody has an issue, that is to be discussed. Consultations must take place from the seniormost members of the party and the organisational structure of the party has to be strengthened ... We need an open dialogue, conversations, and need to understand each other's point of view," Mr. Sibal said.

The former Minister refused to answer whether or not appointing Mr. Sidhu as the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief, and removing Capt. Singh as the Chief Minister were the right decisions.

"I don't want to talk about Punjab but a border State, and if this is happening to the Congress, [it] means it is [an] advantage to the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] and Pakistan. We know the history of Punjab and the rise of extremism there and how forces across the border try to take advantage of the situation," he said.

Reacting to Mr. Sibal, In-



We are the ones who can fight the BJP, former Union Minister Kapil Sibal said.

dian Youth Congress president B.V. Srinivas tweeted: "Listen *ji huzoor*. The party's president and leader is the same who always sent you to Parliament, made you a minister when the p[ar]ty had better days. In the Opposition, made you a member of the Rajya Sabha. Always gave you responsibility during good and bad times. Now, when the time has come for struggle, then ..."

After Mr. Sidhu's latest antics in quitting his post as PCC chief, the Gandhis have come under severe criticism as they had overruled a three-member committee led by Mallikarjun Kharge to appoint him.

In its report to Ms. Gandhi, the panel had recommended that the cricketer-turned-politician be made the chief of the Congress Campaign Committee for the next year's Assembly polls and accommodated as a Minister in the Amarinder Singh government.

Soon after Mr. Sibal's outburst, Congress general secretary Ajay Maken hit back on Wednesday.

Mr. Maken said it was Ms. Sonia Gandhi who had made Mr. Sibal a Union Minister though he "did not have any organisational background and experience". "My appeal to Mr. Sibal and others like him is that they should not denigrate the organisation which has given them political identity by rushing to the media every then and now," Mr. Maken told the PTI. "Such remarks by leaders like Mr. Sibal, who have got everything from the organisation and the leadership, demoralise the party cadres and ordinary workers who continue to stand with the Congress ideology and are fighting the fundamental and fascist forces on the streets," he said.

(With inputs from PTI)

Nipah antibodies found in bat samples in Kerala

More bat surveillance and epidemiological studies need to be conducted before more conclusions can be drawn, Ms. George added.

Meanwhile, the State is past the 21-day incubation period since the lone case of Nipah was reported at Kozhikode on September 4, during which time there were no fresh cases. Ms. George said that it was the systematic and proactive manner in which the Health Department took up disease surveillance and control measures as soon as the first case was detected which ensured that the virus did not spread to generate more cases.

If no more cases of Nipah surface in another 21 days' time (42 days in all after the last case), it would be safe to declare that the outbreak

has been completely brought under control. Till then, the State will continue to be on vigil against Nipah, Ms. George said. Since September 4, extensive surveillance and control measures were taken up in Kozhikode district around the panchayat where the outbreak was detected. As part of the house-to-house surveillance taken up by the Health Department with the help of panchayat authorities, 16,732 houses and 76,074 persons were surveyed. The samples collected and analysed from 50 persons were negative for Nipah.

Ms. George said that the State would be coming out with a comprehensive list of COVID-19 deaths by including all those deaths which occurred in the State within 30 days of an individual testing positive for COVID-19.

Bid amount for PM's mementoes fall

The boxing gloves of bronze medallist Lovlina Boroghain were going for ₹80,00,100, or ₹100 over the base price of ₹80 lakh, on Wednesday, while it received a bid of ₹10 crore as on September 18.

With eight days to go for the auction to end, Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy called on the public to parti-

cipate. "Come forward to be a part of a national cause..." he said in a tweet.

The Culture Ministry, too, shared several tweets from all its Twitter accounts promoting the e-auction. In a statement, the Ministry said ₹15.13 crore had been received from a similar auction in 2019.

Court rejects Vaze's plea for house arrest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Wednesday refused to grant house arrest to dismissed assistant police inspector Sachin Vaze, accused in the Antilia bomb scare case.

Mr. Vaze sought house arrest for three months after undergoing an open heart surgery on September 13.

Special Judge A.T. Wankhede said Mr. Vaze can be in the jail's special hospital cell and is allowed home food. The court recorded that Mr. Vaze can be taken to the State-run J.J. Hospital for check-up when needed.

Mr. Vaze was on March 13 for his "role and involvement in placing explosives laden vehicle near Carmichael Road".

Abducted man released in Kabul

Arendeh, a pharmaceutical trader, has family members living in Delhi

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

A Hindu resident of Kabul, who was kidnapped on September 14, was released by his abductors earlier on Tuesday. A non-government organisation working with Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan said Bansri Lal Arendeh was released after a fortnight of negotiation.

"Bansri Lal Arendeh, aged around 50, who was abducted on September 14 at gunpoint in Kabul was released earlier today and is currently with his elder brother Ashok Lal," said Puneet Singh Chandhok, president of Indian World Forum.

On September 15, the Taliban ordered an investigation into the kidnapping, but de-



Lingering hope: Afghans outside the Iranian Embassy in Kabul to request travel visas on Wednesday. ■AP

tails of the probe and the kidnappers' identity are not yet known. Mr. Arendeh is one of the largest pharmaceuti-

Army to get 25 advanced light helicopters at ₹3,850 crore

Defence Acquisition Council approves acquisition proposals for ₹13,165 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Wednesday accorded approval to capital acquisition proposals of the three Services estimated at approximately ₹13,165 crore. The key proposals include helicopters, guided munitions and rocket ammunition.

Of these, procurements for ₹11,486 crore were from domestic sources, the Defence Ministry said.

"Looking into the need of the Indian Army for an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) squadron, to improve its integral lift capability ensuring its operational preparedness, the DAC accorded



Adding muscle: The DAC accorded acceptance of necessity for procurement of 25 ALH-Mark III helicopters from HAL.

acceptance of necessity (AoN) for procurement of 25 advanced light helicopters (ALH)-Mark III helicopters from Hindustan Aeronautics

Limited (HAL) under Buy Indian-IDDM at an approximate cost of ₹3,850 crore," a Ministry statement stated.

To give a boost to indige-

nous design and development of ammunition, the DAC approved the procurement of terminally guided munition (TGM) and rocket ammunition under buy (Indian-IDDM) category at an approximate cost of ₹4,962 crore from domestic sources, the statement noted.

Other proposals worth ₹4,353 crore were also accorded acceptance of necessity by the DAC.

The DAC also approved a few amendments to the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), 2020, as part of business process re-engineering to ensure further ease of doing business for the industry as well as measures to enhance procurement efficiency and reduce the timelines, the statement added.

Taliban urge DGCA to resume Afghan flights

Call for smooth passenger movement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Taliban government in Afghanistan has written to India's DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation), requesting the resumption of commercial flights between the two countries, according to a senior government official.

The letter from the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan was addressed to the DGCA Director-General on September 7, 2021.

"The intention of this letter is to keep the smooth passenger movements between two countries based on the signed MoU and our national carriers (Ariana Afghan Airline and Kam Air)

NEET-UG aspirants seek fresh exam

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Several NEET-UG aspirants have moved the Supreme Court seeking the cancellation of the exam held on September 12 for alleged cheating, malpractice, impersonation and paper leak.

The petitioners sought a stay on the declaration of the results during pendency, a fresh exam and a direction to the CBI and the Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh police chiefs to file fact-finding reports in a week.

The petitioners asked the court to direct the government, the National Testing Agency and the National Medical Commission to enhance the standard of security protocols. This would include biometric verification of the candidates and use of jammers.

No discrimination in U.P.: Adityanath

'Dewa Sharif and Mahadeva temple will have to be developed together'

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

If the Dewa Sharif, a famous shrine in Barabanki, has to be developed, then even the Mahadeva, a well-known Shiva temple, would have to be developed, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday as he stressed that "one-sided development" would not work in the State.

Mr. Adityanath, who is touring districts and launching projects ahead of the 2022 Assembly poll, said there was no discrimination under his government even as he alleged that under the previous governments restrictions were put on the celebration of Hindu festivals.

"The government doesn't discriminate now. Dewa Sharif ka vikas hona hain



On tour: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Sitapur on Wednesday. He is touring districts ahead of the election. ■PTI

toh Mahadeva ka bhi vikas hona hain. Ek tarfa vikas nahi chalega," Mr. Adityanath said.

Speaking in Barabanki district, which he described as the "gateway to Ram Rajya," as it connects Lucknow to Ayodhya, Mr. Adityanath said under the previous go-

vernments of SP and BSP, Kanwariyas who would play music during their Kanwar yatra had to face police lathicharge.

"Government property would be grabbed, but nobody was there to question. The immersion of idols [murti visarjan] would not

be held in a peaceful manner," said Mr. Adityanath.

In contrast, he said, under the BJP government, the administration provided an "atmosphere of security" to the Kanwar pilgrims who set out for the darshan of Lodeshwar Maharaj Mandir, in groups, dancing, singing bhajans and playing music.

According to the Barabanki district website, people flock to the temple, situated on the banks of the Ghagra, in lakhs in the month of Phalgun every year on the occasion of Mahashivratri to worship and offer water to the famous shivling.

Mr. Adityanath sought people's support for his government and said in return he would ensure them security, respect and development.

24 lakh pre-primary students to get meals

Centre rebrands scheme as PM POSHAN; no progress on plan for breakfast

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has rebranded the 26-year-old national mid-day meal scheme to give a hot cooked meal to 11.8 crore government school students from Classes I to VIII, with the Cabinet approving a proposal to rename it as the PM POSHAN (Poshan Shakti Nirman) scheme on Wednesday.

From the next financial year, it will also cover the 24 lakh children studying in balvatikas, the pre-primary section of government schools, Education Ministry officials said.

Although this year's budget for mid-day meals remains unchanged, an additional ₹266 crore is expected to be added as the Central government's share to cater to balvatika students from 2022-23, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan told



Helping hand: The extension of mid-day meals to pre-primary students was a key recommendation of the NEP, 2020. ■PTI

journalists after the Cabinet decision.

The extension of mid-day meals to pre-primary students, who are to be incorporated into the formal education system, was a key recommendation of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 and the population of balvatikas – which

offer one year of pre-school classes – is expected to rise from the existing 24 lakh as the policy is implemented.

However, there has been no progress on the NEP's other recommendation to start offering breakfasts to school students as well. Mr. Pradhan declined to comment on the issue, but Minis-

try officials have previously told *The Hindu* that the Finance Ministry vetoed the proposal for this year, which would involve an additional budgetary allocation of ₹4,000 crore, due to a severe funding crunch. In fact, the School Education Department's budget for this year has been cut by almost ₹5,000 crore.

The PM POSHAN scheme has been approved for the next five-year period until 2025-26, with a collective outlay of ₹1.31 lakh crore, including ₹31,733 crore as the share to be borne by the State governments. It will "improve nutritional status, encourage education and learning and increase enrolments in government schools", Mr. Pradhan said.

The rebranded scheme aims to focus on "holistic nutrition" goals, Ministry officials said.

3 ex-Afghan women MPs fly out of India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Three women Afghan political leaders, who had taken refuge in India after the fall of Kabul, left for Europe on Wednesday. *The Hindu* was urged not to reveal the identity of the three former MPs who were known for their fierce criticism of the Taliban.

The three former MPs were being assisted by Vital Voices, an international group also known for assisting Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai.

The MPs travelled via Dubai where they boarded a flight to a European country. "Once we are settled in the west, we will restart our political campaign for freeing Afghanistan," said one of the MPs who pointed to the heightened risk that their families continue to face under the Taliban rule. She said there are a handful of former women MPs who are eager to leave the country.

States' fears over GST regime have come true: T.N. Minister

GST discussions, decisions ought to be data-driven, says Palanivel Thiaga Rajan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan on Wednesday said the States' fears of losing autonomy with the Goods and Services Tax regime have come true.

"One thing that is very clear to me is the fears of loss of autonomy have been fully realised. The States have now very little independence in any matters of taxation now," he said, stressing on how many problems can be resolved to the satisfaction of the States and industry if the GST decisions are data-driven.

"Given it is the law of the land, our job now is to make it as robust, as dependable, as high utility as possible. Within the constraints of the GST, I see lot of upside in terms of systems improvement, data-driven assessment and decision making,



No relief: The issue of including petroleum products in the GST regime has been hanging fire for some time. •FILE PHOTO

plugging of loopholes, improvement of uniform enforcement..." he told the South India GST Conclave organised virtually by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Echoing his remarks, Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal recalled how he had moved a dissent note, as a Member of the Rajya Sabha

in a parliamentary panel, stating the GST is very much against the principles of federalism. "What we apprehended about the legislation [then] is practically happening," he said, adding that the State governments were facing financial crisis because of the GST. From July 2022, they would also not be compensated by the Centre for the loss of revenue.

Blaming the Centre's policy and attitude towards the States as the problem, he underscored the need for businesses and government to work together for a strong economy.

Karnataka Industries Minister Murgesh Nirani said while there were a few pressing issues to be resolved, the GST had brought out a historic transformation to the tax structure. He thanked the Prime Minister, the Union Finance Minister and members of the GST Council for the major tax reform.

FICCI Telangana chairman T. Muralidharan said the conclave was an attempt by FICCI to act as a bridge between the States and the Centre on the GST. He said the southern States were the biggest losers in the tax-sharing formula. FICCI will be submitting a report to the Centre.

Amarinder meets Shah, sparking off rumours

Former Punjab CM's next political destination could be BJP

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The turmoil within the Congress in Punjab washed up at the doorstep of Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday with former Chief Minister of the State Capt. Amarinder Singh (retd.) meeting Mr. Shah at his residence, setting off speculation that his next political destination could well be the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The meeting between Mr. Shah and Mr. Singh lasted 45-50 minutes, with the latter stating via his media adviser Raveen Thakral that he had "met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi. Discussed prolonged farmers' agitation against the farm laws and urged him to repeal of the laws and guarantee MSP (minimum support price), besides supporting Punjab in crop diversification".

The statement did not



Surprise meet: The farmers' protest was discussed during the meeting between Amit Shah and Amarinder Singh. •FILE PHOTO

mention any political arrangements that may have been discussed but does point to the sticking point in terms of any such arrangement between Mr. Singh and the BJP.

The three farm laws have been the subject of protests for the past 11 months, with Mr. Singh being one of the first Chief Ministers to fully back the agitation by farmers' groups.

For him to come to a political arrangement with the BJP without some middle ground on how to tackle the

issue is difficult, and sources say that the BJP, which is quite keen on Mr. Singh joining its fold, is mindful of the same.

Therefore, Mr. Singh's resignation as Chief Minister of Punjab has come at a good time for the BJP.

While firm on not withdrawing the laws, sources told *The Hindu*, many other means, including further amendments or the setting up of a more expanded committee to sort out the issue, may be looked at.

Sidhu vows to stick to principles

CM Channi urges the former PPCC chief to resolve his grouse by holding talks

SANDEEP PHUKAN
VIKAS VASUDEVA
NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

The chaos in the Congress's Punjab unit refused to show any sign of settling, as Navjot Singh Sidhu, who resigned as its chief on Tuesday, hardened his stand on Wednesday and Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi urged him to resolve his grouses by holding talks.

Mr. Sidhu observed that he would firmly stick to his stance and continue the fight even if it meant losing everything.

Mr. Channi categorically said the party is supreme and the government pursued its ideology. "Party president is the head of the 'family'. I have spoken to Mr. Sidhu and conveyed that the party's ideology is supreme, and that the government follows it. I have urged him to talk and resolve the matter. We will resolve the issue," he stated.

Party insiders said the central leadership was not amused by Mr. Sidhu's abrupt move and the man-



High ground: Navjot Singh Sidhu said he would continue the fight even if it meant losing everything. •PTI

ner of his quitting by displaying his resignation on a public platform. By not rushing Harish Rawat, party's Punjab affairs in charge, to deal with the crises, the party high command is believed to have given an indication that it is in no mood to placate Mr. Sidhu by going the 'extra mile'.

All India Congress Committee appointed observer Harish Chaudhary, however, has reached Punjab to take stock of the situation. The party has tasked the Chief Minister to resolve the emerging crises and he has

assigned Pargat Singh and Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, both Ministers and close associates of Mr. Sidhu, to talk to him.

Acceptance dilemma
It is learnt that the party is apparently in a fix over accepting Mr. Sidhu's resignation, as the acceptance could exemplify him in the electoral battle as a 'martyr' who has chosen emotional and sensitive issues surrounding the Bargari sacrilege and the inclusion of 'tainted' leaders in the government as the basis of his quitting.

While Mr. Sidhu's close associates met him to pursue him to take back his decision and deliberate on the issues, there were other senior party leaders who hit out at him. They accused him of harming the party.

On Wednesday, Mr. Sidhu remarked that during his 17 years of political journey, he had been working with a purpose to improve the life of the State people and make a difference. Taking a principled stand on issue-based politics and sticking to it had been the core of his political journey, he asserted.

"My fight has always been on issues and Punjab favoured agenda; it has never been personal. There's not going to be any compromise surrounding my struggle on Punjab's rights... In my fight, positions have never been relevant," he emphasised.

Launching an attack on the government without naming anyone, he said the issues for which he had taken a committed stand before people were being compromised.

Nitish swears by Bihar's special category status

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday clarified that his party had not dropped the demand for special category status to Bihar but it was up to the Centre to take a decision on it.

Earlier, senior Cabinet colleague Bijendra Prasad Yadav had said the Nitish government was tired of demanding special category status and was no longer in-

terested in pursuing the demand but would now demand for a special package to the State.

But the senior JD(U) leader's comment created a flutter among alliance BJP leaders. "What special package is he [Mr. Yadav] talking about? The Prime Minister has given ₹1.25 lakh crore to the State as special package and had also announced to stand by the State in its hour of need", said BJP leader Prem Ranjan Patel.

AAP throws 5-point challenge at Congress government in Punjab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Aam Aadmi Party's supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is on a two-day visit to Punjab on Wednesday, threw a five point challenge at the ruling Congress, asking it to fulfil its 2017 election promises.

"I have a message for our new CM Channi sahab," he said.

"First, there are allegations that he (Channi) inducted tainted Ministers and tainted officers. They need to be removed. Also, people are upset over the Bargari (sacrilege) case. The masterminds of the case should be punished," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal said that the Congress had promised employment or an unemployment allowance and that needs to be immediately given within a week. "Fourth, former Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh had promised to waive the loans of the farmers. Lastly, the Congress is saying they know how the power purchase agreements can be cancelled, so they should do the same."

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Contract Name	Tender for Licensing of Retail Space and Other Developments underneath Kathipara Grade Separator
Contract No	CMRL/BD/ Kathipara-GS/2021/498/01
Documents downloaded from	30.09.2021 to 29.10.2021
Pre Bid Meeting Date	08.10.2021 at 11:30 hrs at CMRL Office- Koyambedu Admin Building, Chennai-107.
Due Date of Bid Submission	29/10/2021 up to 17.00 hours (IST)
Date of Bid Opening	30/10/2021 at 17.05 hours (IST)

For complete details, please visit e-procurement website: <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on above mentioned website.

Tender inviting Authority:
Chief General Manager (P&BD), Chennai Metro Rail Limited,
Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai – 600 107 Phone 044- 2379 2000 / www.chennaiemrta.org.
E-mail: krishnan.rm@cmrl.in DIPR/2803/Tender/2021

சென்னை மட்டும் கட்டுப்பாட்டு கட்டுப்பாட்டு. சாத்தன புரிந்து கட்டுப்பாட்டு கட்டுப்பாட்டு.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
RAJIV BHAWAN, BHUBANESWAR**

No. 24845 /WR Dtd.: 29.09.2021
APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR WALMI (ODISHA)

Department of Water Resources, Govt. of Odisha invites applications from the interested persons, both serving and retired, having following qualifications, for the post of **Director, WALMI** (Water and Land Management Institute), Pratapnagar, Cuttack, Odisha.

- Qualification** : The candidate/ person should be from Water Management / Agriculture / Agriculture Extension background preferably with experience and aptitude in participatory processes. He/ She should have the vision and drive to convert WALMI into a Centre of Excellence in this sector.
- Age** : The minimum age of the applicant should be at least 35 years with upper age limit of 62 years as on 1st January of 2021.
- Salary** : - The post (Director) carries the remuneration equal to the pay level-16 of the pay-matrix of ORSP Rules, 2017 per month with usual DA and other benefits to be approved by the Governing Council. The remuneration can be negotiated if so required or can be fixed at a lump sum amount of Rs 1.5 lakhs per month
- Tenure** : - The appointment will be purely on a contractual basis for a period of three (03) years. It may be renewed / revoked at any time, if necessary.

Interested candidates may send their complete Bio-data in the prescribed proforma along with copies of necessary documents by the Registered Post / Speed post/ Courier addressed to the **Principal Secretary to Government of Odisha, Department of Water Resources & President, Governing Council, WALMI, Rajiv Bhawan, Bhubaneswar-751001** and the applications should reach on or before **dt. 30.10.2021 by 5.00 PM**. Besides, a legible scanned PDF copy of the application along with supporting documents may also be sent online to the E-mail ID **"wrscc@ori.nic.in"** on or before **dt.30.10.2021 by 5.00 PM**. Applications received after the due date shall not be entertained.

The proforma for application and other details are available in the Department website **<https://www.dowrodisa.gov.in>**.

A-483:

Special Secretary to Government

OIPR-32001/11/0001/2122

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(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
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TENDER NOTICE

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/www.kmmil.com>

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2021_KMML_440715_1	For supply of Power cable
2	2021_KMML_440526_1	For supply of CS Pipe
3	2021_KMML_440084_1	For supply of HDPE Pipe

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER - CUM - REVERSE TENDERING

Roc.No.ITD-44021(34)/3/2021-Press SEC TTD. Dt:28-09-2021
e-reverse tendering are invited for **Printing and supply of 6 sheet Calendars 2022 (25,000 Nos. New Category)** as per tender notice & for details of e-tender please log on to the web site <http://www.aeprocurement.gov.in> (or) <http://tender.aeprocurement.gov.in>.

For further details if any please contact: **0877-2264355 (or) 0877-2264292**.

Roc.No.PR4/13934/Adv.No.179/PRO/2021/Dated:29-09-2021 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

राजस्थान सरकार
निदेशालय चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं,
राजस्थान, जयपुर

दूरभाष सं : 0141-2224878 ई-मेल: rmcc.mnjy@gmail.com
क्र.: एफओ4/ (एफएमवेई) टेलीफोन/2021-22/ 785 दिनांक : 27.09.2021

ई-निविदा सूचना

राज्य के 53 जिला/ उपजिला/ सेटलबट चिकित्सालय में एक्स-रे जांचों की रिपोर्ट को टेलीरडियोलॉजी के माध्यम से आउटसोर्सिंग के माध्यम से कराया जाना है, इच्छुक निविदादाता द्वारा प्रारूप एवं विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट www.rajsawasthya.nic.in एवं सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग की वेबसाइट www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in तथा sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर विवरण प्राप्त कर सकते हैं एवं आवेदन वेबसाइट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर कर सकते हैं।
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DIPR/C/9921/21

**OFFICE OF MEMBER SECRETARY,
RAJASTHAN MEDICARE RELIEF SOCIETY
MAHARANA BHUPAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, UDAIPUR**

No./RMRS/2021-22/591 Dated: 24/9/2021

Following item being purchase by Member Secretary, RMRS, Maharana Bhupal Govt. Hospital, Udaipur is invited from interested bidders upto closing date. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://proc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>) of the state
1- UBN NO GHU2122GLRC00074
2- UBN NO GHU2122GSR000075
3- UBN NO GHU2122WSRC000076

DIPR/C/9910

Member Secretary
Rajasthan Medicare Relief Society
Maharana Bhupal Govt. Hospital
Udaipur

राजस्थान सरकार
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राजस्थान, जयपुर

दूरभाष सं : 0141-2224878 ई-मेल: rmcc.mnjy@gmail.com
क्र.: एफओ4/ (एफएमवेई) टेलीफोन/2021-22/ 785 दिनांक : 27.09.2021

ई-निविदा सूचना

राज्य के 53 जिला/ उपजिला/ सेटलबट चिकित्सालय में एक्स-रे जांचों की रिपोर्ट को टेलीरडियोलॉजी के माध्यम से आउटसोर्सिंग के माध्यम से कराया जाना है, इच्छुक निविदादाता द्वारा प्रारूप एवं विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट www.rajsawasthya.nic.in एवं सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग की वेबसाइट www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in तथा sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर विवरण प्राप्त कर सकते हैं एवं आवेदन वेबसाइट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर कर सकते हैं।
UBN No. : **MHS2122SLOB02430**
DIPR/C/9921/21

**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PPP) P.W.D.
RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR**

No. 806 Date: 21/9/2021

SHORT TERM NIT NO. 15/2021-22
INVITATION OF REP TOLL COLLECTION

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, Public Works Department, Rajasthan invites RFP for Toll Collection for ADB funded Highways Sanju-Tarnau Section of SH-60 and Nagar-Tarnau-Deedwana-Mukunggarh Section of SH-8, 19.60, 82A & 83 under RSHIP Tranche-1, Package-03/1 and Barmar-Sindhra-Bishanghar Section & Sanderao-Bali-Mundara Section of SH-16 under RSHIP Tranche-1, package-02 in specified format.

The RFP document can be viewed on / and downloaded from website: <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>, www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in and <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> from 23.09.2021. Any further amendments to the RFP document shall only be made available on above websites as such prospective Bidders are advised to visit the above websites for the same.

UBN No: PWD2122SLOP07351
PWD2122SLOP07352

V. K. Singh
Addl. Chief Engineer (PPP)
PWD, Rajasthan, Jaipur

email: aceppp.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
Tel: +91-141-2223547

DIPR/C/9710

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE

NABH Accredited (an autonomous centre under Government of Kerala)
Thalassery, Kannur Dist., Kerala - 670 103. Phone +91 490 2399205, 2355881
Fax: 91 490 2355880. Email: mcccity@gmail.com. Web: www.mcckerala.gov.in

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST 25/09/2021

Malabar Cancer Centre (MCC), Thalassery invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from IRDA registered insurance companies for implementing Group Insurance scheme for students.

Last date of submission of EOI is on **20/10/2021 at 5.00 PM**.

For details please visit our website. www.mcc.kerala.gov.in or contact Ph: +91 62828 74994 Sd/- DIRECTOR

HITES
HLL INFRA TECH SERVICES LTD

(100% Subsidiary of HLL Lifecare Limited, a Govt. of India Enterprise)
B-14A, Sector-62, Noida-201307, Uttar Pradesh

NOTICE INVITING BID - GLOBAL ENQUIRY

Bids are invited from eligible architectural firms for Providing Design and Architectural Consultancy Services for Construction of Government Medical College (100 MBBS Seats) & 500 Bedded Hospital with allied services and facilities at Sirsa, to be executed on EPC basis:

Estimated Cost	Cost of RFP/ Bid Document	Last Date to submit Bids
Rs. 500 Cr.	Rs. 5,900.00 inclusive of GST	21.10.2021 up to 15:00 Hrs

For details and amendments, please visit CPP portal www.eprocure.gov.in
Vice President (ID), HITES

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

P.B. No.8066, Sadashivnagar PO, Bengaluru-560 080
Telephone No: 080-2207 2271, E-mail: purchase@cpri.in
Website: <http://www.cpri.res.in>

NOTICE INVITING GLOBAL TENDER - CPRI/BLR21NIT12 Date: 30/09/2021

Online e-tenders are invited from eligible manufacturers / suppliers for the following in conformation to National / International standards wherever applicable: -

(1) **Short circuit current limiting reactor banks of 14kV rms for augmentation of short circuit test facilities at High power laboratory, CPRI Bengaluru.**

Tender documents with detailed specifications, terms & conditions, instructions, and other details be kindly aailed/downloaded from CPRI website: <http://www.cpri.res.in> and CPRI e-procurement portal: <http://www.tenderwizard.com/CPRI> from 30/09/2021 onwards.
CPRI/ADV7/28 /2021 Purchase Authority-CPRI

**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
PHED, JAIPUR REGION-I, JAIPUR**

Jyoti Nagar, Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005
Phone: 0141-2740170(o) e-mail: ace1.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No F/ACE/PHED/Ar.Sikar/NIT 101to 109/2021-22/8990-9010

Date 22-09-2021
(e-NIT No. 101 to 109/2021-22)

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan NIT No. 19 to 22/2021-22 online tender is hereby invited from eligible bidders for "Augmentation of various RWSS to provide FHTC including one year DLP of SVS under JMM of District Sikar" as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/tender document available on websites: <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> & <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>. Tenders are to be submitted online in electronic format on website <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> as per prescribed schedule.

NIT No	Particular	Estt Cost (Rs. in Crore)	UBN No.
101/2021-22	Sub Division Dantaramgarh	4.47	PHE 2122 WSOB 07754
102/2021-22	Sub Division Dantaramgarh	4.81	PHE 2122 WSOB 07755
103/2021-22	Sub Division Dantaramgarh	4.50	PHE 2122 WSOB 07756
104/2021-22	Sub Division Dantaramgarh	4.91	PHE 2122 WSOB 07757
105/2021-22	Sub Division Piprali	4.22	PHE 2122 WSOB 07758
106/2021-22	Sub Division Piprali	4.29	PHE 2122 WSOB 07759
107/2021-22	Distt. Sub Division Sikar	4.39	PHE 2122 WSOB 07760
108/2021-22	Distt. Sub Division Sikar	3.98	PHE 2122 WSOB 07761
109/2021-22	Distt. Sub Division Sikar	4.56	PHE 2122 WSOB 07762

SAVE WATER- SAVE LIFE
(Arun Srivastava)
Addl. Chief Engineer
PHED, Jaipur Region-I, Jaipur

DIPR/C/9769

INTERVIEW | ARJAN DE WAGT

‘High levels of maternal, child undernutrition continue to plague India’

COVID-19 has heightened risk of increasing malnutrition; parts of progress made in the past may get undone, says head of nutrition, UNICEF India

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Arjan De Wagt, head of nutrition, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) India speaks on how high levels of maternal and child undernutrition continue to plague the country. He notes that for the future of children in India, controlling COVID-19 and ending malnutrition are equally important and urgent.

How has India fared on child and maternal nutrition in recent times?

Overall, India has made impressive gains in economic and human development in recent decades. However, high levels of maternal and child undernutrition continue to plague the country. Large-scale surveys, like the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) and National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS), show that about one-third of children under five years of age in India are stunted, a third of them are underweight, and almost two out of 10 children

are nutritionally wasted; many of these children suffer from multiple anthropometric deficits. The CNNS also highlights the emerging problems of overweight, obesity and micro-nutrient deficiencies.

The launch of the Poshan Abhiyan in March 2018 refocused the national development agenda on nutrition. However, with the spectre of COVID-19, there is a heightened risk of increasing malnutrition, and parts of progress made in the past may get undone.

How is COVID-19 likely to affect nutritional

interventions in India?

Broadly, we know that the impact of COVID-19 has adversely affected access to livelihoods. The containment measures to prevent the spread of the virus threatened livelihoods, resulted in price hikes due to reduced production of goods and services, and in the disruption of supply chains for many families.

Global research in 2020 on the effect of COVID-19 estimated about 14.3% increase in wasting globally. No specific data are available yet on the impact of COVID-19 on the nutritional status of the Indian population. First of all, like other infections, the COVID-19 infection negatively affects the nutritional status of a child.

Second, as the period of pandemic prolongs, food insecurities and nutritional challenges will intensify too.



For the future of children in India, stopping COVID-19 and stopping malnutrition are equally important

On completion of six months, children need nutrient dense complementary foods in addition to breast milk to adequately fuel the growth of their growing bodies and brain.

Food insecurity arising out of the pandemic may cause families to shift to

cheap food with low nutritive value, causing long-term adverse impact on the cognitive development of children.

Third, health and social services, such as anganwadi centres, nutrition rehabilitation centres, and village health sanitation and nutrition days (VHSND), were disrupted. As schools remained closed for a large part of 2020 and well into 2021, we also noticed that distribution of iron and folic acid tablets to children in schools was significantly reduced, and awareness campaigns in schools on nutrition were suspended. It was not until early 2021 that more and more States started opening anganwadi centres again, but centre-based activities soon were suspended due to the second wave of COVID-19.

As COVID-19 demanded extraordinary attention,

health workers were diverted from nutrition programmes.

Fourth and most importantly, COVID-19 related priorities could threaten delivery and financing of nutrition and nutrition security responses.

Given that the threat of subsequent COVID-19 waves looms, what do you foresee as the biggest challenge in the nutrition space?

We fear double threats here. On the one hand, pandemic response services, such as COVID-19 vaccination, will need to be prioritised. This puts a tremendous strain on systems, capacity and resources earlier dedicated to deliver routine health, nutrition, and social protection interventions.

On the other hand, COVID-19 may inflict repeated

shocks on families and communities.

As COVID-19 affects resources and priorities, how should the government address nutrition-related challenges?

Six areas need immediate attention. First and foremost, strong leadership at all levels – from national to district – is essential to bring back focus to address food, income and nutritional security.

Second, uninterrupted, universal, timely and high-quality coverage of essential evidence-based nutritional services must be ensured, with special focus on children below two years of age, pregnant women and adolescent girls, which are critical development periods.

Thirdly, the pandemic calls for strategies adapting to COVID-19 guidelines and

innovations in the service delivery mechanism.

Fourthly, adequate financing is needed to ensure delivery of high-impact interventions, and additional financing will be required for ensuring food and nutritional security, especially for the vulnerable population groups.

Multisectoral interventions that directly or indirectly impact nutrition like health, nutrition and social protection schemes need to be delivered effectively to the same household, same woman, same child. Migrant labourers and urban poor need special focus.

Finally, nutrition needs to be retained as a key indicator for development. For the future of children in India, stopping COVID-19 and stopping malnutrition are equally important and urgent.

Full interview at <https://bit.ly/DeWagt>.

SC dismisses appeal filed by Adani Gas

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has dismissed an appeal filed by Adani Gas against the authorisation given by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) to state-run Gujarat Gas to lay and maintain a gas distribution network in rural Ahmedabad.

Gujarat Gas had succeeded in securing the authorisation for setting up the network in Sanand, Bavla and Dholka in an auction held by the board. A three-judge Bench of Justices U.U. Lalit, S. Ravindra Bhat and Hrishikesh Roy, in a judgment pronounced on Tuesday, directed Adani to bear the costs of ₹10 lakh, payable to the Union of India.

Adani's claim is precluded by the principle of approbate-reprobate, as it accepted authorisation granted by PNGRB [including exclusion of disputed areas], furnished the performance bond and even participated in the auction for the excluded areas, and only thereafter challenged authorisation when its bid was unsuccessful," Justice Bhat, who authored the 79-page judgment, observed.

This judgment comes days after the Supreme Court issued notice in a curative petition in a case filed by Gujarat Urja Vikas Limited (GUVL) against a July 2019 judgment of the apex court upholding the termination of a power purchase agreement (PPA) by Adani Power (Mundra) Limited.

Foreign Secretary to visit Colombo soon

Shringla likely to inaugurate key bilateral projects

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla is scheduled to visit Colombo between October 2 and 5, official sources in New Delhi told *The Hindu*, as India and Sri Lanka seek to engage at high levels amid a perceived strain in ties.

The scheduled visit comes 10 days after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Sri Lankan counterpart, G.L. Peiris, met on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York.

While official sources in New Delhi and Colombo indicated that Mr. Shringla



Bilateral talks: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister G.L. Peiris in New York last week. ■PTI

would likely inaugurate key bilateral projects between October 2 and 5, the thrust of his visit was yet to be known.

The high-level visit follows Mr. Jaishankar's in January, when he told the leadership in Colombo that it was in "Sri Lanka's own interest" that the expectations of the Tamil people – for equality, justice, peace and dignity within a

united Sri Lanka – were fulfilled. However, Tamil and Muslim minorities point to continuing harassment by authorities, especially around memorialisation and threats to land owned by civilians, in addition to the Tamil leadership consistently highlighting the long-pending political solution.

On the recent bilateral

meeting in New York, the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Mr. Peiris briefed Mr. Jaishankar about "the pragmatic and tangible action" taken by the government to resolve "residual matters after the end of the conflict in May 2009", referring apparently to contentious issues around truth, accountability and justice that the island nation's civil war-affected Tamils have been demanding for over a decade.

According to the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry's statement, Mr. Jaishankar indicated the need for a "fair and just resolution of residual issues in the aftermath of the ethnic issues in the interest of both countries". "The Indian Foreign Minister indicated that our relations should not be limited to a

single issue," the statement said, adding that Mr. Jaishankar emphasised the need for "for a practical conclusion of the number of projects pending implementation, indicating that it would give more confidence to New Delhi to move forward in enhancing relations".

New Delhi's concerns over the "slow pace" of India-backed projects in the island nation and the emergence of China as a crucial player in its economy and infrastructure are well known.

The visit is Mr. Shringla's first to Sri Lanka as Foreign Secretary. He has worked closely on issues pertaining to Indo-Lanka relations in his capacity as Joint Secretary in New Delhi years ago, overseeing Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and the Maldives.

India, Australia sign ‘Terms of Reference’ for navy to navy talks

First such document signed by Indian Navy with a country

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy and the Australian Navy on Wednesday signed the 'Terms of Reference' (ToR) for the conduct of the navy to navy talks under the framework of the 'Joint Guidance for the India-Australia Navy to Navy Relationship' document, signed by the two Navy Chiefs in August. This is the first such document signed by the Indian Navy with any country.

The document set the navy to navy talks as the principal medium for guiding the bilateral cooperation, the Indian Navy said in a statement. "The document would be pivotal in consolidating the shared commitment to promoting peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," it stated.

The ToR detailed the modalities for engagement at various levels between the two navies and streamlined

the process, an official source said.

The document provided flexibility for the implementation of separate agreements based on the specific outcomes of the talks. The highlights of the document included close cooperation in regional and multilateral fora, including Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

Define exemptions from data protection law: panel

It finds middle ground on clause

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Joint Parliamentary Committee on Data Protection has found a middle ground on the contentious clause which in the name of "sovereignty", "friendly relations with foreign states" and "security of the state", allows any agency under the Union government exemption from all or any provisions of the law.

More than 10 MPs in the panel had earlier objected to the clause, saying that it made the entire Act infructuous.

In past deliberations, Congress MPs Jairam Ramesh, Manish Tewari and Gaurav Gogoi; Trinamool Congress MPs Derek O'Brien and Mahua Moitra; Bipu Janata Dal (BJD) MPs Bhartruhari Mahatab and Amar Patnaik; Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MP Ritesh Pandey; Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Eknath Shinde; and BJP MP Rajeev Chandrasekhar had moved amendments to the contentious Clause 35 of the legislation.

Since then, Mr. Chandrasekhar had been promoted to Minister of State and was no longer a member of the committee.

‘Subject to abuse’

Mr. Shinde had argued for deleting the clause entirely since it could be "subject to abuse".

Invoking "sovereignty and integrity of India", "public order", "friendly relations with foreign states" and "security of the state", the legislation gives powers



Jairam Ramesh

to the Union government to suspend all or any of the provisions of the Act for government agencies.

Sources said the committee had largely agreed that the clause needed to be appropriately amended. The members demanded that the conditions for making the exemptions be clearly laid down without leaving scope for interpretation.

No other details on how it would be worded to avoid possible abuse was forthcoming.

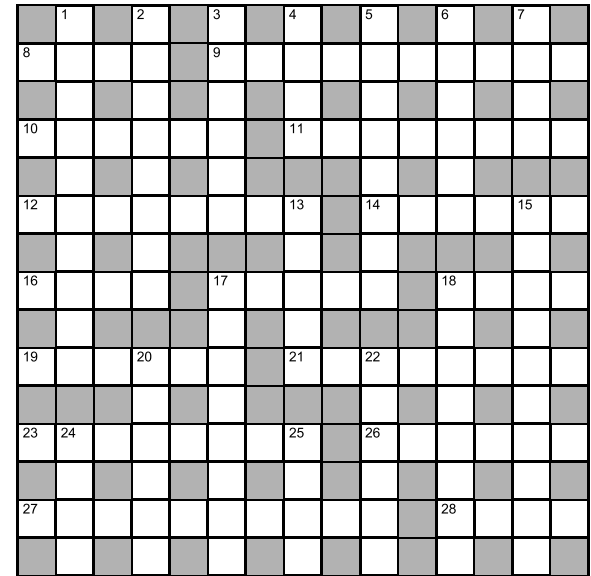
Close to 55 clauses

In a day-long meeting on Wednesday, the committee deliberated on close to 55 clauses and was nearly halfway through the Bill.

The report on the Bill is long overdue. The Bill seeks to provide protection of personal data of individuals was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2019 and referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee soon after.

It got its fifth extension during the monsoon session of Parliament in July this year and has now been asked to submit the report by the winter session.

THCROSSWORD+ 13365 Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids: @ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjpTn> SCAN TO PLAY



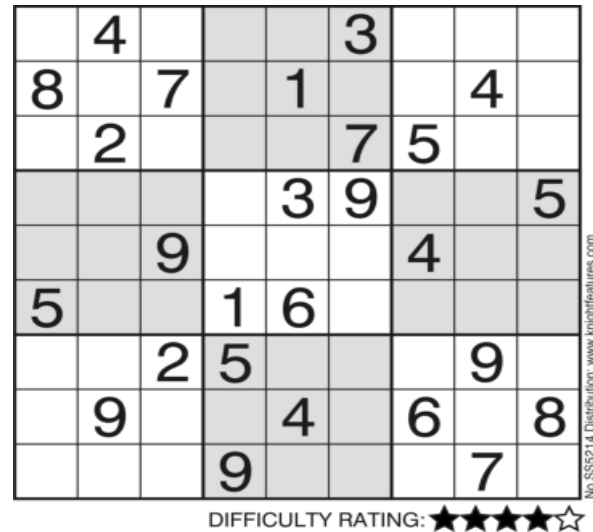
- 14 Head of department lops everyone's heads after new HOD provides no kind of resolution (6)
- 16 Other wise elders organised no doctor (4)
- 17 Perhaps vegetable's regurgitated before shedding its kernel (5)
- 18 Offer leeway (4)
- 19 Deviously entrap, make headway? (6)
- 21 Make use of return ticket to take model out, tour around Spain without any escort (8)
- 23 Cut joke after second cut (5,3)
- 26 Greek island has an effect (6)
- 27 Best car hut invented since sliced bread? (10)
- 28 Gets on with wise elder, top to bottom (4)

DOWN

- 1 Common cure not available in any form – contained in deformed larva lacking blood type (10)
- 2 Break free suddenly, pretend you're captured (8)
- 3 French goods with artificial intelligence? Japanese shoot! (6)
- 4 Second season will be in France (4)
- 5 Coming out is nuanced – no doubts to begin with; left out in society (8)
- 6 Choosy about love, rejecting first prospect, to head out to lunch (6)
- 7 In the middle of a bid, I'm asked to return cover (4)
- 13 Doctor Murthy finally ends drinking liquor, to start like a teetotaler (5)
- 15 Jackpot! Almost winning five elections – a third promise (4,6)
- 17 Excited man finds love, losing independence – rich year for his single-man regime? (8)
- 18 Boy, girl running back-to-back laps regularly near sports department – in full throttle (3,5)
- 20 Term right in the middle of term (6)
- 22 Uncle almost had an hour out in the nude (6)
- 24 Rope around hole (4)
- 25 Snack chewed with drug (4)

- ACROSS
- 8 Antlered hybrid shrugs off insect – lady's animal (4)
- 9 Omissions excepted, writes down exactly, like, what Ali Baba declared (4,6)
- 10 Passes letter bills (6)
- 11 Air-conditioned housing as unreservedly packed as a musical performance that goes swimmingly? (8)
- 12 Held firm, overturning award – that's a little drastic (8)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13364 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

PLAICE	PROCURED	4	3	2	8	7	5	9	6	1
CAMPSTOOL	POPUP	8	5	6	1	3	9	2	4	7
KOITLASSRI		1	7	9	6	2	4	3	8	5
LENTIGO	TIEDOWN				3	9				5
OEGMTIVG			9				4			
CURIA	OBTAINED	5			1	6				
KAMNESTIAN	EMERGE									
AMNESIAC	PURGE									
ALIAS	LEGEA									
CODICIL	AIRRAIL									
UEHRA	USLL									
MAINE	NOTALGIA									
ERAD	ENALIN									
NEARMISS	ADORED									

FAITH

Antecedents of Narada

Generally most of us have momentary glimpses of divine experience which makes a deep impact with a longing to pursue it further. To attain fullness of this experience a true devotee and a jnani may have to pass through many births, says Krishna in the Gita. The sadana and the process may be long drawn but the Lord's grace works in mysterious ways as is exemplified in the case of Narada, pointed out Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse.

In the Bhagavata purana, Narada himself explains to Vyasa his spiritual journey through three successive births. In his first birth he was a Gandharva and then in his next birth in an earlier kalpa, he had been born as a son of servant maid who used to serve in hermitages. So, even as a boy, he got the chance to be associated with the sadhus. He too used to serve them and by listening to the Lord's glories from them, he was able to develop love and devotion to the Lord. After his mother's death, he wandered through dense forests and mountains and tried to meditate on the Lord as instructed by the sages. Once when in intense dhyana, the Lord chose to reveal Himself in his inner being. The overwhelming experience was momentary and when the vision disappeared, he was very distraught. But soon he heard the Lord's divine voice in the skies.

The Lord said that He had revealed His form briefly so that it will instil intense longing and devotion to Him. He added that after this life all his prarabdha karma responsible for birth would be exhausted and he will gain Suddha satva sarira meant for the dedicated service of the Lord. During the next creative cycle he was born as the divine sage Narada and was blessed by the Lord to propagate bhakti. Narada continues to inspire posterity till date.



TRANSCENDING TIME
The journey of an Inimitable Sage traced through lens and letters

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MARKET WATCH

Sensex	59,413	-0.43
US Dollar	74.14	-0.11
Gold	45,123	0.10
Brent oil	79.09	0.00

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	742.00	3.30
Asian Paints	3323.05	-56.65
Axis Bank	782.15	-7.05
Bajaj Auto	3899.25	-9.45
Bajaj Finserv	17433.75	-116.60
Bajaj Finance	7515.40	-27.90
Bharti Airtel	694.10	-2.05
BPL	436.90	7.30
Britannia Ind.	3972.75	-30.90
Cipla	987.50	16.60
Coal India	185.70	11.15
Davis Lab	4806.45	22.40
Dr Reddys Lab	4881.00	47.85
Eicher Motors	2843.25	-39.80
Grasim Ind.	1669.90	21.15
HCL Tech.	1281.20	-12.20
HDFC	2746.45	-58.50
HDFC Bank	1593.85	-21.20
HDFC Life	734.75	8.95
Hero MotoCorp	2886.15	-34.40
Hindalco	494.15	16.00
Hind Unilever	2685.30	-38.55
ICI Bank	709.50	-7.65
IndusInd Bank	1123.20	-11.55
Infosys	1692.25	5.15
Indian Oil Corp	127.45	4.50
ITC	238.10	0.35
JSW Steel	679.80	-18.95
Kotak Bank	2030.45	-37.75
L&T	1721.00	-16.15
M&M	812.10	6.05
Maruti Suzuki	7384.05	-39.80
Nestle India Ltd.	19506.75	-38.00
NTPC	140.65	8.70
ONGC	144.75	2.55
PowerGrid Corp	195.05	11.10
Reliance Ind.	2527.85	-20.20
SBI Life	1205.95	-4.35
State Bank	460.00	15.10
Shree Cement	29382.40	139.45
Sun Pharma	811.30	36.20
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	823.45	0.75
Tata Motors	330.25	0.95
Tata Steel	1295.55	14.60
TCS	3791.90	12.75
Tech Mahindra	1395.35	-18.70
Titan	2147.50	-38.20
Ultra Tech Cement	7464.55	-123.75
UPL	717.15	0.35
Wipro	640.75	1.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 29

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.95	74.27
Euro	86.20	86.58
British Pound	99.97	100.40
Japanese Yen (100)	66.40	66.71
Chinese Yuan	11.44	11.49
Swiss Franc	79.62	79.97
Singapore Dollar	54.47	54.72
Canadian Dollar	58.29	58.55
Malaysian Ringgit	17.67	17.75

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Overseas borrowings of firms jump to \$2.84 bn

MUMBAI Indian companies' external commercial borrowings surged manifold to more than \$2.84 billion in August 2021, RBI data showed. The domestic firms had raised \$145.74 million from overseas markets in August 2020. Of the total funds raised during the month under review, \$2.25 billion was through the automatic route of ECBs. PTI

Indian Bank unveils loan 'Utsav Dhamaka'

CHENNAI Indian Bank has unveiled a 'Utsav Dhamaka' campaign in a bid to further boost retail sector loan growth. The campaign, which will be on till year end, will provide special offers on home loan, vehicle loan and non-priority jewel loan products for retail customers, the lender said.

NSDL shareholders ratify Chunduru as MD & CEO

CHENNAI Former Indian Bank MD and CEO Padmaja Chunduru has been appointed as MD & CEO of National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL). The appointment was ratified by the shareholders on Wednesday, NSDL said. She has about 37 years of experience in banking.

CredAvenue closes first round of \$90mn funding

BENGALURU CredAvenue, a debt platform for enterprises, announced the closure of its first funding round of \$90 million led by Sequoia Capital India and co-led by Lightspeed, TVS Capital Funds and Lightrock. The firm said it would double its headcount to 700 by end of FY22.

Cabinet approves ECGC listing, ₹6,000 crore for export cover

Decisions will spur exports, create additional 62 lakh jobs: Commerce Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved an infusion of more than ₹6,000 crore into entities providing export insurance cover to facilitate additional exports worth in excess of ₹5.6 lakh crore over the next five years. It also approved the listing of state-run Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) on the stock exchanges.

Apart from spurring exports, these decisions will al-



On a high: Exports stood at \$185 bn by Sept. 21, the highest ever for the first six months of a fiscal, says Goyal. *K.R. DEEPAK

so create close to 62 lakh more jobs, the Commerce Ministry said in a statement

after the Cabinet meeting. "By September 21, India's exports had touched \$185

billion [in 2021-22]. This is the highest in India's history in the first six months of a financial year and 10 days are still remaining," said Commerce, Industry and Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal. "The Cabinet has decided to give the ECGC ₹4,400 crore as capital, which will enable it to provide insurance policies worth ₹88,000 crore," he said, adding that 97% of ECGC beneficiaries were micro, small and medium enterprises.

Expect more than 7% growth for India this decade: CEA

'Double-digit rise in FY22 may moderate to 6.5-7% next year'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Adviser K.V. Subramanian on Wednesday said India would clock more than 7% annual growth during this decade on the back of strong economic fundamentals. During the current fiscal, he said, growth would be in double-digits and it could moderate to 6.5-7% in the next financial year.

The Economic Survey 2020-21, released in January, had projected GDP growth of 11% for the current year ending March 2022.

"When you look at the data... the V-shaped recovery and quarterly growth patterns actually established that the fundamentals of the economy are strong... the kind of reforms that we've done on it, and the supply-

side measures that we've taken will enable strong growth not only this year but going forward as well," he said. Growth will be aided by various structural reforms, including labour and farm laws, undertaken by the government, he said.

He was addressing a virtual event organised by the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum.

RBI lifts PCA curbs on IOB post review

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has been taken out of Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) restrictions subject to certain conditions and continuous monitoring, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Wednesday.

"The performance of the Indian Overseas Bank, currently under the Prompt Corrective Action Framework (PCAF) of RBI, was reviewed by the Board for Financial Supervision," the RBI said in a statement. "The bank has provided a written commitment that it would comply with the norms of minimum regulatory capital, net NPA and leverage ratio on an ongoing basis," the regulator said. Taking the above into consideration, it has been decided to remove the restrictions, the RBI added.

Invesco moves NCLT as ZEEL 'fails' to call EGM

Fund wanted MD Goenka's removal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Invesco Developing Markets Fund, along with OFI Global China Fund, has moved the National Company Law Tribunal against media major Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL) for not calling an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) of the company.

Invesco Developing Markets Fund (formerly Invesco Oppenheimer Developing Markets Fund) along with OFI Global China Fund LLC - which together hold 17.88% in ZEEL, had earlier called for an EGM of shareholders seeking the removal of Managing Director Punit Goenka. ZEEL, which had last week announced its merger



with rival Sony Picture Networks India to create the largest media firm in the country, termed the steps by its minority shareholders "impulsive or premature".

The matter is listed before the Mumbai Bench of the NCLT for hearing on Thursday, industry insiders said. ZEEL declined to comment on the development and said it remained committed to acting within the framework of the law.

'H-1B will exist till talent issue is tackled globally'

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA NEW DELHI

The need for H-1B visas will exist till the 'talent challenge' is tackled globally, even though the information technology industry has successfully adopted the work-from-home model amid pandemic-related travel restrictions, said Shiven-dra Singh, vice president and head of Global Trade Development at Nasscom.

The H-1B visa programme allows employers in the U.S. to temporarily employ foreign workers in positions needing specialised knowledge. "During the pandemic, the role of the technology sector has become even more critical... all new technologies, whether it is artificial intelligence, robotics, machine learning, cybersecurity, cloud... have been growing at nearly 30%," Mr.



Singh told *The Hindu*. "That has accentuated the challenge in terms of availability of skills," he said, adding that access to high-skill talent was critical to growth.

He said there had been a significant drop in H-1B visa denials. "The denial rates had gone up to nearly 28.6%, and have come down to nearly 7% in October 2020-March 2021," he said.

"The H-1B exists purely because the skills are not available in that country... obviously, it will take time, but till that time H-1B will be required," he said.

AIL case: NCLT allows Valli to withdraw plea

SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR CHENNAI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Chennai on Wednesday allowed Valli Arunachalam and her family to withdraw the earlier waiver petition in the case against Ambadi Investments Ltd. (AIL), the holding company of Murugappa Group and its family members.

Ms. Arunachalam had sought to file a fresh waiver plea to rectify the errors and withdraw the previous one, a move strongly opposed by Ambadi and the other family members.

The earlier waiver application was dismissed as withdrawn and the plea on the second waiver application would be heard next month, the NCLT said.

Goyal urges U.S. firms to push for FTA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday exhorted U.S. businesses to convince Washington of the need for a trade pact that could help target \$1 trillion in bilateral flow of goods and services over the next 10 years.

"We already have an FTA with Japan; we are working on an early harvest FTA with Australia," Mr. Goyal said at the U.S. India Strategic Partnership Forum. "I would urge you to take it up with your administration as well."

Piramal acquires DHFL, pays ₹14,700 cr. in cash

Creditors get ₹38,000 cr. in resolution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Piramal Enterprises Ltd. (PEL) on Wednesday said it had acquired the bankrupt Dewan Housing Finance Corp. Ltd. (DHFL) by making a cash payment of ₹14,700 crore to creditors as per the resolution plan.

PEL's acquisition of DHFL for a total consideration of ₹34,250 crore, which includes ₹19,550 crore of 10-year NCDs (at 6.75% p.a.), marked the first successful IBC resolution in the financial services sector, chairman Ajay Piramal said in an



online press conference. "This accelerates our plans to become a leading digitally oriented, diversified financial services conglomerate," he added. Creditors also received the ₹3,800 crore in funds that was with DHFL when the administrator took it over for resolution.

Standard Life sells 5% stake in HDFC AMC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Promoter Standard Life Investments on Wednesday divested a 5% stake in HDFC AMC for a little more than ₹3,060 crore through an open market transaction.

According to bulk deal data available with the BSE, the promoter sold a total of 1,06,50,000 shares, representing a 5% stake of the asset management company.

Govt. extends emergency credit scheme till March

Over ₹2.86 lakh cr. sanctioned so far

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The government has extended the ₹4.5 lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) till March 31, 2022, to help businesses cope with the pandemic's adverse effects.

The ECLGS was due to expire on September 30 and has helped 1.15 crore micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) so far. As on September 24, loans sanc-

tioned under ECLGS have crossed ₹2.86 lakh crore, with about 95% of the guarantees issued for loans sanctioned to MSMEs. "With a view to support various businesses impacted by the second wave, it has been decided to extend the timeline till 31.03.2022 or till guarantees for an amount of ₹4.5 lakh crore are issued under the scheme, whichever is earlier," the finance ministry said.

CIL to ramp up fuel supply to power plants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

State-owned CIL on Wednesday said it would augment fuel supply to power utilities of the country to address the decline in coal stocks and build them up to adequate levels.

For the past three days, the public sector company had pushed up its supply to power plants to 1.4 million tonnes (MT) per day, Coal India Ltd. (CIL) said in a statement.

GET SET FOR AN EXCITING OCTOBER

with THE HINDU Young world

SPECIAL ISSUE DATES

OCTOBER 1st

OCTOBER 8th

OCTOBER 15th

OCTOBER 29th

Gandhi & Shastri Jayanthi

Dussehra

Wildlife

Diwali

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SCAN FOR DOORSTEP DELIVERY

Kishida set to be next Japan PM after winning ruling party poll

He will be confirmed as the new premier in a vote in Parliament on October 4

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

Japan's ruling party elected former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida its new leader on Wednesday, setting him on course to become the next Prime Minister of the world's third-largest economy.

The soft-spoken centrist defeated popular vaccine chief Taro Kono in an unusually close race to succeed Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who is stepping down after just a year in office.

Mr. Kishida, 64, will be confirmed as the new premier in a vote in Parliament on October 4 and will then lead the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) into general elections that must happen by November.

Speaking after his win, he called on members to "show the public that the LDP has



Celebration time: Fumio Kishida, right, with outgoing Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga in Tokyo on Wednesday. • AP

been reborn, and appeal for their support".

The scion of a political family from Hiroshima, Mr. Kishida has long targeted the Prime Minister's office and ran unsuccessfully for party leader last year, losing out to Mr. Suga. He became the first candidate to step into the race this time around and ran on a platform of pandemic stimulus while carry-

ing a suggestion box to events to receive proposals from citizens. "My skill is to really listen to people," he said after his win on Wednesday, promising to work for "a bright future for Japan".

Tight race
The race was a tight one, with Mr. Kishida edging Mr. Kono by just a single vote in the first round before taking

the second with 257 votes to Mr. Kono's 170.

Two other candidates, hawkish right-winger Sanae Takaichi and feminist former Gender Equality Minister Seiko Noda, did not advance beyond the first-round vote.

A former LDP policy chief, Mr. Kishida sought to capitalise on public discontent over Mr. Suga's response to the pandemic, which has seen his government's approval ratings slump to record lows.

"We need to keep seriously pursuing coronavirus measures by all means. I need to create an atmosphere in which we can address the crisis together," he said.

On foreign policy, he pledged to "protect basic values led by democracy" and "show our presence by contributing to global challenges, led by the environment issue".

ELSEWHERE



100 killed in clashes for Yemen's Marib
DUBAI
At least 100 Yemeni rebels and pro-government troops have been killed in the past 48 hours as fighting intensifies for the key city of Marib, sources said on Wednesday. A string of air strikes from the Saudi-led coalition targeted the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, who have stepped up their assault on Marib, the government's last northern stronghold. • AFP

North Korea says it tested hypersonic missile
SEOUL
North Korea successfully tested a new hypersonic gliding missile, state media reported on Wednesday, in what would be the nation's latest advance in weapons technology. Tuesday's launch was of "great strategic significance", the Korean Central News Agency said, as the North seeks to increase its defence capabilities a "thousand-fold". • AFP

Najla Bouden named as Tunisia's first woman PM

President Saied asks her to form govt.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TUNIS

Tunisia's President on Wednesday named geologist Najla Bouden as the country's first ever woman Prime Minister-designate, to form a government with limited executive clout after the President seized wide-ranging powers two months ago.

The university lecturer from the city of Kairouan, a political unknown, will take office after Kais Saied on July 25 sacked the government of Hichem Mechichi, suspended Parliament, lifted MPs' immunity and took over the judiciary.

His moves followed months of political deadlock in the face of a pressing economic crisis and mounting coronavirus deaths. While some Tunisians have supported his decisions against a reviled political class, he has faced repeated calls to name a government.

Last week he extended the suspension of Parlia-



Najla Bouden

ment and moved to rule by decree, suspending parts of the country's post-revolution Constitution. Mr. Saied's office on Wednesday published a video of him meeting Ms. Bouden in his office and charging her with presenting a Cabinet "in the coming hours or days".

He repeatedly emphasised the "historic" nature of the nomination of a woman, calling it "an honour for Tunisia and a homage to Tunisian women". He said Ms. Bouden's main mission would be to "put an end to the corruption and chaos that have spread throughout many state institutions".

Adani Group to firm up Colombo Port deal today

The company will develop the West Container Terminal

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Firming up a strategic deal at the Colombo Port in Sri Lanka, the Adani Group will on Thursday sign a build-operate-transfer (BOT) agreement with its local partner John Keells Holdings and the Sri Lanka Port Authority (SLPA), to jointly develop its West Container Terminal (WCT).

While the Adani Group has been in talks with John Keells, one of the largest conglomerates in Sri Lanka, on aspects of design and a probable timeline for execution, Thursday's agreement among all three stakeholders will bear details of the execution of the project, officials in Colombo, who are familiar with the negotiations, told *The Hindu*. The signing event is to be held virtually.

Earlier this year, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa announced the involvement of the Adani Group in the WCT,

Moscow warns YouTube for blocking German RT channels

Unprecedented act of media aggression: Foreign Ministry

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russia on Wednesday threatened to block YouTube and take other retaliatory measures, after the U.S. video-sharing platform blocked the German-language channels of state broadcaster RT.

Moscow has recently been ramping up pressure on foreign tech giants as it seeks greater control over content available online to its domestic audience.

At the same time, it has launched a series of efforts to broaden its influence abroad, especially with RT – formerly known as Russia Today – which operates broadcasters and websites in multiple languages.

YouTube on Tuesday told German media that it had issued a warning to RT for violating its coronavirus disinformation guidelines, and then shuttered two channels

for breaching user terms.

On Wednesday, Russia's Foreign Ministry accused YouTube of an "unprecedented act of media aggression", which it said was likely aided by German authorities. But Berlin denied that it had anything to do with the move.

The Russian Ministry said the adoption of retaliatory measures against German media "seems not only appropriate but also necessary".

"We believe these measures are the only possible way to stimulate our partners' interest in a constructive and meaningful dialogue around this unacceptable situation," it said.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman, Stefan Seibert, responded by saying the German government had "nothing to do with" YouTube's move and

warned Moscow against potential retaliation against German media in Russia.

Russian media watchdog Roskomnadzor, for its part, threatened to restrict access to YouTube in Russia, accusing the company of "censorship".

Roskomnadzor said it had sent a letter to YouTube's owner Google "demanding that all restrictions be lifted" from the two channels – RT DE and Der Fehlende Part – "as soon as possible".

The regulator said YouTube could be issued with a warning, and "the law provides for measures of full or partial restriction of access" if such warnings are ignored.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov later accused YouTube of "censorship", and said Russian laws had been "grossly violated". "There must be zero tolerance for such violations."

Putin, Erdogan hail bilateral relations

Leaders met at Putin's Sochi residence

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday hailed Moscow and Ankara's ability to find "compromises" as he hosted Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan for talks.

Russia and Turkey have historically had complex relations, balancing regional rivalries with finding common ground on economic and strategic interests.

In recent years, the two powers have clashed in particular in Syria, where Moscow and Ankara support opposing camps in the civil war.

They also found themselves on different sides in last year's conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Negotiations are sometimes difficult – but with a final positive result," Mr. Putin said at his residence in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi. He added that the two countries "have learned

Taliban tell U.S. to stop using drones

REUTERS

The Taliban on Wednesday warned of consequences if the United States did not stop flying drones over Afghan airspace.

"The U.S. has violated all international rights and laws as well as its commitments made to the Taliban in Doha, Qatar, with the operation of these drones in Afghanistan," the Taliban said in a statement on Twitter. "We call on all countries, especially United States, to treat Afghanistan in light of international rights, laws and commitments ... in order to prevent any negative consequences."

U.S. officials were not immediately available to comment.

The Islamist militia swept back into power in Afghanistan last month after most U.S. and other Western troops left the country.

SPORT

JK Tyre's Regularity Run in 17 cities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

JK Tyre has launched the JK Tyre FMSCI National Regularity Run Championship, hoping to provide a platform for professional rallying.

The Run will be held across 17 cities in the country with the biggest geographical spread, according to a release from JK Tyre.

"We hope to nurture the new generation of rally enthusiasts to get into professional rallying. We will continue our commitment towards building more professional rally drivers," said Sanjay Sharma, Head-Motorsport, JK Tyre.

New TOPS core group list in October

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A new core group of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) for the next Olympic cycle will be drawn up next month after the earlier one was dissolved at the end of Tokyo Games, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Wednesday.

Gailey jolts Praveen in triple jump

Double for sprinter Taranjeet and distance runner Komal

ATHLETICS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Gailey Venister Devashayam, a former high jumper, shocked National Open champion Praveen Chithravel and won the triple jump with a personal best 16.20m in the National under-23 athletics championships here on Wednesday.

While Praveen, who hit a personal best 16.88m at the National Open, had a foul-ridden series with just one legal jump, Gailey was in his best form with all his four legal jumps going over his previous best of 15.55m.

"I didn't come thinking that I should beat somebody, I just wanted to do something like 16.30m and came close to that," said the 21-year-old Gailey from Tiruchi, who is coached by former national high jump record-holder N. Annavi, his wife Suganthi and son Mothi Arun.

Later, sprinter Taranjeet Kaur and distance runner Komal Jagdale completed a double each.

The results:
Men, 200m: 1. Ragul Kumar (TN) 21.25s; 2. Abhin Devadiga 21.29s; 3. V.A. Shashikanth 21.42. **800m:** 1. Somnath Chauhan (Hr) 1:53.75s; 2. Abhishek Thakur 1:53.86s; 3. Devender Kumar 1:53.87. **10,000m:** 1. Kartik Kumar (UP) 30:41.66s; 2. Adesh Yadav 30:43.22s; 3. Gur-



The perfect one: Gailey Venister who won the men's triple jump gold with a personal best 16.20m. • AFI

preet 30:51.74. **3,000m steeplechase:** 1. Atul Poonia (Raj) 8:49.13s; 2. Sunil Jinabhai 8:53.48s; 3. Sumit Kumar 9:05.96. **400m hurdles:** 1. Dhaval Utekar (Guj) 51.05s; 2. Surendar Selvamani 51.53s; 3. Ruchit Mori 51.86. **High jump:** 1. Kausthubha Jaiswal (MP) 2.11m; 2. Deva Karthick 2.11s; 3. Swadhin Kumar 2.08. **Long jump:** 1. Jeswin Aldrin (TN) 7.81m; 2. Nirmal Sabu 7.79s; 3. Asadullah 7.59. **Triple jump:** 1. Gailey Venister (TN) 16.20m; 2. Praveen Chithravel 16.03s; 3. E. Aravinth 15.98. **Hammer:** 1. Damneet Singh (Pun) 64.20m; 2. Praveen Kumar 61.81s; 3. Ravi 61.68s.

Women, 200m: 1. Taranjeet Kaur (Del) 23.57s; 2. A.T. Dadeshwari 23.73s; 3. Ancy Sojan

24.32. **800m:** 1. K.M. Chanda (Del) 2:03.40s; 2. K.M. Deeksha 2:04.62s; 3. Radha Chaudhary 2:06.00. **10,000m:** 1. Sonika (Har) 35:42.36s; 2. Kavita Yadav 36:25.19s; 3. Chattru Gumnaram 37:20.79. **3,000m steeplechase:** 1. Komal Jagdale (Mah) 9:51.76s; 2. Kajal Sharma 10:47.18s; 3. Rebi Pal 10:50.42.

400m hurdles: 1. Nanhi (Har) 59.58s; 2. Sinchal 1:00.04s; 3. Gurdeep Kaur 1:00.31. **Triple jump:** 1. Sandra Babu (Ker) 13.11m; 2. Sharvari Parulekar 12.88s; 3. R. Aishwarya 12.74. **Hammer:** 1. Shital (Har) 54.21m; 2. Sneha Jadhav 52.02s; 3. Kashish Singh 51.79. **Heptathlon:** 1. Sonu Kumari (Har) 4,889 points; 2. Kajal 4686s; 3. Pooja 4618.

FC Goa makes the summit clash

Edges out Bengaluru FC in the sudden-death

DURAND CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

FC Goa sealed a spot in the final of the Durand Cup after beating Bengaluru FC 7-6 in sudden-death in the second semifinal at the Salt Lake Stadium on Wednesday. The teams were locked 2-2 after regulation time and tied 4-4 after the tie breakers.

After both sides saw one of their attempts saved during the first five attempts in

penalty shoot-outs, the deadlock was broken when Goa goalkeeper Naveen Kumar stopped Damaitphang Lyngdoh's shot after midfielder Christy Davis had made it 7-6 for Goa in the sudden-death.

Quick strike

Bengaluru took charge early and altered the score-line in the very first minute of the action (42 seconds) when N. Sivasakthi checkmated Naveen Kumar with a clever interception. The Bengaluru forward quickly read a back-

pass from Goa defender Papua and charged up to Naveen to block his forward pass and send the ball rolling into the net.

Goa, which fielded three Spanish players including captain Edu Bedia, was stirred by the setback and regrouped to find the equaliser in the eighth minute. Devendra Murgaokar nodded home as Mohammed Nemil reached him unmarked with a nice cross following a corner.

Goa went into the lead in

the 72nd minute when Redeem, who came in as a second half substitute, scored with a nice angular shot.

The Bengaluru boys were not ready to give up and found the equaliser in the 83rd minute when Sivasakthi showed his finishing skill again as he jumped above the Goa defenders to nod home a Namgyal Bhutia cross.

The result: FC Goa 2 (Devendra Murgaokar 8, Redeem Tlang 72) bt Bengaluru FC 2 (N. Sivasakthi 1, 83) 7-6 in sudden-death.

Legendary Manny Pacquiao hangs up his gloves

Registered 62 wins in 72 bouts in his 26-year career; won 12 World crowns

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANILA

Boxing legend Manny Pacquiao is officially hanging up his gloves.

The eight-division world champion and the Philippines senator announced his retirement from the ring on Wednesday.

"As I hang up my boxing gloves, I would like to thank the whole world, especially the Filipino people for supporting Manny Pacquiao. Goodbye boxing," the 42-year old said in a 14-minute video posted on his Facebook page.



Adieu, champion: Pacquiao has decided to leave the ring to pursue his political ambition. • AFP

"It is difficult for me to accept that my time as a boxer is over. Today I am announc-

ing my retirement."

Pacquiao finished his 26-year, 72-fight career with 62

wins, eight losses and two draws. Of those 62 wins, 39 were by knockout and 23 by decision. He won 12 World titles.

His retirement from boxing followed a disheartening defeat to Yordenis Ugas in Paradise, Nevada, USA on August 21.

Pacquiao had hinted at retirement recently. It was also expected because he is setting his sights on a bigger political battlefield.

Pacquiao's rags-to-riches life story and legendary career – he is the only fighter in history to win titles in eight different weight classes – has brought honor to his country.

India confident of doing well in maiden Day-Night Test: Mithali

It will be the visiting side's first experience of playing on a drop-in pitch

INDIA IN AUS

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Test matches are rare in women's cricket. Day-Night Tests are rarer.

The Indian women's team is all set to play its first ever game with a pink ball. At a virtual press conference on the eve of the one-off Test against Australia at Carrara, captain Mithali Raj said her team was in a confident frame of mind after the ODI series.

Though India lost the three-match series 1-2, it ended Australia's streak of 26 ODI wins. "I am confident, the girls are confident," Mithali said.

"The bowlers seem to be very confident because they did a very good job in the ODI series."

She admitted the Test match was a different matter. "But it gives equal opportu-

ity to the seamers, the spinners and the batters," the skipper said.

This is also going to be the first-ever experience of playing on a dropped-in pitch for the Indian women's team. "There is a fair amount of grass on the wicket," Mithali said. "Everybody would want to go with a lot of seamers."

She is happy with the way the Indian seamers have performed on the tour.

"This should be one of the best fast bowling attacks India has (had)," she said, referring to the experienced Jhulan Goswami and youngsters Meghna Singh and Pooja Vastrakar.

No Harmanpreet

She confirmed that the injured batter Harmanpreet Kaur wasn't available for selection.

Mithali's counterpart Meg Lanning said playing against

India in a Test would be exciting.

"Hopefully it's not just a one-off," the Australian captain said. "(We hope) we can go and play a Test match in India over the next few years."

The teams (from):

India: Mithali Raj (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Purnam Raut, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Yastika Bhatia, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Shikha Pandey, Jhulan Goswami, Meghna Singh, Pooja Vastrakar, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Poonam Yadav, Richa Ghosh, and Ekta Bisht.

Australia: Meg Lanning (Capt.), Darcie Brown, Maitlan Brown, Stella Campbell, Nicola Carey,

Hannah Darlington, Ashleigh Gardner, Alyssa Healy, Tahlia McGrath, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Georgia Redmayne, Molly Strano, Annabel Sutherland, Tayla Vlaeminck, and Georgia Wareham.

Match starts at 10 a.m. IST.

- This will be the second day-night women's Test
- The only other Pink ball Test was played between Australia and England in Sydney in 2017
- Australia's Ellyse Perry scored a double hundred in the drawn match



I am quite curious to see around that period (twilight) when they say that it's going to be a little difficult

MITHALI



It's really exciting. India obviously is a great cricketing nation, they love their cricket and to have them playing a Test match is exciting

LANNING



History calling: Both skippers, Meg Lanning and Mithali Raj, will be keen to make the landmark Test a memorable one.

• GETTY IMAGES

RCB punishes wasteful RR, notches up seventh win

Chahal, Shahbaz, Harshal profit as Rajasthan fritters away great start; Bharat, Maxwell ace the chase

IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

Royal Challengers Bangalore made short work of Rajasthan Royals, recording a seven-wicket victory at Dubai on Wednesday.

Set a target of 150, RCB romped home with 17 deliveries to spare.

Skipper Virat Kohli (25, 20b, 4x4) and Devdutt Padikkal (22, 17b, 4x4) put the chase on the right track, with a 48-run opening stand. K.S. Bharat (44, 35b, 3x4, 1x6) and Glenn Maxwell (50 n.o., 30b, 6x4, 1x6) then built a 69-run third-wicket stand to shut RR out of the contest. Maxwell notched up his second consecutive fifty.

Earlier, RR frittered away a great start and finished with a sub-par total.

Lewis, Jaiswal shine

RR openers Evin Lewis and Yashasvi Jaiswal gave the side a rollicking start. Lewis threw the kitchen sink at anything in his arc, making a rapid 37-ball 58 (5x4, 3x6). Jaiswal was less adventurous in his 22-ball 31 (3x4, 2x6), but thoroughly effective.

The pair put on 77 runs in 8.1 overs, before Jaiswal mistimed a slower ball from Dan Christian to Mohammed Siraj at mid-off. Lewis persisted with his attacking approach, until English left-arm pacer George Garton – playing his first IPL match – got rid of the left-hander from Trinidad.

Poor shot selection

RR captain Sanju Samson, in great form, started well with a couple of sixes. Poor shot selection, however, cut short



Pulling strings: Chahal teased and tormented the Royals batters.

• SPORTSPICS/IPL

his stay. Samson (19, 15b, 2x6) made room to loft left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed, but despite making good contact, found Padikkal at sweeper cover.

RR could not recover from this blow, as Shahbaz dismissed Rahul Tewatia cheaply in the same over. Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal got rid of Liam Livingstone to leave RR reeling at 127 for six in 16.2 overs. Fast bowler Harshal Patel then entered the attack

and nearly recorded his second consecutive hat-trick of the tournament. He prised out Riyan Parag and Chris Morris, before a cautious Kartik Tyagi averted the hat-trick bid.

Harshal, the leading wick-

et-taker of the tournament, once again had a good outing, with figures of three for 34. Chahal and Shahbaz finished with two scalps each.

Innings scan

RR		RCB
46	Dots	31
10	Fours	18
7	Sixes	2
56/0	PP	54/1
7.45	RR	8.91

Next assignment

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

RCB: Oct. 3 vs PBKS, Sharjah, 3.30 p.m. IST

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Evin Lewis c Bharat b Garton 58 (37b, 5x4, 3x6), Yashasvi Jaiswal c Siraj b Christian 31 (22b, 3x4, 2x6), Sanju Samson c Padikkal b Shahbaz 19 (15b, 2x6), Mahipal Lomror st. Bharat b Chahal 3 (4b), Liam Livingstone c de Villiers b Chahal 6 (9b), Rahul Tewatia c Padikkal b Shahbaz 2 (3b), Riyan Parag c Kohli b Harshal 9 (16b), Chris Morris c Padikkal b Harshal 14 (11b, 2x4), Chetan Sakariya c de Villiers b Harshal 2 (2b), Kartik Tyagi (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 149.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-77 (Jaiswal, 8.2 overs), 2-100 (Lewis, 11.1), 3-113 (Lomror, 12.5), 4-113 (Samson, 13.1), 5-117 (Tewatia, 13.6), 6-127 (Livingstone, 16.2), 7-146 (Parag, 19.2), 8-146 (Morris, 19.3), 9-149 (Sakariya, 19.6).

RCB BOWLING

Garton 3-0-30-1, Siraj 3-0-18-0, Maxwell 2-0-17-0, Harshal 4-0-34-3, Christian 2-0-21-1, Chahal 4-0-18-2, Shahbaz 2-0-10-2.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Virat Kohli run out 25 (20b, 4x4), Devdutt Padikkal b Mustafizur 22 (17b, 4x4), K.S. Bharat c sub (Rawat) b Mustafizur 44 (35b, 3x4, 1x6), Glenn Maxwell (not out) 50 (30b, 6x4, 1x6), A.B. de Villiers (not out) 4 (1b, 1x4); Extras (lb-2, w-6): 8; Total (for three wkts. in 17.1 overs): 153.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-48 (Padikkal, 5.2), 2-58 (Kohli, 6.5), 3-127 (Bharat, 15.6).

ROYALS BOWLING

Morris 4-0-50-0, Tyagi 2-0-23-0, Sakariya 3-0-18-0, Mustafizur 3-0-20-2, Tewatia 3-0-23-0, Lomror 2-0-13-0, Parag 0.1-0-4-0.

Toss: RCB; **MoM:** Chahal.

RCB won by seven wickets with 17 balls to spare.

Super Kings will be keen to keep the winning run going

SPORTS BUREAU

Thursday's IPL clash will feature teams that sit on the extreme ends of the points table. Table-topper Chennai Super Kings takes on the bottom-placed Sunrisers Hyderabad.

CSK has form on its side and would like to maintain its winning momentum going into the playoff stage.

Sequence broken

SRH, which finally managed to break the sequence of defeats by overcoming Rajasthan Royals, will want to put the missing pieces together even if it is rather late in the day.

CSK's opening pair of the fleet-footed Ruturaj Gaikwad and the innovative Faf du Plessis have provided blazing starts, built solid

TODAY'S MATCH



SHARJAH, 7.30 P.M. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: **15**

SRH **4** | CSK **11**

In 2021

Played **1** | SRH **0** | CSK **1**

STAR SPORTS 1 & 55 SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

platforms.

Moeen Ali is a free-stroking batter at No. 3 and both Ambati Rayudu and south-paw Suresh Raina can sizzle in the middle-order.

Then you have left-arm spinning all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who not only contains and strikes, but can swing games with the willow too.

CSK, though, will be seeking runs from skipper M.S. Dhoni who appears out of touch since he plays virtually no cricket outside of IPL.

And left-arm seaming all-rounder Sam Curran is leaking runs. The sooner the canny Dwayne Bravo, recovering from niggles, returns, the better it will be for CSK.

Roy impressive

For Sunrisers, aggressive opener Jason Roy, replacing out-of-form David Warner, impressed against RR and paceman Siddharth Kaul bowled with verve at the death.

The contest will be a match-up between two wily captains, Dhoni and Kane Williamson. And Sunrisers' gifted leg-spinner Rashid Khan might have an influential role to play.

World Cup is irrelevant: Pollard

'At this point of time, we are playing in the IPL'

AMOL KARHADKAR

Kieron Pollard has contradicted MI bowling coach Shane Bond, stressing that the T20 World Cup is irrelevant for those featuring in the IPL.

"To be honest, the World Cup is irrelevant. At this point of time, we are playing the IPL tournament. When you are in a tournament as an individual, you look to think about the present and not look too far ahead," Pollard said after MI defeated PBKS on Tuesday, in response to a query on its out-

of-form middle-order, which includes Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav who are a part of India's T20 World

Cup squad. "It's just a matter of giving the guys the confidence that they've done it before and can do it again."

POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Chennai Super Kings	10	8	2	16	1.069
Delhi Capitals	11	8	3	16	0.562
Royal Challengers	11	7	4	14	-0.200
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	5	6	10	0.363
Mumbai Indians	11	5	6	10	-0.453
Punjab Kings	11	4	7	8	-0.288
Rajasthan Royals	11	4	7	8	-0.468
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	10	2	8	4	-0.501

After the RR-RCB match on Sept. 29

E: Eliminated

India eases past France

SPORTS BUREAU

SITGES (SPAIN)

India scored a 3-1 victory over lower-ranked France to finish second in Group A in the league phase of the FIDE World women's team chess championship on Wednesday.

In Thursday's two-set quarterfinals, India will take on Kazakhstan, which finished third in Group B. **The results: Fifth round: Group A: India bt France 3-1** (D. Harika drew with Marie Sebag; Tania Sachdev drew with Andreea Navrotescu; Bhakti Kulkarni bt Natacha Benmesbah; Mary Ann Gomes bt Silvia Alexieva); Armenia lost to Russia 1-3; Azerbaijan bt Spain 3.5-0.5.

Fourth round: Group A: Russia bt India 3-1 (Aleksandra Goryachkina drew with Harika; Alexandra Kosteniuk bt R. Vaishali; Kateryna Lagno bt Tania Sachdev; Polina Shuvalova drew with Mary Ann Gomes); France lost to Azerbaijan 0.5-3.5; Spain lost to Armenia 0.5-3.5.

Quarterfinal line-up: India-Kazakhstan; Russia-FIDE Americas; Georgia-Azerbaijan; Ukraine-Armenia.

TV PICKS

Australia Women vs India Women: Only Test, day 1, Sony Ten 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 10 a.m.
Badminton: Sudirman Cup, Star Sports 3, 12.30 p.m. & 7 p.m.
IPL 2021: Star Sports 1 & 55 Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Archery WC final: Sony Six (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 10.15 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

QUICK SINGLES



Kuldeep undergoes successful knee surgery

MUMBAI India's left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav underwent knee surgery on Wednesday for the injury he sustained during the IPL in the UAE. "Surgery was a success and the road to recovery has just begun. The focus is to complete my rehab well and be back on the pitch doing what I love as soon as possible," tweeted the 26-year-old Kuldeep. PTI

Harmanpreet, Jemimah for Renegades

MELBOURNE

Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues will play for Melbourne Renegades in the Women's Big Bash League, the organisers announced on Wednesday. PTI

Anargya wins title

BELGRADE

Anargya Manjunath defeated Hungary's Dorottya Tolgyes 11-6, 7-11, 11-4, 8-11, 11-6 to win the under-17 girls' title in the WTT Youth contender on Wednesday. In the last-four stage, the Karnataka paddler beat Swede Nomin Baasan 11-4, 11-7, 12-10.



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS

Lionel Messi opened his Paris Saint-Germain account as the French side beat Manchester City while new boys Sheriff Tiraspol shocked Real Madrid in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Messi's top-corner finish added to Idrissa Gueye's first half goal as PSG moved top of Group A with the 2-0 win over last year's runners up.

Pep Guardiola's side hit the bar twice in the first half with Portugal playmaker Bernardo Silva failing to score two metres out with PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma helplessly on the ground.

In Group D, Sheriff, playing in just its second ever game in the group stage of the competition, upset record 13-time winner Real Madrid 2-1 in the Spanish capital. Uzbekistan winger Jasur Jakhshibaev put the Moldovans in the lead before the



Hit-men: Lionel Messi, who netted his first goal in PSG colours, celebrates with fellow-scorer Idrissa Gueye. • AFP

half hour mark as Karim Benzema equalised after 65 minutes to score for a 17th different season in the competition, a feat only also achieved by Messi.

Thrill thrills

But the hero for Sheriff, who are based in the region of Transnistria on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border, was

Luxembourg attacking midfielder Sebastian Thill. The 27-year-old Thill fired home a sublime half volley with 62 seconds of regular time remaining at the Santiago Bernabeu two weeks after Sheriff had beaten Shakhtar Donetsk earlier in the month in its opening group game.

In Group B, Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino

SPORTS BUREAU

DOHA

The Indian men entered the semifinals of the 25th ITTF-ATTU Asian table tennis championships with a 3-1 win over Iran on Wednesday. India will meet Korea, which beat Hong Kong 3-1.

The Indian women, however, went down fighting to top seed Japan 1-3 in the quarterfinals.

The results: Championship Division (quarterfinals): Men: India bt Iran 3-1 (Sharath Kamal bt Nima Alamian 11-9, 6-11, 11-9, 11-5; G. Sathiyar bt Noshad Alamiyan 11-7, 11-6, 6-11, 11-6; Harmeet Desai lost to Amir Hossein Hodaeei 8-11, 7-11, 11-8, 14-12, 7-11; Sharath bt Noshad 11-8, 11-8, 8-11, 11-9).

Women: Japan bt India 3-1 (Hitomi Sato bt Sreeja Akula 11-5, 11-3, 11-3; Saki Shibata bt Archana Kamath 10-12, 11-7, 11-4, 10-12, 11-9; Miyu Nagasaki lost to Sutirtha Mukherjee 7-11, 8-11, 11-5, 11-7, 8-11; Saki Shibata bt Sreeja Akula 8-11, 10-12, 11-2, 11-9, 11-8).

CM
YK